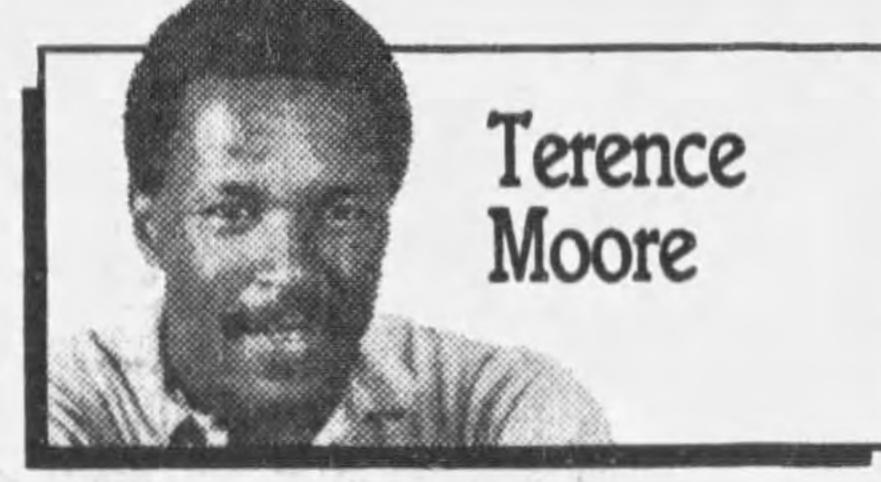
Alabama coach Bill Curry not worried about critics or expectations B Page 3-E Sports

THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION

*** WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 1987



SECTION E

Donnelly can't hide from kicking feats

Say, isn't that Rick Donnelly, the Atlanta Falcons punter who prefers to

McKey back at Bama, wants reinstatement

By David Davidson

College Editor Derrick McKey, the SEC basketball player of the year and first-round NBA draft pick, has re-enrolled at Alabama with the intention of playing his senior season, according to his attorney.

Norman Blass, based in New York, said an appeal would be made to the NCAA for reinstatement. McKey was declared ineligible in May for signing a contract with

agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom. McKey also admitted accepting \$2,500 from

them during his junior season. On the day after being ruled ineligible, McKey made himself available for the NBA draft, and he was taken by the Seattle SuperSonics with the ninth pick in the first round. But Blass said Tuesday that, given a choice between signing a contract with Seattle and returning to Alabama for his senior season, McKey would return to

Alabama.

"Derrick has indicated to me that if he could be reinstated, he would like to be reinstated," Blass said. "He has re-enrolled in school because he could not be reinstated if he didn't. It represents the first step that would have to be taken (to regain his eligibility)."

That hope arose last week when the NCAA restored the eligibility of University of Pittsburgh senior defensive back Teryl Austin, who also broke NCAA rules in his dealings with Walters and Bloom.

McKey has not signed a contract with the Sonics - the NBA's collective bargaining agreement prevents teams from signing players before Oct. 1 - and, according to Blass, has terminated his relationship with Walters and **Bloom**.

However, McKey also violated NCAA

See McKEY, Back Page

speak with his right foot? Yep. He's trying to sneak into obscurity again. He's having trouble doing so these days. For one, he's averaging 47.8 yards per punt after three preseason games. For another, he's entering his junior year in the NFL after finishing in the top four among league punters as a freshman and a sophomore.

Got a minute, Rick?

"Do you really want to speak to me?" says Donnelly, grimacing while walking toward his room at the Falcons' training facility in Suwanee. "I really don't know what to say. What do you want to talk about?"

We could start with punting.

"Well, uh, all right," says Donnelly, ending his retreat for the moment. He finds a seat in the shade of a nearby tree, and he starts to tell the story of how a Long Island, N.Y., native matriculated to the University of Wyoming, was cut as a free agent by the New England Patriots, was signed as a free agent by the Falcons and became one of the best-kept secrets in professional football. Midway through his wonderful story, Donnelly stops. He can't stand talking about himself too long, so he motions for his wife, Jackie, to take over.

"He tries to stay in no more than a fair mood at all times," she says, nudging her husband. "When he comes home after having a good game, he's a little different than he normally is, but not much. He really isn't one to say anything about himself, and if somebody else compliments him for one of his good games, he'll downplay it all."

A God-given gift of resiliency



Moses has vengeance by a neck

Results, Page 8-E By Karen Rosen Staff Writer

ROME - Edwin Moses doesn't usually stick his neck out to win races, but he needed to Tuesday.

