

### MAURY WHITE



ONCE UPON A TIME, and it was in the mid-1930s, not too long before he became the teen-aged pitching terror of the American League, Bob Feller was a baseball-crazy kid living on a farm near Van Meter. He became very excited upon hearing that famed New York Yankees sluggers Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig would be appearing with a barnstorming team scheduled to play in Des Moines.

"They were going to autograph baseballs for charity, too, and you could get one for \$5. I didn't have \$5," Feller recalls, "but I knew a way to get it. They were paying money for gophers' feet over in Adel, and we had a field just full of gophers.

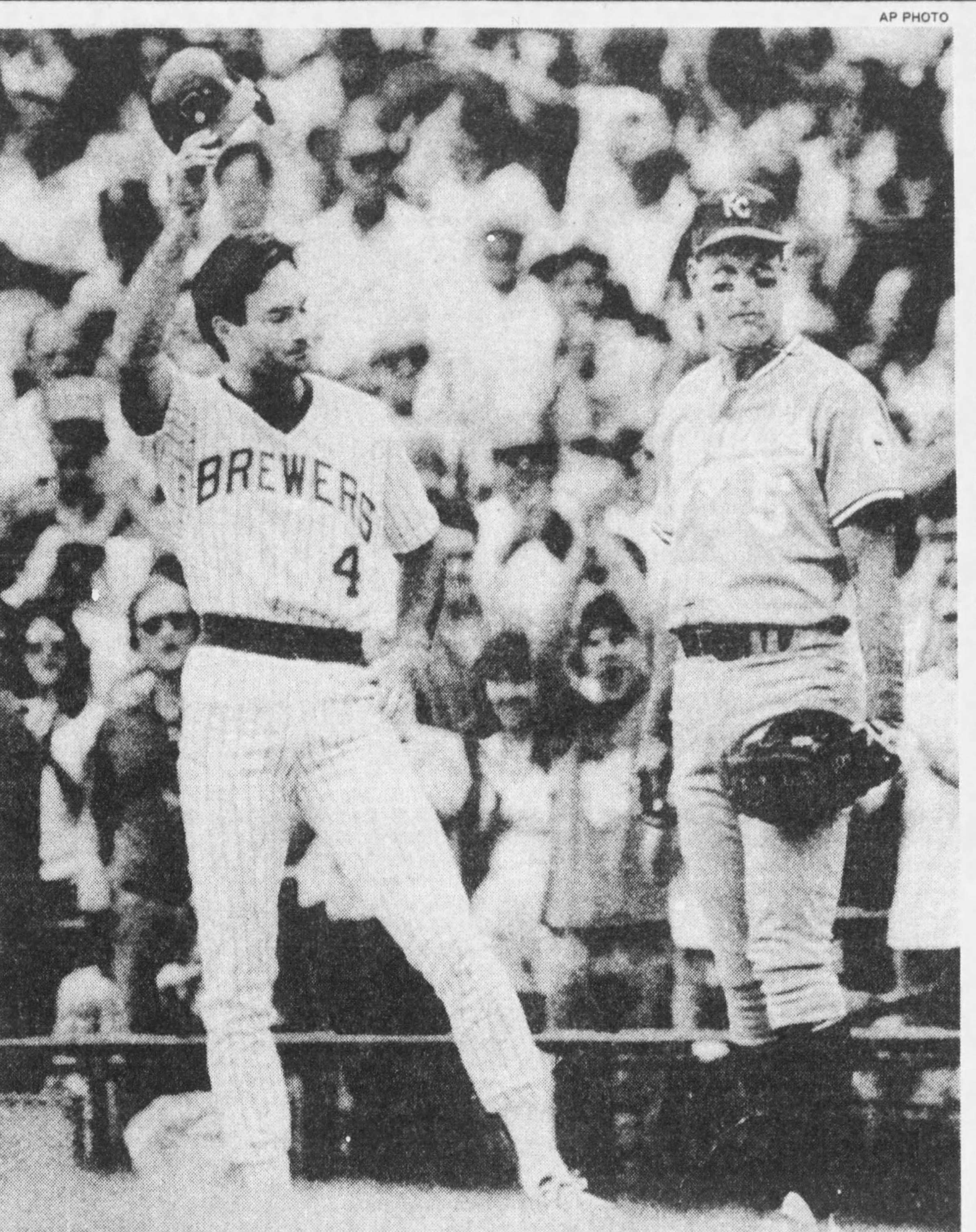
## Gancer cases coincidental, Giants say

