

SPORTSPEOPLE

Odds & INNS

By Skip Myslenski & Linda Kay

Memo to Mayor Harold Washington: The city government of Seoul is holding a language contest for its cabbies this fall as part of its effort to boost language skills before the Olympic Games next year. The competition, which is expected to attract about 1,000 entrants, will test the drivers' proficiency in English and Japanese and will reward the most fluent cabbies with prizes ranging from television sets to stereo-cassette systems. We think the Seoul city fathers have hit upon a good idea, one from which Chicago might benefit. Cabbies here wouldn't even have to learn Japanese—just English.

Shaky bet

An avid reader called to our attention a brochure for a new betting publication, and we chuckled when we gazed at the Bear on the cover. It's Doug Flutie, in uniform, though he's probably unaware his photo is being used to hype a service that claims it can make anyone "a smarter, better and more sophisticated bettor." That got us thinking: Would the creators of the service want to bet money that their coverboy will be quarterbacking the Bears this fall?

One hot player

Athletes will be filled with gratitude when they drop by Lou Malnati's Pizzeria for a look at the jersey worn by slugger Babe Ruth. That cherished relic bearing the No. 3 is a heavy, scratchy piece of material made of thick wool. Just thinking about it makes us sweat. Restaurateur Marc Malnati has the jersey on loan through next month, courtesy of Oak Park collector John Dotts, who acquired it when a former Yankees equipment manager found he'd had it packed in mothballs for 45 years.

Socializing can wait

Contrary to published reports, investors in Jim McMahon's restaurant are not upset that the quarter-back drops by the eatery only infrequently. The investors, you see, are Steve Zucker, the player's agent; Zucker's father-in-law; Zucker's brother-in-law; and two of Zucker's cousins. "We're all in it for the fun," Zucker told us. "The most important thing right now is that Jim rehabilitates. The best way he can help the restaurant is by getting back on the field. No one ever expected him to be there often. He lives quite a distance away, and when he does come in, it's with his family."

A name to remember

The Virgin Islands are justly proud of equestrian Eric Brodnax, who'll represent the islands in the Pan Am Games next month in Indianapolis. Not only has Brodnax qualified for the international competition, but he also just graduated (on schedule, by the way) cum laude from Princeton, where he majored in classics, earned a varsity letter in judo and was president of the Speleological Society, a group interested in the exploration and study of caves.

Some kind of guy

Andy Mill, better known as Chris Evert's new boyfriend, was once the hottest downhill skier in America. To get to that position, Mill took risks, and as a risk-taker, he suffered the consequences. By the time he reached the 1976 Olympics in Innsbruck, Austria, Mill had undergone four major knee operations. During his career, he had knee surgery nine times, suffered two broken legs, a broken arm, a broken back and a broken neck. In Innsbruck, though, Mill showed the world his mettle. Five days before the Games, he injured his foot so badly, he could hardly walk. He took the practice runs in pain, once negotiating the course on one ski. For the final preliminary run, trainer Rich Stedman took the athlete's leg, stuck it in the snow for 30 minutes to numb the pain, then inserted a strip of cardboard behind the boot to provide support and relieve some of the pressure. Mill finished eighth. On race day, with Stedman repeating the process, Mill finished sixth.

Why do we recount this tale more than a decade later? Mill is among those nominated for the first U.S. Olympic Spirit Award sponsored by Maxwell House. It goes to an Olympian who has faced adversity and defeated it.

News, notes and nonsense

Don Mattingly of the Yankees endeared himself to patrons in P.J. Clarke's last week by playing doorman one evening and warmly welcoming all those dropping by. Mattingly did not particularly endear himself to management at the eatery, however. He showed up wearing a Hard Rock Cafe T-shirt, which the staff quickly replaced with one bearing the Clarke's insignia. ... In addition to the 13,000 regular-size beds on order for the athletes in Seoul, another 1,780 beds have been requested that are half-a-meter longer. They'll be available to ensure that basketball players from every part of the world get a good night's rest. ... Iowa football coach Hayden Fry drops by the Snuggery in Mt. Prospect Tuesday night from 6 to 9 to chat with members of the I-Club, a group of Iowa backers. Also planning to come on down and shake hands is Cubs catcher Jim Sundberg, who played baseball for the Hawkeyes. ... Ron Santo, Ernie Banks, Billy Williams, Fergie Jenkins and Kenny Holtzman join in a benefit softball game for the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation at Thillens Stadium Aug. 30 at 11 a.m. The former Cubs also expect a special guest batter to join them: Jim Belushi.