His neck led his torso across the finish line two-hundredths of a second ahead of fellow American Danny Harris and West German Harald Schmid in the 400meter hurdles at the World Championships. The desperate closing surge gave Moses a taste of revenge before 48,000 fans at Olympic Stadium.

Schmid was the last hurdler to defeat Moses before his streak of 122 straight victories was ended by Harris in June. Moses also lost a July race in Paris when he fell on a wet track. The winner of that race, El Hady Amadou Dia Ba of Senegal, finished fifth Tuesday.

Although Moses didn't set a world record with a time of 47.46 seconds, missing by .44, the order of finish through the first five places was the same as the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles: Moses, Harris (47.48), Schmid (47.48), Sven Nylander of Sweden (48.37) and Dia Ba (48.37).

See, Donnelly knows injuries can make greatness come and go in a flash. In 1982, he required back surgery, but he recovered well enough to become the country's third most productive punter during his final season at Wyoming. Then there was the ligament he tore in his punting knee during the 11th week of his rookie 1985 season with the Falcons. That kept him disabled until 1986, but he proceeded to rank behind only the Giants' Sean Landeta among NFC punters at that season's end. He calls his resiliency, along with his proficiency, "God-given gifts."

He works hard, too. His preparation for the upcoming season began last April when he made the daily trip from his home in Lawrenceville to Suwanee. He brought along his wife.

"Hey, somebody's gotta do the snapping," says Donnelly, laughing. "She's gotten a lot better at it, too. My main reason for starting to practice in April is to be ready before training camp begins. So I kick and kick and kick during the spring, and then when I come here during the summer I can work on the finer things. There isn't much mental preparation to do. You can think about kicking all you want, but it's instinctive. Once the ball is snapped, the body takes over."

Adaptable, but not sports-minded

Donnelly says his body isn't exactly the prototype for aspiring punters. He sees the linebacker build of Miami's Reggie Roby, he remembers that retired punter Ray Guy was the Los Angeles Raiders' third-string quarterback, and Donnelly shrugs over his 6-foot, 190pound frame that features a surgically repaired back and knee. "Since I really don't have the size or the flexibility of other punters, I have to give everything just to keep up," he says. " My back doesn't give like it used to, but I've adapted to it." He has adapted so well that he says he isn't thinking of running away from the NFL any time soon, say, to do something with his administration of justice degree. There remains that possibility. Despite starring for his high school team as a punter, placekicker and quarterback, and despite having enough talent to receive collegiate offers from several Eastern powers, and despite his current prowess, Donnelly says he isn't sports-minded. As a youth, he says he knew about Ray Guy, the greatest punter in NFL history, but he says he did mostly other things when his TV screen featured somebody kicking, throwing, shooting or catching a

The Associated Press

Edwin Moses (right) sticks his neck across finish line ahead of Danny Harris (left) and Harald Schmid. Schmid was the last

hurdler to beat Moses before his streak of 122 straight victories, and Harris was the hurdler who ended it in June.

Harris, Schmid and Nylander set personal bests.

"The event is really strong," said Moses. "If I can say so myself, I've created a monster."

Moses, who turned 32 on Monday, has now won two World Championships and two Olympic gold medals. He called Tuesday's win "the toughest race ever in my career."

See TRACK, Page 9-E

Campbell talks Falcons out of strike bonuses

Falcons Notebook, Page 2-E Falcons up offer to Miller, Page 9-E Andrews gets financial boost, Page 9-E By Glenn Sheeley Staff Writer

Atlanta Falcons ownership, acceding to the wishes of head coach Marion Campbell, has decided not to give \$1,000 bonuses to released players who agree to return in the event of a strike.

At the recommendation of the NFL Management Council, some teams are offer-

ing players "strike-option contracts" upon cutting them this week. If the players sign the contract, which obligates them to play during a strike if requested, they receive a non-refundable \$1,000 bonus. The Falcons considered the action until Campbell stepped in Tuesday.

"We haven't put out one penny," Campbell said. "We're not going to get kids to participate in that. You get two or three, you've still got 40 to go. You check around the league, I bet you won't have 15 or 20 people."

Falcons president and part-owner Rankin Smith Jr. left the decision to Campbell "Marion said 'forget it,' and that's fine with me," Smith said.

Campbell also went out of his way to inform some veteran players of his decision Tuesday.