### But players tell fears of Meadowlands area

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) - It's only a coincidence, say New York Giants officials, that Karl Nelson is the fourth



member of the team to contract cancer since 1980. And Robert Mulcahy, executive di-



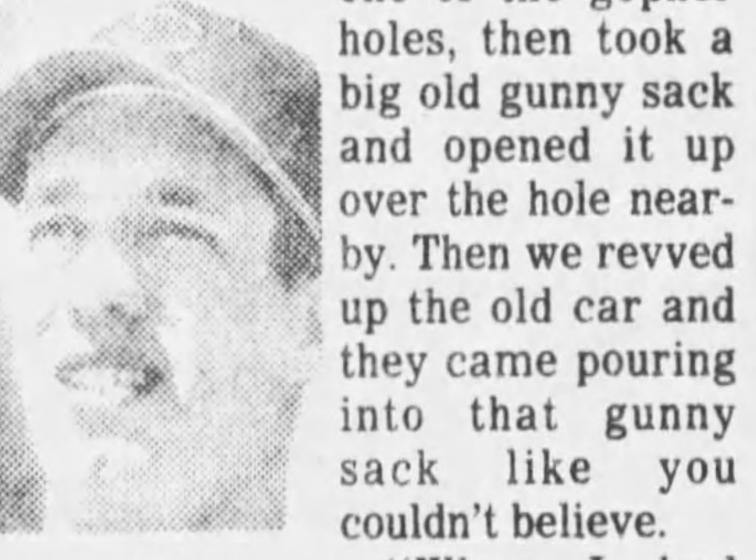
# Molitor's hitting streak at 38 games

### Fifth-inning single puts him fifth on all-time list

MILWAUKEE, WIS. (AP) - Milwaukee's Paul Molitor extended his hitting streak to 38 games Sunday with a fifth-inning single against Kansas City, the fifth longest streak in major-league history.

In the first inning, Molitor hit a fly ball to center field, and batting in the third, he flied to left.

"So a friend and I backed up the old car, attached a long hose to the exhaust pipe, stuck the hose down into one of the gopher

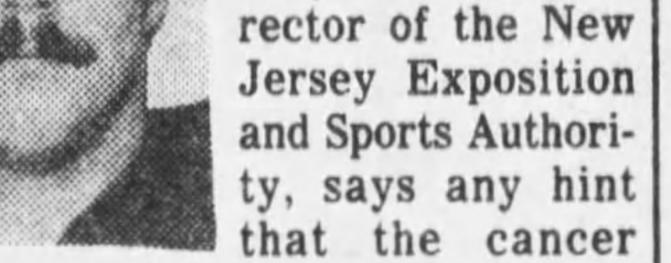


"When I had BOB enough to make \$5, FELLER I cut off their feet, cashed 'em in, then went and got my autographed baseball from the Babe. Still got that ball, and that autograph, too."

As a rule, pitchers despise a gopher ball — which, in baseball language, is an offering that gets whacked a country mile. Feller served up a few of those in his time, but that is one gopher ball he especially cherishes.

ONCE UPON A TIME, and it was for a long time up until a few years ago, a modest, reclusive man named Philip K. Wrigley owned the Chicago Cubs. Maybe 40 years ago, he was honored by the Chicago baseball writers at their annual winter banquet.

"Thank you," said Wrigley, after walking over to accept his award. Having said that, he did an about-face and walked back to his seat. Ten or so years later, the same group of scribes decided the Cubs' owner should be honored again. Remembering the previous happening, John P. Carmichael, the master of ceremonies, made it a point to wish out loud that the acceptance speech this time be longer. "Ramble on, if you like," he urged.



cases might have KARL something to do NELSON

with the environment around the Giants Stadium and the New Jersey Meadowlands is "outrageous speculation.

Members of the Super Bowl champion Giants were officially informed Saturday night that Nelson, their starting right offensive tackle for the past three years, has Hodgkin's disease, a form of lymph cancer. Some said they believe it is a hazard to practice and play in the Meadowlands, built over a swamp that had been used as a landfill and in the presence of numerous radio towers. **Bad Water?** 

One anonymous player told the New York Daily News that the water coming from showers was polluted. "Sometimes it's yellow. Sometimes it's green and it stinks," he said. Giants officials quickly tempered players' reactions.

"We really don't know what causes this cancer," said Giants team physician Russell Warren. "Though this team has had a couple of cases in the past, we don't look at this as environmental."

