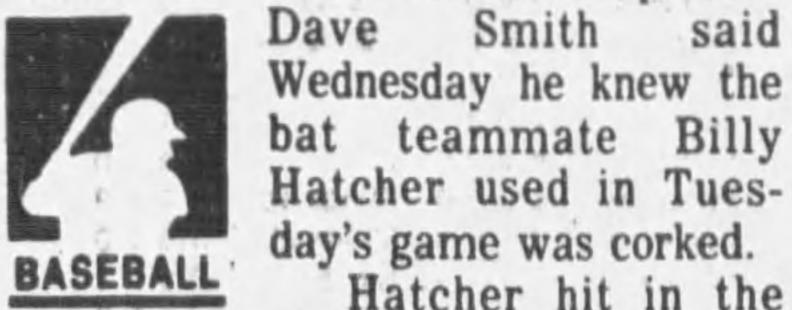
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THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION

## Astros claim Hatcher grabbed Smith's corked bat by mistake

United Press International HOUSTON - Houston Astros pitcher



Wednesday he knew the bat teammate Billy Hatcher used in Tuesday's game was corked. Hatcher hit in the

fourth inning with a bat used by Smith during batting practice. The bat split, revealing what umpire John McSherry said was "about five inches of cork."

"I had someone fix the bat to use in batting practice," Smith said. "But I had no idea that Billy was using it, or how it even got in the bat rack."

McSherry said it does not matter who owns the bat.

"All we are concerned about is that he had the bat and was using it," he said. "That's how we have to decide the issue.

"It used to be a 10-game suspension. But it's up to him (National League president A. Bartlett Giammatti) now. He'll decide what, if any, penalties will be made."

NL spokeswoman Katy Feeney said she had been informed the bat was en route to the league office in New York.

Chicago manager Gene Michael said he thought Hatcher should be suspended for three months.

"I don't give a damn what Gene Michael says," Astros manager Hal Lanier said. "I don't respect or care what he has to say.

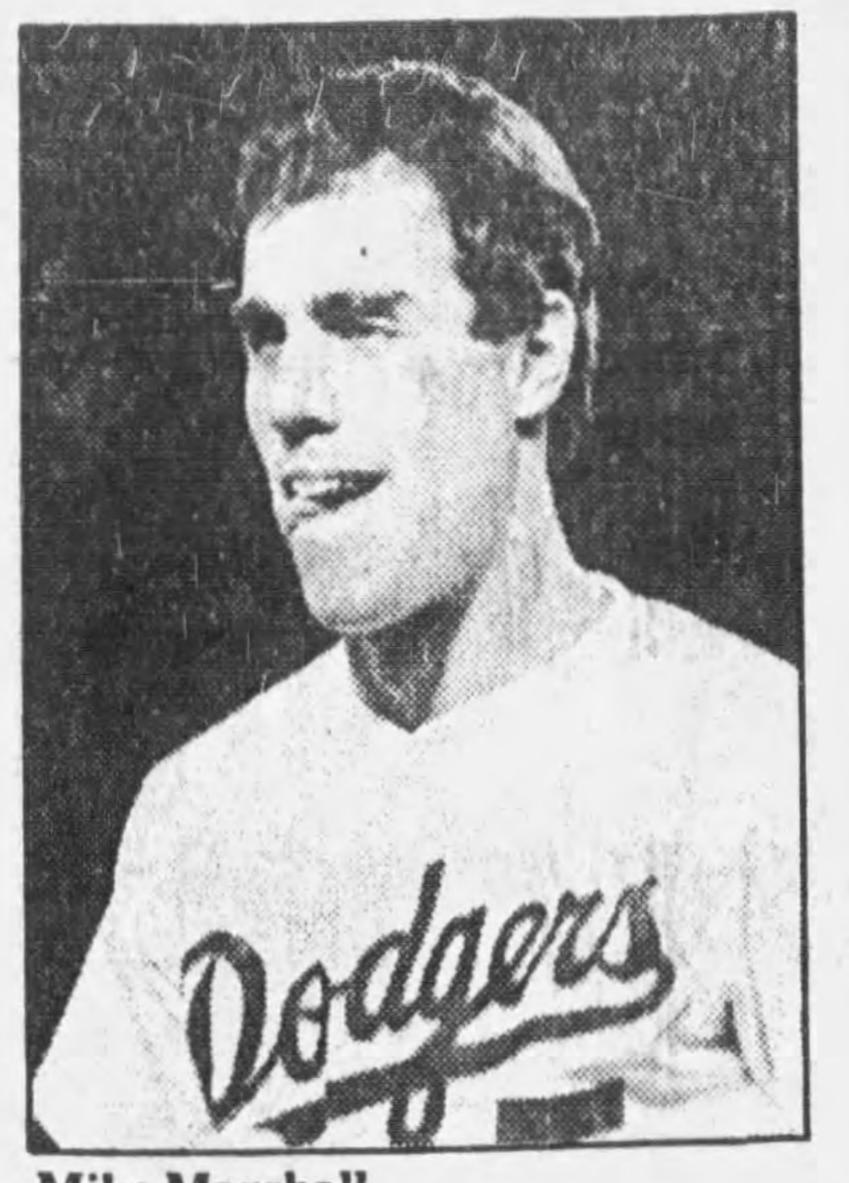
## Perez replaces DeMars as Reds hitting coach

United Press International

ST. LOUIS — The Cincinnati Reds, whose lack of hitting has played a big part in the club losing 18 of the last 25 games, have replaced hitting coach Billy DeMars with Tony Perez.

