



By Skip Myslenski & Linda Kay

He would hear people say Walter Payton had lost a step, and Lowell Weil would shake his head and laugh. Weil is the team podiatrist for the Bears, and before six of the team's final eight games in the 1986 season, he injected a long-acting local anesthetic into Payton's big toe. Walter fractured and dislocated it against the Rams in the ninth game, but six days later, trainer Fred Caito immobilized it with tape, Weil administered a shot, and Payton amassed 139 yards rushing and 69 yards receiving against Tampa Bay. "When the comments started coming about him slowing down, it was at the time he was playing with the entire big-toe joint numbed up," says Weil. "I had to chuckle, because no one knew. Not only does a running back need all 10 toes, he could probably use 12. And the big-toe joint is very key for pushing off."

For that feat ...

... or feet, the American Academy of Podiatric Sports Medicine gave Payton the Golden Foot Award at its annual convention in Chicago last month. Payton said it was the first time he had been honored by a group of doctors, but admitted his success story could easily have been a huge flop. His distaste for injections is so pronounced, he said, that he had to psych himself up for a half-hour before he submitted to the needle. "He's terribly afraid of shots and always has been," says Weil, who had to cajole Payton right up to five minutes before game time. "He was like a little kid. I'd have to say, 'If you don't get the shot, you're not going to play."

A blast from the (far) past

The Cooperstown Leatherstockings, led by Hall of Fame librarian Tom Heitz, took on the Hudson River Half Moons last Sunday on the lush fields of the Tarrytown, N.Y., estate of 19th century author Washington Irving. Their contest of Town Ball, the precursor to the game the 20th Century calls baseball, was refereed by John Thorn, who (as in days of old) was enpowered to fine coaches, players and spectators for any infraction. After a Leatherstocking outfielder tripped over the cables of Major League Baseball Productions while making a spectacular catch, Thorn took just that action and imposed 10-cent fines on cameraman Tim Roberts and soundman Dean Rosen. After collecting, Thorn admonished them to "keep the 20th Century to yourself."

A quiz

Guess where the largest athletic event in the world will be staged in 1987? Answer: South Bend, Ind., where the International Summer Special Olympics Games begin July 31. Those Games will feature 6,000 athletes from 66 nations. In contrast, the more heralded Pan American Games that open a week later in Indianapolis will feature only 5,200 athletes from 38 nations. .

Laughter now allowed

Levity was not a word linked with Walter Byers during his 36 years as NCAA head, but the word is that his successor, Dick Shultz, does indeed have a sense of humor. One example came while Schultz headed the negotiating committee that was pounding out a new TV contract for the NCAA's postseason basketball tournament last December. CBS won those rights with a \$166 million bid, which it submitted in a sealed envelope that also contained 93 cents. That was all the change its representatives had in their pockets at the time of bidding, and Schultz returned it to them when he proclaimed them the victors. "You can have this back," he said to Peter Lund, then president of CBS Sports. "We got enough from you as it is."

"He's certainly serious as opposed to being a cutup, and he certainly isn't frivolous by any stretch of the imagination," said Lund, now head of Multimedia Entertainment. "But that sense of humor is there. There were times in our negotitations when he'd make a series of proclamations, and we'd bite hook, line and sinker right to the end. That's when we realized it was a put-on. I think that sense of humor was important. It sometimes broke the tension, or broke down barriers that allowed us to move on to the next step."

News, notes and nonsense

For what it's worth, here is what Eagle coach Buddy Ryan had to say earlier this week on his radio show in Philadelphia: "The Bears talked to us before the last draft. We thought they wanted a little too much, but now we think [strong safety] Todd Bell may be an Eagle by training camp if everything goes well." ... Illinois-Chicago basketball coach Bob Hallberg has invited fans to a meeting on campus Wednesday night to map off-court strategy. Writes Hallberg in a mailing to supporters: "It seems that the biggest challenge ahead of me is to do something about small crowds at the UIC Pavilion. I know I cannot tackle this task alone, and I would like your help." . . . Some 7,000 employees of 33 local corporations compete in the Healthy American Games Saturday at Glenbrook South High School in Glenview. The event benefits the United States Olympic Committee. . . . Bear running back Neal Anderson receives the Brian Piccolo Award as the club's top rookie at a dinner Monday night at Indian Lakes Resort in Bloomingdale. . . You can get a look at Town Ball during Saturday's

"This Week In Baseball" (Channel 5, 12:30 p.m.). And finally: Only in America. You may recall us mentioning Wednesday that Butch Lewis, who is promoting Monday's War at the Shore between Michael Spinks and Gerry Cooney, has offered Fawn Hall \$25,000 to be a round-card girl. Now comes word that Lewis has made the same hartfelt offer to Donna Rice. Harty, har-har.

