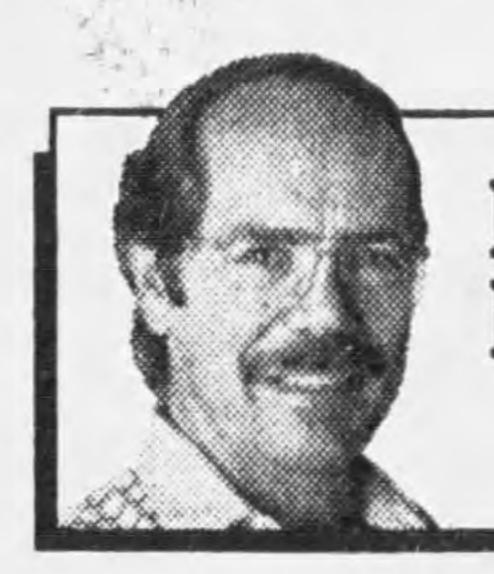
THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION

Thursday, June 11, 1987





Managerial discipline can get a little rough

Besides being the world's oldest boys in knickers, baseball managers often are distinguished by their manners. To break a slump, Ralph Houk would arrange to drag a sportswriter by the hair through his clubhouse, shouting at the villain, "My guys are not losers, these guys are not quitters." It worked every time. Billy Martin, less theatrical, punched the nearest available face.

Earl Weaver once engaged catcher Rick Dempsey in debate after suggesting that Dempsey maybe shouldn't have dropped a pop

"Dempsey threw his mask on the dugout floor," Weaver's memoirs said. "I picked it up and flung it down, too. Rick grabbed a batting helmet off the rack and slammed it on the floor. I yanked another helmet off the rack and smashed it on the floor. He grabbed another helmet and smashed it on the floor. So did I. Rick picked up a shin guard and flung it on the floor ... "

Puts you in mind of Socrates on a hot streak, doesn't it?

The dance with Braves pitcher Randy O'Neal last week was not Chuck Tanner's first with a player. In Class AA ball two decades ago, Tanner heard of a pitcher's marital indiscretions and delivered a sermon on fidelity. The sermon came in the shape of a forearm across the throatlatch.

Tanner 'sorry I got overly excited'

"And I promised his roomie \$500 if he'd report any time the pitcher left his room," said Tanner. "Twenty years later, the guy is making \$700,000 a year and when he sees me, he starts laughing and says, 'No, no, you stay away from me."

No such laughter yet from O'Neal, who on hearing of his demotion to Richmond last week suggested loudly that Tanner didn't know what he was doing, that Tanner could ship out someone else. These complaints reached Tanner. They reached Tanner quickly because O'Neal was standing three feet away shouting them.

"Randy's a good guy, and I'm sorry I got overly excited," said Tanner the other day, order restored. "He had a taste of the big leagues and he said that out of frustration. I understand that."

First visitors to Tanner's office that night reported that pitching coach Bruce Dal Canton held Tanner away from O'Neal (in the traditional bear hug that ends all baseball dances). A scratch was over Tanner's left eye.

No mystery to the scratch, Tanner said when someone asked how he got it. "Very simple," he said. "I put him against the wall," meaning O'Neal, now one of the several folks who have merited Tanner's full attention.

Dick Allen played for Tanner in Chicago. A hitting genius, Allen was allowed by Tanner to march to his own drummer. When the team bus waited for Allen one day - he was window shopping — a player shouted, "There's taxi cabs to the ballpark."

Tanner replied, "So why don't you take

Assault on Lasorda's desk

In 1981, as students of Tommy Lasorda know, the Dodgers' tummy one told Rick Sutcliffe he wouldn't be on the playoff roster. Sutcliffe responded by wiping his pitching arm across Lasorda's desktop. This action displaced papers, trinkets and lasagna. Sutcliffe threw a chair against a wall. He thought to throw another chair, only to stop in mid-windup when he realized he was aiming at the Sinatra Wall.

"Better not mess with Frank," was Sutcliffe's thought, he said. Spared were dozens of Frank-with-Tommy-and-Other-Italians pic-

"Reading the papers, it's like it was World War II," Lasorda said this week. "They made it sound like the greatest fight since Dempsey-Tunney. All Rick did was push some papers around, and I didn't blame him."

