Sports

SECTION E

.. WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 1987



Nelson's PGA win tucked safely away

Mark McCumber's bold decision, wrong-headed as it might have been, to gamble on the last hole was the only moment of suspense in the ordeal-by-sauna that passed for the PGA Championship last week.

Needing an eagle three to win, McCumber pulled out a driver for a 245yard shot across a lake. Even pros who consider themselves aggressive couldn't believe McCumber's decision. A birdie four would put him in a playoff. A layup, a wedge to 10 feet, a putt — and he's in the playoff.

McCumber despises such waffling. Three other times he reached par-5 holes with a driver second shot, making eagles. With the PGA Championship at stake, he considered it no time to play safe. That this shot wound up in the lake is of no consequence here. He lost daring greatly, no small thing in these times of corporate conservatism by golf's Milquetoasts.

Wait a second. Did I say McCumber provided the only suspense? Did I accuse golf's millionaires of playing it safe too

Not all genius is flamboyant

It's easy to find fault with Nick Faldo's victory in the British Open, a victory achieved on the last day when he made 18 straight pars, work described as unheroic, even stupefying. We're losing track of how hard it is to win a golf tourna--ment. Imagine making 18 pars in the windy wastelands of a British Open course with history whispering, "You're a choking dog."

All genius is not flamboyant. The simple thing well done is what made Vince Lombardi a great coach. Had Muhammad Ali never opened his mouth and foresworn all theatrics, we yet would have celebrated the beauty of his movement, simple and graceful.

What Mark McCumber tried was admirable. What Larry Nelson accomplished was historic.

Nelson won the PGA with work that lacked only the surface thrills of McCumber's. Nelson's suspense was interior. At the last hole, needing a par to tie, Nelson drew back his driver - and stopped. Something distracted him. And he had the nerves to stop the swing already in motion. Nelson then placed his tee shot perfectly.

No long hitter of the McCumber stripe and faced with a second shot into a wind, Nelson then used the conservative route to par. He won the playoff with another par, that on the first playoff hole.

"It was a major championship on a great golf course against the best field of any tournament," Nelson said, the perspective we too often forget in our desire for pizzazz. We rooted for Greg Norman and Tom Watson and Paul Azinger; we got Larry Mize, Scott Simpson and Nick Faldo. Then Lanny Wadkins, the streakshooting killer, ran second to another pizzazz-less plodder, Larry Nelson.

In some very select company

What's going on? Five straight years, no one has won two Grand Slam tournaments in one summer. Are there no great players? Or are there so many good players that not even a Nicklaus at his best could dominate such a crowd?

The latter, methinks. If not great, no doubt Nelson is very good. Next month he's 40, a golfer 19 years. Nicklaus had that much experience by 23. In a dozen years, Nelson has won nine times; but a great player wins dozens of times on all

It is Nelson's gift to play his best on the most difficult courses against the best players. This means he has all the hardedged confidence of a Lanny Wadkins, only he looks like your Sunday School usher. This also means Nelson's game is geared to making par, not birdie, and he'll never win the 23-under shootouts a man needs to establish his dominance.

Of Nelson's nine victories, three have come in Grand Slam tournaments: the 1981 PGA, the 1983 U.S. Open and now

the '87 PGA. Winning three times puts him in historic company. Only 17 men have ever won an Open and a PGA championship.

That's in 71 years. Only 12 of the 17 have ever won three times in Opens and PGAs.

Only five active players have won three times in Opens and PGAs. They are Jack Nicklaus, Lee Trevino,

Raymond Floyd, Gary Player and Nelson. How good is Larry Nelson? Well, how many Opens and PGAs do

you suppose Arnold Palmer and Tom Watson have won between them? Two. One Open apiece.

THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION

NCAA orders Burger to go — for now

Auburn QB appeals ruling; Sullivan draws reprimand

> By I.J. Rosenberg Staff Writer

AUBURN, Ala. - The topsy-turvy world of Auburn's Jeff Burger was spinning again Tuesday after the senior quarterback was ruled ineligible for the upcoming season by the school and the NCAA.

Also, the school has reprimanded assistant coach Pat Sullivan for violating NCAA rules in connection with the release of Burger from the Auburn city jail last month.