Warren said that the disease had been discovered early and that Nelson's chances of recovery were "90 to 95 percent." He said that the 6-foot 6-inch, 285-pounder, who is 27 years old, would not play this year but presumably could resume next season. Nelson, a former all-Big Eight and all-American at Iowa State, is a fouryear NFL veteran who had started 44 straight games.

Brewers' Paul Molitor, with Royals' George Brett looking on, acknowledges his ovation after extending his streak.

### Giants keep shaky N.L. lead

#### From Register Wire Services

The heated race in the National League West boiled over Sunday as San Francisco maintained its halfgame lead over Houston while Cincinnati slipped two games off the lead. The Giants clipped Montreal, 5-3, while Houston edged the Chicago Cubs, 4-2. The Reds fell farther behind by losing, 12-6, to St. Louis, which kept its 41/2-game lead in the National League East. The secondplace New York Mets ripped San Diego, 9-2.

behind to beat the Expos, who lost their second game in a row to fall six games behind St. Louis into third place in the N.L. East.

Oakland, 4-0, to stay within four games. The win gave Minnesota, which lost its sixth straight game, a break in the West by keeping the Athletics two games behind. The Twins were outscored, 49-15. while losing all games in the swing through Detroit and Boston. California caught Kansas City, which lost to Milwaukee, in the race for third in the West. Seattle's loss to Baltimore dropped the Mariners six games behind the Twins. At the other end of the spectrum, a couple of baseball's worst, Pittsburgh and Cleveland, lost again. It was the second straight loss for the Indians, who are making a bid at the 100-loss mark while falling 261/2 games behind the Tigers. The Pirates lost their fourth in a row and eighth in 10 games.

Leading off the fifth, Molitor lined a single to left field off starter Charlie Leibrandt to keep the streak go-

### ✓ I-Cubs fall to Denver: 6S

ing. He was given a 2-minute standing ovation by the County Stadium crowd.

"Thirty eight, I was thinking about that today. That's a long time, you know, and those numbers still seem far away out there. I'm still trying to take that one-game-at-a-time approach," Molitor said.

In his fourth at-bat in the sixth. Molitor walked and he struck out in the seventh, his final plate appearance in the Brewers' 10-5 victory over Kansas City.

Saturday night, Molitor equaled Tommy Holmes' streak of 37 in 1945 for the Boston Braves.

Molitor's streak is the longest in the majors since Cincinnati's Pete Rose hit in a National League-record 44 consecutive games in 1978. The last time an American League player had a longer streak than Molitor's was in 1941 when the New York Yankees' Joe DiMaggio set the major-league record of 56 games.

Molitor's next target is Ty Cobb's 40-game hitting streak in 1911 for De-

Molitor's streak continued to draw large crowds to County Stadium, where he has hit in 23 straight games. Friday and Saturday night's games with the Royals drew more than 37,000 each night and the crowd Sunday was listed at 33.887.

Longest Hitting Streaks

Proving he could take orders as well as give, Wrigley came to the podium and doubled the length of his previous speech.

"Thank you very much," he said. It is documented that these were the only two baseball speeches Philip K. Wrigley ever made.

ONCE UPON A TIME, and it was in the early 1970s, the National Collegiate Athletic Association football rules committee kept tabling the subject of making a mouthguard part of the required equipment, because coaches were convinced quarterbacks and defensive signal callers would be mumbling their messages.

In 1973, Dr. Donald Cooper, team physician for Oklahoma State and one of the recognized experts in sports medicine, went to his dentist and had a mouthpiece made for himself. Not long later, he made an impassioned 30-minute plea to the rules body for mandatory mouthguards.

"Could everyone understand me?" he asked, when finished. When everyone nodded that he had come over loud and clear, Cooper pulled the mouthguard out of his mouth. The

### **Two Have Died**

Three other Giants have contracted cancer since 1980 - linebacker Dan Lloyd and running backs Doug Kotar and John Tuggle. Lloyd, who had lymphoma, recovered and later played briefly with the Giants and in the USFL. Kotar and Tuggle died. J.D. Maarleveld of Tampa Bay was diagnosed as having Hodgkin's disease in college. He grew up in Ruther-

ford, N.J., adjacent to the Meadowlands, where 32 cases of leukemia were diagnosed in 1978 alone.

Warren, however, said he saw no on the Giants.

100 or more young men coming in and out each year, there's a statistical probability that this will occur."