Both Tanner and Lasorda said they could understand. Understanding men they are, Lasorda traded Sutcliffe to Cleveland two months later and Tanner says the Braves will trade O'Neal "if we can get equal value."

One more manager-pitcher story. Of Hall of Fame pitchers, only the speedball lefty Rube Waddell carried a suitcase full of red neckties. His roomie with the Philadelphia A's in 1902 was catcher Ossee Schreck, who shared Rube's fondness for drink. Ossee also ate animal crackers in the bed he shared with Rube on the road.

Rube once threatened to quit the A's for vaudeville if Connie Mack, the owner/manager, did not insert a clause in Schreck's contract to prohibit cracker crumbs in the sheets. A wise man, Mack allowed for the eccentricity of genius in Waddell, even on the night when Rube and Ossee stole into his room and threw an onion and limburger-cheese sand-

wich onto his bed. "What's the big idea?" said Mack, of-

fended by the aroma.

"We heard you weren't feeling well, Mr. Mack," Rube said. "We thought this would fix you up real fine."

Judge makes agents proceed with grievance

By Chris Mortensen Staff Writer

WASHINGTON - Accused by a New York judge of "deceptive practices," sports agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom reluctantly appeared Wednesday at their NFL players union grievance hearing with Buffalo Bills running back Ronnie Harmon.

Walters and Bloom, the subjects of a federal grand jury investigations in Chicago for giving money to college athletes before their eligibility had expired, had asked the New York State Supreme Court to suspend the grievance hearing that the

Calls Walters, Bloom 'deceptive' in ruling keeping case before NFL union arbitrator

agents had initiated more than three months ago. They wished to have their case heard only in the New York Supreme Court, where they have filed a \$500,000 breach of contract lawsuit against

In their grievance against Harmon, the

agents are asking that Harmon repay \$54,172.92 outstanding in loans and car expenses they provided him while he was an undergraduate at the University of Iowa. They are also asking for an additional \$94,699.92 in negotiation fees for their efforts to get him signed by the Bills.

for Brian Bosworth

Houston

Buffalo

Tampa Bay

Indianapolis

Green Bay

San Diego

Philadelphia

New Orleans

L.A. Raiders

Minnesota

Cincinnati

Kansas City

San Francisco

New England

Cleveland

Chicago

Denver

that deal.