Auburn officials said the action was taken under procedures spelled out by the NCAA. Auburn still maintains hope that Burger will play this season. The school, pointing to mitigating circumstances, has appealed to the NCAA for restoration of Burger's eligibility. A decision on the appeal is expected within 10 days to two

"When the school finds out that a player has been involved in something that violates NCAA rules, the player automatically becomes ineligible," said Chuck Smrt, the

NCAA assistant director of enforcement. "Then the school can appeal and the enforcement committee then goes over the

"There have been cases in the past similar to Burger's, where the athlete got his eligibility restored. But no two cases are alike, so I can't say what the outcome of Burger's appeal will be."

A similar case occurred last year, when placekicker Carlos Reveiz and linebacker Kelly Ziegler of Tennessee were ruled ineligible before the season because they provided free passes for Vols football games to friends, which was a violation of NCAA rules. However, after an appeal to the NCAA, the penalty was reduced to a onegame suspension for both players.

Burger, a fifth-year senior from Cedartown, Ga., would be allowed to practice, pending a decision on the appeal from the NCAA. However, the NCAA appeal is of secondary importance to Burger, who was found guilty of plagiarism by the Auburn Academic Honesty Committee last Thursday and suspended from the university for

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GO TO THE HEAD OF THE CLASS



ATHENS — Head-shaving has become something of a tradition for freshmen football players at the University of Georgia. Tuesday, part of this year's cropped crop showed off their haircuts — (front, left to right) Lowry Denty, David

Roach, Kevin Bayonne; (back, left to right) Haze Sadler, John O'Callaghan. Story, Page 8-E.

Ross tightens NFL's access to Tech

By Chris Mortensen Staff Writer

Georgia Tech football coach Bobby Ross has sent letters to all 28 National Football League teams stressing tighter policies in allowing scouts access to players.

Ross mailed the letters after sports agent Lloyd Bloom said he and associate Norby Walters had paid certain NFL scouts for updated information and telephone numbers to top-rated prospects.

According to Dallas Cowboys vice president Gil Brandt, who received the letter last week, Ross told clubs, "Please do not visit any of our players. Please do not enter the locker room. I want to emphasize that if you do visit, any inforIt's an offshoot of the Bloom thing. It's disturbing because Bobby Ross, for example, is one of the great people of all time for the NFL and NFL scouts.

> - Gil Brandt Cowboys vice president

mation that is gathered is confidential and is to remain only in your out." organization."

"It's an offshoot of the Bloom thing,"

said Brandt. "It's disturbing because Bobby Ross, for example, is one of the great people of all time for the NFL and NFL scouts."

Ross said he did not think his stricter policy was a drastic change in how he handled NFL scouts at the University of Maryland. But he admitted he had never formally addressed the issue.

"It's the first time I've ever sent anything out to the clubs," said Ross. "I don't know if it's a drastic change. I still plan on being pretty cooperative. But, because of some of the things that have been reported, we wanted to spell it

See ROSS, Back Page

Padres top Braves in ninth 7-6

Atlanta now just 3½ games out of last place in NL West

> Braves Notebook, Page 2-E By Gerry Fraley Staff Writer

SAN DIEGO - They could point to Ozzie Virgil's missed tag at the plate, Rick Mahler's slow start and a botched chance in the ninth. What the Atlanta Braves had was another loss and another step closer to last

A ninth-inning single by Benito Santiago gave San Diego a 7-6 victory against the Braves Tuesday night at Jack Murphy Stadium. The last-place Padres trail the Braves by only 3½ games.

"We're not going to die," said John Kruk, who had three RBI for the Padres. "We want to catch them."

Tony Gwynn began the ninth with his fifth straight hit: a single against Gene Garber. Gwynn stole second and reached third on a sacrifice.

After Kruk walked and Chris Brown was hit by a pitch, manager Chuck Tanner went to a five-man infield, with left fielder Gary Roenicke stationed about eight feet behind second base. Santiago beat the defense with his hit.

The Braves had runners at second and third with one out in the top of the ninth but could not score. With lefthander Mark Davis pitching, Tanner stayed with Gerald Perry, but he grounded into the out that killed the inning. Perry is batting .200 (12for-60) against lefthanders.

