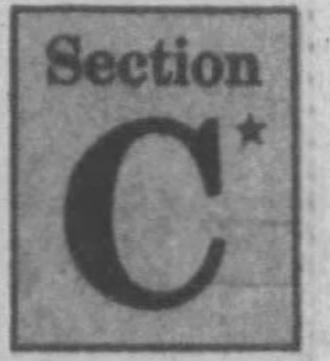
Financial

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Stringer olici eu ODU job

But she says she'll stick with Hawks

From Gazette staff and AP reports Iowa women's basketball coach C. Vivian Stringer has apparently turned down a similar position at Old Dominion University after being offered the job.

Stringer, Iowa's coach the last four years, was offered the job in a recent interview with ODU athletic director Jim Jarrett, according to The Ledger-Star, a newspaper in Norfolk, Va., where Old Dominion is located. This morning's Norfolk Virginian-Pilot reported Stringer declined Jarrett's offer.

Stringer, 38, could not be reached for comment Wednesday. However, Stringer issued a statement through a's women's sports information office in which she indicated she intended to remain at Iowa.

"Each summer I am contacted by officials seeking to fill their head women's basketball coach position," Stringer's statement said, "and each time I visit with Dr. (Iowa women's athletic director Christine) Grant and my husband, and evaluate that particular opportunity. Once again, I have learned what I have known for quite some time. At this point in my career, the University of Iowa and the Hawkeye athletic department is the best place for me and my family."

Old Dominion is seeking a replacement for Marianne Stanley, who resigned May 15 after 10 years at ODU to become head coach at the University of Pennsylvania.

Stanley directed Old Dominion to the 1984-85 national championship, its third. The Lady Monarchs were 18-13 and an NCAA Tournament participant last season.

Arbitrator hears case vs. Harmon

Decision expected within 30 days

> By David Lynch Gazette Washington reporter

WASHINGTON — An arbitrator is expected to rule within 30 days on breach of contract charges against former lowa running back onnie Harmon and three other players.

Former Iowa Sen. John Culver, an arbitrator for the National Football League Players Association, Wednesday held a closed-door hearing on the charges brought by New York entertainment agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom.

The three other players named in the charges are Ron Woodson, an All-America cornerback at Purdue; Tony Woods, a University of Pittsburgh defensive end; and Auburn running back Brent Fullwood.

Walters and Bloom allege Harmon received \$54,000 from their firm, World Sports and Entertainment Inc., when Harmon was a junior at Iowa. The agents allege Harmon still owes them that money and has reneged on a contract with their agency.

