

SPORTSPEOPLE

Odds & **INS**



By Skip Myslenski & Linda Kay

Brought down to earth: He always was the supreme soloist soaring high above the masses, but even he knew he needed help as his farewell tour meandered its way through the NBA. "It was," recalls Julius Erving, "scary to the point where I insisted my wife, Turquoise, accompany me on the road. I insisted she take a leave of absence from her job and really share in it—share the weight I was beginning to feel from all the nice things that were happening to me. There were also a couple of occasions when my children and my mom were able to be there, too, and that helped. It was just too much for one person to take."

**Searching for the successor**

There has always been Julius Erving and "Dr. J," and the fetes that sent the flamboyant performer off into retirement also honored the polished personality of the other. Now, there are any number of exhibitionists ready to replace The Doctor and create flights of fancy. But, many wonder, who is going to replace Erving and assume the role of veteran-superstar-as-prominent-spokesman-and-role-model? Larry Bird, some have answered, and the Celtic forward proved himself fit for that casting when he ignored Isiah Thomas' intemperate remarks during the playoffs and graciously helped the Piston out of the corner into which he had painted himself. Does Erving agree? "I've been checking him out," he says, "and I've seen a growth in him and his acceptance of a responsibility for the player he is. He rebelled against it in the beginning, and after he spent five years at the top of the class, it was scary for a while. I wasn't sure if he was going to carry the responsibility or shun it. He decided to carry it. I think he loves the game, and now he's in a position to want to give back. I think it took a little time for him to want to do it. But it takes anyone time."

And Magic Johnson? "I think this is a pivotal year for him to be wise in the decisions he makes and the statements he makes. He's the best now, and they will help determine the kind of legacy he leaves as a professional basketball player."

**Notes from retirement**

Erving was in town to hype the Sept. 13 NBA Players Association dinner at the Hyatt, where he will once again be honored. Other award winners scheduled to be on hand include Bird, Johnson and Michael Jordan. . . . Significantly, the holding company of Erving's various businesses is called "The Erving Group." One of its subsidiaries is "Dr. J Enterprises." . . . Since his playing career ended last spring, Erving has rejected coaching feelers and the opportunities to sign on with CBS and Turner Broadcasting. He did, however, leave open the possibility of working for either on specific events. . . . And proving again that it is a small world: When he was a sophomore at the University of Massachusetts, Erving helped recruit a guard from Long Island named Rick Pitino. Pitino, of course, coached Providence into last season's Final Four and is now the new coach of the Knicks.

**Flashback**

*News item: After he destroys both Carl Lewis and the world's 100 meter record, Canada's Ben Johnson twice refuses Lewis' hand and does not accept his congratulations until his third offering.*

That notation was buried in a news story on Johnson's wonderful Sunday run, and it resurrected a year-old memory that portrays the sprinter as a frustrated champ and helps explain his animus at the World Track & Field Championships in Rome. The setting last summer was the Goodwill Games in Moscow, a competition Johnson felt compelled to attend just so people could not say he was afraid of Lewis, and there the Canadian also soundly defeated his U.S. rival. But, after the race, the photographers swarmed around the celebrated Lewis, and Johnson, ignored, wandered away alone and pulled on a nondescript gray sweatshirt. He had just run what was then the fastest 100 meters at sea level (9.95) and here, under Lenin Stadium, he said bluntly: "A lot of people respect Lewis for his four gold medals, but time goes on. Now I've proven myself great, and it bothers me that he gets all the attention. And, yeah, his act annoys me, too."