After Perry's failure, the Padres intentionally walked Dale Murphy to reach Ken Griffey. He grounded out.

The Braves, who trailed 3-0 in the first inning, scored twice in the eighth to tie the game at 6.

Ken Oberkfell and Perry, facing lefthander Keith Comstock, led off with singles. Reliever Lance McCullers struck out Murphy, but Griffey scored a run with an infield out.

Virgil tied the game with a two-out, broken-bat single to left. Virgil, who entered in a 17-for-101 slump, brought the Braves within 5-4 with a homer in the sev-

The homer ended Ed Whitson's string of 14 consecutive outs. It was Virgil's first homer since July 20 and just his second in his

See BRAVES, Page 4-E



United Press International

Costa Rican swimmer Silvia Poll has made the Pan Am Games a personal showcase, winning three gold medals.

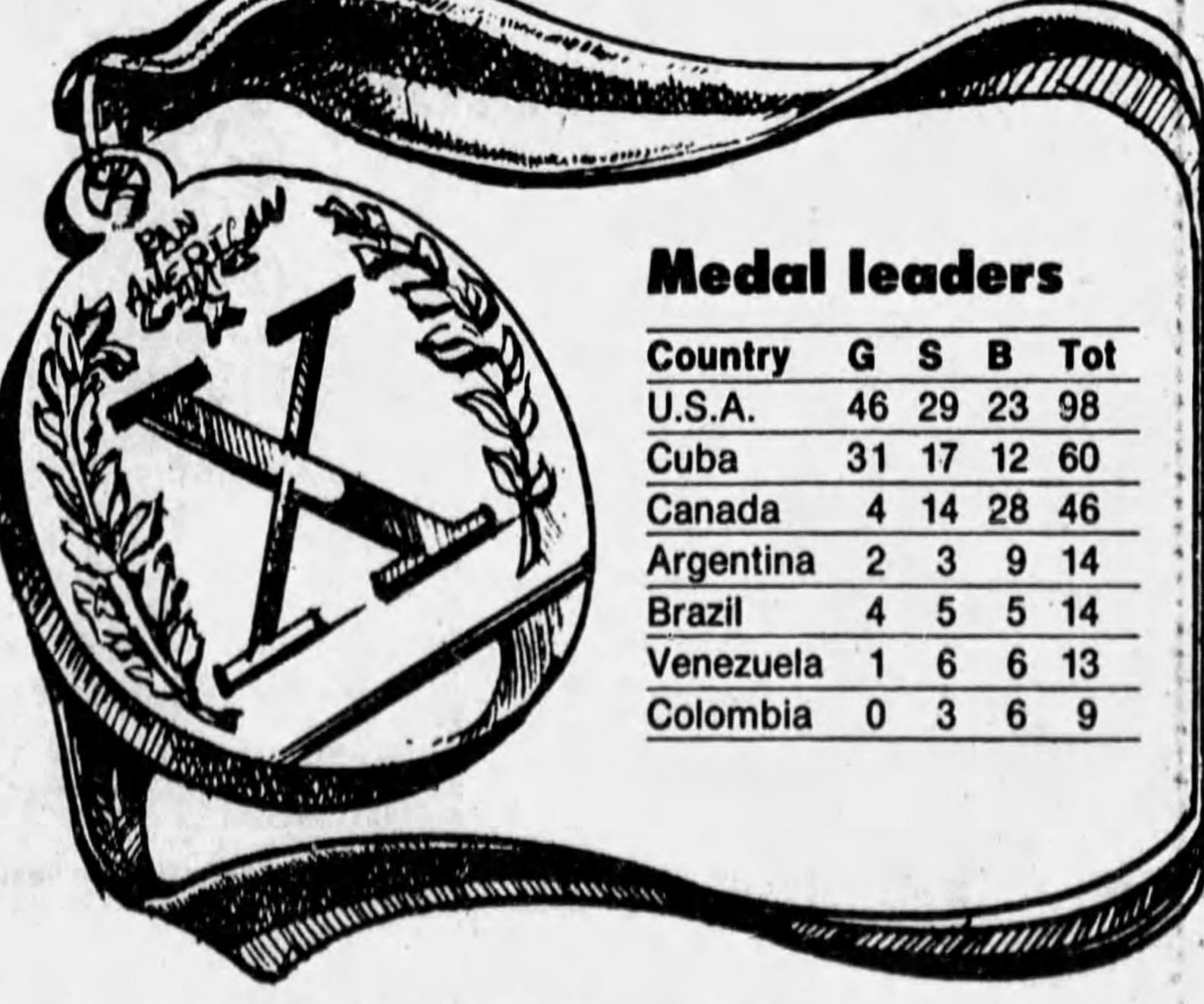
Poll, U.S. have golden day in pool

Bronze for defector, Page 6-E Pan Am report, Page 6-E Results, Page 10-E By Rachel Blount Staff Writer

INDIANAPOLIS - Around the IUPUI Natatorium, the Costa Rican national anthem is getting to be as familiar as The Star-Spangled

After Silvia Poll of Costa Rica won her fourth medal of the 1987 Pan American Games — a gold in the women's 100-meter backstroke Tuesday afternoon — a small crowd in the natatorium cheered her as they would their own countrymen, and a few even hummed along with the anthem. Poll won the backstroke, considered her best event, in a Pan Am record 1 minute 02.18 seconds to win her third gold medal and set her second Pan Am record of the Games.

Still, the U.S. had plenty to cheer about on what coach Skip Kenney called "the best day of swimming for the Americans." The U.S. won eight medals, including four golds, in the five swimming finals held Tuesday.



