

SPORTSPEOPLE

Odds & **INS**



By Skip Myslenski & Linda Kay

**On the road along Gasoline Alley...**  
 Takin' care of business (his way): It happens to many who find themselves thrust into the limelight, and defending Indianapolis 500 champion Bobby Rahal is no exception. Suddenly, he is awash with new-old friends and long-lost aunts and uncles that he never had. He knows none of those people, of course, yet he realizes that some will try for Indy tickets by claiming relationships with him that do not exist. What to do? Rahal, who does not want to be disturbed by any hassles that could ensue, wrote up a list of his real friends and relatives, gave it to the Speedway's public relations people and declared simply: "No one who is not on this list gets a ticket."

**Returning in glory**

He sold his Indy team at the end of last year, and that meant Dan Cotter enjoyed the Speedway in a different way when he returned Thursday for the two-hour tradition known as carburetion testing. "I feel like I'm on a holiday," said Cotter, the president of Chicago-based Cotter & Co., which supplies True Value hardware stores nationwide. But holiday or not, he arrived at the old Brickyard still possessing a notable distinction: he is the Indy car owner with the best winning average in the 500 since World War II. In a five-year stretch from 1982 through 1986, his teams finished fourth, first (with Tom Sneva), second, third and fourth again. Said Cotter, smiling: "I'm proud of that."

**Old friends**

Cotter sold his team last November to Vince Granatelli, son of the man who made STP famous, and Thursday the former owner stopped by to visit with his old crew. They had just seen each other on May 9, yet his former employees greeted him as warmly as if he were a long-lost friend. No wonder. When he was their boss, he spent 17 weekends with them each racing season. That involvement with the team, in turn, kept him out of his Chicago office from Thursday through Monday, and that is why he finally decided to get out of racing. "It was becoming such a strain workwise, and I felt I had a split personality," explained Cotter. "I wanted to know everything that was going on here, and I felt the crew liked it when I was around. I ran an open shop and told them everything that was happening. Plus, I liked to be there and see what was happening. But I just couldn't handle both without it taking a toll on me."

**The latest in diets**

Roberto Guerrero, who once drove for Cotter, was retained by Granatelli, and on Thursday the reed-slim Colombian (140 pounds) slipped into his team's fire-engine red car for a practice run in the steamy heat. "I'll probably lose five pounds on Sunday," he said. That is one way he stays trim, and another is the strength program he has followed the past few years. Those workouts began when Cotter & Co. attorney Dick Lynn put Guerrero in touch with Indianapolis Colts lineman Chris Hinton, whom Lynn represented after he was drafted out of Northwestern. Hinton, in turn, recommended the strength program and a nutritional plan favored by the Colts' trainers, but the driver has stuck with only the former. The diet? "So much meat," said Guerrero, shaking his head. He later sought advice on that matter from the wrestling coach at the University of Southern California and now follows the lighter diet he recommended.

**Hey! Wait a minute...**

... Indy cars no longer have carburetors, so why have a day devoted to carburetion tests? "Tradition," says Sonny Meyer, a veteran engine builder with the Granatelli team, whose dad, Louis, won the 500 three times. So what happens on Carburetion Day since there are no carburetors? It is the last time before the race that drivers can test their cars and crews can polish their operation in the pits.

**In addition...**

... It is also a chance to do some damage, as A.J. Foyt and Emerson Fittipaldi proved with their crashes, and to experience lesser woes, such as the one that befell Guerrero. He managed only a few laps around the 2.5-mile oval before he pulled in with the split oil tank that ended his day's practice runs. And how was the car running until then? Said Guerrero ruefully: "I don't know. I wasn't in it much."

**Unperturbed**

Carburetion Day draws thousands of spectators to the track, but neither the rowdy crowd nor the speeding cars fazed the golfers playing the course that sits right in the middle of the vast Speedway oval. The proceedings also did not disturb the legendary Parnelli Jones, who was sighted jogging around the grounds shortly before the testing started. "He jogs an hour and a half every day," marveled a member of the Granatelli crew.