Sundberg's scouting report: NCAA hired good man for its top job

The NCAA's appointment of Virginia athletic director Dick Schultz as its executive director was felt all the way to the Cubs' dugout.

Catcher Jim Sundberg, in his 14th major-league season, was scouted and recruited out of Galesburg, Ill., by Schultz when he was baseball coach at the University of Iowa.

On a summer day in 1969, Sundberg recalled, Schultz witnessed what "Sunny" calls his "best single day in baseball to this date." At the time, he was an 18-year-old kid playing American Legion ball for Galesburg in a game at low

Schultz was there to scout Sundberg after receiving a let-

ter of recommendation from, of all people, Sundberg's second-grade teacher who also happened to be an lowa

In a double-header that day with Schultz in the stands, Sundberg hit two homers, drove in 11 runs and threw out four baserunners. Shortly after the game, Schultz offered Sundberg recalled. "Honest,

Sundberg a full scholarship to play ball for the Hawkeyes. Though Sundberg was soon to be drafted by the Oakland A's, he accepted the offer.

Two weeks into the 1970 season, Schultz resigned as baseball coach to become Iowa's head basketball coach.

"He was a great guy,"

sincere and warm.

"I'm glad to see him get that job because I know he'll excel at it. But to tell you the truth, I haven't even seen him since my college days."

What kind of coach was he? "I don't remember," the 36year-old catcher said. "I just know he had a lot of character and was very positive."