The U.S. baseball team beat Venezuela 14-7, making its record 2-0 in the seven-game round robin leading to the medal round. Second baseman Ty Griffin from Georgia Tech had a three-run homer for the U.S. in the fourth.

Overall, the U.S. had won 31 medals - including 14 golds - for the day as Tuesday's competition wound down. Americans swept the equestrian events, earned five med-

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Burger

From Page 1-E

two quarters, or until next March. Burger is awaiting a decision on his appeal to university vice president Warren Brandt. If the committee's decision is upheld, Auburn's appeal to the NCAA regarding the jail incident would be rendered meaningless.

Burger, upon instructions from his lawyer, Robert Sasser, declined to comment.

Sullivan, a former Heisman Trophy winner in his second year as the Tigers' quarterback coach, signed a property bond for Burger, who was arrested at 4:57 a.m. on July 14 and charged with public intoxication and carrying a concealed weapon. While Sullivan posted no money, the signing of such a bond violates NCAA rules. The intoxication charge was dropped, and Burger pleaded guilty to the weapons charge.

Sullivan has been barred for 90 days, effective immediately, from all off-campus athletes activities such as evaluation and recruiting of high-school players and publicspeaking engagements.

Said Sullivan, "It was one of my kids in trouble, and I wanted to help him. The whole thing was that I didn't know the rule. I should have known better. It was early in the morning, and I didn't think. The lady at the (police) desk said, 'Sign here,' and I signed. That's all there was to it. I made a mistake, and I'm prepared to pay for it."

The report on the incident, which was submitted through the SEC to the NCAA last Friday, was