Harmon plays for the NFL Buffalo

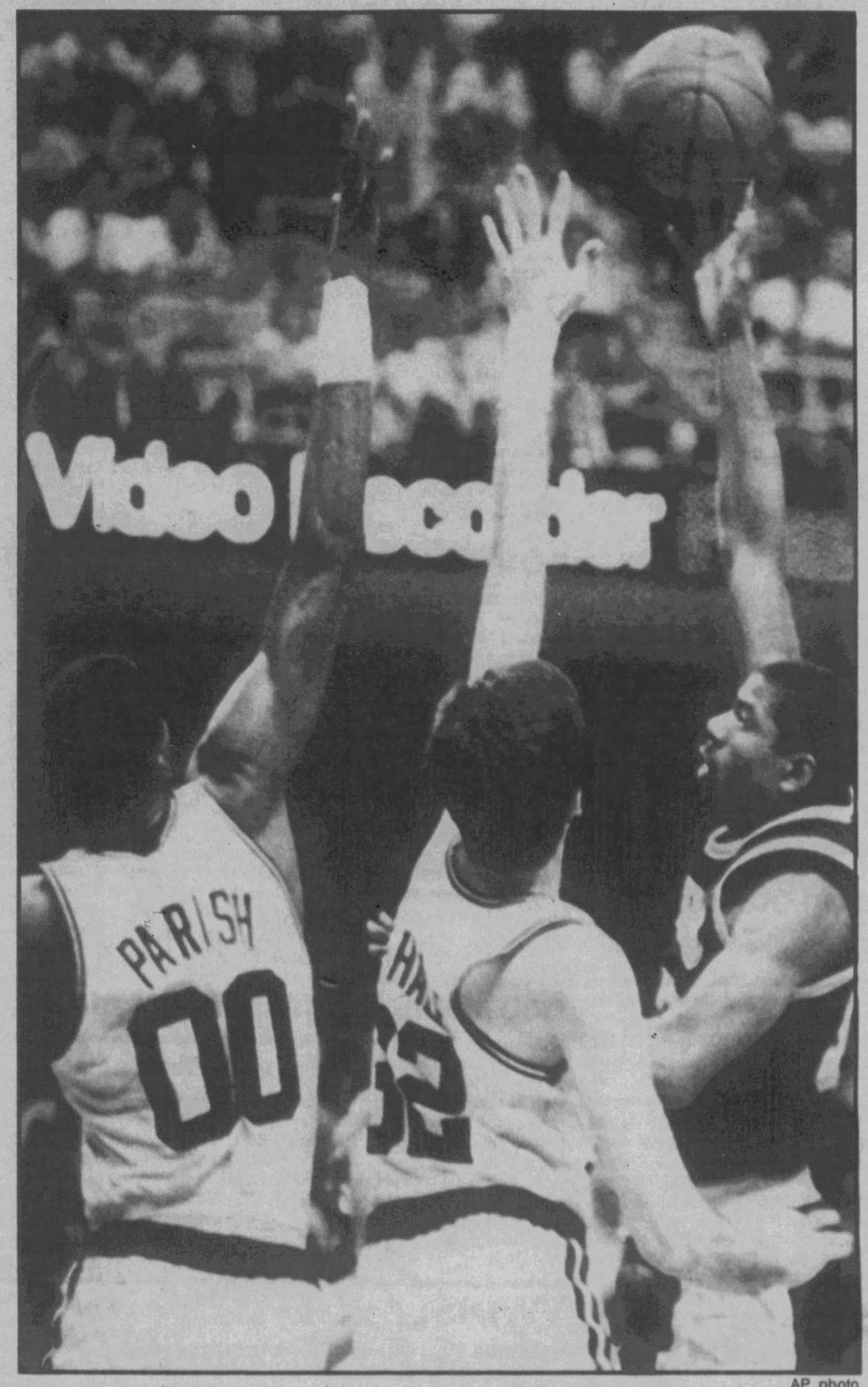
Walters and Bloom are challenging NCAA regulations that prohibit college athletes from signing with agents while still in college.

"I'll sign anyone I want to," Bloom said in a recent interview. "The NCAA can't enforce (its rules). I'll sign a sophomore if I want."

Culver could not be reached for comment on the arbitration Wednesday. He is expected to hand down a decision within 30 days. Culver's decision will not be announced by the Players Association, but an associate of Culver's said Wednesday he expects the decision to be made public "not by us, but most likely by the victorious party."



is on vacation.



This hook shot by guard Magic Johnson (right) over the outstretched arms of Boston's Robert Parish and Kevin McHale was the game-winner Tuesday night for the Lakers.

Lakers facing a greater foe: complacency

Riley: LA can't afford to rest on its 3-1 cushion

BOSTON (AP) — The Los Angeles Lakers might be facing a tougher opponent than the Boston Celtics tonight.

"We have a cushion and as soon as you start thinking that way, you're going to lose," Lakers Coach Pat Riley said after practice Wednesday. "We have to fight that feeling of security and fight it hard."

The Lakers lead the best-ofseven NBA championship series 3-1, thanks to Magic Johnson's hook shot with two seconds remaining which beat the Celtics 107-106 Tuesday night. Game 5 will be played in Boston tonight, but the sixth and seventh games, if necessary, would be at The Forum in Inglewood, Calif., where the Lakers easily won the first two games.