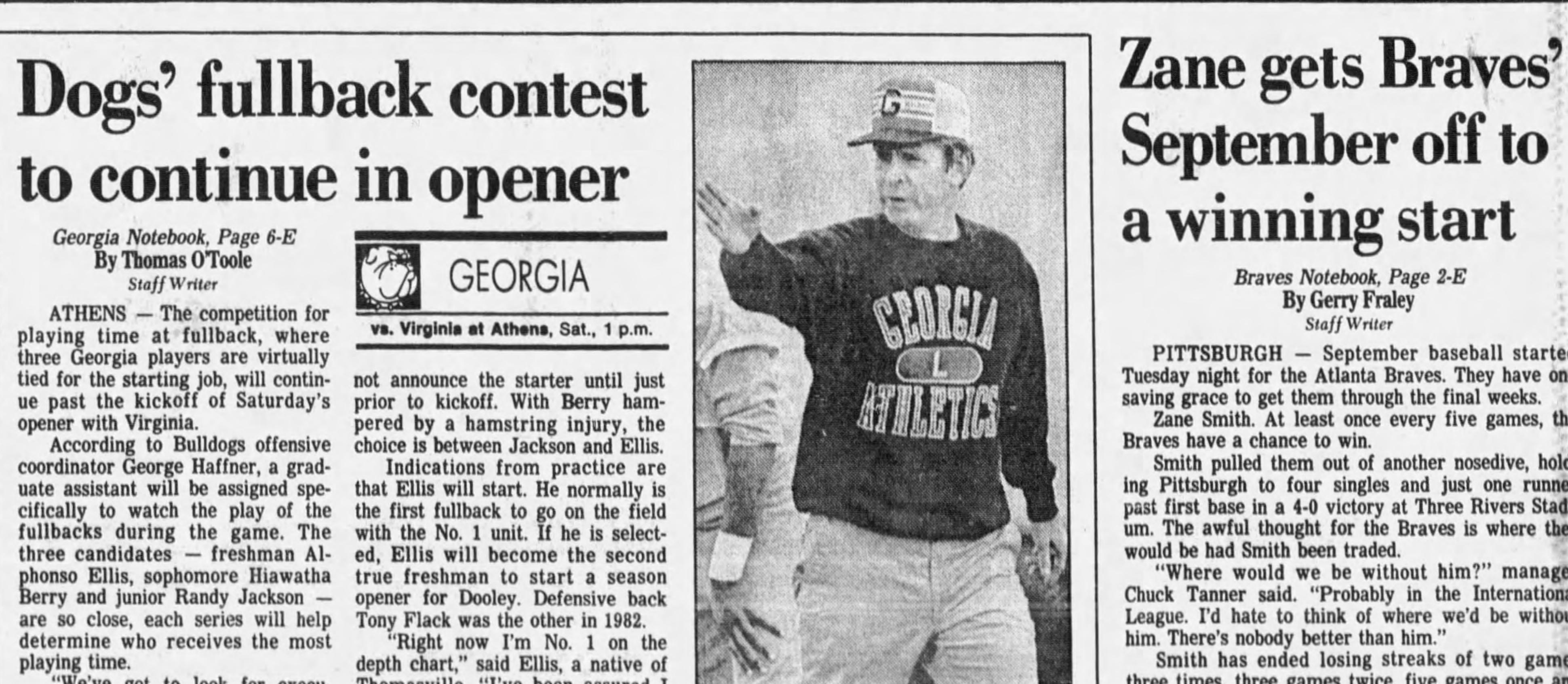
The Falcons' position did not surprise NFL Management Council director Jack Donlan, the owners' chief negotiator with the players' union, who said solidarity was not stressed on this issue.

"We left it up to each individual club

and, contrary to the union's beliefs, there are 28 imaginations among the owners," said Donlan. "Some clubs are doing it; some are not. It's just an option we recommended."

The players' union has vowed to strike at an unspecified point during the season if a new collective bargaining agreement is not reached. The previous agreement expired at midnight Monday.

See FALCONS, Page 9-E



Georgia offensive coordinator George

Haffner is closely monitoring the play

of Alphonso Ellis, Hiawatha Berry and

the second of the

Randy Jackson at fullback.

"I'm punting in the NFL, not because l love the game so much, but because this is what I can do best," Donnelly says, standing and smiling. "I'll stay in the game just as long as they want me. I'm just glad I had this opportunity."

to continue in opener

Georgia Notebook, Page 6-E By Thomas O'Toole Staff Writer

ATHENS — The competition for playing time at fullback, where three Georgia players are virtually tied for the starting job, will continue past the kickoff of Saturday's opener with Virginia.

