

SPORTSPEOPLE

Odds & **INS**



By Skip Myslenski & Linda Kay

But could he snap for punts: Kurt Becker, the 280-pound guard/tackle, looked at Jay Hilgenberg, the 260-pound center, and asked: "Did you see me in that sprint on Sunday when I broke the world record?"

"Yeah," replied Hilgenberg, thinking of Ben Johnson's remarkable 9.83-second 100 meters at the World Championships in Rome. Then the All-Pro laughed and added: "That guy would make a great center the way he comes out of the blocks."

How fast was it?

Another impressed by Johnson's feat was wide receiver Willie Gault, who himself has been known to move at a pretty quick pace on occasion. He was, you may recall, a member of the 4x100-meter relay that set a world record at the first track championships four years ago in Helsinki, Finland, and that made him more than just a casual observer of Sunday's race. Says Gault: "You know I watched it. It was great. It made me wish I was there. It's hard to conceive someone can run that fast."

A not-so-grizzled veteran

The sages on ABC's Monday night telecast opined often that Gault—about to begin his fifth season with the Bears—was finally becoming that complete receiver ready to blossom into a true superstar. Does he agree? "I think I've made strides in each of the four years I've been here," replied Gault. "I've worked on the things I've been criticized for—on technique, on running routes, on being a well-rounded receiver. I want to do the little things so no one can say anything. It's been a learning experience and, just like writing for example, the more you do it, the better you become. I don't want to say it's like wine. That has to do with age. But it's like a piece of fruit. You just get riper and riper."

Characterizations ...

... locker room variety: Guard Tom Thayer, on playing the third preseason game, which for the Bears came Monday against the Cardinals: "The first game, you get pumped up because it's the opener. The second one is still exciting because you're working for jobs. The fourth one you're ready to set off firecrackers and get going because the next week's the real thing. But the third one is like the second week of training camp. You're just thinking you want this thing over with." ... Hilgenberg, on the much-discussed new Mike Tomczak: "He has a chip on his shoulder from last year. I'm sure he's upset he didn't play in the playoff game [against Washington], and I think that's good." ... Thayer, a close friend of both the old and new Tomczak, on the same subject: "I'm not sure upset is the right word. Hurt. Let down. Disappointed. I think one of those. But he was still a young player then, and he couldn't say much. He couldn't be aggressive and say what he wanted. But this year I've found he's not apprehensive about anything—about calling audibles, about waiting an extra second to throw. He's in control of himself, and he's got the confidence now to make decisions. He's at the point now where he wants to prove to everybody that he's a legitimate NFL starting quarterback."

Characterizations ...

... broadcast booth variety: Al Michaels, after noting that Mike Ditka is thinking of fining overweight William Perry as much as \$2,000 a pound: "That works out to \$125 an ounce, which means he can go to a sauna for an hour and save a Rolex." To which Dan Dierdorf replied: "If he goes to a sauna for an hour, he'll need swim fins to get out." ... Dierdorf, after Dennis McKinnon was clothed by Cards safety Leonard Smith and Gifford said surviving the hit will help the receiver's confidence as he comes back from his knee injury: "If that's what it takes to get confidence, I'll stay insecure." ... And one more Dierdorf, this time after Jim McMahon—sans sunglasses—is caught smiling on the sidelines: "Take a look at those eyeballs. You rarely get a chance to see them."

News, notes and nonsense

Monday's Bears-Cards game may have been a sorry exhibition, but it was ABC's highest-rated preseason game since Sept. 7, 1975. ... Tuesday was cutdown day in the National Football League, and looking for possible future pickups Monday night at Soldier Field were scouts from Cleveland, Pittsburgh, Kansas City, Los Angeles Raiders, New York Giants, Denver, New England, Detroit, Seattle, and Toronto and Winnipeg of the Canadian Football League. ... Tomczak is Thursday's guest on "Chicago Tonight With John Callaway" at 7 p.m. on WTTW-TV (Channel 11). ... Attorney Steve Zucker, who represents McMahon and other Bears, answers questions at Ditka's Wednesday night while taping "Sportsbeat 50" with Doug Buffone and Rich King. After the final race at Arlington Park that afternoon, Ditka's Trackside hosts an antidrug event to benefit the Racing Industries Drug Rehabilitation Association. ... Ohio State's Cris Carter, who was stripped of his college eligibility after signing up with an agent, is interviewed during halftime of Wednesday's Pitt-Brigham Young game at 7 p.m. on ESPN.