And finally, some heavyweight numbers: Menus are still being drawn up by the Seoul Olympic Organizing Committee, which expects to serve 750,000 meals to 13,000 participants in next year's Games. A team of 500 cooks led by chefs from the top hotels in Korea plan to work in shifts around the clock preparing the day's fare. And talk about an intimate dining experience: Athletes will chow down in a hall that seats 4,200.

Politician-turned-team owner may wish he could demand a recount

Harry Semrow, a member of the Cook County Board of (tax) Appeals, is used to landslides. He is, after all, a longtime Democratic politician in Chicago.

He's not used to being buried by them, however.

Semrow is in his first year as owner of a minor-league baseball franchise, and with almost a month left in the Midwest League season, his Quad City Angels team is 37-69, 35 games out of first and mathematically eliminated from the pennant race.

What's worse is that the Davenport, Ia.-based Angels, who have fallen farther out of first place than any team in pro baseball, are playing in a division of the league with only four teams. They were 12 games out of third place after Sunday's game.

"It's discouraging, all right," said Semrow, who was bubbling over his

acquisition at the start of the season. "I go down along the field and stand next to these guys [players] and they look great. They're all 6-4, 6-5, strong-looking and run like deer.

"Then in the games, they catch too many fly balls off their heads."

Unfortunately for the Angels, the Midwest League is one of the few that does not play a split season. The league will play a split season in 1988, when it will go to two divisions instead of the current three-division alignment.

The Angels have been further handicapped by having the most inexperienced players in the league. The par-



Harry Semrow

ent California Angels have another Class A club and, according to reports, have sent their more experienced young pros to Palm Springs.

Through last weekend, manager Eddie Rodriguez's team was last in pitching among all 12 Midwest teams and 11th in batting. His best hitter, Mike Knapp, had a .280 average.

"Even with their record, they're still staying up and working hard," Rodriguez said. "That's all I can ask."

Semrow indicated he'll probably stick with the franchise for at least another year. "You look at the standings and you

get the shivers," he said. "I've talked to the [parent] Angels about getting better players, and they seem to be having a little trouble sorting things out."

Semrow said he hasn't made as many trips to Davenport to see his club play as he first thought he would. Crowds have been poor. Saturday, for instance, there were nearly 13,000 runners in the city's Bix 7 road race and thousands more people were in town for a big jazz festival, but the Angels drew only 604 spectators.

"It's very discouraging," Semrow said. "The crowds that do come out mostly boo, and it's bad for the players, who are so young."

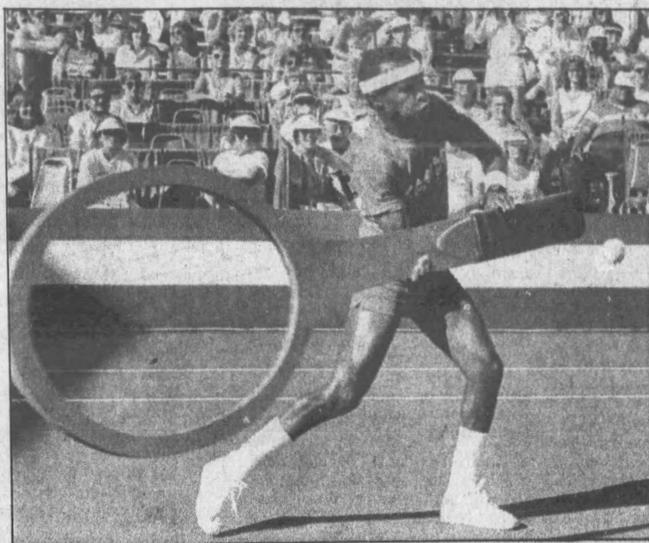
"I didn't buy a franchise to get rich, but I didn't buy it to get wiped out, either."

The only bright spot is the league plays only a 120-game schedule.