Washington

N.Y. Giants

L.A. Rams

Seattle

N.Y. Jets

Pittsburgh

St. Louis

Detroit

Dallas

Atlanta

Miami

30

28

26

24

23

20

19

18

16

10

6

0

Houston receives 30 chances - 21 by vir-

tue of its position in the standings and nine

acquired in a trade that sent quarterback

Jim Everett to the Los Angeles Rams. The

Rams traded away their first-round pick in

13-1

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68-1

81-1

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135-

203-1

None

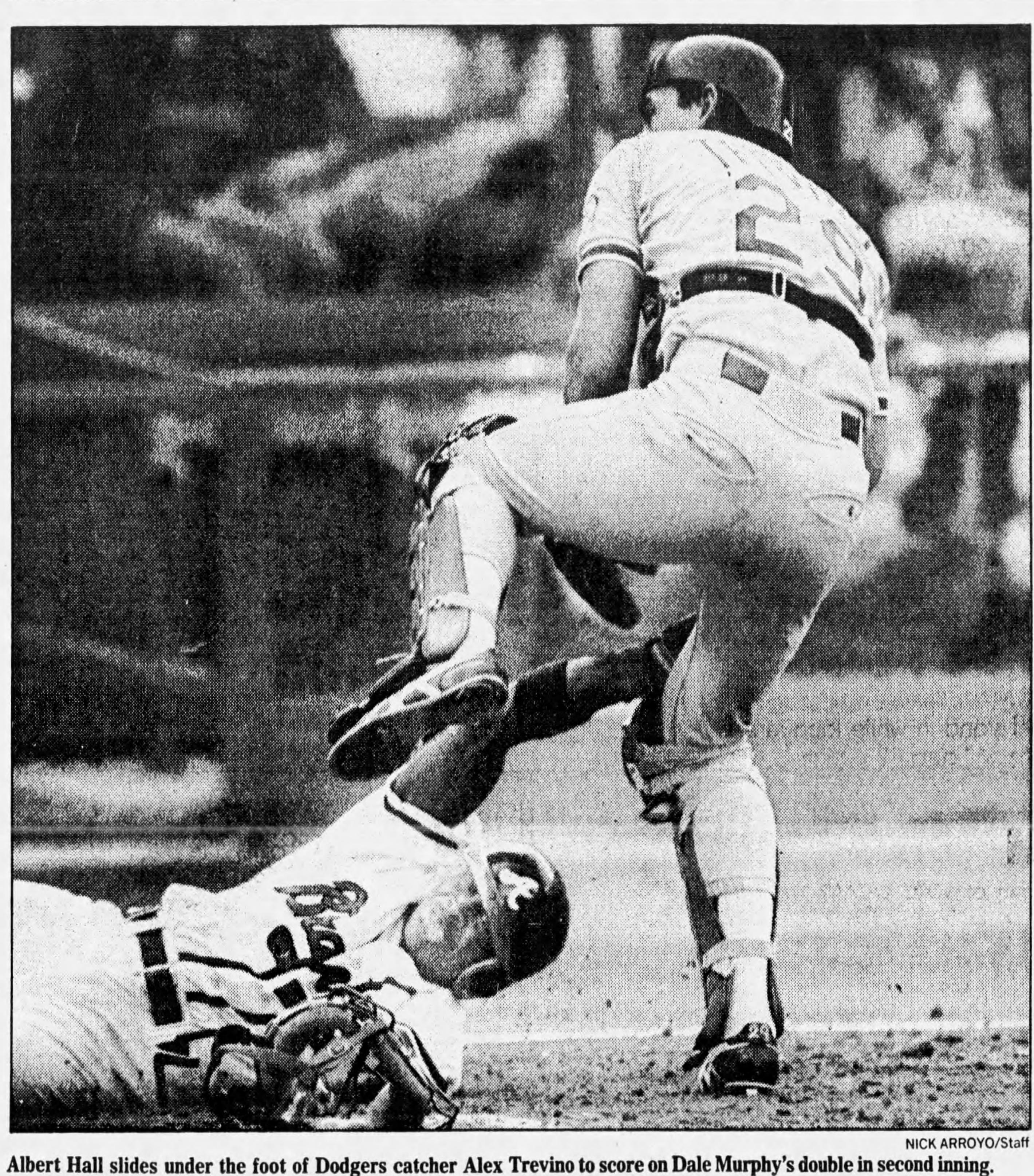
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Judge Myriam J. Altman notified Walters and Bloom that their motion to suspend the NFL grievance hearing was denied. In her written opinion, which they received Tuesday and a copy of which was obtained Wednesday by the Atlanta Constitution, Altman criticized the agents' solicitation of Harmon in his junior year at

"The underlying facts of the case reveal a pernicious practice of encouraging young college athletes to enter into decep-

See AGENTS, Page 9-C

Braves



Duz warus 20 teams. Pick me at your peril

Falcons say they'd risk supplemental draft choice

> By Rachel Blount Staff Writer

The Atlanta Falcons' Dear Marion letter arrived with the early week's mail, coming to Suwanee with a Texas postmark and a terse message. The letter, written by one Brian Bosworth, concerned the professional future of football's favorite new-wave linebacker.

It said, in effect, that coach Marion Campbell and the Falcons could get lost. Bosworth wasn't interested in playing for them, and if they won the chance to draft him in Friday's NFL supplemental draft, he would sit down and hold his breath until the 1988 regular draft came and gave him another chance to play for a team he liked. So

But if the Boz wants to be stubborn, Campbell is prepared to match him. After giving the letter a quick read, Campbell put it aside and proceeded with his plans to draft Bosworth if the Falcons draw the winning ticket in the draft lottery, which gets under way at 1 p.m. at the NFL offices in New York

Atlanta has a 1-in-25 chance of being the lucky - or, if you believe the Boz, unlucky - team. Odds are based on order of finish last season, with the getting more teams weakest

opportunities. "I haven't given that letter a second thought," Campbell said Wednesday. "It has absolutely no bearing on what we will do. I'm not going to let some letter



Brian Bosworth says he'll sit out the NFL season unless he's drafted by one of five teams Friday.

dictate what we do and who we pick. "The thing is that this has been done so many times, with a player saying he only wants to play for certain teams. And a lot of times, those players sign with teams they said they weren't interested in. So if we get the chance to pick him, we're not going to pass it up. He's as fine an inside linebacker prospect as I've seen in years, and we'd love to have him."