Next innovation: Clothes-optional Pray 'n' Putt

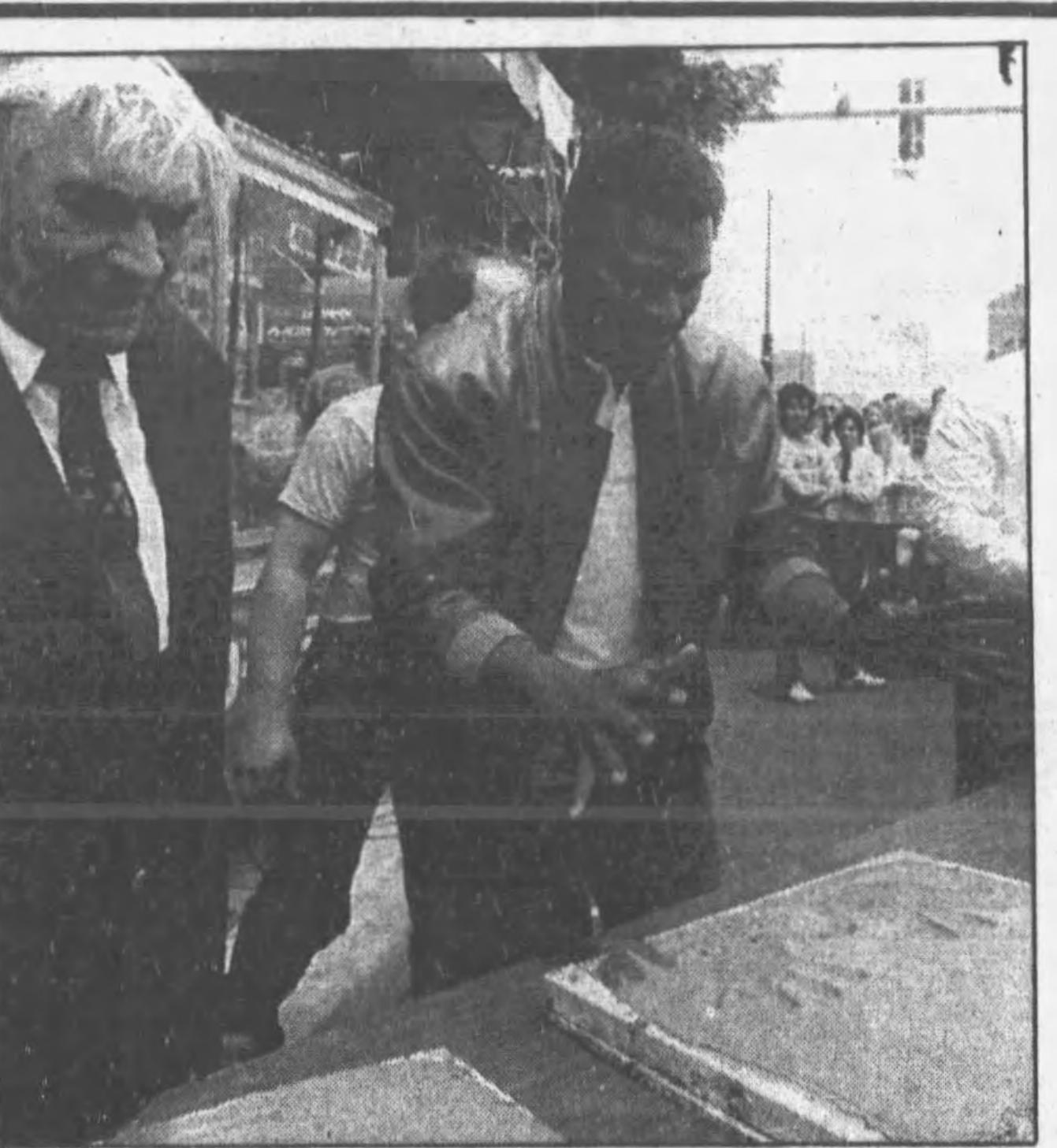
And you thought golf was

Police in Rockford are expected to finish their investigation this week into allegations that a male officer of 10 years on the force golfed in the nude at a departmentsponsored Golf Play Day.

"We want to separate fact from fiction and get rid of all the embellishments," said Chief William Fitzpatrick, who won't identify the suspect until the probe is completed. "If he did it, how long he did it, that's what they're going to try to find out."

Golfers in Brighton, Mich., who skip church to get an early start now can to pray before they play. Nondenominational services are conducted by Rev. David W. Swink, a Baptist minister, rain or shine at 6:30 a.m. each Sunday on the first tee at Oak Pointe Golf Club.

"It's actually a rather beautiful experience, because so far we've had sunrises at 6:30, 6:35, and it's a quiet, peaceful time to be together," he said. "This is about the only service where you can come and drink coffee while the minister gives his talk."



Tribune photo by Ovie Carter

Walter Payton slaps his hands in a tray of wet cement, to be placed when dry in the Morrie Mages Wall of Fame.

2,130

Sachio Kinugasa, Japan's "Iron Man," tied a record set by Lou Gehrig of New York Yankees nearly 50 years ago by playing in his 2,130th consecutive Japanese professional baseball game Thursday night in Hiroshima. In the fifth inning, when it became certain the game would be an official one, time was called, and Kinugasa received bouquets from the current and former managers of his Hiroshima Toyo Carp. The Carp beat the Yokohama Whales 4-3 and Kinugasa went 1-for-4.

Cry of Gladiators: We who are about to fly salute you

As if O'Hare Airport didn't have enough confusion, the new Arena Football League figures to really cause some scrambling.

Final rosters for the fourteam, experimental league will be drawn up after Friday night's exhibition game in Rockford.

Neither Executive Director Mouse Davis nor Pittsburgh Gladiators coach Joe Haering, who is the league's personnel director, want to tell the players their destinations.

That will come Saturday morning. The players then will have enough time to call a pool of reserves.

home, pack their clothes and board their flights to the three franchise cities outside Chicago: Denver, Pittsburgh or Washington.

The season begins June 19, when Pittsburgh plays the Washington Commandoes.

Haering and Davis have divided the players into four groups with assigned coaches. Barring any last-minute changes, the 16-man team rosters are all but selected.

The training-camp roster began at 120 and has been sliced to 77, meaning 13 players will be retained as part of