And finally, with a bow to the music group Chicago, Does anybody know what time it is/Does anybody really care: On Monday, the Bears played their third preseason game; the White Sox and Cubs played their 130th regular-season games; the World Championships continued in Rome; the Canada Cup (that's international hockey, folks) continued in Canada; the International Festival of Racing was two days old; the college football season was one day old; the U.S. Open (that's tennis, folks) was one day away from beginning; and the mailman brought St. John's preseason basketball prospectus and the October issue of Inside Sports that included its National Hockey League preview (the Canadiens win the Stanley Cup nine months from now).

He shoots an ace and still winds up losing the hole

Four golfers hit holes-in-one Monday at an amateur golf tournament in Decatur, Ga., but the rules prevented one golfer from winning the prize of a car or a boat that goes with an ace.

The club pro at Burningtrees Country Club, where the Sheriffs' Boys and Girls Ranches Golf Tournament was being played Monday, said he had never seen a car given away for a hole-in-one before.

"I've been a golf pro for 11 years and I've never seen a hole-in-one car go," said Mike Parrish.

Each of the country club's four par-3 holes had two pins on it, and each pin corresponded to a car or a boat for a hole-in-one.

The first hole-in-one went to Emory Hubbard, a deputy for the Jefferson County Sheriff's Department. Hubbard won a 1988 Mercury Tracer valued at \$10,088 after his ace on the 12th hole.

A few minutes later, Gary Whitt, an Amsouth Bank employee, aced the same hole as Hubbard, but the rules said it didn't count for a prize.

"I stood there and watched the guy in front of me make his and jump around," Whitt said. "I was the first one up to the tee, and I hit my tee shot right at it, and bingo, it goes in the hole."

"The guy riding with me went crazy thinking I had won something. But after checking the rules, it states that the first hole-in-one wins the prize."

The two other holes-in-one went to Decatur insurance agent Lep Wenzler, who won a 1987 Volkswagen Fox for his ace on No. 14, and to Hill Womble of Decatur, who won a \$7,800-foot Sylvan boat for his hole-in-one on No. 3.



Florence Griffith of the U.S. displays the latest in track and field fashions Tuesday during a 200-meter heat at the World Championships in Rome. She won in 22.56 seconds to gain the semifinals.

Well, it was fun while it lasted

Along with scuffballs and corked bats, add potatoes to the list of innovative baseball tactics used in 1987.

Williamsport catcher Dave Bresnahan threw a potato at third base Monday during an Eastern League game with the Reading Phillies. Reading's Rick Lundblade, not realizing the object was a spud, raced for home, where Bresnahan pulled a baseball from his glove and tagged him.

When the dust cleared, Lundblade and Reading manager George Culver protested, and plate umpire Scott Potter ruled Lundblade safe at home.

Bresnahan was charged with an error, but was allowed to finish the inning. He won't finish the season, however. Tuesday night, he was given his release.

General Manager Bill Terlecky said the 25-year-old second-string catcher was released with permission from the Indians. Williamsport is their Double-A club.

"Bresnahan took it pretty hard when I told him he was released," said manager Orlando Gomez, who fined him \$50 after the game. "But I won't tolerate that kind of stuff."

Bresnahan was his fourth season in the Indians' farm system. He batted .149 for Williamsport in 52 games.

The Bills won the game 4-3.