See BOSWORTH, Page 11-C

outpitch Dodgers

four hits in 7-1 win

Alexander was great, Page 6-C McWilliams struggling, Page 6-C Braves Notebook, Page 2-C By Tom McCollister Staff Writer

Doyle Alexander put on a pitching clinic Wednesday night, and all the Los Angeles Dodgers could do was admire the Atlanta Braves righthander's handiwork.

Alexander threw only 95 pitches, 66 of them strikes, stopped the Dodgers on four hits and sent the Braves on to a four-game series in Cincinnati with a 7-1 victory in front of 15,699 at Atlanta Stadium.

The 36-year-old Alexander, who didn't re-sign with the Braves until May 26. pushed his record to 3-1 and became only the third Atlanta pitcher to go the distance this year. Rick Mahler and Zane Smith have each done it twice. Alexander went nine in Chicago on May 31 but wasn't involved in the decision, a 2-1 Braves 10-inning victory.

"Complete games mean nothing," Alexander said. "Winning is enough. I just threw strikes, moved the ball around and let them hit at it. I threw no curveballs or knucklers, just fastballs, sliders and the change. I had good rhythm and really felt

It couldn't have come at a better time. It prevented the Dodgers from sweeping the three-game series.

"He gave us a big lift tonight," said manager Chuck Tanner, who won his 1,299th game as a manager. "You've heard about the juiced-up baseball? Well he took the juice out of it tonight. Winning makes going on the road a little easier, especially when it's Cincinnati, who's leading the league, you're going to."

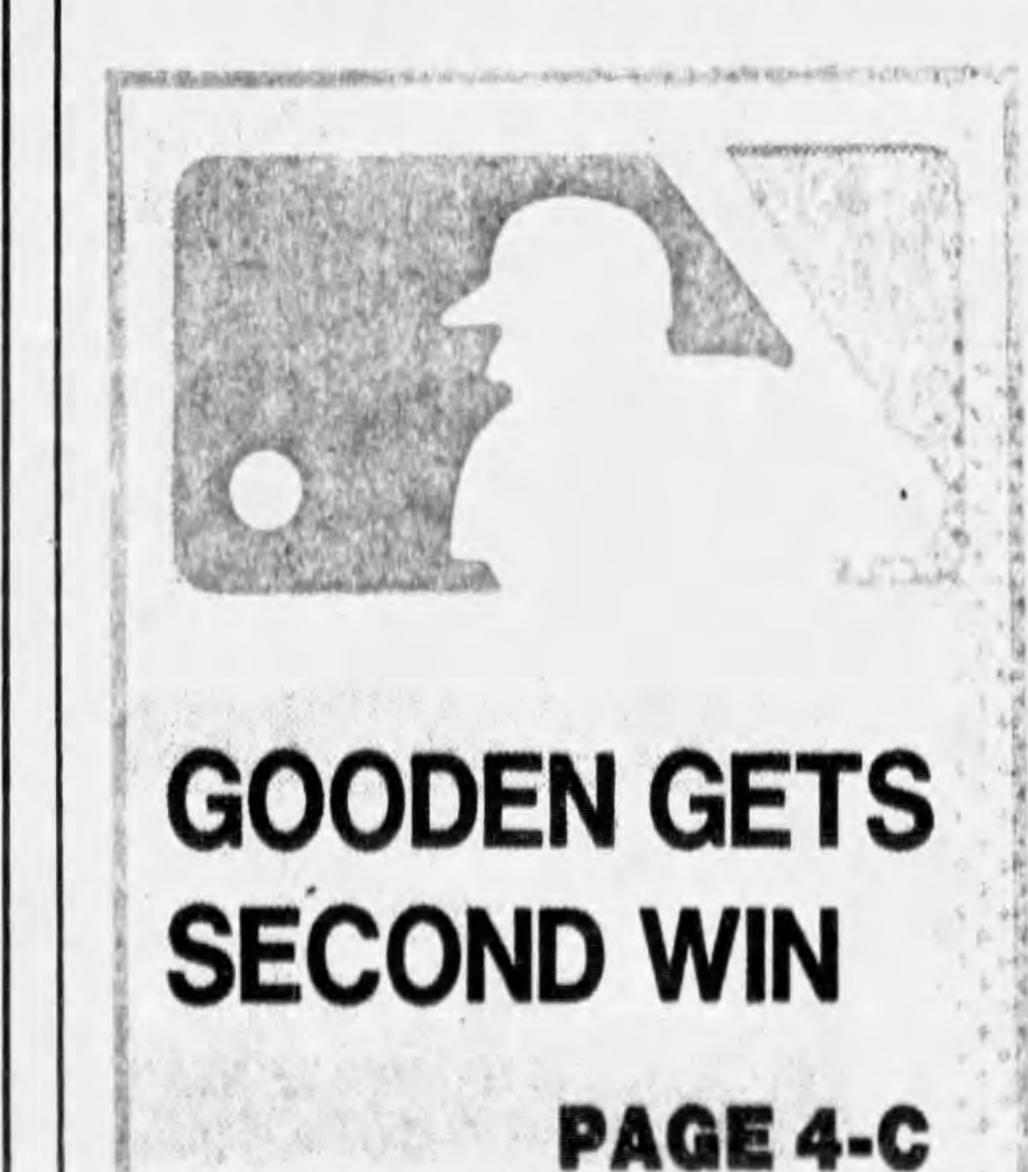
This was one the entire Braves pitching staff should study. Alexander stayed ahead of the hitters and mixed up his pitches. He was in trouble only in the second when Los Angeles got two of its hits, a double by Franklin Stubbs and Mickey Hatcher's run-scoring single.