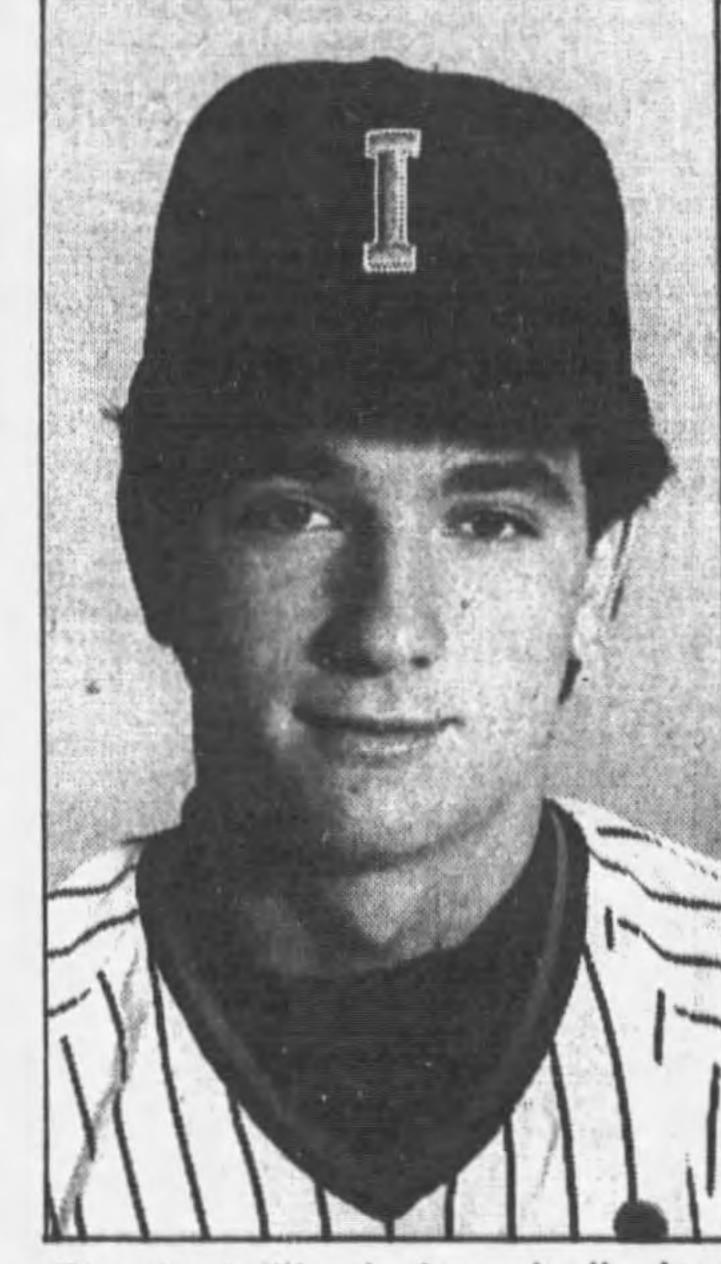
Haering said Friday's exhibition game might force changes in the roster. The league wants to balance its talent.