AD's on wanted list

If you think the turnover rate is great in coaching, consider that in the latest edition of the NCAA News the following schools advertised for new athletic directors: Michigan, Southern Methodist, Northern Illinois, Akron, Bridgewater State and Pace.

Furthermore, Virginia and Notre Dame have just lost athletic directors, as have Mankato State, Central Connecticut, North Dakota State, Oswego State, Morehead State and Regis.



Sugar Ray Leonard warms up in a big way before a celebrity tennis match over the weekend in Stateline, Nev. Leonard and teammate Pam Shriver were beaten by Chris Evert and actor George Peppard.

UPI photo

Becker serves up a blast at McEnroe, American fans

Boris Becker, hero of West Germany's Davis Cup victory over the United States, condemned John McEnroe and his team for whipping their fans into a frenzy.

Becker was interviewed by the West German sports news agency SID after winning the deciding singles match against Tim Mayotte Sunday night in Hartford, Conn. He said the Americans had no right to complain of Davis Cup conditions in Latin America after the way they behaved in the world group relegation playoff.

"The U.S. players made their compatriots crazy," he said. "They should never complain again about the South Americans. It was just as bad as in Mexico or Paraguay. John McEnroe's behavior was especially disgraceful."

Becker, 19, said McEnroe "is a great player. I admire him as a tennis player, but I pity him as a person." And of the crowd-inciting behavior of the U.S. team as a whole, he said: "I find their actions simply a shame, nasty and brutish."

"The behavior of the fans is no big deal. That's normal in the Davis Cup," he said, "but the fans were goaded by McEnroe and his men."

The International Tennis Federation banned Paraguay from hosting another Davis Cup match this year after incidents during the first round against the U.S. in Asuncion.

Vikings' GM: Alcohol, not drugs, NFL's main problem

Tommy Kramer's arrest on a drunken-driving charge and subsequent admission to a rehabilitation program draws attention to what Minnesota Vikings General Manager Mike Lynn calls the NFL's biggest problem.

"I think our No. 1 problem is drinking in the NFL. I don't think it's drugs. No question about that," Lynn said.

Kramer, the NFC's top-rated quarterback last season, was arrested late Friday after Bloomington, Minn., police saw his car swerving.

He left Sunday for the Hazelden Foundation in Center City, Minn., for rehabilitation that will cause him to miss the Vikings' first two exhibition games. He is expected to play in the final two exhibitions and start in the season

opener against Detroit.

Lynn said the Vikings deal with alcohol abuse as though it was abuse of an illegal substance. "We look at chemical abuse as chemical abuse," he said. "Whatever choice of chemical is made by the individual does not make a bit of difference."

"Because it's a legal substance there are no prohibitions against drinking. There are prohibitions against taking any kind of drug. There is more of an emphasis on the so-called NFL drug policy. But the problem is probably 2-to-1 alcohol."

This will be Kramer's second rehabilitation for alcohol use. He underwent treatment during the winter of 1982 at the Care Unit Hospital in Orange, Calif.



Stephane Peyron waves to a crowd in La Baule, France, where he landed Monday to become the first person to windsurf across the Atlantic. Peyron spent 47 days at sea on a sailboard after leaving New York on June 10.

Agence France Presse photo

Chicago's 'Friends' plan 5th outing

Item: Mayor Washington's fifth annual Golfing Friends of Chicago outing, a charitable fundraiser for youth activities in the city featuring golf, bridge tournaments and tennis, will be Aug. 9 at Indian Lakes Resort in Bloomington.

If anyone thinks it's incongruous for it to be held in the suburbs, don't. The outing has grown in popularity—3,500 persons attended last year—to the extent that organizers say there is no suitable facility large enough in Chicago.

This is the second year at Indian Lakes, which has two golf courses, and the fee for golf and dinner is \$55 or \$35 for any of the other activities with dinner. Tee times can be arranged by calling 842-2380 or 651-3200.

'Nobody asked Bo if he was hurt. I know he's hurting. He's just not telling anybody.'

—Cleveland catcher Rick Dempsey, who dislocated a thumb in a home-plate collision with Bo Jackson

What's a scandal among friends?

Say what you will about Southern Methodist University athletics, but the school's boosters must be the most loyal fans in America.