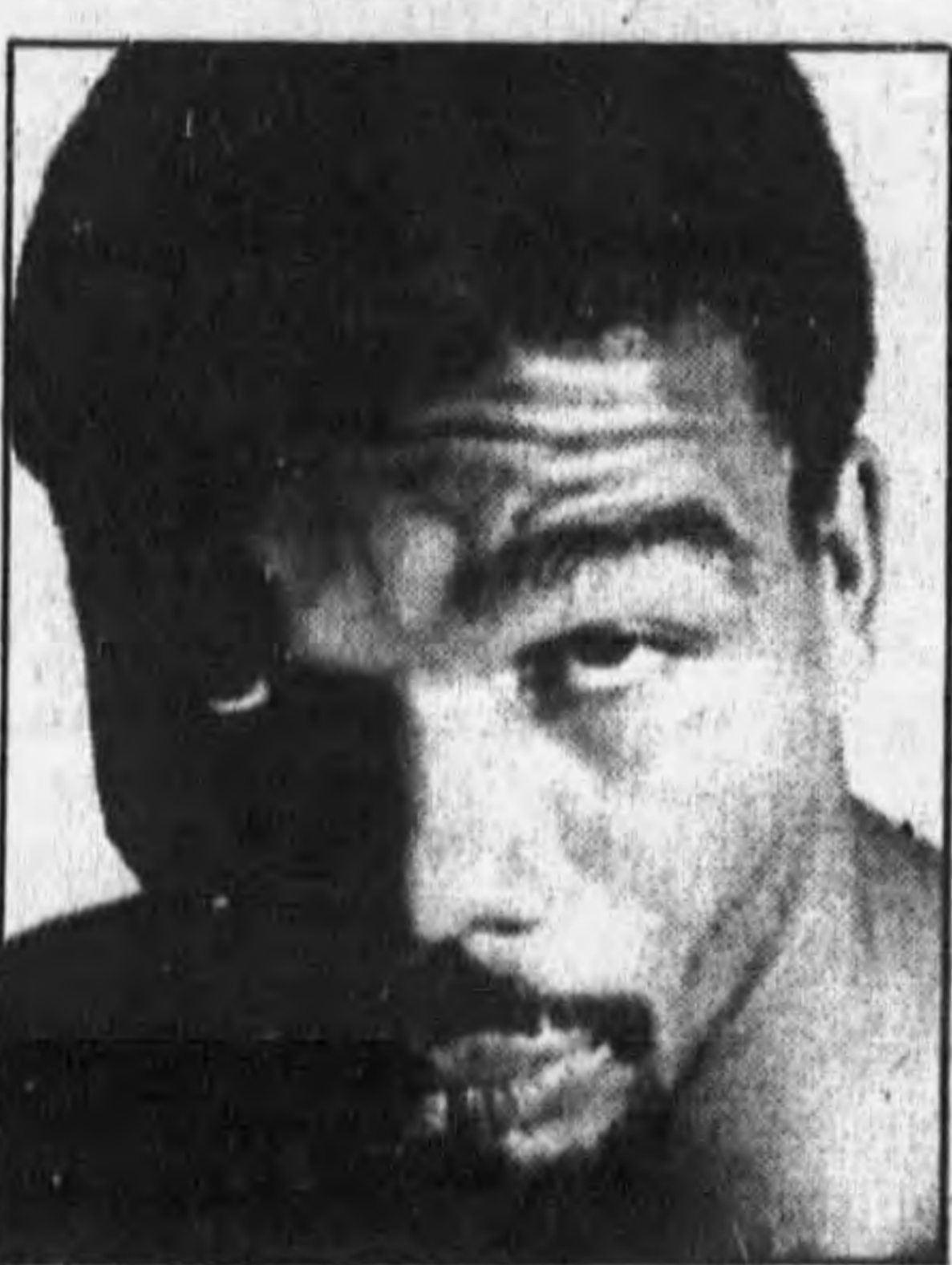
With Iowa's loss to Tennessee in the Kickoff Classic, Northwestern has the longest winning streak in Big 10 football at two. The Wildcats closed the 1986 season with victories against Michigan State [24-21] and Illinois [23-18]. Coach Francis Peay's team opens the new season Sept. 12 at Duke.