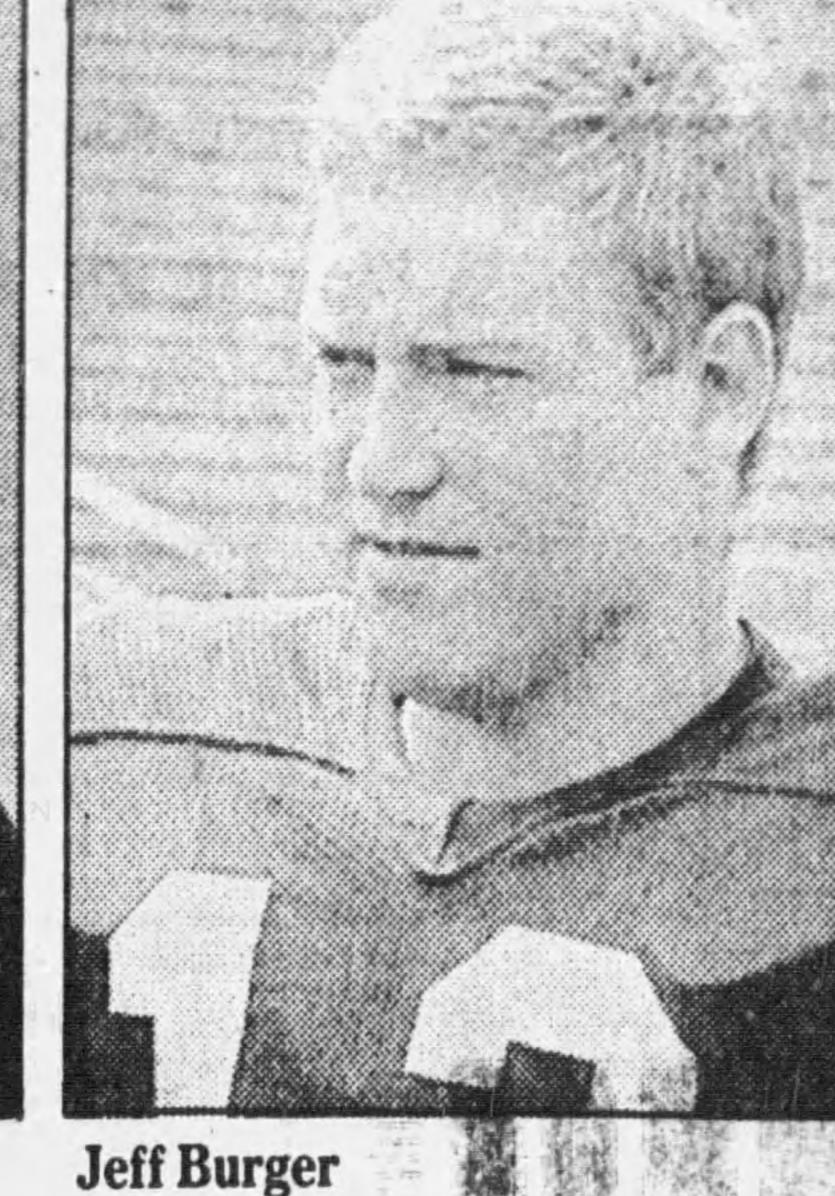


Pat Sullivan

put together by Auburn associate athletic director Hindman Wall and Joe Boland, chairman of the school's committee on intercollegiate athletics.

"This was a mistake, but it was a violation nonetheless, and our position is clear," said Auburn head coach Pat Dye in a prepared statement. "Violations can not and will not be tolerated. We all make mistakes, but when we make them, we have to be prepared for consequences. Coach Sullivan understands that, and he understands the severity of this reprimand."

Meanwhile, Brandt said he had not received the academic honesty committee's official recommendation as of Tuesday afternoon. He said once he receives the recommendation, he would make a decision "no later than the end of Au-



If Burger's two quarter suspension stands, his college football career would be over. Brandt, who has the power to uphold the penalty, overturn it or change it, said he has never gone against the committee's recommendation.

If Brandt does not overrule the committee's decision, Burger has said he would appeal to Auburn president James Martin.

Sasser, who could not be reached for comment, has said there is a possibility of legal action if Brandt and Martin do not reduce the penalty.

Burger was accused by psychology professor Philip Benson of failing to correctly identify a source in his term paper and not using quotation marks to indicate someone else's words.

Benson recommended that Burger be given an "F" on the term paper.

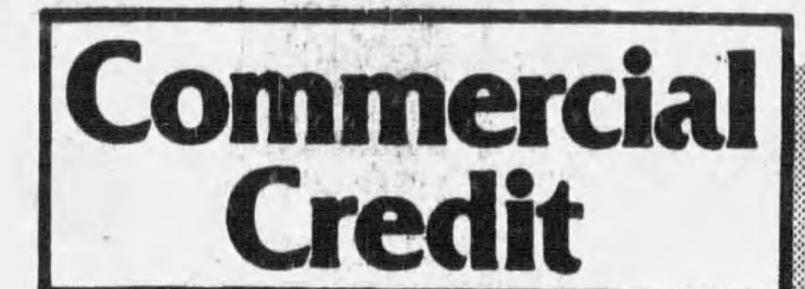
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Ross expressed concern about NFL scouts who might be selling information to agents and opposing teams.