According to Bulldogs offensive coordinator George Haffner, a graduate assistant will be assigned specifically to watch the play of the fullbacks during the game. The three candidates - freshman Alphonso Ellis, sophomore Hiawatha Berry and junior Randy Jackson are so close, each series will help determine who receives the most playing time.

"We've got to look for execution," said Haffner. "We want to see their performance and how they execute their assignments as the game progresses."

Head coach Vince Dooley will

Thomasville. "I've been assured will get the opportunity to play. I'm not as concerned about starting as I am with doing well. We'll do a lot

See GEORGIA, Back Page

September off to a winning start

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

PITTSBURGH — September baseball started Tuesday night for the Atlanta Braves. They have one saving grace to get them through the final weeks.

Zane Smith. At least once every five games, the Braves have a chance to win.

Smith pulled them out of another nosedive, holding Pittsburgh to four singles and just one runner past first base in a 4-0 victory at Three Rivers Stadium. The awful thought for the Braves is where they would be had Smith been traded.

"Where would we be without him?" manager Chuck Tanner said. "Probably in the International League. I'd hate to think of where we'd be without him. There's nobody better than him."

Smith has ended losing streaks of two games three times, three games twice, five games once and six games once. In a rotation that has three rookies and one potential free agent who was nearly traded (David Palmer), Smith means everything to the Braves.

See BRAVES, Page 5-E

Wednesday, September 2, 1987 ** THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION

3 E

Sports etcetera

All holes-in-one not created equal

BETWEEN

When four Decatur, Ala., golfers hit holes-in-one at an amateur golf tournament Monday in Decatur, only three received the prize of a car or boat that went with an ace.

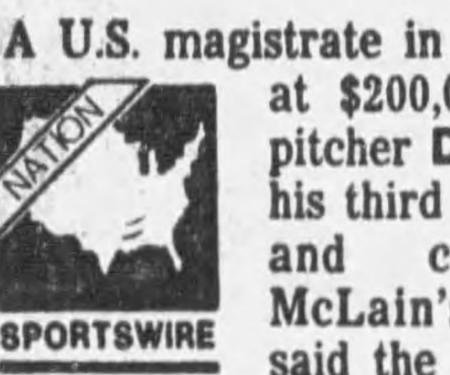
Gary Whitt was denied a 1988 Mercury Tracer, valued at \$10,088, for his hole-in-one on the 12th hole at Burningtree Country Club because Emory Hubbard, a Jefferson County sheriff's deputy, already had aced the hole.

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



McLain waits for new trial with bond set at \$200,000

From Wire Reports



alistic."

U.S. magistrate in Tampa, Fla. set bond Tuesday at \$200,000 for former Detroit Tigers pitcher Denny McLain, who is awaiting his third trial on racketeering, extortion and cocaine-possession charges McLain's lawyer, Arnold D. Levine, said the two-time American League Cy Young winner may be released from Talladega, Ala., federal prison Friday, "but Monday seems more re-

Levine said paperwork must be filled out to secure the personal surety bond for McLain, who was convicted March 16, 1985, after an earlier trial ended in mistrial Nov. 16, 1984. He was sentenced April 25, 1985, to eight years for racketeering, conspiracy and extortion and 15 years for cocaine possession. But the 11th U.S. District Court of Appeals threw out McLain's conviction Aug. 7 and ordered a new trial.

into San Diego's economy. Hawaii had been considered the only real challenger to the California city.

Louisiana race trainers investigated

More Louisiana thoroughbred trainers could be suspended and more arrests could result from the latest round of post-race tests for Dilaudid in race horses, the Dallas Morning News reported Tues-

Minnesota quarterback Foggie ineligible

University of Minnesota quarterback Rickey Foggie was declared ineligible Tuesday by a university committee for accepting a loan from an assistant coach to buy an airplane ticket, the university said. The university's Assembly Committee on Intercollegiate Athletics "has declared Foggie ineligible as it is required to do under NCAA legislation and has authorized an appeal to reinstate the eligibility for 10 of the 11 regularly scheduled football games," sports information director Bob Peterson said.

"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."

Each of the country club's four par-3 holes had two pins, pin corresponding to a car or boat for a holein-one.

Whitt did get some consolation as his team won the tournament, held to benefit the Sheriffs' Boys and Girls Ranches, with a 20-under-par 52.

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

Wenzler's ace was his first in 40 years of golf, and he said it was sweetened by winning the car. "It was a great time to get it. It's just like a dream," Wenzler said.

The giveaways were a unique experience for Mike Parrish, club pro at Burningtree.