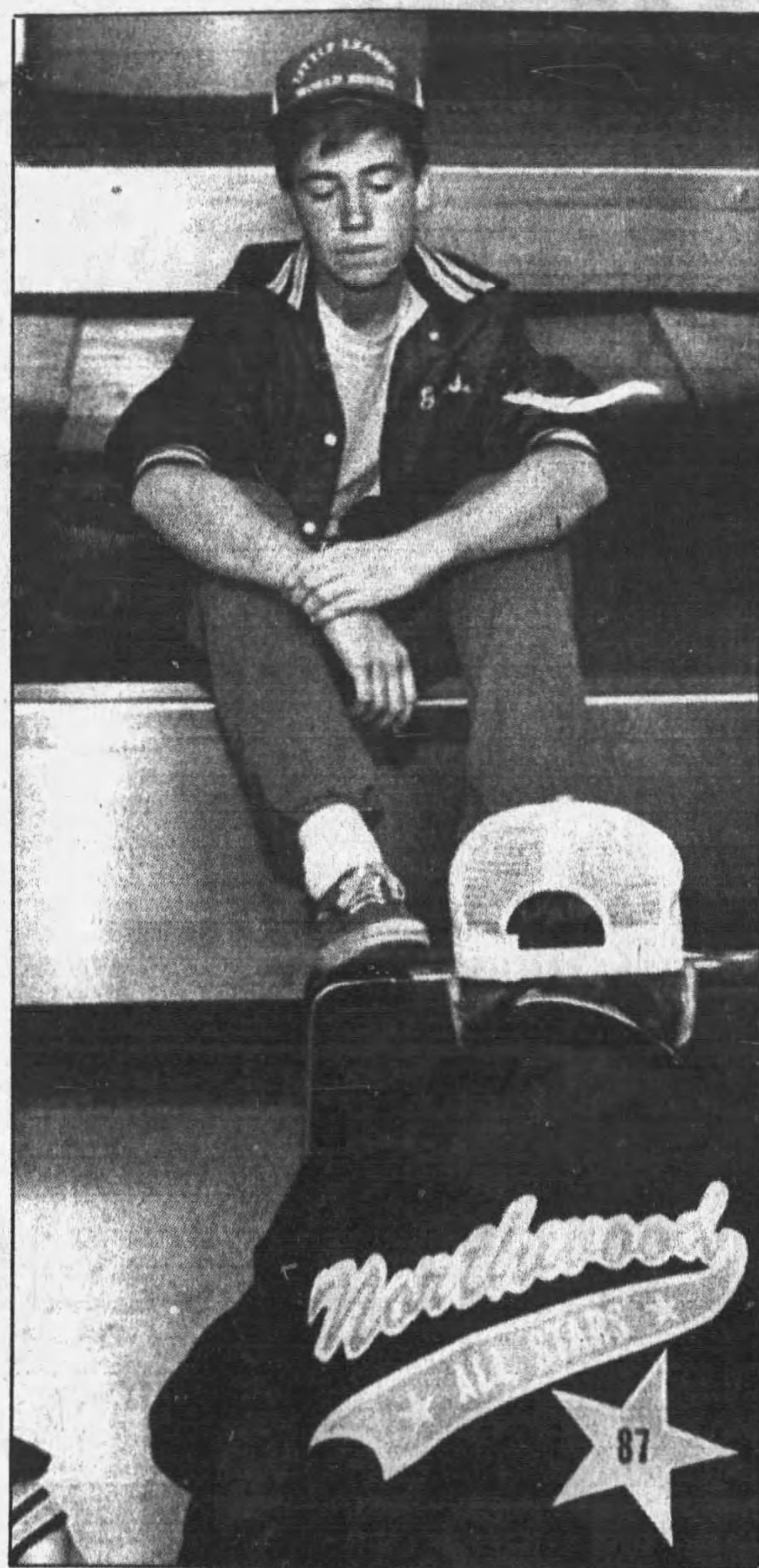
**Wishful thinking**

San Diego has not yet been officially named the site of the 1991 America's Cup, yet just that possibility is proving a potent sales tool in the city. Ads for homes and apartments are filled with such enticing lines as "View America's Cup from the privacy of your living room." And membership fees at private clubs situated on the water—and along the possible course—have doubled since July.

**News, notes and nonsense**

Northwestern's Katrina Adams has dropped out of school to try her luck on the pro tennis circuit for a year, but she won't accept prize money in order to retain her collegiate eligibility. She and Diane Donnelly, her partner at Northwestern, are in the main draw of the doubles competition at the U.S. Open, which opens Tuesday. . . . Chris Evert may still play in the Virginia Slims of Chicago in November, and she has told tournament officials here that she will make up her mind during the Open. . . . Wilson is the official tennis ball of the Open, and 12,000 cans—or 36,000 balls—already have been shipped to Flushing Meadow for the event. In case you were wondering, the balls are made from 5,000 pounds of rubber and 800 square yards of Optic Yellow felt.

And finally, Erving, anticipating his feelings when NBA training camps open this fall: "I won't miss the two-mile run or the rigors of reaching top physical condition. But I know I'll have some anxieties to overcome, so I'll probably be hitting my golf balls a little harder."



Aron Garcia, who gave up 21 runs in the Little League World Series final against Taiwan, finds little to celebrate upon his team's homecoming at Los Angeles International Airport.