**Another legend...**

... On hand Thursday was George Bignotti, who gained his reputation as a virtuoso mechanic. He retired in the late 1970s, was wooed back to work by Cotter in 1980, retired again after they won in 1983 and was back now as a rep for Mobil Oil. Explained Bignotti wryly: "I've had seven Indy winners since 1956, and I'm a lubrication expert. That's why Mobil is paying me to be here."

**And finally...**

... Granatelli mechanic Rick Wetzel, on his feelings while he went about his business of working on engines: "I'm like an expectant father."



Mario Andretti drives a trolley bus to victory over Rick Mears and Bobby Rahal in a three-lap race around Monument Circle in Indianapolis. How'd he do it? "I found a block under the pedal and kicked it out," he said.

**Las Vegas Stars dress for success—but fail**

Now that fiery Larry Bowa has left to manage the San Diego Padres, things aren't quite the same this season with the Las Vegas Stars of the Pacific Coast League. New manager Jack Krol's team has been doing so poorly at home (8-12) that he resorted to having his players wear their road uniforms for Wednesday's game in Las Vegas against Portland. The Stars are 14-6 on the road. It didn't work. The Stars lost 11-4.

**Brewer fans taking their hats off to Mr. Cheesehead**

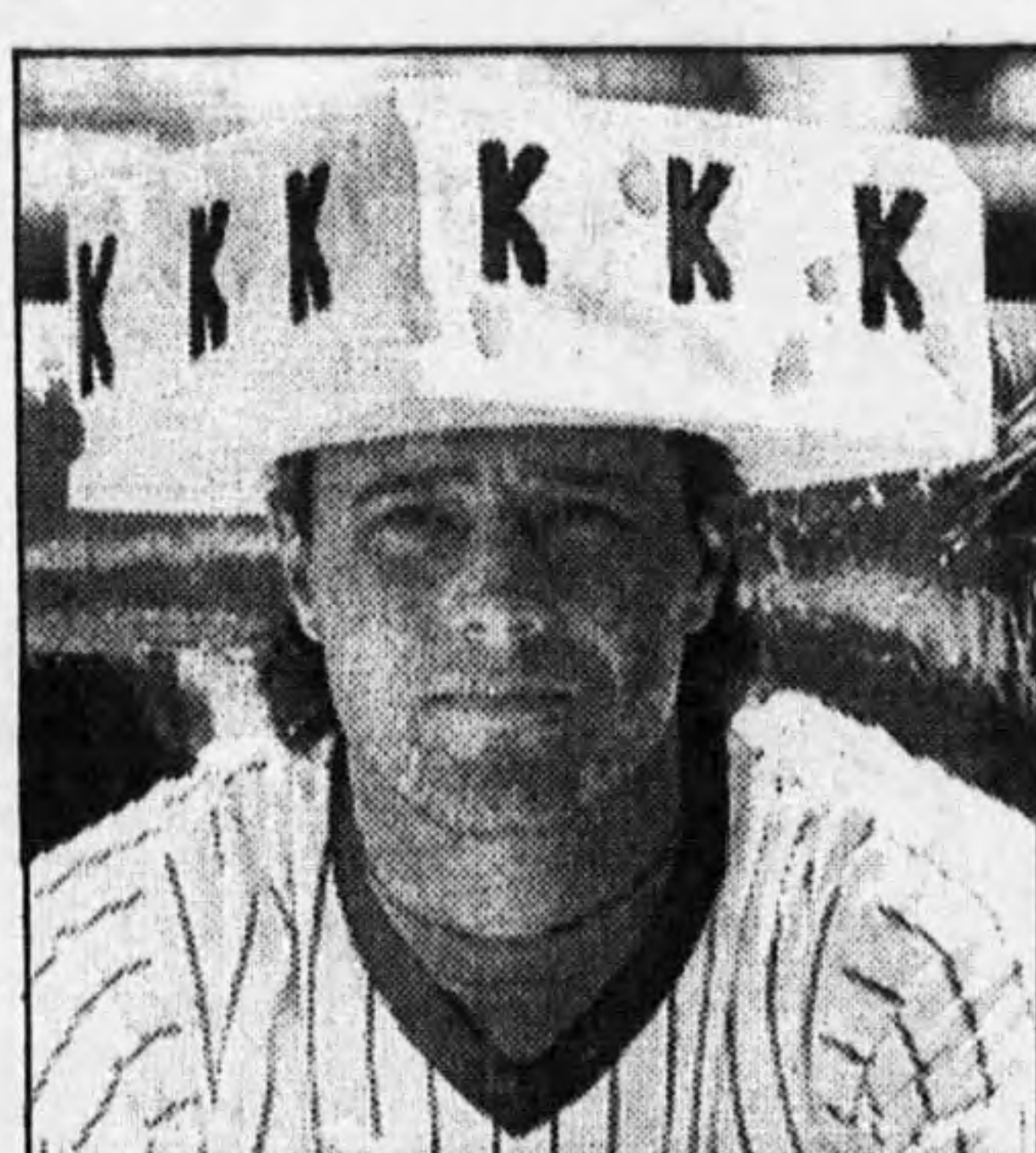
The word "cheesehead" may not be as synonymous with Wisconsinites as the word "Hoosier" is with Indians, but the cheeseheads are trying.