**Reds owner Marge Schott and** general manager Bill Bergesch both recently suggested to DeMars that he have first base coach Perez help him. DeMars said the message was clear and that he will leave the club after this season.

"We don't have two pitching coaches and we certainly don't have two managers," DeMars said. "That's all there was to it.



Mike Marshall

out when Garner questioned why the outfielder wasn't out shagging fly balls.

Marshall, the subject of considerable controversy for missing 53 games and for his supposed unwillingness to play hurt, told Garner to mind his business and the two quickly took off to the runway.

Each player landed punches before team members and security personnel broke up the fracas, which occurred about 21/2 hours before the game. The Dodgers have lost six straight games.

# Bama doesn't feel NCAA will keep withholding tournament revenue

### By David Davidson College Editor

Both SEC commissioner Harvey Schiller and Alabama athletic director Steve Sloan said Wednesday they are optimistic the university will be allowed to collect \$633,616 in basketball tournament revenue that is being withheld by the NCAA pending an investigation into two Alabama basketball players' dealings with agents.

Derrick McKey and Terry Coner played in the NCAA basketball tournament this year after accepting money from agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom. Technically, the players should have been ineligible, leaving Alabama open to NCAA penalties. Alabama lost 103-82 to Providence in the Southeast Regional semifinals.

The results of the NCAA's investigation will be submitted to the executive committee at its Dec. 7 meeting.

Under the SEC's basketball revenue distribution system, Alabama would retain \$385,197 of the \$633,616, with every other SEC school getting \$26,149 and the SEC office getting \$13,074.

"If an ineligible player participates in an NCAA championship event," said NCAA director of enforcement David Berst, "two executive regulations can apply. One requires records of the team and individuals to be deleted, and the second - if it is determined that either the institution or the student/athlete knew or should have known of percent of the net receipts over and above expense reimbursements will be withheld by the association." Berst cited a number of precedents. The most notable occurred in 1971, when Villanova finished second to UCLA in the NCAA basketball tournament. Villanova's runner-up finish was "vacated"

and Howard Porter was stripped of his place on the all-tournament team after it was revealed that Porter had signed with an agent.

"But the Villanova/Howard Porter case was one instance in one year," Sloan said, "and in this case two agents have dealt with 50 or 60 college players. This is epidemic proportions. We're under a different set of circumstances than what's occurred in the past."

Said Schiller, "We've met with the executive committee, and its feeling was there are other factors to be considered — not just the Alabama case but the general considerations of the regulations themselves. Obviously, we're working very hard to get the money back."

Most of the other athletes involved with Walters and Bloom were football players, and the NCAA has no jurisdiction over a school's revenue from bowl games.

"Something like 48 of 50 cases involve football players on bowl teams," Schiller said, "but since those revenues are not administered by the executive committee, those teams will go unpenalized. It's clear the institution didn't know (about McKey and Coner's activities), so the executive committee is hanging its hat on the fact the individuals knew.

"The bowl teams won't suffer," Schiller said.

"Well have no announcement until the bat is checked," she said.

Hatcher said he expected to be reprimanded.

"I'm not shying away from punishment," Hatcher said. "I'm not embarrassed. It happened. I just grabbed the wrong bat. I've never used a corked bat. Anyone can check any of the bats I use."

**Dodgers' Marshall, Garner fight** in dugout runway before game

United Press International LOS ANGELES - Los Angeles Dodgers Mike Marshall and Phil Garner scuffled in the dugout runway prior to Wednesday's game between the slumping Dodgers and the Philadelphia Phillies.

Marshall, on the disabled list with a bruised shin and sprained wrist, was sitting in the Dodger dug**Giants' Garrelts injures finger,** will be sidelined about 2 weeks

United Press International

SAN FRANCISCO - San Francisco Giants relief pitcher Scott Garrelts will miss approximately two weeks after suffering a fractured middle finger on his right hand.

"It seems to us that the rules should be applied equally across the board."

Although Berst said "no one has gone through the eligibility problem at the time - is that 90 the books and crossed Alabama off yet," the only way such a situation would be avoided is if "the executive regulations change. That's also a possibility.

"Our job," Berst said of NCAA staff members investigating the Alabama case, "is to point out the issues. It's up to the executive committee to determine the outcome."

A. T.S.