**No more Mr. Nice Guy for Colts' Trudeau**

For Indianapolis Colts' quarterback Jack Trudeau, the 1987 National Football League season is starting out as an instant replay of 1986.

With starting quarterback Gary Hogeboom sidelined because of a hand injury, Trudeau again becomes the Colts' No. 1 quarterback.

Although the scenario looks the same, the former Illinois star is determined this year will be completely different.

Trudeau, who entered the Colts' 1986 huddle as a frightened rookie with little confidence and even less knowledge, says he's a changed man, with a more combative, self-assured and gung-ho attitude.

"That's part of being a quarterback, you know," Trudeau said. "You have to be more than just a guy who calls plays and walks to the line of scrimmage."

"I'm no seven-year vet, but when I say something, I hope it has meaning. I'm going to be more vocal, more outgoing in running this of-

fense. I have to be."

Saturday night, in a 17-6 preseason victory over Houston, Hogeboom suffered a detached ligament in his left hand late in the Colts' opening drive.

Hogeboom underwent surgery Monday and will be sidelined from six to eight weeks. The earliest return date for the eight-year veteran would appear to be Oct. 18.

The development placed Trudeau back on the hot seat, not unlike last season when he was an 11-time starter after Hogeboom suffered a shoulder separation.

He wound up an 11-time loser before Hogeboom returned to lead the Colts to three season-ending victories.

"The way things ended last year," Trudeau said, "no matter what anybody says, a lot of people looked at it as being my fault."

"I've got nothing to lose now."

**Jackson goes to bat for McRae**

Undeclared presidential candidate Jesse Jackson, campaigning in Missouri, has come out in favor of Hal McRae turning down the Kansas City Royals' managing job.

"The fact that the job was offered is an improvement in consideration, but the conditions under which it was offered made him say no," Jackson said.

McRae, the Royals' hitting coach, is black. He refused to accept the job after last week's dismissal of Billy Gardner. John Wathan, the manager of the Royals' farm club in Omaha, then accepted the job for the rest of the season.

Jackson said that with about three dozen games to go, McRae would be judged by un-



Jackson



McRae

fair standards because it is too late in the season for McRae to make trades and too late to teach the players his system. Jackson said it would be logical for the Royals to give that option in the spring, so McRae could help choose his team and make the trades he seeks.

"It's like asking a cook to take a job after the pastry is already in the oven, and then judge the cook on how the bread tastes," Jackson said. "The conditions ought to give him a fair start."

**NIU is already improved over '86**

Northern Illinois University doesn't play a football game until Sept. 12, but coach Jerry Pettibone has to figure he's ahead of last year in one respect—the schedule.

Gone are opponents such as Iowa, West Virginia, Wisconsin and Miami of Florida. They are replaced by schools such as Lamar, Akron, Southwest Missouri, Fullerton State and Northwestern.

Furthermore, the Huskies will have six home games this season after playing only four home dates in three of the past four seasons.

"There's no doubt that this year's schedule is more reasonable for us at this stage of development in our program," Pettibone said.

