SPORTSPEOPLE



By Skip Myslenski & Linda Kay

Mary Lou Retton performs before a national audience for the first time since 1985 when she executes a stant or two or three at the opening ceremonies for the International Special Olympics on Sunday. Joining her in a three-minute routine will be former Olympians Bart Conner and Tracee Talavera as well as a handful of Special Olympians competing in the Games. The routine, which ABC-TV will tape and air on Monday night, has been choreographed by Conner's college coach at Oklahoma, Paul Ziert, who won't have much time to rehearse it with the athletes. Retton doesn't fly into South Bend, Ind., until Sunday morning.

Daily double

Ditka's Trackside restaurant remains open after the betting windows at Arlington Park have closed on Aug. 16 so fans can view the Bear-Miami pre-season opener on a bank of television monitors spread around the eatery. Not only that, but the restaurant intends to broadcast all other preseason contests and bring in celebrity guests to further liven up the action.

He's no Chicken, but ...

.. he's the adorable Molson Goose and the cuddly Penn Tennis tennis ball, and he has appeared on behalf of those products at the Ultimate Sports Bar & Grill, the Canadian consulate, the Volvo tennis tournament, the National Restaurant Association convention and, most recently, the U.S. Lifeguard Competition, where he was went through gallons of liquid to beat the heat out on Oak Street Beach. "The world is really a nice place when you're in a costume," says Chicago's Gary Silbar, who is a public relations freelancer when he's not in a costume. "No one knows who you are, and everyone loves you. When I walk up to somebody and stretch my arms out, I get hugged immediately." Silbar hopes to give and get plenty of hugs when he adopts a new persona Thursday. He'll become Stanley Sting for a press conference given by the soccer team at the Ambassador West.

Besides Stanley ...

hand at a press conference announcing the Sting's extensive after-game concert series. And yes, Marie and Susan both will be featured acts during the sea-

Dreams of Kareem

It had to happen. We've heard about fantasy baseball camps and fantasy hockey camps, and now along comes a fantasy basketball camp led by Doug Collins. To help him with the campers, the Bulls coach has signed up Bulls past (Jerry Sloan) and present (Artis Gilmore, John Paxson), and he's locked up Bulls announcer Johnny "Red" Kerr to call the action during the championship series that closes the Sept. 9-12 session at the Multiplex Fitness Club in Deerfield.