Speaking of current events, how's World War II going?

Florida quarterback Kerwin Bell, a Heisman Trophy candidate, knows how isolated prison can be. He celebrated his birthday recently by speaking to a group of prisoners at a county work farm near Gainesville.

The prisoners turned out to be fans of the Miami Hurricanes and held up posters of ex-Miami star Bernie Kosar, now with the Browns.

"They didn't have any pictures of Vinny," said Bell, "so I guess they must have got sent to jail before Testaverde won the Heisman Trophy."



Alfonzo Ratliff



Lee Roy Murphy

They sound like fighting words

Once, these Chicagoans were known as the toughest cruiserweights in the world: Lee Roy Murphy with his International Boxing Federation 190-pound crown and Alfonso Ratliff with his World Boxing Council title.

That was two years ago, before Ratliff lost his title to Bernard Benton and was knocked out by Mike Tyson and Murphy lost his title when he was stopped by Ricky Parkey.

Now Murphy thinks it's time to decide one last thing: the toughest cruiserweight on the South Side.

Murphy (26-2), who lost to Dwight Muhammad Qawi last month in an elimination bout to fight for Evander Holyfield's cruiserweight title, said he wants to fight just once more and then retire.

"Ratliff, and that would be it," says Murphy, 29, who grew up in the Robert Taylor Homes. "Years and years, he's been dodging me, just talking, calling me a Pillsbury doughboy. We'll see who'll be the doughboy when I get done with him. All he's doing is picking on innocent fighters in the city, like a coward."

"Winner take all. However he wants it."

"They keep sending Chicago guys after me," says Ratliff, 31, whose last two wins were over area fighters Craig Bodzianowski and Henry Sims, "but they keep losing, and Murphy would be the next."

Ratliff (23-4), who grew up near 77th and Ingleside, recently was offered a chance to fight Frank Bruno in London but rejected it because his hands were still sore from the Sims fight.

He says he may be on the undercard of the Mike Tyson-Tyrell Biggs fight next month in Atlantic City and hopes to get another shot at the title.

Ratliff now holds the Illinois cruiserweight title, which he won when he defeated Bodzianowski last April. He says he'd be glad to give Murphy a chance to win it, but there is one problem.

"I don't know if they'd have a big enough belt for Murphy to wear," said Ratliff.

5 yards, \$5 million in damages

Fresno State opponents would be wise to avoid roughing kicker and punter Barry Belli. He is a relative of internationally famous lawyer Melvin Belli.

Chicago receives big endorsements

Chicago may be known as the Second City, but we're definitely second to none when it comes to having marketable athletes.

According to the cover story in the current BusinessWeek, the Bulls' Michael Jordan and the Bears' Jim McMahon are among the top four jocks at raking in endorsement money.

Never mind that the Bulls can't seem to get past the first round of the National Basketball Association playoffs. Jordan realizes a cool \$4 million from affiliations with five large companies, according to BusinessWeek.

McMahon hasn't played a down since November, but the magazine said he will pick up an extra \$3 million. That's not chicken feed for getting to eat tacos on TV, but it's \$2 million less than tennis star Boris Becker makes.

"More than 3,400 U.S. companies will spend \$1.35 billion to sponsor sporting events this year," said BusinessWeek. "They'll spend another \$500 million hiring athletes as endorsers."

The article pointed out that companies are more interested in sponsoring the events themselves because there is growing apprehension over athletes' growing problems with drugs.

The magazine estimated the 1988 Winter and Summer Olympics have drawn the most sponsorship income this year, \$350 million. Auto racing is second at \$276 million.

Phillip Morris, which includes General Foods and Miller Brewing, is the top spender, according to BusinessWeek, with an estimated \$85 million in expenditures in sports sponsorship and advertising.