**What you can't see can't hurt you, right Gene? Gene?**

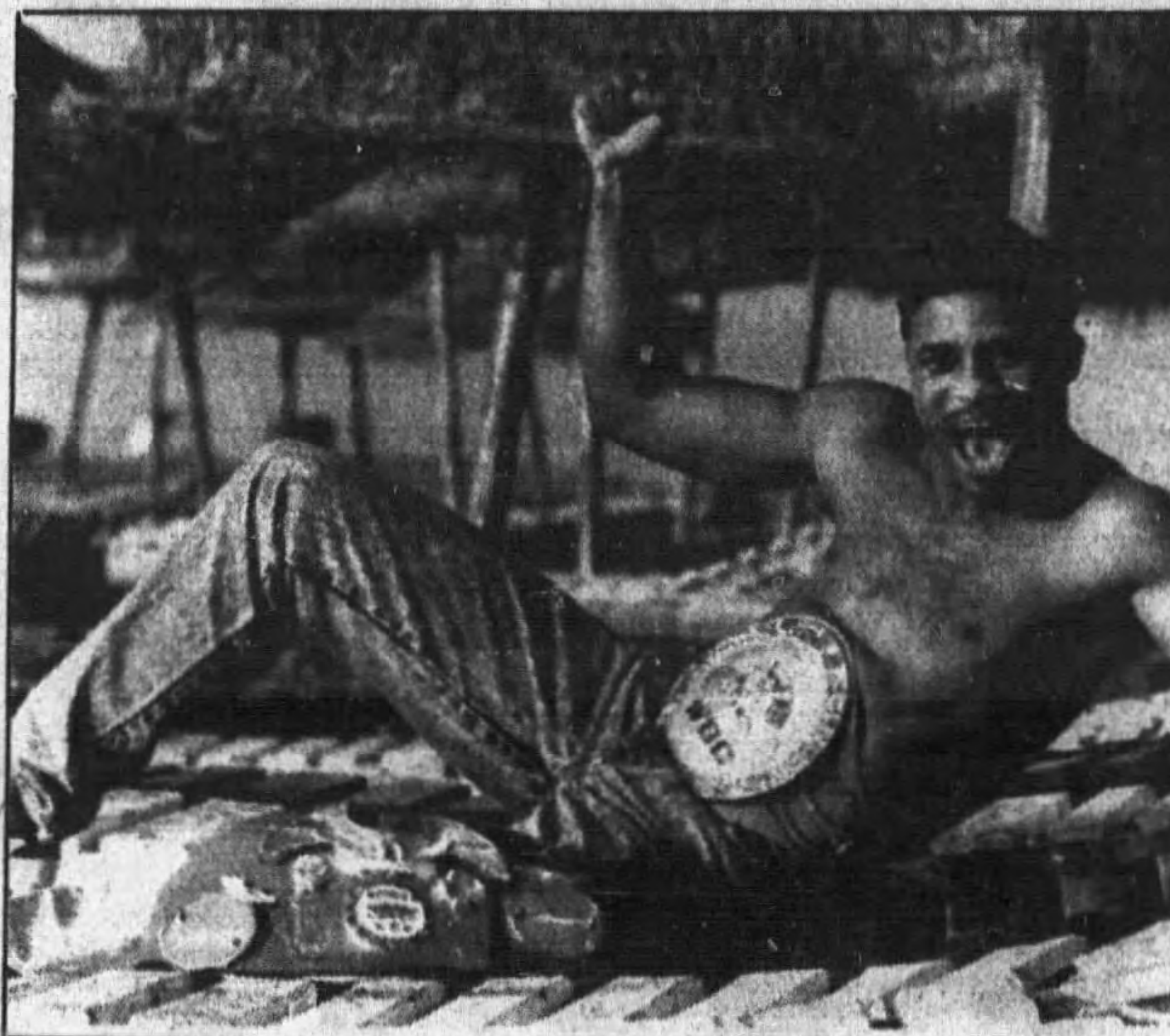
In what may go down as the understatement of the year, challenger Gene Hatcher, knocked out Sunday in a mere 40 seconds by world welterweight champion Lloyd Honeyghan, told reporters Monday in Marbella, Spain, that he didn't see a thing.

"I never saw the punch that hit me, and I don't remember anything after that," the 28-year-old fighter said from behind dark glasses that covered a bruised and puffy face.

"I don't feel any remorse about it. The only thing I can recall is that we clashed like rams."

Hatcher remained unconscious on the canvas for several minutes Sunday night before struggling to his feet and being helped out of the ring by paramedics.

If it makes Hatcher feel any better, Honeyghan said the overhand right that opened his crushing barrage of blows was "one of the best punches I've ever thrown."



A well-rested Lloyd Honeyghan—he needed only 40 seconds to KO Gene Hatcher—shows off his title belts.

**What's in a name?**

Here's how the roster of National Football League teams would read if teams were known by locations of their corporate headquarters:

National Conference	American Conference
Central Pontiac Lions Lake Forest Bears Eden Prairie Vikings Tampa Buccaneers Green Bay Packers	East Orchard Park Bills Indianapolis Colts New York Jets Foxboro Patriots Miami Dolphins
East East Rutherford Giants St. Louis Cardinals Suwanee Falcons Washington Redskins Philadelphia Eagles	Central Cincinnati Bengals Cleveland Browns Pittsburgh Steelers Denver Broncos
West Irving Cowboys Anaheim Rams New Orleans Saints Redwood City 49ers	West El Segundo Raiders Kirkland Seahawks Kansas City Chiefs San Diego Chargers Houston Oilers

**100 years of sweaty towels**

The new school year is upon us. Therefore, it's time to start parting with information that may—or may not—be useful for college sports fans.

The oldest conference in the United States will celebrate its 100th anniversary this year. It is: A) the Atlantic Coast Conference; B) the Ivy League; C) the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association; or D) the Middle Atlantic States League.

The answer is C.

The MIAA will start its 100th year of athletic competition, making it the oldest league in the nation, according to conference researchers who checked their facts with the NCAA.