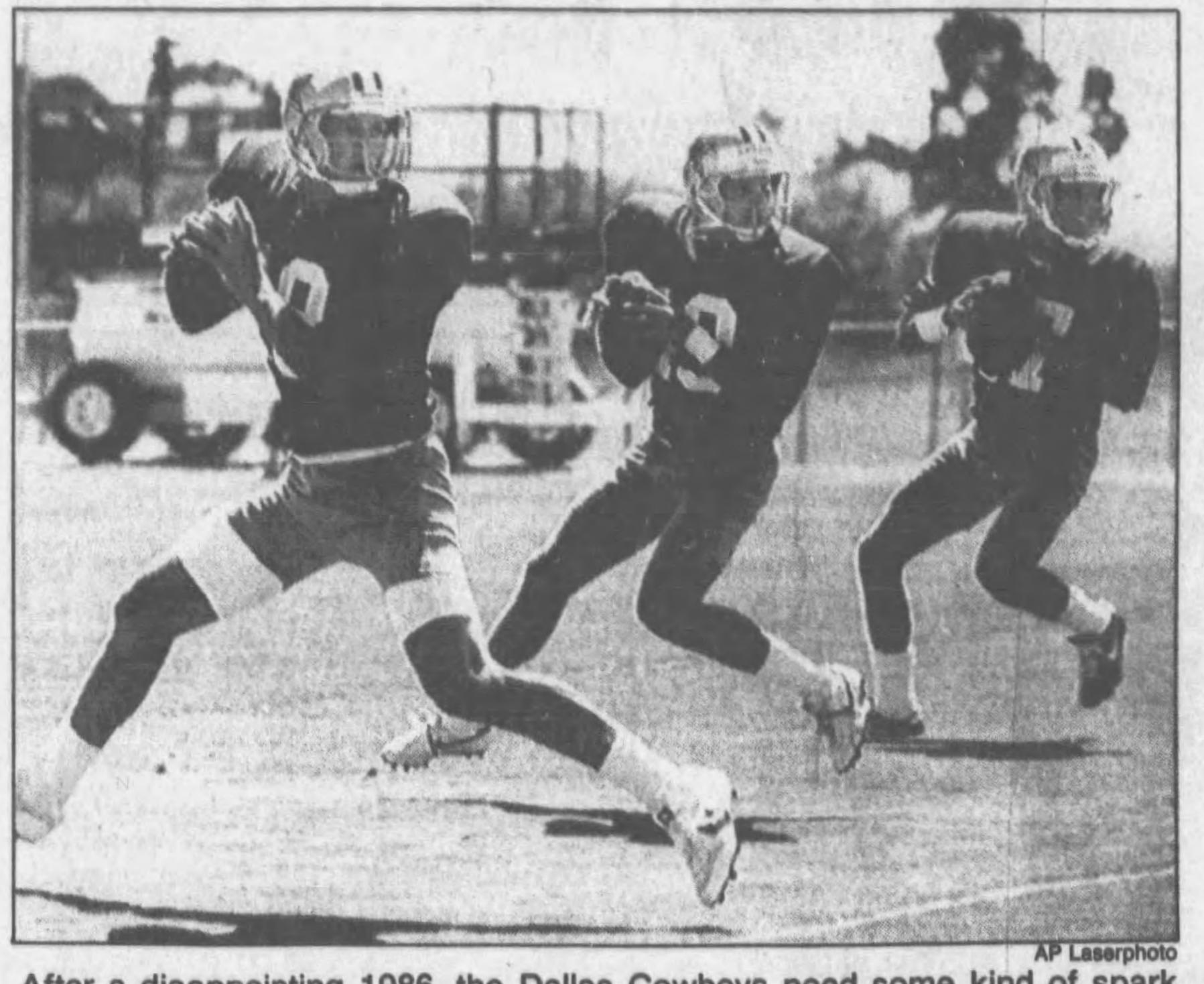
Like a good neighbor

St. Augustine College has a mission: To build a bridge between its mostly Hispanic enrollment and the American culture at large. That's why the school has adopted Scott Smith of Cary, Ill., the most talented ski jumper on the U.S. national ski team. Here's how it happened. For its fundraiser this year, St. Augustine opted to raffle off a ski vacation for two in Chile and 16 weeks at a condo in Vail, Colo. As they put the raffle together, school officials heard about Smith, who badly needed money so he could travel to Morway and train for next year's Olympics. "We are attempting to reach the non-Hispanic community and increase their awareness of Hispanics," says St. Augustine fundraiser Rolando Arroyo. "Our school motto is 'The Possible Dream.' We look for people who have a dream that they want to make come true." They found that person in Smith, and on Wednesday they'll announce it to the public at a press conference attended by the athlete and his coach, Greg Winsberger.

News, notes and nonsense

Ron Cey and his wife, Fran, fly in from Los Angeles to join Cey's former teammates and their wives as the special guests of Cubs Wives for Family Rescue, which holds a benefit Wednesday night at Ditka's. Fran, whose parents live in Chicago, was instrumental in forming the wives' group when Ron played here. ... Photos of Willie Gault will grace 89 Dominick's food stores around Chicago beginning in September in promotion worked out through NFL Properties and local agent Mark Childers. Gault will be offering shoppers at Dominick's a different item of Bear memorabilia through most of the football season. . . Jim McMahon holds a benefit for Cubs Care at his nestaurant Thursday night and welcomes players Rick Sutcliffe, Jody Davis and Bob Dernier and any interested fan. There is no cover charge, but a portion of the food and drink tab goes to the Cubs charity. ... Former Glenbard East volleyball star Lonise Norfleet of Glen Ellyn emerged with the highest number of kills (24) in the championship match at the U.S. Olympic Sports Festival in North Carolina last week. Norfleet enrolls at USC this fall, and in September returns with the school for the Mid America Volleyball Classic at Riverside-Brookfield High School.

And finally, here's Capt. Ken Riffey on the treatment accorded Ens. David Robinson when he reported to the U.S. Naval Submarine Base in Georgia to begin fullfilling a two-year military commitment: "The reception he has received is the same that any other officer would receive. We haven't talked about basketball yet, and he didn't mention basketball. Besides, I'm more interested in building a submarine base than in starting a basketball team."



After a disappointing 1986, the Dallas Cowboys need some kind of spark ... but a triple-quarterback offense? Actually, rookies (from left) Loren Snyder, Kevin Sweeney and John Shaffer are just running a drill in camp.

Restaurateur is hoping athletes eat up his offer of hospitality

When thousands of Latin athletes settle into Indianapolis for the Pan American Games next month, many of them may wish to eat at Joe's if they miss home cooking.

If they do, they'll find a true American success story.

The restaurant is called Acapulco Joe's, one of the best-known and oldest places for Mexican food in Indianapolis.