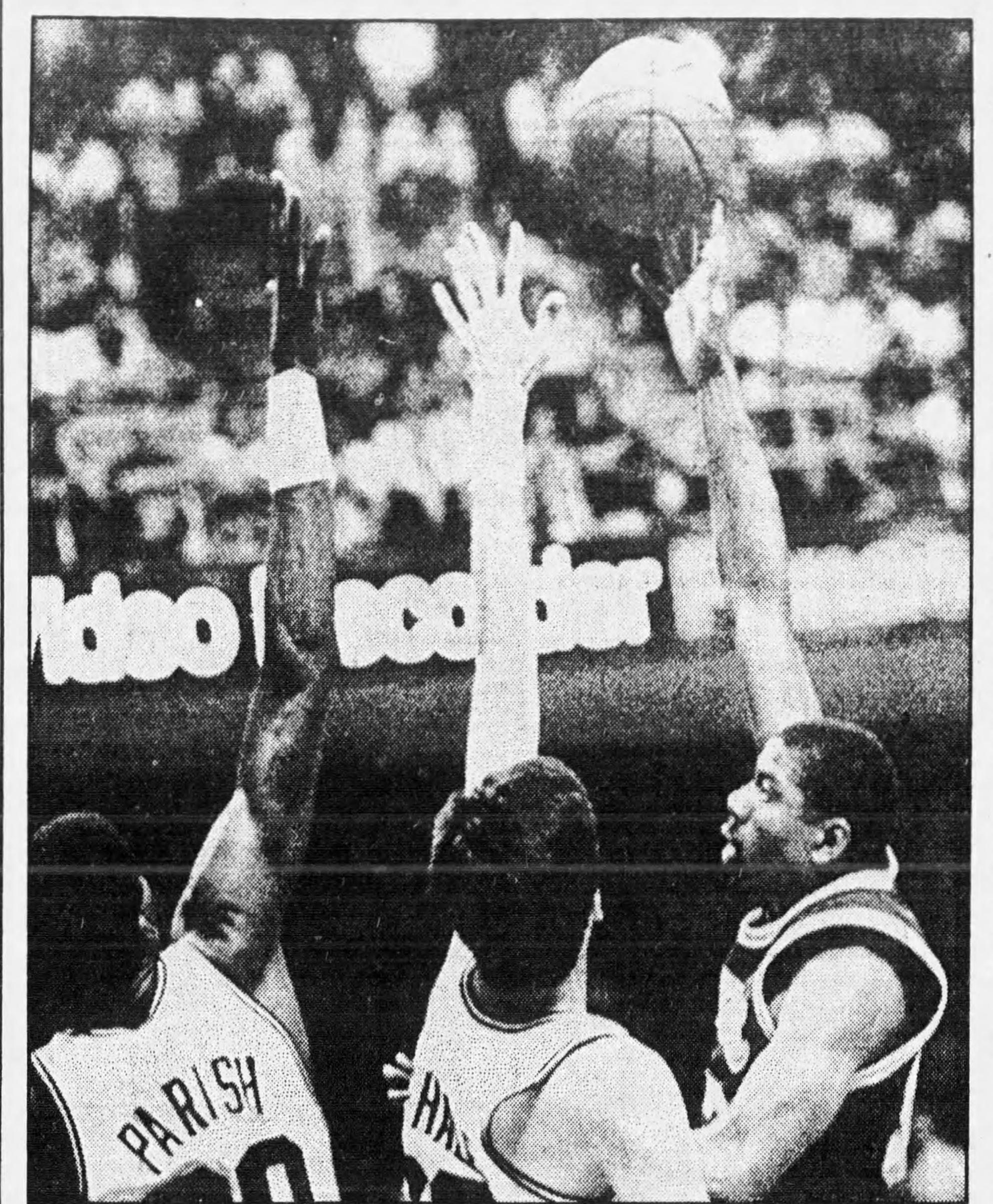
It mattered little, however. The Braves had given Alexander all the runs he needed — two — in the first inning off lefthander Rick Honeycutt, who lost for the fifth time in seven decisions.