### "Highly Unusual"

And Wellington Mara, the Giants president, noted that the Meadowlands Authority conducted tests in 1979 and 1980 and found nothing toxic in the environment. "Of course I'm concerned," Mara said. "After all, I work here, too."

But a spokesman for the National Disease Control Center in Atlanta, Ga., called it "highly unusual."

And Giants players suggested that it was improbable. "I wanted a trade and considered retiring," linebacker Harry Carson told the New York Daily News. "I didn't like the things that were happening, starting with Dan Lloyd. When I signed my last contract, I considered it to be hazard pay for where we played."

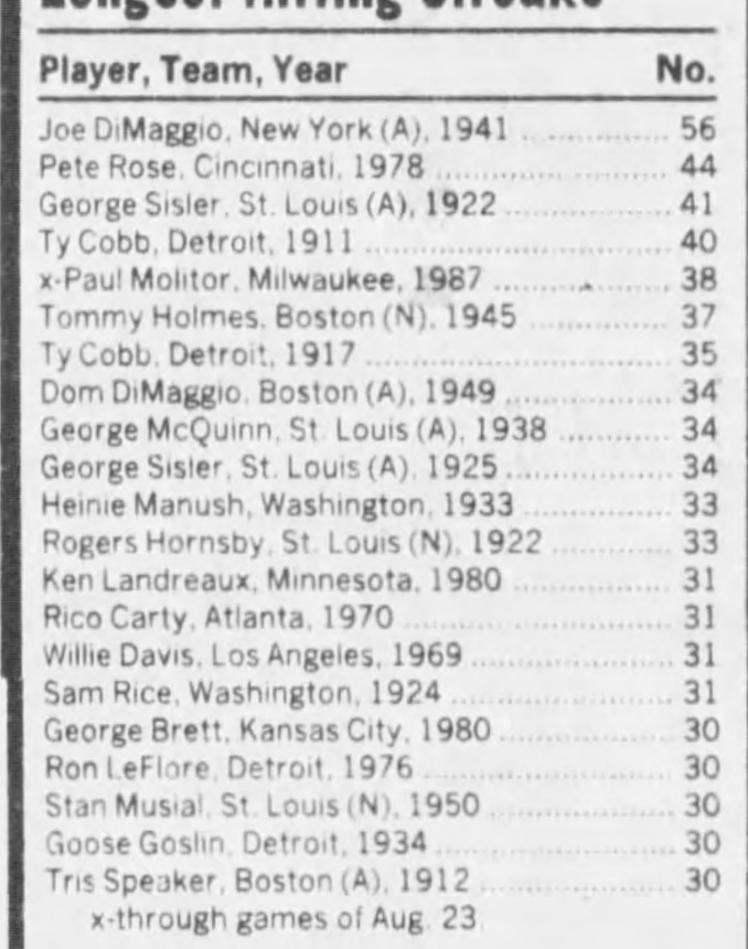
The Astros, who have won nine of their past 10 games, welcomed a familiar performance from Nolan Ryan, whose two-hitter through 5<sup>1</sup>/<sub>3</sub> innings staked Houston a 2-0 lead in Chicago.

San Francisco, which has struggled to play .500 ball recently, came from

Meanwhile, Philadelphia's torrid pace was cooled by Los Angeles, 5-1, as the Dodgers won for just the fourth time in their past 10 games. Philadelphia remains just 21/2 games behind Montreal in the race for the East's upper division.

In the American League, Detroit opened a one-game lead over Toronto in the East by outlasting Cleveland, 4-3, while the Blue Jays dropped a 5-2 decision to California. Detroit led Toronto by percentage points going into Sunday's action.

The New York Yankees kept the pressure on the leaders in the major league's hottest division by blanking



### Brazil shocks U.S. men to win basketball gold

INDIANAPOLIS, IND. (AP) -America lost its own game Sunday, in its own backyard.

Led by the three-point marksmanship of Oscar Schmidt, Brazil shocked the United States, 120-115, to win the men's basketball gold medal on the final day of the Pan American Games. Schmidt scored 46 points, including 21 on three-point shots, bringing Brazil back from a 14-point halftime deficit.