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

The Associated Press

Running in style

ROME — Florence Griffith of the United States sports a different look as she completes a victorious heat in the women's 200 meters at the World Championships of Track and Field in Olympic Stadium.

Texas may appeal Lott's suspension

University of Texas athletic director DeLoss **Dodds** said he will decide in the next few days whether to appeal the NCAA suspension of cornerback and high jumper James Lott. The university suspended the senior last month after he admitted signing a promissory note to agent Lloyd Bloom for \$800. The NCAA upheld the suspension, and Dodds had said last week the university would not appeal. However, after a meeting with Lott on Monday, Dodds said he is reconsidering. Lott was given new hope of being able to play football last week when the NCAA reinstated Pittsburgh running back Teryl Austin on the condition that he repay a \$2,500 loan from agents Bloom and Norby Walters.

San Diego to host America's Cup

San Diego will be named the site of the next America's Cup competition in 1990-91, the Los Angeles Times reported Tuesday. The Times, citing an unidentified source, said the seven-member America's Cup Committee will make the selection this morning. The regatta is expected to pump \$1 billion

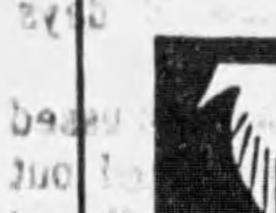
Georgia State wins soccer opener



Bill McLatchie scored two goals to give Georgia State a 2-0 victory over Mercer in its soccer opener. The game was Hugh Beasley's first as head coach of the Crimson Panthers. ... The Confederate Hockey League is accepting applica-

tions for the upcoming season which starts in October. The league is open to Atlanta-area amateur players. All games will be played Wednesday and Thursday nights at Stone Mountain Ice Chalet starting at 10:15 p.m. There will be a 24-game regular season followed by two best-of-three playoff rounds. Applications can be obtained at Stone Mountain Ice Chalet. For additional information call Andy Gross at 688-6118 (days) or 399-5938 (nights), Dan Huntington, 255-8336 (days) or 297-4606 (nights), or Dave Lee at 395-1451.

Five free agents released to reduce the roster to 60 players



507

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Five free agents were cut Tuesday as the Atlanta Falcons reduced their roster to 60. offensive tackle Dave

dinator Rod Dowhower, who went to arbitration before NFL commissioner Pete Rozello on Monday in New York in an attempt to collect unpaid salary from Indianapolis Colts owner Robert Irsay, expects a decision soon. Dowhower, who was fired with an 0-13 record last season, wants \$318,000 in back pay - \$43,000 from 1986 and his \$275,000 salary for 1987. Irsay, who was also present at the hearing, has refused payment. The owner contends Dowhower breached his contract by not speaking with him every Monday and Friday during the season and ignoring a Sept. 26 demand by Irsay to install a



the New England Patriots as of last week were at 40,000, Atlanta owner Rankin Smith Sr. said Tuesday, "I hear they expect 60,000 and I have no reason to doubt - Glenn Sheeley

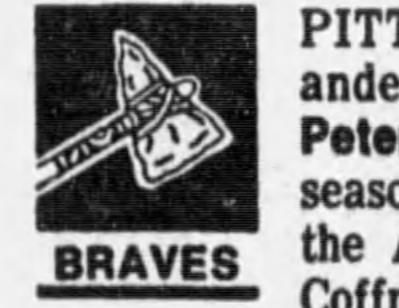
real at Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium. Smith will start Tuesday's home game against San Diego. "This is the direction we have to go in," said manager Chuck Tanner, who returned Jeff Dedmon and Charlie Puleo to the bullpen. "We're trying to get set for the future. I don't care about the standings. We're looking down the road." The Braves' rotation of Zane Smith, David Palmer, Tom Glavine, Peter Smith and Coffman has 89 career wins, 88 by Palmer and Smith. ... The Braves will not face former teammate Pascual Perez in the weekend series against Montreal.