"The people I have dealt with, it's always been a professional type relationship," Ross said of scouts. "But as it relates to agents, and anybody we play on the schedule, I want that information strictly confidential. It has been pointed out that some scouts are selling it. I believe it is a small percentage, but that is enough to cause concern."

Ross said he asks NFL scouts to check in with his office prior to visiting. Scouts this year will be allowed to visit a portion of practice, but will be excused when the Yellow Jackets begin preparation for the upcoming opponent.

Before Bloom's revelations, the relationship between colleges and NFL scouts had been uneasy on some campuses, particularly at Penn State, where coach Joe Paterno complained of excessive visits and demands by the scouts. Paterno and another group of coaches recently met with NFL officials to discuss the problem.

An NFL spokesman said most clubs have cautioned their scouts against indiscretions.

"The problem is that there's always a few bad ones," the spokesman said. "If you had scouts selling info to the USFL, like they used to, then it shouldn't be so surprising that agents would get the info, too."

Another NFL executive who asked not to be identified said he hoped the Chicago-based federal grand jury investigation into the dealings of Walters and Bloom would bring the scouts' names to public knowledge.

Georgia Tech did not have any athletes who signed with Bloom and Walters. Bloom said he did visit former Georgia Tech running back Robert Lavette, but was unable to sign him as a client.

Tech's leading pro prospect this season is free safety Riccardo Ingram, projected as an early-to-middle-round pick. Another prospect is tight end Robert Massey.



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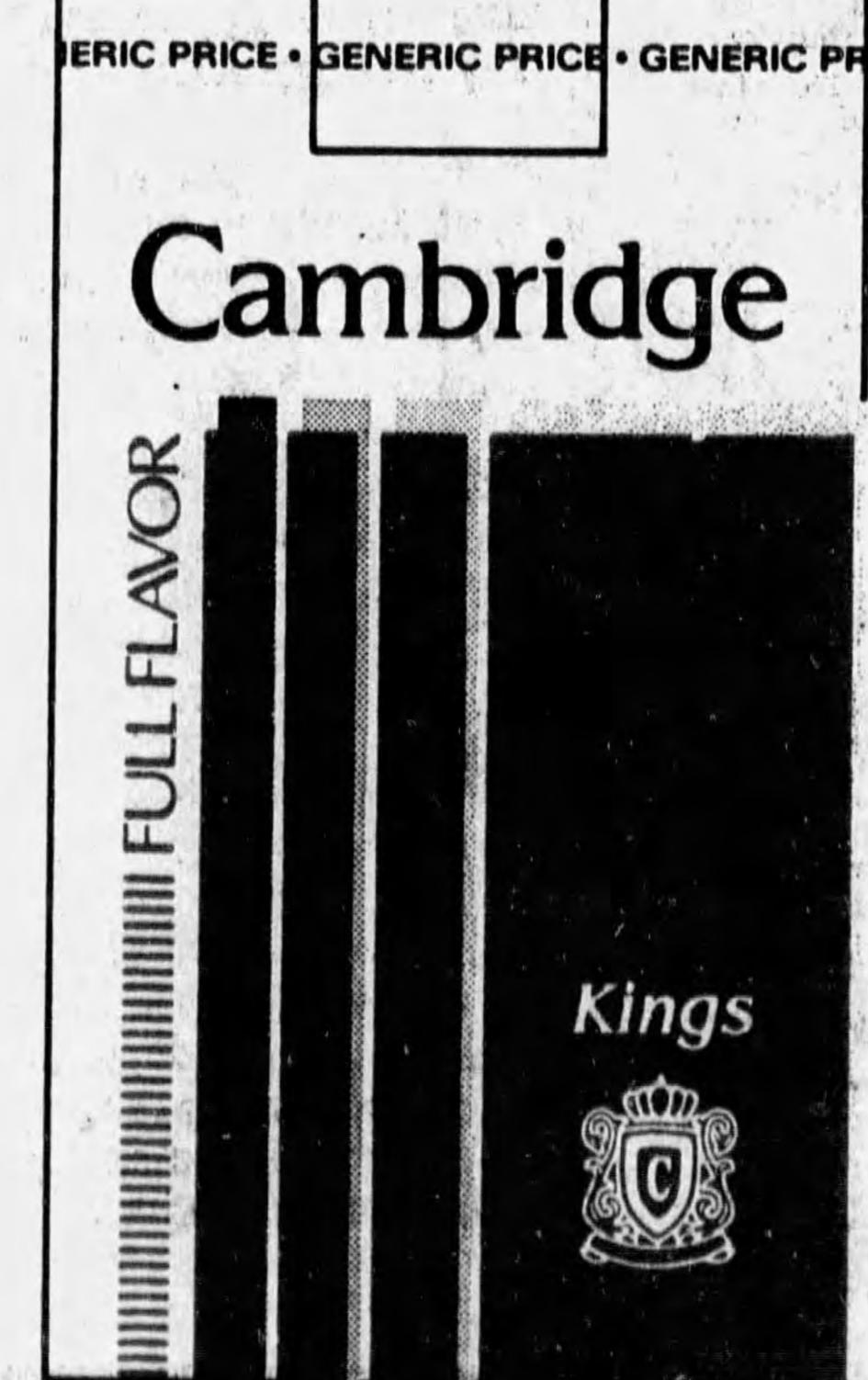