"I'm looking forward to the Games," said owner Joe Rangel. "I figure this is something that's got to be especially good for my business with all these people coming to

"We're going to have a special menu printed, hang some banners and plan some other activities. I've got all the Mexican dishes, and we make 'em from scratch.

"If anybody gets homesick for food, all they have to do is come to my place. I started Mexican food in

Indianapolis in 1961."

And, in Rangel's case, one city's gain was another's loss.

"I came from Mexico in 1953," he said. "I really wanted to go to Minneapolis, because I had a job lined up there. But my English wasn't so good, and when I bought my ticket, the clerk said: 'You mean in Indiana?'

"I didn't understand, but I said yes. Then when I got some change back, I didn't argue. I needed the money. So that's how I got here, and I haven't regretted it."

From modest beginnings, Rangel has built his restaurant into a 135-seat establishment in the heart of the downtown area.

Recently, Rangel helped start another restaurant. He should be covered if ambitious, sports-conscious Indianapolis ever lands the Asian Games. The new Acapulco Joe's is run by a South Korean.

Thanks to modern technology, you too can be a star

"It's Magic, Worthy, Cooper and yes, this newcomer Greg Norman," staccatos the rat-a-tat-tat delivery of Chick Hearn, the almost legendary voice of the Los Angeles Lakers.

Greg Norman?

He's a golfer, not a Laker, but there's Hearn calling the last two minutes of the seventh game of a Laker-Boston Celtics playoff series

"Reverse slam dunk by Norman," Hearn shouts. "It hits the top of the head of the Great White Shark. The Lakers are world champions!"

With crowd noise, help from radio-TV sidekick Keith Erickson and the energy that's carried Hearn through more than 2,000 consecutive Laker broadcasts since 1964; the tape sounds completely genuine.

But Hearn isn't courtside for this broadcast; he's sitting behind a microphone in a studio just off the Sunset Strip making a recording ordered by one of Norman's buddies.

And 20 seconds later, he's making another equally hokey tape, this one for Warren Quon, described as "the new Laker phenom" as he puts up another championship banner for Los Angeles.

In fact, anyone can be a star, or at least have

a tape that says he is.

So far, Hearn and Erickson have made 1,500 such fantasy tapes, for everyone from Johnny Carson, Steve Martin and Tom Lasorda to neighborhood priests ("Who is this guy in the stiff collar out on the floor?") and advertising salesmen.

Several other pro sports teams have offered similar tapes in the past. But no team has been able to produce tapes in the large quantities now being churned out by Erickson's Sports Fantasy Inc.

Erickson's firm uses newly devised computer techniques to drop names, bits of personal information and Hearn witticisms into several prerecorded scenarios, racking up about 32 in each high-energy 90-minute session.

The Bulls are interested in a similar arrangement, as are several NFL teams.

"The key is having the real broadcasters doing the tapes with the real teams," says Erickson, himself a former Laker. "For us, Chick is the key guy. We had to stop recording during the season because his voice gave out. He wasn't even talking to his wife for a while, and he had to get through all the playoff



If members of the 1987 All-America Collegiate Golf Team don't make it as pros, they can always try their luck on the juggling circuit. Before Monday's awards dinner in New York, members of the team (from left) Mike Bradley, Bob Estes, Tim Fleming, Todd Hamilton and Brian Watts found time for a little clowning.

Knockouts throw down the gloves, come out swinging

Ever since the Amateur Softball Association ruled that gloves were legal for 16-inch slow-pitch, it hasn't been easy to find bare-knuckled Chicago teams that consistently win games the old-fashioned way—they earn them.

The Knockouts, a South Side team that reigns in Rainey Park, is one group that has resisted the trend to

gloves.

Playing in an eight-team league forbidding gloves, they have won the title four of the last five years. The Knockouts just came within one inning of a perfect 16-0 season before losing the final game.

Like most championship 16inch teams, the hard-nosed, bare-handed Knockouts are an eclectic group. Their ranks, ranging in age from 18 to 36, include several construction workers, teachers and LaSalle Street-types.

Before long, however, they'll be looking for a new center-fielder.

See, this is an all-women's team playing 16-inch softball without gloves, and Kathy Dalby, the outfielder, is six months pregnant.

Now all we need is Julio Franco

Iberian Peninsula note of the week: Now that the Brewers have recalled rookie pitcher Alex Madrid, there's always the chance he could pitch against Mark Portugal, who was with the Twins earlier this season. But the matchup may not happen for a while, because Portugal is 0-6 since being sent to the minors.



Bill Parcells

'I don't foresee myself coaching 20 years. I'm just trying to get to No. 5 right now. Hey, I've been in the league four years and I'm 11th in seniority already. There it is. It's right in front of you. I don't see guys survive in this business for that length of time anymore.