· effer ·

Burnette of Central Arkan-FALCONS sas, wide receiver James Shibest of Arkansas, kicker Donald Shafer of Southern California, cornerback Tim Gordon of Tulsa and defensive end Dwaine Morris of Southeast Louisiana. Free agent wide receiver Bruce Walker of Prairie View, originally announced as waived, was discovered to have pulled a hamstring in practice Monday and was put on injured reserve. ... Offensive coor-

one-back offense. The Falcons have announced their regular-season home opener against Washington on Sept. 20 is a sellout. Six of the Falcons' last nine home regular-season games have been sold out in advance of blackout laws. Although ticket sales in Jacksonville, Fla., for the Falcons' Friday night game with

Coffman, Peter Smith in rotation



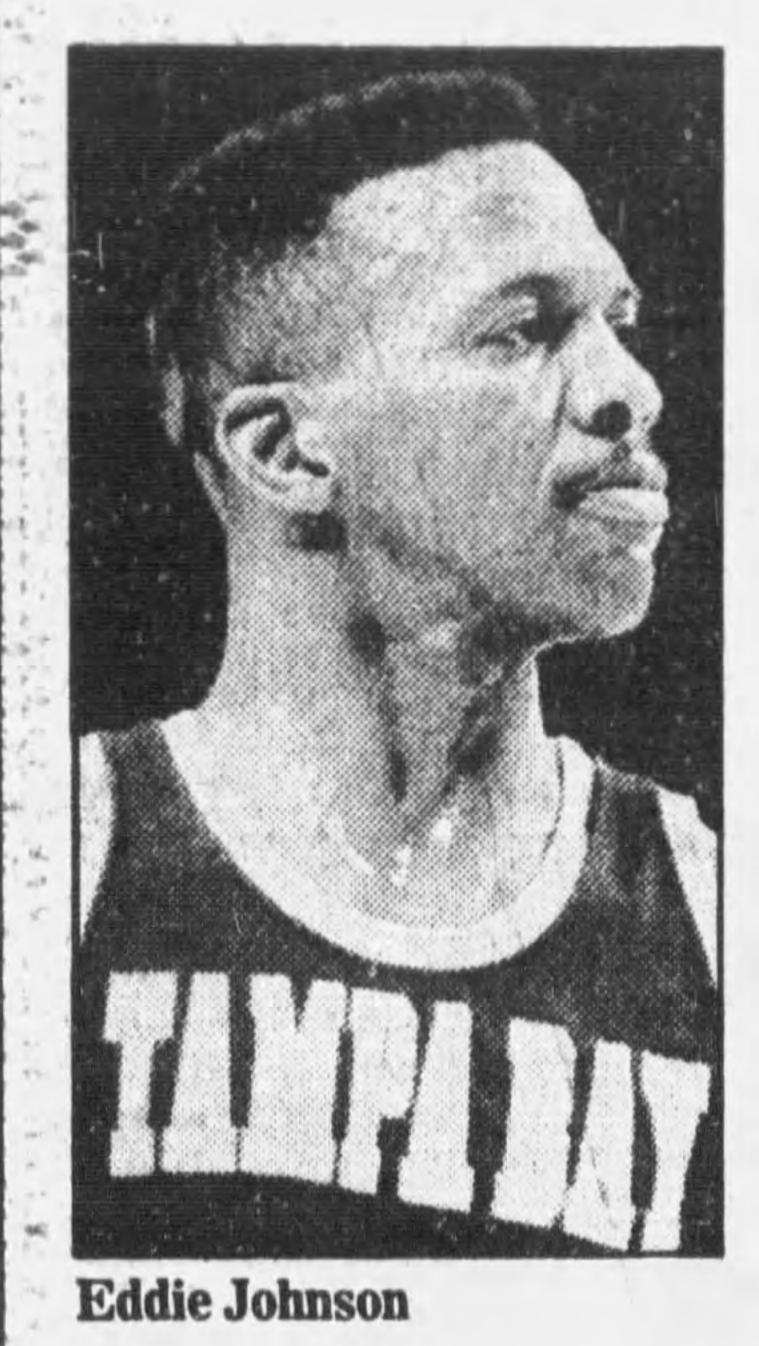
anders Kevin Coffman and PITTSBURGH - Righth-Peter Smith, at Class AA all season, have assumed spots in the Atlanta Braves' rotation. Coffman will make his first major-league start Saturday against Mont-



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Wednesday, September 2, 1987 ** THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION

Ex-Hawk Johnson arrested for passing bad check



By Earnest Reese Staff Writer

Former Atlanta Hawks guard Eddie Johnson was arrested early Tuesday and charged with passing a bad check and theft of services.

A warrant was issued Monday for the arrest of Johnson, 31, after he allegedly wrote a \$385 check for payment of a hotel bill at the Hyatt Regency in downtown Atlanta. The theft-of-services charge resulted from Johnson allegedly failing to pay a cab driver who drove him to the hotel.

"He wrote the check for \$385 on an account that had been closed two or three months," said Atlanta police detective J.A. Satterfield.