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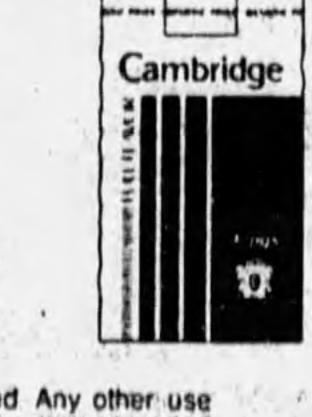
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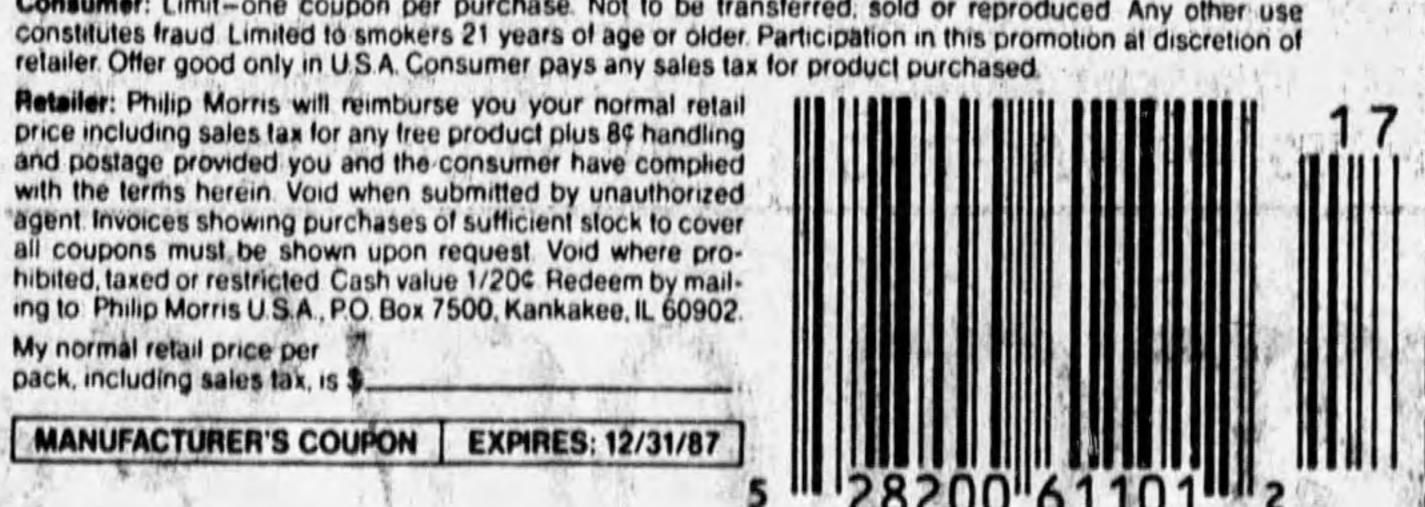
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