"We celebrated Tuesday night because we broke through at Boston Garden," Riley said, refer-

NBA Finals Tonight's Game

L.A. Lakers at Boston, 8 p.m. L.A. leads series, 3-1 TV: CBS (KGAN, Channel 2, locally)

ring to the Celtics' third loss in 88 games there. "We took a second to savor what we had done, but now we have to realize we still haven't won it yet."

Riley said that when complacency threatens his team, "that's when I talk history with them. That's when I remind them that we won Game 1 of the finals in Boston in 1984 and got a false sense of security.'

"We won Game 4 last night the way we lost the series in 1984," Riley said.

THE LAKER PLAYERS are less concerned than Riley about a letdown.

"We were younger in '84 and Please turn to 2C: Lakers

DJ plays cruel joke on LA fans

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (AP) - A disc jockey's publicity hoax Wednesday triggered phone calls from Los Angeles Lakers fans trying to verify his report that the outcome of Game 4 of the NBA championship series had been reversed and Boston had won.

KGGI disc jockey Bobby Mercer said he reported about four times that Celtics' guard Dennis Johnson went to Boston Garden about 4:30 a.m. Wednesday to shoot two technical fouls after a review of game films by Commissioner David

"We did it just for fun because it was such a great game last night and it had to be such a heartbreaker for the Celtics," Mercer said.

The hoax triggered calls to the station, while newspapers, television and other radio stations throughout San Bernardino, Riverside and Los Angeles counties were flooded with questions.

When asked if it was a publicity stunt, Mercer said: "It's something to create a little controversy about the radio show and get some people to listen. It's a publicity stunt."

Officially speaking, K.C. Jones is quite upset

Boston coach blasts veteran ref Strom for his 'non-calls'

BOSTON (AP) - Boston Celtics Coach K.C. Jones gave due credit to the Los Angeles Lakers for their 107-106 victory Tuesday night, but he ripped veteran referee Earl Strom.

"You have to credit the Lakers, they played one fantastic game," Jones said holding back his disappointment after the Lakers took a 3-1 lead in the best-of-seven NBA championship series on a hook shot by

Magic Johnson with two seconds to play. Then, Jones sharply criticized the officials for what he called "non-calls."

"I'm very disappointed in Earl Strom," Jones said. "I thought he had a Laker uniform on. He's the No. 1 official in the league, but I'm very disappointed in the noncalls. He did a job on us."

The homecourt advantage didn't help the Celtics much as far as the officiating was concerned. Strom and Hugh Evans whistled 21 fouls on Boston, five more than were called on Los Angeles. The Lakers were went to the free-throw line 32 times, making 23, while the Celtics were 13 of 16.

"I yelled and screamed," Jones said. "Other than that it was a hell of a game." Asked if his comments might cost him money in possible league fines, Jones grinned and said, "I'll take it all back."

LOS ANGELES COACH Pat Riley had no immediate comment on the officiating. However, after the Lakers' 109-103 loss to the Celtics in Game 3, handled by two other referees, Riley was critical of the inconsistent calling of illegal zone defenses.

Riley called the Lakers' breakthrough of the homecourt advantage for the first time "very emotional."

"We were fortunate, very fortunate," Riley said. "You've got to have a lot of luck

to win this type of game."

Riley said the Lakers "just didn't play well in the first three periods."

"I don't think we played hard enough. We didn't play with enough passion. We looked tired for a long time and we appeared frustrated for a long while. "But it's a win. Now we're 3-1 and playing

for the title. We have a lot of work ahead of us, but now we're on the verge after eight months of play."

"We haven't won anything yet," warned Johnson, whose only basket of the fourth quarter was the game-winner. "This is just another step. We're almost there, but not

Asked about being the first visiting team to win a playoff game and solve the Boston Garden mystique this year, Johnson smiled

and said:

"Mystique? We'll see."