Tanner went to his bench against Honeycutt, sitting down left-handed-hitting Gerald Perry, Ken Griffey and Ken Oberkfell. In their places, he started Ted Simmons at first, Rafael Ramirez at third and Gary Roenicke in left.

Those moves immediately paid dividends. Ramirez doubled, Roenicke walked and Simmons doubled them home in the

See BRAVES, Page 6-C





The Associated Press

Junior sky hook: Lakers' Magic Johnson puts up a hook shot, a la Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, over Celtics' Robert Parish, Kevin McHale in Tuesday's game.

Auerbach, Jones criticize Strom

By Jeff Denberg Staff Writer

referee Earl Strom after the Boston Celt- crew. "Believe me, they don't." ics dropped a 107-106 game to the Los Angeles Lakers Tuesday night.

Auerbach, the team president, said his piece to Strom's face, screaming, "You've ey's decision late in the third quarter to conditioners to cool things off. got no (slang for guts)."

Jones, the coach from whom such outbursts are not characteristic, said, "I'm disappointed in Earl Strom, the No. 1 offi- be done. cial in the league. I thought he had a Lakers uniform on. He really did a job on us. I'm totally disappointed in his non-calls on Larry (Bird) under the basket. Other than that, it was a hell of a game."

After Jones had time to consider the matter, he added, "I thought Earl was particularly bad, but if it's going to cost me money, I'll take it back."

Strom, they have no regard for Jake O'Donnell, one of the highest-rated officials in the league. Boston had lost twice previously in the Garden this season, to had to go through both (Kevin) McHale the Lakers in December and against Milwaukee in the second playoff round. O'Donnell worked both games.

O'Donnell was Tuesday's alternate official, an indication he will work Thurs- OK." day's fifth game.

. . . He even refused to let the cleanup crew in ing vote-getter. Magic Johnson, Michael bothered by all those Red Auerbach sto- is the coach. Doc Rivers of Atlanta, My-

Rauch's

ries from over the years. Maybe he was worried about spies. "Those people don't BOSTON - Both Red Auerbach and know anything about basketball," Garden K.C. Jones had unkind comments about usher Charlie Allen said of the cleanup

...

The Lakers weren't certain that Rilstart trapping the Celtics on defense actually decided the game, but they agree with Riley when he said something had to

manner and know that we weren't going game. to give up," Michael Cooper said.

"It gave us a lift, got us back in the game," Riley said. "I could feel the collective energy change."

Why did James Worthy have such a If the Celtics are displeased with poor start Tuesday, going scoreless for 22 minutes, 14 seconds before finishing with 18 points? "He was playing with his back to the basket," Riley said. "That meant he and (Robert) Parish, and he isn't strong enough. The first thing he had to do was face McHale. The next thing was get the rhythm of his dribble going. Then he was

The NBA P.R. Directors Associaton When Lakers coach Pat Riley runs a released its media poll for the first All-Inclosed practice, he runs a closed practice. terview team. Julius Erving was the leadthe Boston Garden this week while the Jordan, Kevin McHale and Robert Reid Lakers were working. Maybe Riley was join Erving on the first team. Doug Moe

...

chal Thompson, Larry Bird, Cedric Maxwell and Sidney Moncrief comprise the second team. Frank Layden is the coach.

...