Some of them, like Rick Wojciechowski, even carry their own press clippings.

Wojciechowski, 36, from Milwaukee's South Side, proudly wore a homemade cardboard cheesehead in Comiskey Park last month, on the night the White Sox broke the Brewers' record-tying 13-game winning streak. He made the hat after sitting in the stands the night before listening to Sox fans constantly call him and his group "cheeseheads."

The following morning, when Wojciechowski saw his picture in a Chicago newspaper, the proverbial lightbulb flashed—there's money in them thar cheeseheads.

Wojciechowski sank some money (he won't say how much) into the production of 1,000 lightweight styrofoam cheesehead hats. He said that



Even Milwaukee Brewer outfielder Rick Manning has caught cheesehead fever.

the three-sided hats, which resemble a large wedge of swiss, will soon be sold for between \$6 and \$7.

The concession stands of County Stadium already sell cheesehead hats, made of more durable styrofoam. Those are \$15 per head.

"But there's no writing on their cheeseheads," says Wojciechowski. "Mine has writing on each side."

The three phrases on his cheesehead hats are "Curd Head," "Cheesehead or Die," and "It Ain't Easy Being Cheesy."

Wojciechowski says he sold half his supply to the Merle Harmon sports stores. He also says that the Brewers' recent losing streak did not damage sales, although he and a friend were the only two in a recent crowd of nearly 12,000 who were spotted wearing cheesehead hats.

"It's not the idea of losing and winning," says Mr. Cheesehead. "It's the concept of being a cheesehead."

But isn't "cheesehead" a derogatory term?

"We don't care," he says. "We're proud of it."

Nevertheless, at the start of the latest Brewer homestand, concessionaires stopped putting cheesehead hats on display.

"People were complaining that they couldn't see the game because the hats were in their way," explained a vendor.

**Former agent's tell-all book a top-secret document, for now**

In an era when publishing companies are climbing over each other to promote products, the folks at Contemporary Sports Books of Chicago are acting like monks at a fraternity party.

After all, insiders say "Necessary Roughness," a book with a September publishing date, has everything: Sex, drugs, payoffs and other startling revelations.

Contemporary says there will be no advance peek at the galleys, and it will remain low key at next month's booksellers convention in Washington. Not even Sports Illustrated, which has been calling regularly, has been able to crack the company's resolve.