Twins win again, take West lead

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) - Gene Larkin's one-out, 10th-inning single scored Greg Gagne from second Wednesday night, lifting the Minnesota Twins to a 4-3 victory over Kansas City and moving them into first place ahead of the Royals.

Gagne began the winning rally with a single off Jerry Don Gleaton, 1-2. Gagen stole second as Kirby Puckett struck out. After Gary Gaetti was intentionally walked, Larkin grounded Gleaton's first pitch to left, and Gagne's slide beat left fielder Bo Jackson's throw

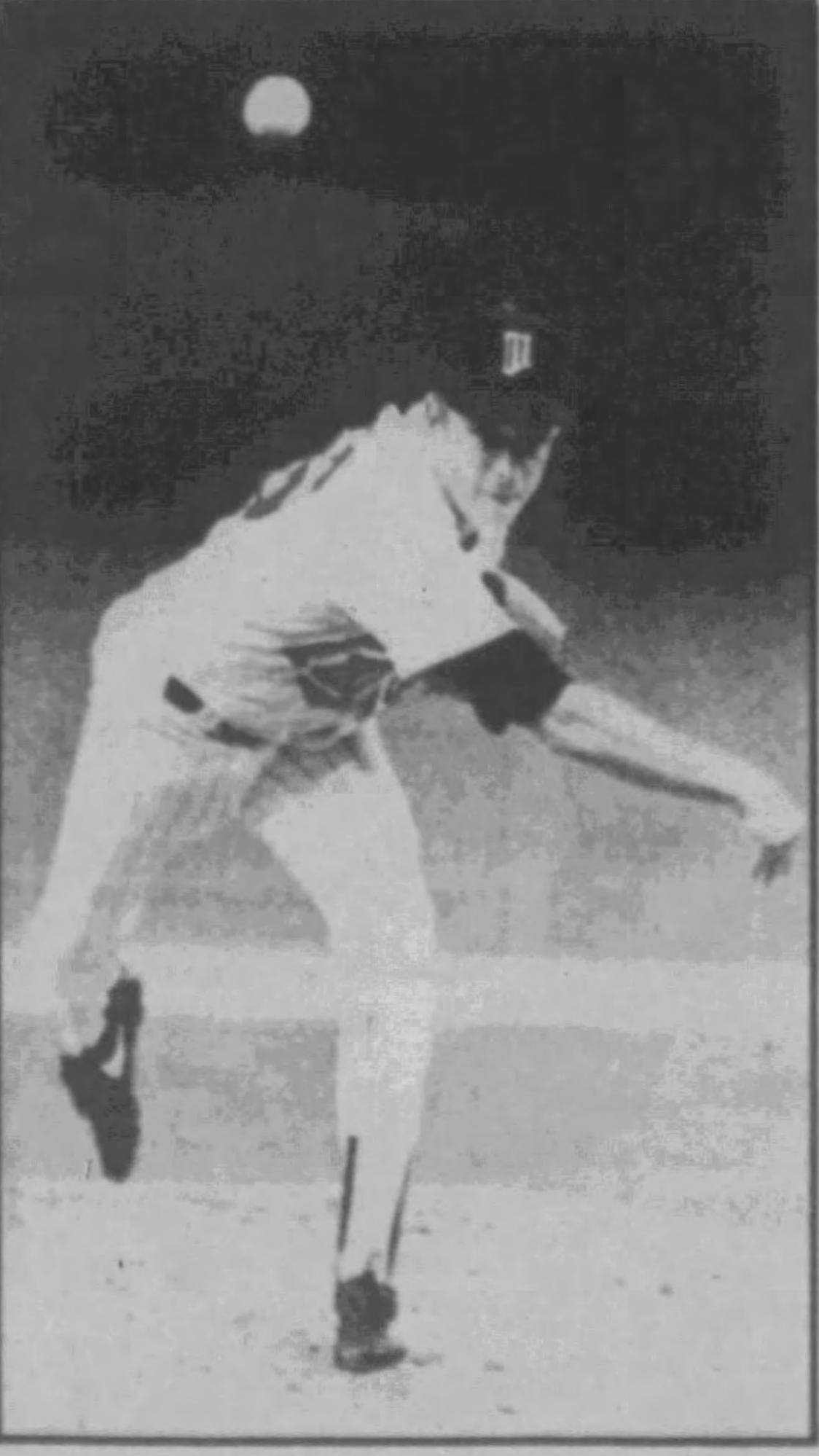
Jeff Reardon, 3-4, pitched two scoreless inning of relief for the victory.