"In all the history of world basketball," said Jose Medalha, Brazil's assistant coach, "No one has done anything like this, to beat the United States in their own house. Americans will never forget it." Nor will Schmidt – who had 53 points in the semifinals. At the end, Schmidt lay under the basket at Market Square Arena and cried, surrounded by his teammates. The Americans, who lost for only the third time ever in Pan Am competition, sat

# connection between Nelson's case and the three earlier cancer victims Brash young outlaw "Hodgkin's is a disease that tends to occur in males in their third de-cade," Warren said. "When you have is a disease that tends is a disease that tends is Cowboys' top gun

#### By BUCK TURNBULL

**Register Staff Writer** 

STILLWATER, OKLA. - Mike Gundy earned his spurs in more ways than one as the starting quarterback in his freshman year at Oklahoma State last season.

Two stories illustrate the fiery competitive spirit of the player who was chosen the Big Eight Conference's offensive newcomer of the year.

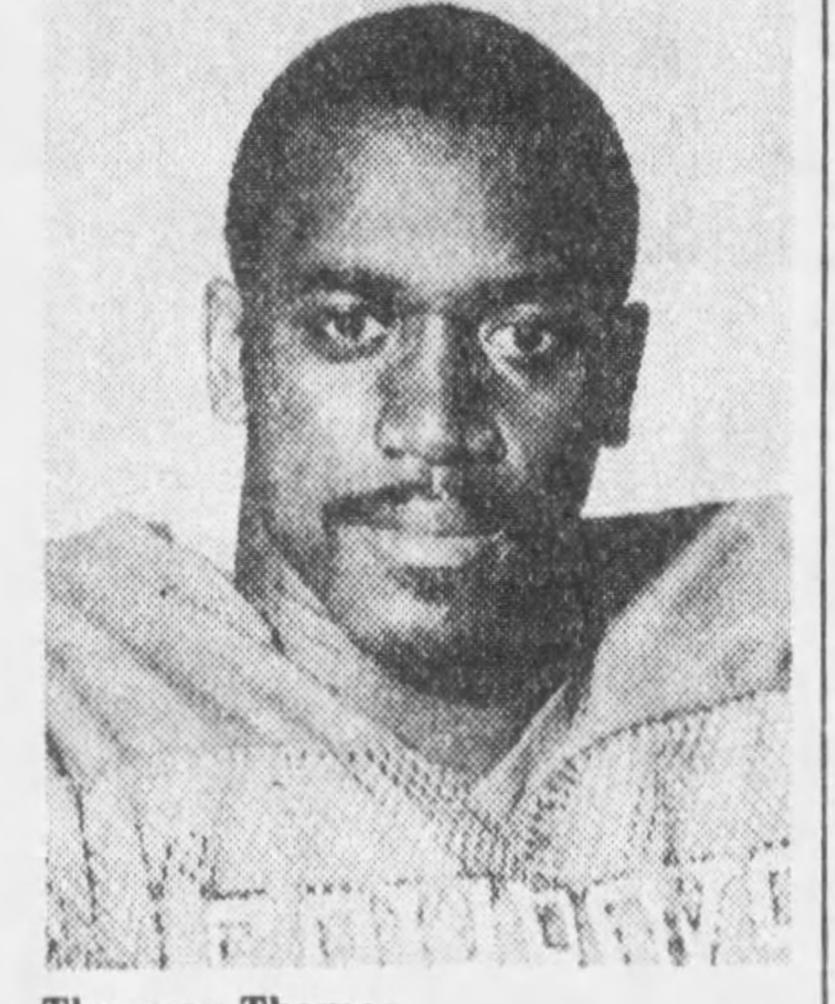
The first was when he asked Coach Pat Jones if he could paint Brian Bosworth's name on his shoes for the game against arch-rival Oklahoma.

back began when Gundy was a highly recruited prep star from Midwest City, an Oklahoma City suburb.

"I was at a dinner for a bunch of Oklahoma recruits," explained Gundy, "and Bosworth got up to say a few words. At one point, he looked at me and said, 'If you don't come to OU, I'm going to kill you.'

"But that didn't bother me. I knew when I came to OSU that he had only one year left, so I'd never play against him."

Not so. At halftime of Oklahoma



**Thurman Thomas** Heisman Trophy candidate

vote to approve was unanimous.

No telling how many teeth have been preserved by Cooper's ploy, but all who have played football since owe him a big smile.

ONCE UPON A TIME, and it was 1971, Jack Nicklaus was so disappointed that he hadn't won the Masters that he grumpily informed his wife he was going to cancel plans to play in the Tournament of Champions the following week. In a Golf magazine story in 1978, Barbara Nicklaus revealed his attitude caused her to take an unprecedented step.

"I said to him, 'That's all the press needs is for you to act like a spoiled little baby just because you lost a tournament. You're going to be losing more tournaments, so big deal.' But he said not to bother talking, he wasn't playing and that was it," recalled Barbara.