**Teams take wrong turn on road to I-71 Series**

It's official. There will be no World Series between the Cincinnati Reds and Cleveland Indians. Ohio Gov. Richard Celeste says so, abandoning his preseason hopes that his state could host an "I-71" Series between the cities.

Celeste noted that Sports Illustrated had, before the start of the 1987 season, selected Cleveland as the best team in the American League. But Cleveland is buried in last place in the AL East, and the Reds have fallen from first to third in the National League West during a recent slump.

Addressing a road contractors' convention in Cincinnati, the governor quipped that he had suggested earlier in the year to Warren Smith, Ohio's director of transportation, that the state prepare to improve and widen Interstate 71 between Cincinnati and Cleveland to handle the hoped-for World Series traffic.

"Warren, you can forget about that project until next year," Celeste said to Smith, who also attended the convention.

The Kansas City Royals and St. Louis Cardinals, linked by I-70, popularized the idea of two cities joined by an interstate highway meeting in the baseball playoffs.

There is a chance they could meet again this year, but in case they don't, there are other possibilities.

San Francisco and Oakland, connected by I-80, could still face each other in the World Series. The Giants could also face the New York Yankees in an I-80 Series if you really want to stretch things.

One thing Chicagoans know for sure, however: There is going to be no Subway Series in this city.

**BRIEFS**

■ The collegiate career of Cris Carter, Ohio State's all-time leading receiver who sought reinstatement after being suspended for dealings with agent Norby Walters that violated NCAA rules, is over. Ohio State President Edward H. Jennings said Monday the university has decided not to appeal to the NCAA its earlier decision declaring Carter ineligible. The university will grant Carter financial aid, as long as he continues to make satisfactory progress toward his degree.

■ Miami (Fla.) football coach Jimmy Johnson and Athletic Director Sam Jankovich are considering leaving the school for personal and career objectives, the Miami Herald reported. Johnson, 43, is considering seeking a job with a National Football League team, the newspaper quoted unidentified sources as saying. The Herald said Jankovich, 52, wants to be closer to his family in Washington state.

■ Defending national champion Augustana is ranked No. 1 in the preseason Top 20 Division III football poll. . . . Michigan quarterback Chris Zurburg, a fifth-year senior vying for the No. 1 job, has decided to forego his final year of eligibility. . . . Six-foot-seven-inch junior guard Walker Lambiotte of North Carolina State has signed a national letter of intent to play basketball at Northwestern. He will become eligible for the 1988-89 season. . . . Karl Anderson of King High School and Mark Scott of Dunbar (Md.) will not play for Oregon State this season after failing to meet the NCAA's eligibility requirements.

■ William Andrews, the Atlanta Falcons' all-time leading rusher, has announced his retirement, ending his attempt to come back from a serious knee injury three years ago. He gained 214 yards on 52 carries in limited duty last season. The former Auburn star finished his six-year career with 5,986 yards rushing and 2,645 yards on pass receptions.

■ In other NFL news: Philadelphia released former Bears cornerback Leslie Frazier. In the Eagles' afternoon practice, rookie running back Bobby Morse suffered a broken right hand. . . . New Orleans signed its first-round draft pick, defensive tackle Shawn Knight of Brigham Young, for \$1.675 million plus about \$150,000 in incentives over four years. . . . Veteran quarterback David Woodley, a one-time Super Bowl starter attempting a comeback after a year in retirement, was among 12 players cut by Green Bay. . . . Buffalo acquired wide receiver Trumaine Johnson from San Diego in exchange for rookie linebacker David Brandon, a third-round draft pick from Memphis State. . . . Wide receiver Anthony Hancock, Kansas City's first-round draft choice in 1982, was cut. . . . Dallas acquired kicker Rolf Benirschke, the third most accurate kicker in NFL history, from San Diego for an undisclosed draft choice. . . . The Los Angeles Rams placed rookie linebacker Doug Bartlett from Northern Illinois on injured reserve.

■ Portland Trail Blazers forward Kenny Carr announced his retirement, saying a herniated disc suffered Jan. 18 has made it too painful for him to continue playing. Carr, 32, played 10 years in the National Basketball Association.

■ Jockey Angel Cordero Jr.'s 11-year reign as champion rider at Saratoga came to end as Jose Santos edged him 26-22 in the 216-race, 24-day meeting which ended Monday in Saratoga Springs, N.Y.