The three-game series sweep gave Minnesota a five-game winning streak for the first time in two

A bases-loaded error by Royals first baseman Steve Balboni in the eighth inning allowed the Twins to rally from a three-run deficit and tie the game.

Charlie Leibrandt took a twohitter into the eighth before getting into trouble. Leibrandt allowed one-out single by Mark Davidson and two-out walks to Dan Gladden

Please turn to 2C: Twins



Pitcher Joe Niekro made his debut as a member of the Minnesota Twins Tuesday night, helping them to a 5-2 victory over AL West leader Kansas City and into a virtual tie for the division lead with the Royals. Niekro allowed two hits in 61/2 innings.

Joe Niekro, the teacher He plans to show the Twins how to fish — and win

INNEAPOLIS (AP) — Joe Niekro says when he recovered from the

surprise of being traded from the New York Yankees he set two goals to accomplish with the Minnesota Twins. "I told Kent Hrbek there were two things I

want to do: help the Twins with the division and teach these guys how to fish," said Niekro. When he first learned of the trade, he

thought "I'm at the point in my career where I'm saying, 'Hey, do I need another move?' But I talked to my brother, Phil, and he said, 'Hey, go get 'em. I'll be up there in a couple of weeks. Go get us a good fishing spot." "

Niekro hasn't been here long enough to even dip his big toe - let alone a fishing line - into one of Minnesota's 10,000 lakes. But he already has started toward

accomplishing his other goal. Early Sunday morning, the Twins announced that they had acquired the 42-yearold knuckleballer for catcher Mark Salas. He had a couple of days to get his belongings together, and within a few hours after his plane landed, he was starting against the

Kansas City Royals. The Twins won, 5-2. TEAMMATES LIKE HRBEK quickly made Niekro feel at ease. And when he left the game with a 4-2 seventh-inning lead, the Metrodome crowd of 18,563 made him feel at home.

"It was a good feeling. The reception I got was great," said Niekro, who allowed only one earned run in 61/4 innings. "I didn't sleep a whole lot (Monday) night. I was coming to a new ballclub, I wanted to pitch well. I had a

whole lot going through my mind. This is a good ballclub. I hope I can help this club. . . have a good, solid finish."

Tuesday night, his knuckler danced, dived and darted and Twins fans must have wondered why the club waited 261/2 years to add a knuckleballer to its staff.

"I thought about (Niekro's age) in the fourth inning. He's older than I am," said Twins Manager Tom Kelly, 36, the youngest manager in the majors. "But I wasn't going to tell him how to pitch. He's probably forgotten more than I know about pitching."

Niekro doesn't seem to have forgotten

"He has more than 20 years of experience," said Tim Laudner, who had the task of trying to catch Niekro's knucklers. "It was not only fun to catch him, but fun to watch him pitch. The knuckler was working for him."

It was Laudner's first experience catching a knuckleball pitcher. Not only did he almost flawlessly handle the chore, he also hit a key two-run homer.

LAUDNER SAID HE was determined "to have fun."

"And I did have a lot of fun," he said. "As a catcher, I was pleased with the challenge. It might have been a little more emotionally and physically draining than anything I'd ever done before."

Laudner said Niekro's knuckler was active, but he said nothing about it really surprised

Asked if that was because he had hit against several knuckleballers in the past, he said: "I never said I hit them. I've faced a few, but I wouldn't say I hit them."