Money-makers

Athlete, sport	Endorsement income*
Boris Becker, tennis	\$5.0
Michael Jordan, basketball	4.0
Greg Norman, golf	4.0
Jim McMahon, football	3.0
Dennis Conner, sailing	1.8
Gary Carter, baseball	0.6

* In millions of dollars

Chicago Tribune Graphic; Source: Business Week

BRIEFS

Alabama basketball player Derrick McKey has enrolled in school and will play his senior season with the Crimson Tide if the NCAA restores his eligibility. McKey, the Southeastern Conference's Player of the Year, was ruled ineligible by Alabama officials in May after they learned he had signed a promissory note for \$2,500 with agent Norby Walters. Alabama coach Wimp Sanderson said he will explore an appeal with the NCAA. It restored Pittsburgh football player Teryl Austin's eligibility last week. He also admitted accepting money from Walters but repaid the loan. McKey's situation is different because he made himself available for the NBA draft and was taken in the first round by the Seattle SuperSonics.

The Bulls will play the Utah Jazz on Oct. 17 in Pittsburgh, the first time since 1979 that NBA basketball has been played there. The Los Angeles Lakers, playing in Pittsburgh for the first time since 1966, will meet the New Jersey Nets on Oct. 28. Bulls coach Doug Collins said playing in Pittsburgh was fine with him. "We sold out in Nashville last year after winning only 30 games the year before," Collins said. "I know Pittsburgh can't wait to see Michael Jordan. He is something special, with a flair and a charisma few players have had."

Arizona State linebacker Stacy Harvey, who appealed to school administrators to accept a summer correspondence class to retain his academic eligibility, will be allowed to rejoin the team on Sept. 13. Harvey will miss the first game Sept. 12 at Illinois. ASU President J. Russell Nelson overruled a decision last week by Faculty Representative Marianne Jennings. She then resigned. "My decision was totally undetermined," she said. "I knew this summer when I came across the shortage in this young man's hours that one way or another he would be playing football."

A federal judge has set bond at \$200,000 for former Tigers pitcher Denny McLain, 43, who has been in prison for 28 months on racketeering and drug charges. McLain's attorney, Arnold Levine, said he expected McLain to be released from the Federal Correctional Institution in Talladega, Ala., no later than Monday.

Estes Park, Colo., has withdrawn as a host of the Coors International Bicycle Classic after eight years. "The cost of the race has jumped from \$5,000 a few years ago to \$8,000 to \$10,000 this year," said Barry Myers, who chairs the town's advertising committee. "And they were asking us to supply them with 250 to 300 free [hotel] rooms next year. Ever tried to get 300 free rooms in Estes Park in August?"