Johnson, an Atlanta resident, checked into the Regency last Friday. He checked out, allegedly passing the bad check, and returned at about 1:45 a.m. Tuesday attempting to acquire another room. He was arrested shortly thereafter.

"He came back and attempted to write another check," said Satterfield, who was called to scene while Johnson was attempting to check back in.

Johnson is being held at the Atlanta City Jail pending a hearing scheduled for Sept. 9. Bond was set at

\$800.

Johnson, a former third-round draft pick from Auburn, played for the Hawks nine years before being traded to Cleveland in 1986 for guard Johnny Davis. He played with the Cavaliers for less than a season before being released.

He began last season with the Tampa Bay Spirits of the Continental Basketball Association before returning to the NBA with Seattle for the last month of the season.

"He told me he was getting ready to sign another contract with Seattle," Satterfield said of Johnson. "He said he wrote the check because (Regency employees) did not give him the respect he demanded."

Johnson played in 24 regular-season games for Seattle last season and averaged 9.0 points and 4.8 assists. SuperSonics officials denied any contract negotiations with Johnson, but maintained that the arrest would have little bearing on a decision to sign, or not to sign him.

"We have not begin talks with Eddie or any other (free agent) because of a moratorium, but we certainly would not run away from him because of this," Sonics public relations director Jim Rupp said.



Lendl rumbles; Becker nearly stumbles at Open

Scores, Page 8-E From Wire Reports



新学校

NEW YORK — Defending champions Ivan Lendl and Martina Navratilova breezed past their opening-round opponents at the U.S. Open Tuesday, but Boris Becker had to overcome a two-set deficit for the first time in his pro fessional career to make it to the second round.

Becker, the fourth seed, struggled for more than four hours before subduing Tim Wilkison of Asheville, N.C., 4-6, 4-6, 7-5, 6-4, 6-2. Wilkison, the only American man to reach the quarterfinals of the Open in 1986, had boasted he would beat Becker.

"I don't think I've ever played such a firstround match," said the 19-year-old Eecker, who put in only 52 percent of his first serves and committed 14 double faults.

Lendl overpowered South African Barry Moir 6-0, 6-0, 6-0, while Navratilova beat Kate Gompert 6-1, 6-1.

In another opening-day match, four-time Open winner John McEnroe defeated Matt Anger 6-3, 6-2, 6-2. McEnroe lost to Paul Annacone in the first round of last year's Open.

Lendl's shutout on the hardcourts of the National Tennis Center was the first in men's singles since the Open moved there in 1978. He dominated Moir, the Norrell-Georgia State Hardcourt champion, from the opening game, when he broke the South African's serve. The top seed hit 21 winners to Moir's six, led in aces 5-0 and won 79 of the 108 points in the match.

Moir, ranked 122nd in the world, won only 29

percent of the points when he got his first serve

"He just doesn't have any power," said Lendl, who is seeking his third straight Open title. "His best shot is his return of serve, but I don't come in and it didn't hurt me. He plays basically the same game as me, but I hit it a lot harder."

McEnroe, the No. 8 men's seed, said he was relieved to get past the first round.

"It feels nice," he said. "Last year was very disappointing. It was on my mind a little. didn't want to go through that again."

Fifteen-year-old Michael Chang of Placentia, Calif., became the youngest male player to win a match in the Open era by defeating Australia's Paul McNamee 6-3, 6-7, 6-4, 6-4.

Another highly rated junior, Pan Am Games finalist Al Parker of Claxton, Ga., lost 6-3, 3-6, 6-4, 6-4 to Tarik Benhabiles of France.

a day LABOR DAY SPECIAL

You're never far from Enterprise Rent-A-Car.

McKey

From Page 1-E

rules by hiring Blass to represent him in negotiations with Seattle, by borrowing money from Blass to buy disability insurance and by borrowing money from a bank based on his future income potential to buy a luxury automobile.

Blass said none of those steps was taken "surreptitiously or because he was trying to flaunt authority. We thought Derrick was a professional.

not begin until Oct. 15, they indicat-

ed there is no rush to move forward with an appeal. Under NCAA rules, both the school and the player are allowed to appeal.

Alabama coach Wimp Sanderson isn't counting on having McKey yet.

"The fact Derrick is in school has nothing to do with his eligibility," Sanderson said. "Three weeks from now if they said his eligibility was restored and he was not in school, I'd feel awfully funny. Being in school is just the first step.

"We'll just take it one day at a

and college basketball practice does money to him, the agents and the bank.

> "Where does he get the money to pay that back?" Blass said. "He'd have to borrow it from some other place."