So what's the big deal? Well, it seems ex-sports agent Mike Trope has decided to bare all he knows about what takes place behind closed doors in his former profession.

With agent **Norby Walters** in the newspapers almost every day with charges and counter-charges concerning alleged improprieties, the timing couldn't be better.

"He [Trope] is out of the business now, but he wanted to get everything off his chest," said Nancy Crossman, Contemporary vice president and associate publisher. "Believe me, this book is going to blow the lid off all the wheeling and dealing."

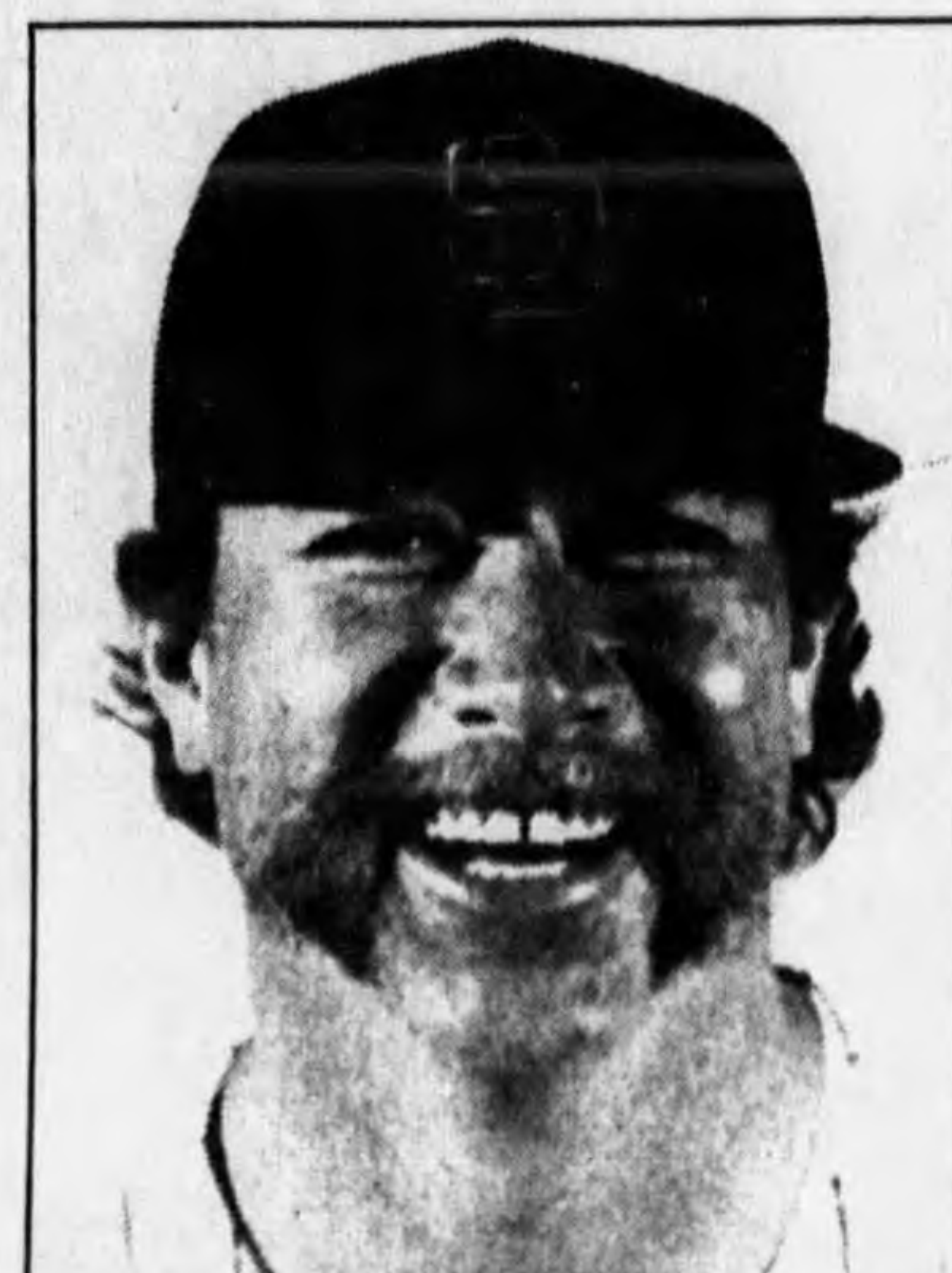
"We know this is going to be very hot. He tells a lot of incredible stories about some very big people."