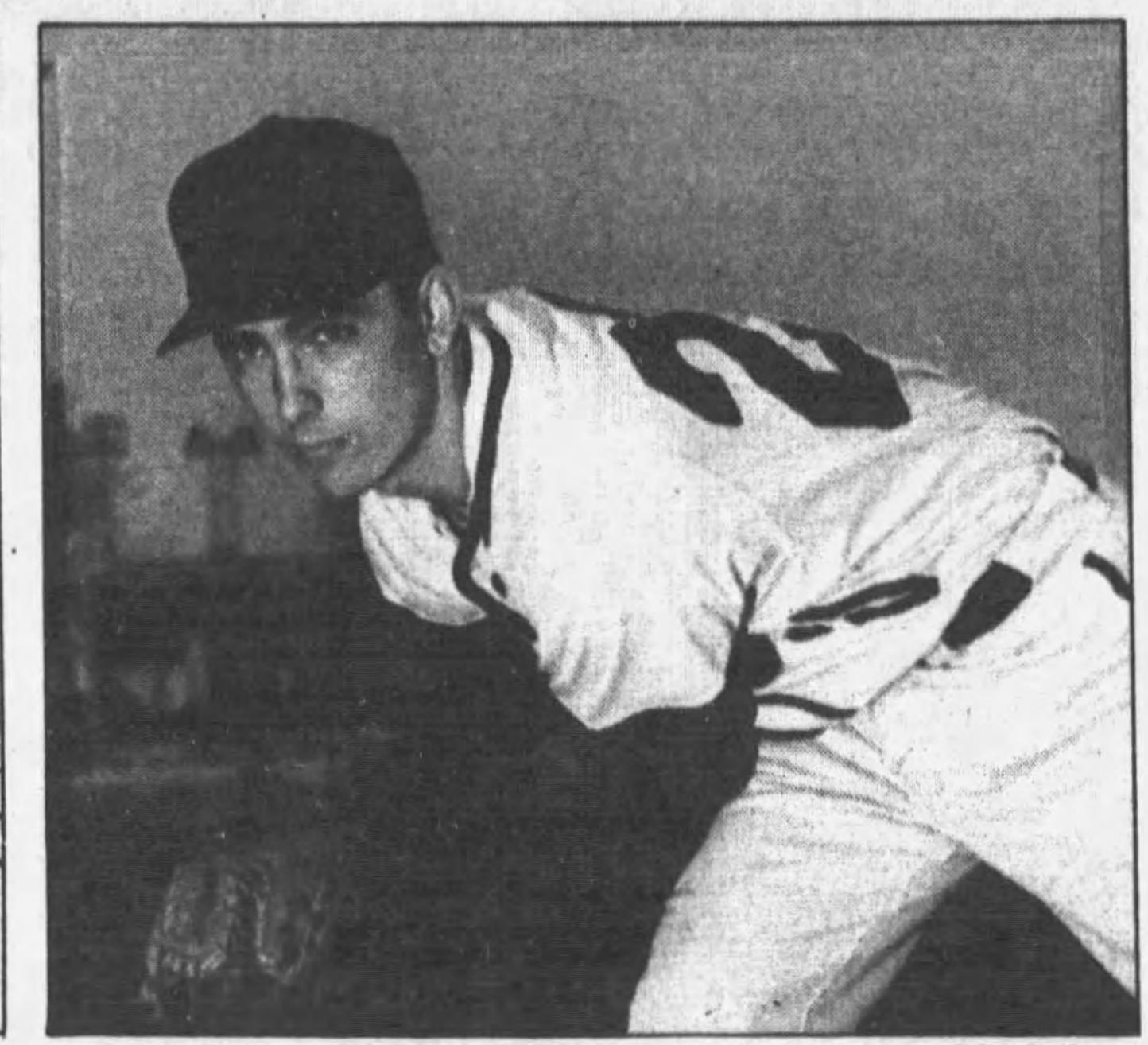
"That's our whole idea," Haering said. "When we leave camp we want each team to be as balanced as possible.

One team might have the best quarterback, another team might have the best wide receiver and so forth. We'll see if one team has an advantage or disadvantage.

"Right now, we just don't want anyone to make plans.

"We're just going to tell them at one time, so they don't have to make changes."





Fletcher (left) did it this year was his father, The last Illinois baseball player to be a firstteam All-American before catcher Darrin Tom, an All-American pitcher in 1962.

Holding a World Cup is a dirty job, but U.S. would do it

tion is successful in its bid to play host for the 1994 World Cup, some games probably

will be played in the Midwest. Phil Woosnam of the federation has just concluded a survey of 27 potential sites for the Cup, which will require 12 stadiums. Soldier Field is on the list. He also inspected

dium and Spartan Stadium in the Big 10, Busch Stadium, Arrowhead Stadium and Notre Dame Stadium.

· So what will be done about the need to play World Cup games on natural grass?

George Toma, turf consultant to the NFL, said that would be no problem because of a process perfected the last Michigan Stadium, Ohio Sta- time the USSF made a World

Cup bid. It takes about four weeks and costs approximately \$50,000 to put 8 to 12 inches of soil over the artificial turf.

"It's like putting down dirt for motocross races," he said, "and we do it all the time."

In Chicago, a bigger consideration is, Will Soldier Field still be viable if a new one has

Chicago rules the waves—at least that's the hope of 3 yachtsmen

Buddy Melges and his "Heart of America" may have washed out in last winter's America's Cup, but by golly, that doesn't mean Chicago has been left without an international sailing challenge.

Later this summer, Insatiable, a 45-foot boat based in Chicago and owned by Fred Krehbiel, Deane Tank and Tom Lee, will represent the U.S. in Admiral's Cup competition near Cowles, England.

Skippered by Gary Weisman, Insatiable earned its place by finishing No. 1 in the Breton Reef Regatta last weekend at Newport, R.I., ahead of Sidewinder of San Francisco and Blue Yankee from New York. Those boats also will take part in the races July 30 through Aug. 12.

Just as Dennis Connor wrested the America's Cup away from foreign interlopers, Insatiable will be attempting to take the Admiral Cup from West Germany.