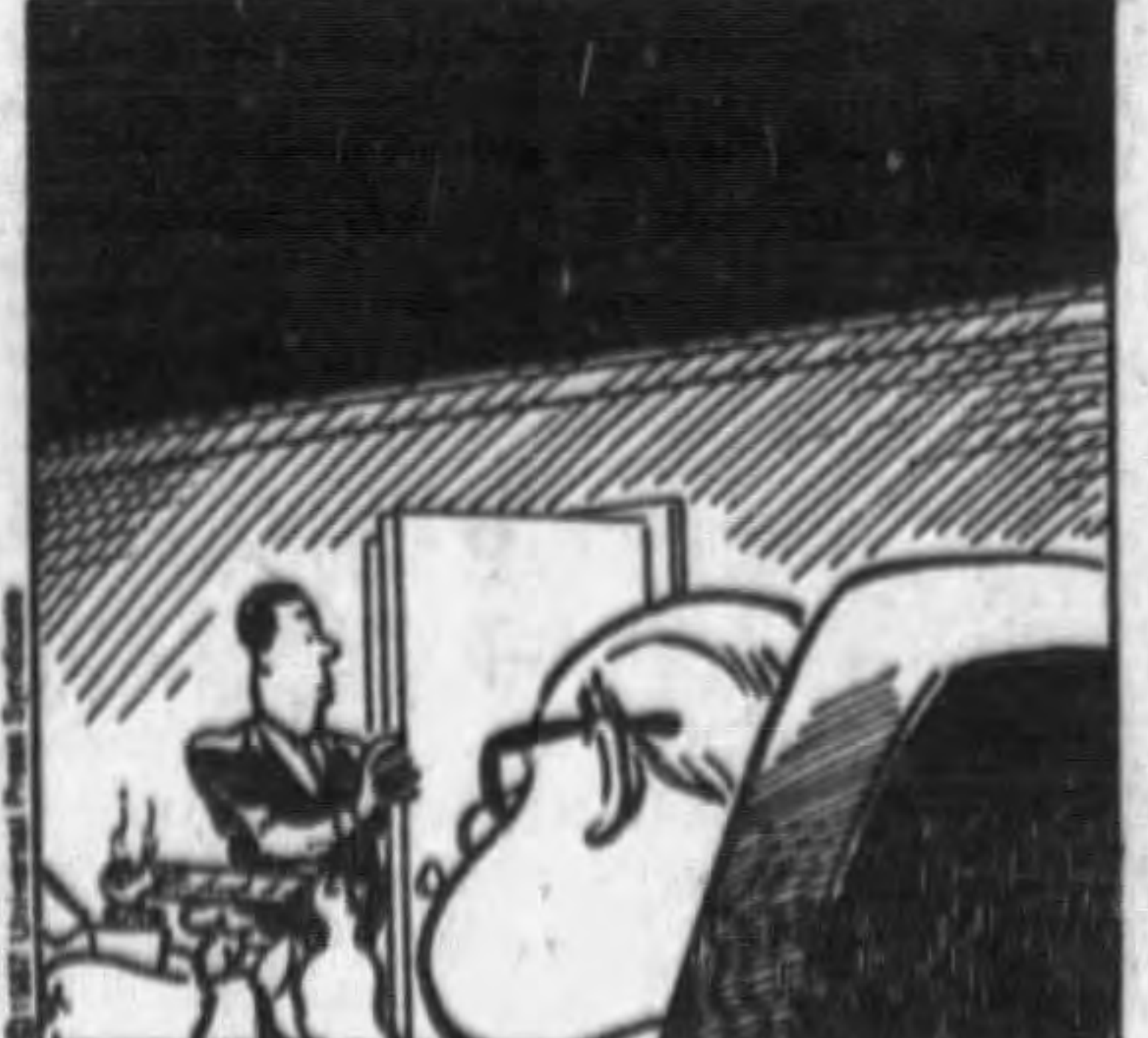
■ The date and site of the next America's Cup (1991) will be announced at a news conference Wednesday at the San Diego Yacht Club. San Diego has the inside track.

■ James P. Graham, president of the Dallas Sidekicks, has resigned to return to his private oil and gas business.

■ A federal magistrate in Miami has refused to set bond for powerboat racing champion Benjamin "Barry" Kramer after testimony from federal agents that Kramer made \$12 million in drug money and was a threat to five people placed in witness protection programs.

Compiled by Mike Conklin, Bill Hageman and Rich Strom from staff, wire reports.

**TANK McNAMARA**



**GIL THORP**