"When we got home, I made hotel and plane reservations and told him he was going to enter the Tournament of Champions. He looked at me with this astonished expression and said, 'I don't believe you!' We'd been married about 10 years, and I'd never questioned his decisions. Well, he begrudgingly did go to the Tournament of Champions, and he won it."

As you can tell, the Golden Bear had much more than a hefty driver and reliable putter going for him during all those golden years.

Still others, including head coach Bill Parcells, expressed relief at Nelson's diagnosis. They had expected a much worse report, they said.

"We were delighted," said defensive end George Martin. "The offensive line just perked up. ... It was included in our team prayer."

#### "That showed he either had great courage or a total lack of sense," said Jones. "Of course, I wouldn't allow such a thing, and maybe he knew that."

Yes, he did know that, agreed Gundy, but if the coach had given his permission, "I'd have done it. I knew Bosworth would have my name painted on his shoes - and he did."

#### "I'll Kill You"

The background on the confrontation between Oklahoma's all-America linebacker and the rookie quarter-

State's third game, after veteran quarterback Ronnie Williams had thrown too many interceptions to suit Jones, Gundy was thrust into action without any advance warning.

### Lost to Houston

The Cowboys went on to lose to Houston and they also lost as expected in their first two Big Eight starts against the conference's elite teams, Nebraska and Oklahoma.

"Gundy had a couple of jousts with Bosworth and didn't back down," said Thurman Thomas, Oklahoma State's

Trophy candidate. "That's when he showed me what kind of guy he is and how much he wants to win."

classy running back and Heisman

From mid-season on, Gundy guided the Cowboys to four victories in their last five games.

The second incident occurred late in a 21-14 conquest of Iowa State. One of the Cyclones' defensive tackles, Greg Liter, threw Gundy to the ground and was whistled for roughing the passer.

During a timeout after the penalty

### **OKLAHOMA STATE**

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### PAN AM GAMES

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### **MORNING REPORT**

**PAIN IN THE CHEEK.** Top seed Steffi Graf has tooth trouble and won't be playing as initially scheduled in the United Jersey Bank Classic tennis tournament this week, officials said Sunday.

FIRST HE WAS, THEN HE WASN'T.... Favored Bolshoi Boy lost to 30-to-1 long shot Momsfurrari by 11/2 lengths but was awarded first place in the \$100,000 Canterbury Cup Sunday after Canterbury Downs (in Shakopee, Minn.) stewards upheld an objection. Jockey Dean Kutz, who made the objection, said his horse, Joel, was squeezed by both Bolshoi Boy and Momsfurrari. But the stewards ruled that only Momsfurrari interfered down the stretch by veering to the right and preventing Joel from

### making a serious bid.

**TOMPKINS LEADS WAY.** Gary Tompkins of Iowa State scored 13 points and Mark Randall of Kansas added 12 as a basketball team from the Big Eight Conference defeated Malaysia, 75-60, Sunday in the Beijing Internationa Fournament. The Big Eight team is 2-1.

ULTIMATE SOUVENIR. Souvenir hunters will go to all lengths, it seems, to grab a token of the Pan American Games. Amigo, the parrot mascot of the games, was temporarily without his head and feet for a few hours Sunday, when the person who dresses up in the green feathered parrot costume left the bird's head and feet in an apartment laundry room. A piece of paper with a telephone number was left behind, and police found the culprit and the missing pieces.

**SUNS FATE UNKNOWN.** Richard I Bloch, the Phoenix Suns' chairman of the board, would neither confirm nor deny reports Sunday that the National Basketball Association team is up for sale. The Suns have struggled through three consecutive losing seasons. two straight years out of the playoffs and recent drug indictments against some current and former players.

**BIG TEN WANTS NAMES.** The Big Ten Conference reportedly will ask a federal judge this week to order sports agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom to reveal the names of any Big

Ten athletes they sign to contracts or accepted money as well as any who may do so. "Our position is that the 10 universities have the right to conduct their programs free of jeopardizing their position by the action of these agents," Big Ten attorney Byron Gregory said. "The key here is the concealment issue. The agents have signed student-athletes with the intent to mislead the universities and conference into believing that these students are eligible athletically when they in fact are not."

FATAL BOATING ACCIDENT. Didier Pironi, 35, a former Formula One motor racing driver, was one of three Frenchmen killed Sunday during an international offshore powerboat race.