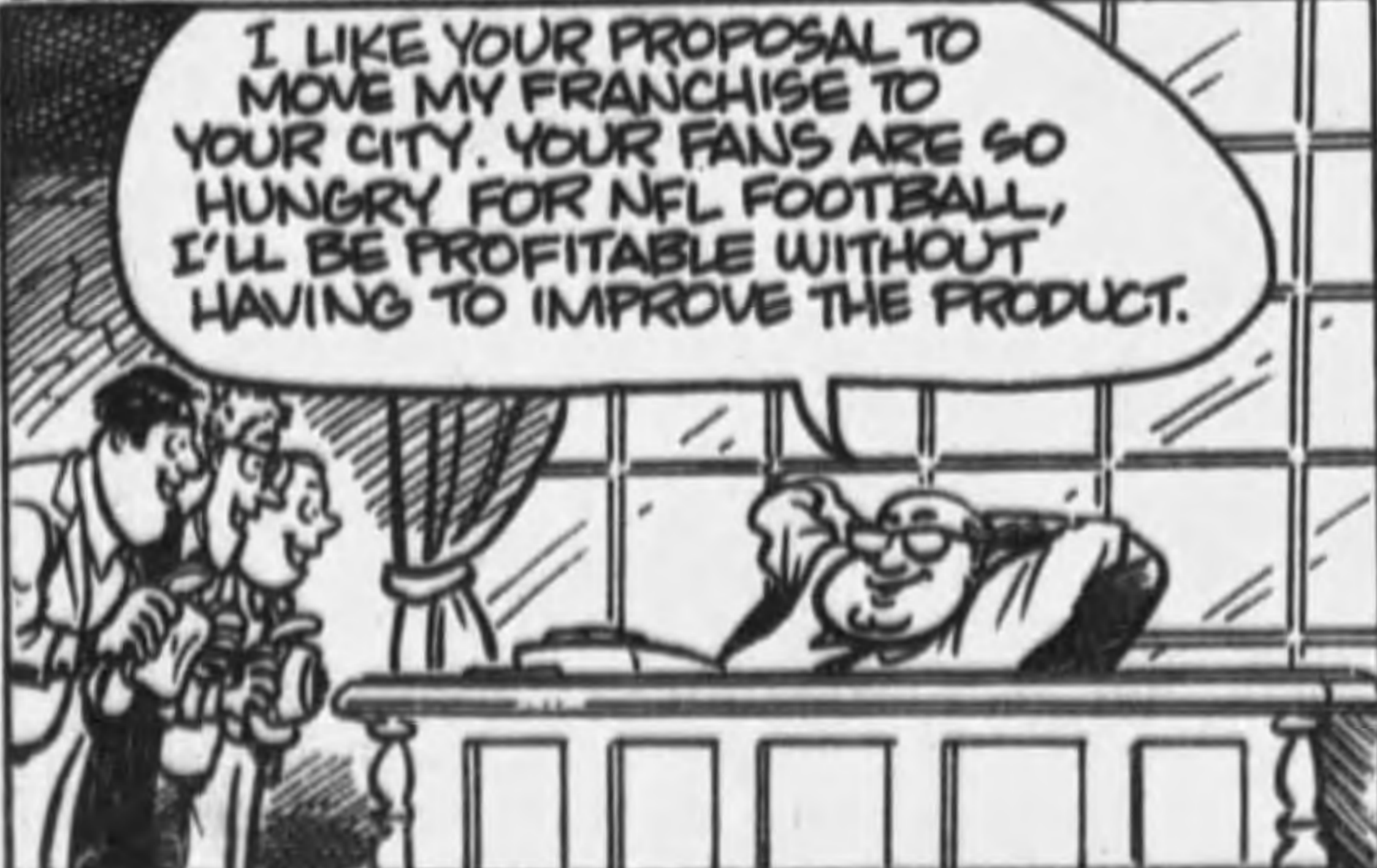
The Soviet Union won the first women's team time trial in the World Cycling Championships at Villach, Austria. Competing on a 50-kilometer out-and-back circuit, the four-woman Soviet team edged the U.S. squad by five seconds to take the gold. Their winning time was 1:05:53. The U.S. squad clocked 1:05:58.

San Diego will be the site of the next America's Cup yachting series, the Los Angeles Times reported Tuesday. The Times, citing an unidentified source, said the seven-member America's Cup Committee was ready to vote San Diego the next host in 1990-91. Hawaii had been considered the only real challenger to San Diego, home of Dennis Conner, the skipper who won the Cup from Australia last February in Fremantle. In comparing San Diego with Hawaii and windy Fremantle, many top yacht racers said light-aired San Diego might make for poor competition.

North Korea, still seeking to stage more of the events of the 1988 Olympics, said Tuesday it regretted that the International Olympic Commission was insisting on acceptance of its latest offer. The North's official Korean Central News Agency, monitored in Tokyo, said the country's Olympic committee had replied by demanding anew that a fifth round of talks be held on the issue. The IOC's latest proposal, made at the fourth round of talks in July, offered the North five sports.

Compiled by Mike Conklin, John Dowd and Mike O'Donnell from staff, wire reports.

TANK McNAMARA



GIL THORP