The Los Angeles Lakers expected the NBA championship series to heat up in Boston and brought along their own air

The Lakers, who placed portable heaters near their bench when they played at the Boston Garden in December, set up three portable air conditioners in the visi-"You could look at his eyes and his tors' locker room before Tuesday night's

> They apparently did not consult with Boston Garden management and could have blown a fuse under normal condi-

"It just so happens we put in a couple of more panels for the finals," said director of Garden security Joe L'Italien in Wednesday's Boston Herald. "If not? They probably would have blown the lights in their locker room. Then they really would have been angry."

Magic Johnson of the Lakers on the price of stardom: "You get to that level and people take you for granted. People expected Larry (Bird) to hit that shot (at the end of Game 4). If he hits it's no big deal, they say hey, 'That's Larry.' "

Johnson added that he will never forget losing the 1984 title series to the Celt-

"It's hard when you look up and see that banner and know you had something to do with it. If we win it'll sort of ease the pain a bit, but you can never get that championship back."

Agents

From Page 1-C

tive agreements which are post-dated so they can continue to play college football," Altman wrote in her opinion. "The athletes thus act unethically and in violation of the rules of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and the National Football League (NFL)."

Sources say the judge's opinion was encouraging to federal prosecutors in Chicago who are seeking indictments against Walters, Bloom and some of the athletes, including Harmon.

Altman's opinion also appears to contradict Walters' claim that his practice of signing athletes to postdated contracts — which he said do not take effect until after the players' eligibility period — are on solid

legal ground. Wednesday's appearance by Walters and Bloom at the NFL Players Association (NFLPA) hearing was the first of several expect-

ed formal confrontations with athletes who received money from the New York agents. Harmon was one of the first players signed by the agents. He ac-

cepted an initial payment of \$2,500 in March 1985, his junior year at Iowa, in return for his signature on a contract of agent representation. When the deal was consummated, Harmon violated NCAA rules and Walters and Bloom violated NFL players union certification rules. The more than \$54,000 Harmon

eventually received from the agents, including a \$25,000 downpayment for lease of a Mercedes after Harmon's final college game, is the single largest documented amount involving the agents and a player.

Harmon, who was drafted in the first round by the Bills on April 29, 1986, fired Walters and Bloom on Aug. 12 when contract negotiations with the Bills stalled mysteriously. The Constitution learned that Bills general manager Bill Polian testified Wednesday at the hearing that Bloom "disappeared" just as negotiations were heating up and could not be reached. Walters and Bloom deny the allegation.

The grievance hearing was closed to the public and media. Walters, Bloom and Harmon each declined comment to reporters.

The NFL players union arbitrator is former U.S. Sen. John Culver of Iowa. Altman has denied a request by Walters and Bloom to disqualify Culver because he and Harmon share ties to the state of Iowa as well as to the university. Culver is an Iowa graduate.

"It is hard to believe that a person (Culver) would sacrifice integrity for an old school tie," Altman wrote. "The argument makes about as much sense to suggest that a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York should not be involved in this case because the defendant (Harmon) plays for the only NFL team in this state."

Technically, Buffalo is New York State's only team because the New York Giants and New York Jets play their home games in New Jersey.

Culver said he would have no comment on the arbitration, which is binding and could eliminate the agents' lawsuit in the New York State Supreme Court. His decision is expected within 30 days.

Harmon's attorney and current agent, Martin Rauch of Springville, N.Y., contends that the contract Harmon signed with Walters and Bloom is invalid. Rauch claims that signed Harmon was deceived into believing representation. the post-dated contract was not a violation of NCAA rules, and that are not entitled to any negotiation by New York state law he was not fees and should be reimbursed only the required adult age of 21. Har- for the \$150 air fare Bloom paid on mon was 19 when he signed with a trip to Buffalo. the agents.

argued that Harmon's parents were present when the contract was

Rauch contends that only \$2,500 the form of a loan. The rest, he said, should be considered as gifts and need not be repaid.

The agents' attempt to recover the \$94,699.92 in negotiation fees is based on their contention that the four-year \$1.425 million contract Harmon and Rauch accepted from Buffalo on Aug. 13 was the identical amount Bloom had attempted to negotiate.