The 35-year-old Trope definitely had a good vantage point. He is generally regarded as the first agent to negotiate a \$1 million football contract.

He started as a student at Southern Cal, when he began recruiting Nebraska's Johnny Rodgers. Among other clients have been Archie Griffin, Chuck Muncie, Lawrence Taylor, Anthony Davis, Tony Dorsett and Earl Campbell.

The book is so revealing, according to sources in publishing circles, that Contemporary is fearful it may have some libel suits on its hands when "Necessary Roughness" does finally appear in stores.

"To my knowledge, there hasn't been a book like it," Crossman said.



Rich Gossage

**'I've seen things this year that I've never seen before. It's embarrassing. It's depressing. It's everything. I've been on some lousy ball clubs—with the White Sox—but I've never been through anything like this. You come in after every game and you sit there and shake your head. You couldn't try to be this awful and be this awful.'**

—Pitcher Rich Gossage, a 16-year veteran, talking about the Padres' season

**From Addison to West Point, gymnast Robinson beat odds**

Cory Robinson, a product of Addison Trail High School, graduates from the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., next week. In his four years at the school, he distinguished himself as one of the best gymnasts ever to compete for the Cadets.

"Cory was a four-year letter-winner for us," says Army coach Larry Butler. "He had some nagging injuries—hamstring, shoulder—that slowed him this year, but he was our top all-around man. He won a lot of meets for us."

Nagging injuries? Nearly five years ago, Robinson didn't know if he'd ever walk again because of a frightening accident in the summer before his senior year of high school. Cory landed wrong during a dismount from the rings, fracturing a bone between the fourth and fifth vertebrae.

"It turned out to be just a broken neck," is the way Robinson puts it.

"Just about no one comes back from that," Butler says. "I mean, he flat out broke his neck. It was a career injury."

The accident occurred on the day Robinson's mother, Jo, lost her job, a financial blow that made college look impossible without a scholarship.

Robinson spent the first few weeks immobile, and five months in therapy with his neck in a cast. But on

the day the cast came off, he went back into training for gymnastics.

"A lot of what you can do at that point is mental," Butler says. "Guts. You have to overcome tremendous psychological barriers."

Robinson not only overcame them, he ended up sifting through feelers from Arizona State, Michigan State and LSU before opting for an Army appointment.

"I had to get an okay from a doctor and I took a lot of tests, but, basically, it was felt that if my injury wouldn't interfere with my physical training at Army I was acceptable."

As a cadet, Robinson has jumped from airplanes, run tough obstacle courses and otherwise fulfilled every requirement. After some leave time following commencement, he goes straight into advanced officer's training with an emphasis on infantry.

These are challenging times to be graduating from any school, but, for those at military academies, there is the added element of an unsettled international political climate.

"When and where the next outbreak will be is discussed a lot more than when I came, that's for sure," Robinson says. "We get lectures all the time about the world situation. They're taken more seriously."

Somehow, it's likely Robinson will meet the challenge.