Getting a written release from Walters and Bloom poses yet another problem.

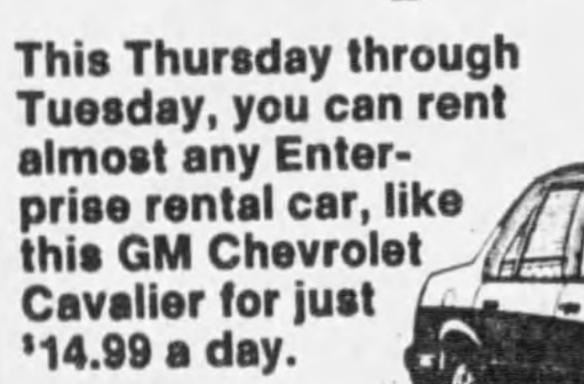
Asked Tuesday if he would release McKey, Bloom said, "No. Why should we? He screwed up. He dropped us. He shouldn't have screwed up. I don't know about Norby, but I'm not letting him out

Georgia From Page 1-E

of rotating."

Coaches put a lot less importance on starting than the players do. In a situation where three fullbacks probably will play nearly equal amounts, starting merely means being on the field for the first snap.

Each fullback contender offers a different dimension. Ellis (5-foot-9, 205 pounds) is quicker, a better runner and a better outside blocker than the others. Jackson (6-0, 232) is more experienced. Berry (6-2, 236) is stronger and a more powerful blocker. "If I had my druthers, I would go with seniority and Jackson would start,' said Dooley. "But Ellis probably has been the most consistent." No matter who plays, each will be asked to perform the same task: block for tailback Lars Tate. Not since Ronnie Stewart, Jimmy Womack and Chris McCarthy blocked for Herschel Walker in the early 1980s will a Georgia fullback be asked to do so much path-clearing. In the past few years, with David McCluskey and Keith Henderson, fullback became more of a running position. "A lot depends on the ability of the fullback to run," said Dooley. "But we're probably getting back to where the tailback carries three times for every one time the fullback carries." Ellis broke the career rushing records of former Atlanta Falcon William Andrews at Thomasville High while playing mostly tailback.





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"The real kicker is if we had known how the NCAA was going to react, if Derrick had known Austin would be granted permission to return, we would have reacted differently," Blass said. "What we'd like to do is get back to day one, but don't know how to do that.

"Let's go back to the day before Derrick applied for the draft. It was Derrick's intention to remain in school. Then the agent thing broke and he was ruled ineligible, and obviously there was no alternative at that time but to apply for the NBA draft.

"The sad part is if we had known in advance, he was very happy at Alabama and would have returned to Alabama. Derrick never would have applied for the draft, left his name in, borrowed the money or bought the car if he had not been fully led to believe there was no chance for his reinstatement."

Alabama officials said they have not formally decided to appeal on McKey's behalf, but they are discussing the possibility internally and with the NCAA. Noting that McKey cannot sign with Seattle until Oct.

time and see what happens."

Alabama athletic director Steve Sloan also took a hopeful but realistic approach.

"At the time of the NBA draft application deadline, we didn't think it was possible for Derrick's eligibility to be restored," Sloan said. "But now, the Austin ruling apparently opens up the possibility we could appeal, and if he could make restitution and get out of his contract, there would be a possibility to get him declared eligible to play."

Sloan conceded that any restoration of eligibility by the NCAA would carry sanctions with it. Austin was suspended for two of Pitt's 11 football games. Sloan estimated the NCAA would suspend McKey for 20 percent of the season "or about six games" if it restores his eligibility.

The NCAA also required Austin to produce evidence that he had repaid money advanced by Walters and **Bloom** and that his contract with them had been terminated.

Blass said McKey, who comes from a low-income background, might have difficulty repaying the

However, a source close to Walters indicated that if releasing McKey would weaken a federal grand jury's case in a fraud investigation into Walters' dealings with college players, then the New Yorkbased agent might be willing to void the contract.

Steve Morgan, director of enforcement for the NCAA, confirmed the NCAA and university officials have been discussing "what they would need to do" for an appeal. He declined to speculate if the appeal might be successful.

Seattle expects to have McKey this season, according to NBA vice president Russell T. Granik. He said that if McKey plays another year at Alabama, the Sonics would retain the NBA rights to him until next year's draft.

"Derrick has problems that nobody else has had before," Blass noted. "If the NCAA reinstates him, they have to go through new ground that's never been plowed before.

"My question is: Is there a real chance he can get his eligibility back, or is this an exercise in futility?"

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