Sources say Bills GM Polian disagreed in testimony, countering that cluded in the contract Harmon

COST

under

Rauch said Walters and Bloom

The arbitration hearing also is Sources said Walters and Bloom certain to lead to the NFL players union's decertification of Walters'

and Bloom's agency, according to

union sources. The agents also tried to have of what Harmon received was in the grievance dismissed because Harmon was not yet an NFL player when they signed him, but the judge referred to Harmon in her opinion

as the "player." "The contract in fact has one purpose, and one purpose alone, and that is to allow the plaintiffs (Wa ters and Bloom) to represent the defendant in negotiations with an NFL team," the judge wrote.

Three players union officials, asking not to be named, said Altman's opinion on that issue is the the contract Bloom negotiated asked same legal avenue the NFLPA will for a Rolls Royce worth more than explore if NFL ownership does not \$100,000. A Rolls Royce was not in- extend its contract jurisdiction to college seniors.

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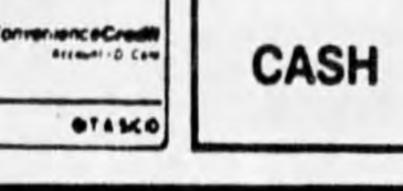
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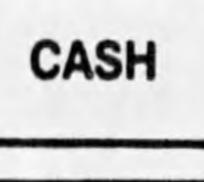
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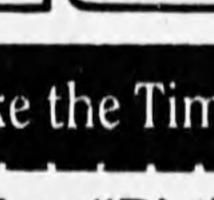


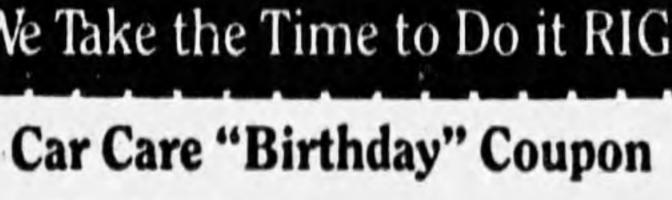


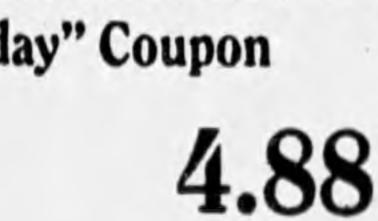












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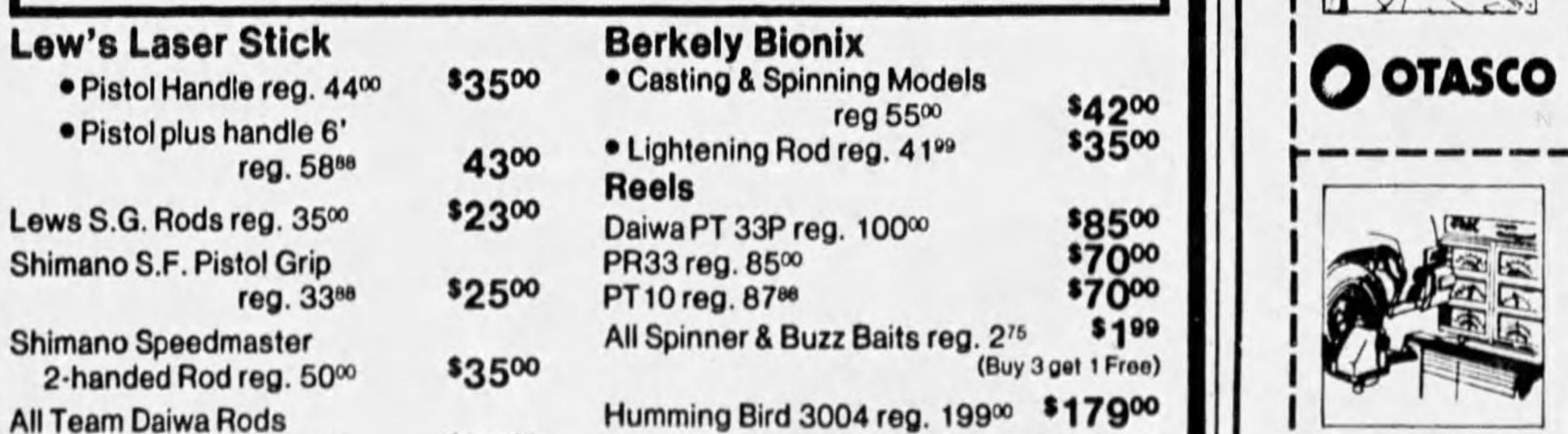
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