**BRIEFS**

Northwestern's Katrina Adams and Diane Donnelly beat Stanford's Patty Fendick and Stephanie Savides 6-2, 6-4 Thursday to win the doubles title at the NCAA Division I women's tennis tournament in Los Angeles. Fendick defended her singles title, beating Shaun Stafford of Florida 6-2, 5-7, 6-2. ... Rick Leach of Southern Cal had to be restrained by campus police after a shouting match between himself, his father and fans at the NCAA men's tourney in Athens, Ga. After Leach lost his third-round singles match, he traded insults with Georgia player Tim Ruotolo. As the father and son left, the younger Leach turned over a newspaper and the elder cursed fans. When a fan responded, the younger Leach went after the fan with a broken racket and stepped onto the hood of a car saying, "C'mon, you want me to kill you?" ... John McEnroe downed Martin Jaite 6-4, 6-1 at the World Team Cup tennis tournament in Duesseldorf, West Germany. Brad Gilbert downed Guillermo Vilas 6-2, 4-6, 6-4 as the U.S. beat Argentina. West Germany beat Czechoslovakia, and Spain topped France.

Some college athletes may have been offered drugs and prostitutes as an inducement to sign with two sports agents who are being investigated by a federal grand jury, according to Newsday. About 60 former and current college athletes have been subpoenaed to testify before a grand jury in Chicago, which is looking into the dealings of Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom. Newsday said several athletes and athletic officials were asked by the FBI whether they were provided with drugs and prostitutes at all-star bowl games. An attorney for Walters, Lon Trost, discounted the allegations. "The next thing you know, they'll say he's responsible for the Iran-Iraq war."

A federal indictment in San Diego charges 34 people, including Pat Jacobs, the strength coach for the Miami (Fla.) football team, and David Jenkins, a former Olympic runner from Great Britain, with smuggling and distributing illegal anabolic steroids. Chicago was one of 16 distribution points in the U.S. Steroids are used primarily by athletes and bodybuilders to increase muscle bulk.

A 40-second clock was approved for testing during the National Football League exhibition season by club owners at their meeting in Coronado, Calif. It was expected that the clock would cut about eight minutes from the average game. The clock will give teams 40 seconds to get a play off after the previous play is over. Teams had been getting 30 seconds from the time the ball was spotted. The owners also gave Commissioner Pete Rozelle the authority to return the draft to a two-day format. The 1988 draft was tentatively scheduled for Sunday, May 1, and Monday, May 2. Five rounds would be held the first day and seven the second. ... The battery trial of Indianapolis Colts quarterback Jack Trudeau has been delayed until July 2.

The Washington Commandos of the Arena Football League have named Bob Harrison coach, making him the second black head coach in modern pro football. Willie Wood coached the Philadelphia Bell of the World Football League in 1974. The only other black head coach was Fritz Pollard, player-coach for the Akron Pros of the American Professional Football Association in 1920. ... The Pittsburgh franchise has named Joe Haering as coach and selected the nickname Gladiators.

Aurora beat Ohio Wesleyan 5-2, Wooster topped North Park 11-5 and defending national champion Marietta downed North Central in the Division III Midwest Regional baseball playoffs in Wooster, Ohio. ... Dartmouth upset Michigan 4-0 in the first round of the Division I Northeast Regional in Atlanta. ... Texas A&M beat Purdue 13-3 in the Midwest Regional in Starkville, Miss.

Bernhard Langer says he may need back surgery, which could keep him out of the Ryder Cup in September and other major golf tournaments.

Dick Dull, who resigned as Maryland athletic director in the aftermath of the cocaine-induced death of basketball star Len Bias, will be named athletic director at Texas-El Paso, according to the Baltimore Sun.

Craig Fouhy, 31, the director of admissions, has been named football coach at North Park. ... Tennessee-Chattanooga coach Sharon Fanning has been named the women's basketball coach at Kentucky. Cindy Scott of Southern Illinois had been one of the finalists.

Compiled by Mike Conklin, Bill Hageman and Rich Lorenz from staff, wire reports.

**TANK McNAMARA**



**GIL THORP**



**MICKEY BOLT**



**THEY'RE BOTH ON THE GREEN**



**BUT MICKEY IS AWAY WITH A TOUGH TWELVE FOOTER!**