-New York Giants' Bill Parcells, on NFL burnout among coaches

BRIEFS

Onetime Bulls No. 1 draft choice Ronnie Lester, 28, a guard on the Los Angeles Lakers' 1985 NBA championship team, has been hired as a scout by the Lakers. Lester will serve as a regional scout in the Midwest, working out of his home in Glenview. ... Former New York Knick Ernie Grunfeld has declined an offer to join the coaching staff of new head coach Rick Pitino, according to Newsday.

David Robinson scored 21 points to lead the U.S. Pan American Games basketball team to a 111-106 triumph over an NBA all-star squad in an exhibition game before 14,801 at Market Square Arena in Indianapolis. Chuck Person, the NBA Rookie of the Year, sank a 3-point shot with 2 minutes 34 seconds left to put the pros ahead 103-101. But North Carolina's Jeff Lebo scored the next 5 points to lead a run of 10 straight by the Pan Am team.

Ohio State defensive back Greg Rogan is to appear in Urbana (Ohio) Municipal Court next week to face charges of assault and criminal damaging as a result of an encounter with two teenage girls Friday night. Police issued a summons to Rogan Monday, based on a report filed Saturday by a 17-year-old Urbana girl. She said Rogan hit her in the face, causing her nose to bleed, and kicked and hit her car hard enough to cause dents in it. She stated in the report that Rogan was "extremely upset and appeared to be high." This is the third encounter with local police in less than a year for the 21-year-old Rogan, an Ohio State senior and a graduate of Urbana High School.

Seniors Arthur Caldwell and Keith Jordan, both starters, have been dismissed from the University of South Florida basketball team for disciplinary reasons. Caldwell, a point guard, set a school record with 196 assists last season.

Amy Shaw of Mission Viejo, Calif., and Steve Bentley, a student at Southern Cal, set American records in the 200-meter breaststroke at the U.S. Swimming Long Course National Championships in Fresno, Calif. Shaw's time of 2:30.77 in her preliminary race broke the women's mark of 2:31.15 set by Susan Rapp in the 1984 Olympics. Bentley's 2:15.30 broke the mark of 2:15.38 set by Steve Lundquist in 1983.

Brigham Young University has initiated a mandatory steroid-testing program in which athletes who test positive will lose eligibility and forfeit grants-in-aid for a year.

Detroit Red Wings defenseman Harold Snepsts may be out of action until November because of shoulder surgery scheduled for Wednesday, coach Jacques Demers said. "We were hoping the shoulder would heal on its own and prevent surgery, but it hasn't mended properly," Demers said. ... Defenseman Barry Beck, who walked out on the New York Rangers last summer citing differences with former coach Ted Sator, is considering a return to the club.

University of Texas officials have decided to declare defensive back James Lott ineligible for his senior season for accepting money from sports agents Lloyd Bloom and Norby Walters, the Atlanta Journal reported. . . . Meanwhile, Bloom and Walters said their investment in Georgia center Keith Johnson was a \$5,000 mistake. "We can probably kiss that money goodbye," Bloom told the Atlanta Constitution. He said a scout he would not name provided the NFL's scouting service's rating on Johnson at the end of the 1986 season. Johnson had the highest rating of any center on the sheet, 7.53. But the rating was an error. A history of back and weight problems had dropped Johnson's rating to 5.3. As a result, Johnson was not chosen in the NFL's 1987 draft.

Olympic boxing champion Jerry Page stopped Hugh Leggett of Detroit in the fifth round in Page's first bout in his hometown of Columbus, Ohio. Page, a junior welterweight, is 3-0 as a pro.

Diver Ron Marriott, a bronze medalist in the 1984 Olympic Games, was in stable condition at a Cleveland hospital after slipping off a diving board during a show at Sea World. Marriott, 27, of Rockford, was being treated for a cut in the head that required 12 stitches.

Race car driver Willy T. Ribbs has been suspended for 30 days from International Motor Sports Association events for hitting archrival Scott Pruett after a Portland, Ore., race, according to IMSA president John Bishop, who said the suspension was the first levied by the organization since its inception in 1969.

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

Corrections and clarifications

A story in the Sports section of the July 28 Tribune reported incorrectly that Arlington Park will change its Friday starting time to 3 p.m. from 1:30 p.m. beginning this week. Instead, the change in the Friday starting time will begin Aug. 7 and continue Aug. 14, 21 and 28. This week, the Friday program at Arlington will get underway at 1:30 p.m. The Tribune regrets the error.

TANK MCNAMARA