BRIEFS

Federal authorities reportedly are investigating a possible link between a recruiter for sports agents and the cocaineinduced death of Cleveland Browns defensive back Don Rogers. The investigation stems from inquiries by the FBI and a federal grand jury in Chicago that is looking into the activities of New York sports agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom. Newsday reported that authorities are investigating a possible link between Rogers and Terry Bolar, a former Long Beach State football player who works for Walters and Bloom. Rogers died of a cocaine overdose last June 27, a day before his wedding. Newsday said Bolar was at the bachelor party and supplied a limo for Rogers and his friends. The newspaper said Bolar also rode in the ambulance that carried Rogers to the hospital, but the Atlanta Constitution reported that the emergency medical technician said nobody was in the ambulance. "I didn't have anything to do with any drugs and Don," Bolar said. "I'll put my hand on many stacks of Bibles and swear on it."

Court documents filed in the Phoenix Suns drug case indicate that a witness has recanted statements that led to the indictment of three defendants. Alvin Scott, a former player who works in the front office, has recanted statements that led to the charges against ex-Sun Garfield Heard, current player James Edwards and Kim Lesure of Phoenix, according to papers filed by prosecutor James Keppel. Heard's case has been returned to a grand jury.

lowa football player Keaton Smiley has been charged with willful injury in the assault of a women volleyball player. He was being held in lieu of \$10,000 bond. Smiley is accused of beating Cheryl Zemaitas, from Downers Grove, with his fists and threatening her with a knife at his apartment. She suffered a ruptured eardrum and possible fractured left cheek, according to court records. A preliminary hearing was set for June 19. . . . Former Nevada-Las Vegas basketball recruit Lloyd Daniels has pleaded guilty to a charge of attempting to buy rock cocaine at a crack house. Daniels must enter a three-month drug rehabilitation program and undergo twice-weekly urinalysis under terms of a plea bargain. If he successfully completes drug counseling, Daniels must appear again before Justice of the Peace James Kelly to have his misdemeanor record sealed.

Fewer than half of the 673 male athletes on scholarship at Florida in the last 10 years have earned degrees within five years at the school, according to the Gainesville Sun. In some sports, fewer than 20 percent graduated.

Stefan Edberg survived two rain delays and Wally Masur to join Boris Becker in the quarterfinals of the Queen's Club tennis tournament in London. Edberg won 6-(2-7), 7-6 (7-1), 6-4. Becker beat John Sadri 6-4, 6-4. Jimmy Connors led Nduka Odizor 7-5, 2-3 when play was suspended because of darkness. ... Ivan Lendl beat his coach, Tony Roche, 7-6, 7-5 in the quarterfinals of the Scottish grass court championships in Edinburgh. . . . Elise Burgin upset sixth-seeded Sylvia Hanika 6-7 (3-7), 6-2, 6-3 in the Edgbaston Cup in Birmingham, England. No. 4 Lori McNeill lost 6-4, 2-6, 6-2 to Rosalyn Fairbank. Sharon Walsh-Peete led Carling Bassett 7-6, 5-4. ... Miloslav Mecir is being treated for a leg injury and may not be in shape for Wimbeldon. . . . The Men's International Professional Tennis Council announced that no additional penalties would be levied against John McEnroe for leaving the court during a World Team Cup match. Officials determined that a back injury prevented McEnroe from playing.

The hiring of ex-Notre Dame football coach Gerry Faust contributed to dissension and negativism in the Akron athletic department, says Arkansas Athletic Director Frank Broyles, who was hired by the Zips as a consultant to conduct a two-month evaluation. Faust was hired last year.

Arson investigators say a barn fire that killed 15 standardbreds at Hazel Park Harness Raceway was deliberately set. Oakland County (Mich.) Sheriff's Department arson investigators found a burn path made by an accelerant.

The U.S. women's team rolled a record final game of 1,063 and won its third straight gold medal in the World Bowling Championships in Helsinki. The U.S. had a record two-day, six-game total of 6,011.

Ron Kline of New Trier High School was one of six coaches chosen to the American Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

Cycling star Greg LeMond, recovering from a gunshot wound suffered in a family hunting accident April 20, says it will be at least next summer before he regains top form.

The Pittsburgh Steelers have waived former Iowa linebacker Larry Station, who was drafted in the 11th round last year.

Compiled by Mike Conklin, Mike O'Donnell and Rich Lorenz from staff, wire reports.

TANK MCNAMARA