In the wake of one of college sports' biggest scandals, the SMU Mustang Club has just completed a seven-week fund drive for sports that raised \$1.5 million—exceeding the goal by approximately \$200,000.

"When the drive started, there were many people who doubted we could raise even half our goal, what with the economic situation and the football program [sanctions]," said John Bauer, chairman of the drive.

The Mustang Club is a major source of income for SMU athletics. The drive was delayed after the NCAA suspended the school's football program for 1987.

BRIEFS

■ Sports agents **Norby** Walters and **Lloyd** Bloom, whose activities have sparked a federal grand-jury investigation here, said they paid some National Football League scouts for information about college prospects. "There are scouts within the NFL—I can't mention their names—for certain teams that would work for us," Bloom said. "Other agents would get the service. We paid a little more." Scouts asked \$500 to \$1,500 for basic information. Bloom said in a story published in Tuesday's editions of the Atlanta Constitution. NFL Scouting Director Harry Buffington said scouts could make a large amount of money by selling information on prospects. "But if I ever discovered a scout of mine who was selling information, I would fire him in under 2 minutes," he said.

■ The 78-foot Sassy, the first boat to cross the finish line, was declared the overall winner in the Port Huron-to-Mackinac Island yachting race. Pied Piper, which set a time record a week ago in the Chicago-to-Mackinac Island race, crossed the finish line 55 minutes later. Sassy, which finished at 11:05 p.m. Chicago time Sunday, set the elapsed-time race record of 32 hours 13 minutes and 43 seconds in 1984. Sassy's corrected time this year was 32:20:35. ... George D. O'Day, a 1960 Olympic gold-medal winner in yachting and founder of the sailboat company that bears his name, died of cancer at his Dover, Mass., home on Sunday. He was 64.

■ The Bulls will play the NBA champion Los Angeles Lakers in the 15th Basketball Hall of Fame game Nov. 3 at the Springfield, Mass., Civic Center.

■ Indiana Pacers forward Clark Kellogg, 26, sidelined most of the last two seasons with ailing knees, expects to decide in the next two weeks whether to try one more season or to retire.

■ Second-degree murder charges were filed against Donald L. Burgess, 39, and his wife, Sherrell, 23, both from Ottawa, Kan., in connection with the weekend stabbing death of former Kansas State basketball player Jari Wills. Wills, who averaged 10.3 points a game his senior year, died about 2:20 a.m. Saturday after being stabbed in the chest during an early-morning fight. He started all 31 games—and averaged 10.3 points—his final season (1979-80), when the Wildcats posted a 22-9 record.

■ A 15-year-old triathlete from Los Angeles, Casey Marie Stevenson, was struck by a car and killed Sunday during the eighth annual San Luis Obispo (Calif.) Triathlon. Stevenson was competing in the bicycle portion of the competition when the accident occurred.

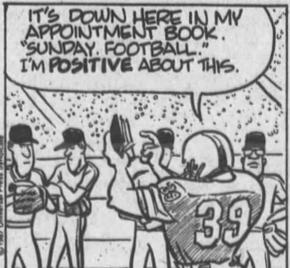
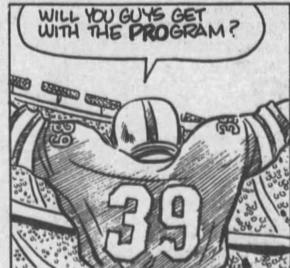
■ Anne Mall of Libertyville won the National Clay Court Girls 12s title last weekend in Plantation, Fla., with a 6-0, 6-1 victory over Nicole London. Mall, 12, paired with California's London to also take the doubles title. This weekend, Mall travels to Atlanta to compete in the USTA Girls National 14s Championship. She's won the National 12-year-old title two consecutive years.

■ Melvon Foster, a 6-foot-3-inch guard from Harper High School, will sit out his freshman season at De Paul because he failed to fulfill the requirements of Proposition 48.

■ Sugar Ray Leonard is teaming with Coors Inc. to form a stable of professional boxers. "I want to manage fighters because it gives the guys an alternative to what is already out there. I want to get into the managerial aspects—developing a guy's career."

Compiled by Mike Conklin, Bill Hageman and Bob Vanderberg from staff, wire reports.

TANK McNAMARA



GIL THORP

