

SPORTSPEOPLE

Odds & **INS**



By Skip Myslenski & Linda Kay

But, as the coaches like to say, it is still just one game: Hyperbole is certain to be the order of the week as Monday night approaches, but "The Giants Newsweekly" has already won some kind of an award for overdoing it. Since it returned to its regular weekly run in July, the paper of the Super Bowl champs' fans has featured a section called "Bears Watch."

Nicknames in the news

Brittle, Whittle & Little. Nope, not a law firm. That is what some folks in Dallas are calling the Cowboy quarterbacks. Brittle is veteran Danny White, who has been battered for 11 years and is coming back from a broken wrist that limited him to six starts last season. Whittle is Steve Pelluer, whose confidence (so the feeling goes) was whittled down by the beatings he took after stepping in for White last season. And Little is 6-foot rookie Kevin Sweeney (who was cut Monday). . . . The Cowboys' shaky QB situation has prompted city historians to check their record books, and they are now pointing out that the team passed on Miami's Dan Marino and the Jets' Ken O'Brien in the 1983 draft, and, in 1984, on the Bengals' Boomer Esiason.

The British are coming

It may be Football Fever everywhere else, but in Tennessee it is Royal Fever that (surprise, surprise) has nothing to do with Princess Di or Fergie. Instead, folks in Nashville are forking out big bucks to get an up-close-and-personal look at Princess Anne, who is scheduled to ride on the steeplechase grounds of the city's Percy Warner Park on Oct. 23. The event marks the first time a member of Britain's royal family has competed in a U.S. race, and the International Steeplechase Group is busy constructing supersuites at the track for the one-shot deal. The ritziest are labeled Royal Boxes (what else?), go for \$10,000, seat 10 and are already sold out. Then there are a dozen Corporate Boxes that also go for \$10,000; they seat more than 10 and some are still available. Next are the 96 Finish Line Boxes priced at \$1,500 apiece, and finally come the 250 Meadow Boxes that cost \$500 each. And don't think the big spenders won't get their money's worth. A dinner for the Princess and Royal Box patrons is scheduled the night before the race at Belle Meade Mansion, a historic antebellum home, and on race day they will be served gourmet lunches in a tent on the grounds. And, following the race, all will be able to retire to the Princess' box for—of course—a spot of tea.

P.S. The International Steeplechase Group has guaranteed that \$25,000 of its revenues will go to the Save the Children Fund, over which Princess Anne presides.

Try and figure this one out

Boris Stankovic of Yugoslavia is the head of the international federation that governs amateur basketball, and he is a strong proponent of opening the Olympics and other competitions in his sport to professionals. Bill Wall is the head of the association that governs amateur basketball in the United States, and he is adamantly opposed to the admission of professionals. Wall can logically explain his position: He knows no country could come close to beating the NBA All-Stars, and that after a brief flurry of interest, television would not be interested in paying good money to carry bad games. Stankovic's thinking is difficult to discern, though Tom McGrath, the associate executive director of the Amateur Basketball Association of the USA, is willing to guess that "a lot of it may have to do with them thinking they're getting beat anyway, they might as well see the best. And maybe they're thinking Larry Bird and Magic Johnson will come play in their country's summer leagues." Well, no matter what Stankovic is thinking, he, Wall and the five other members of the international federation's eligibility committee are currently discussing the issue at a meeting in Cairo. And, indeed, that committee may ignore Wall's warnings and call for an open Olympics, but don't let that get you to thinking of Michael Jordan going for the gold. That recommendation was also made early last year, but it was eventually voted down by amateur basketball's full governing body.

Spreading the word

Audio cassette tapes of the Cubs' monthly newspaper Vine Line will start being available next month. Vine Line already has a paid circulation of 20,000, going to all 50 states and 7 foreign countries, and this new service is certain to boost that figure. In fact, when word of the cassette leaked out, the team received a call from a St. Louis man who said he was changing his allegiance from the Cards to the Cubs just because of it.

News, notes and nonsense

Tuesdays during the fall means Bear football luncheons, and Crain's holds the first of the season today at noon at the Midland Hotel. Because the players will be busy practicing, sportscasters Tim Weigel, Mark Giangreco and Bruce Wolf are the guests. . . . Bear alums Revie Sorey, Gary Campbell and Bob Fisher analyze next Monday's game at Oliver's in Des Plaines. . . . The first round of tryouts for this year's Luvabulls is set for Sept. 19 at the Snuggery in Mt. Prospect, and applications can be had by writing C.C. Company, in care of Ditka's restaurant. . . . The Chicago Actors Ensemble's presentation of "Sholess Joe" opens Thursday night at the Preston Bradley Center on Lawrence Avenue. The original play by Alan Thurston centers on the rise and fall of Joe Jackson and on the Black Sox scandal of 1919.

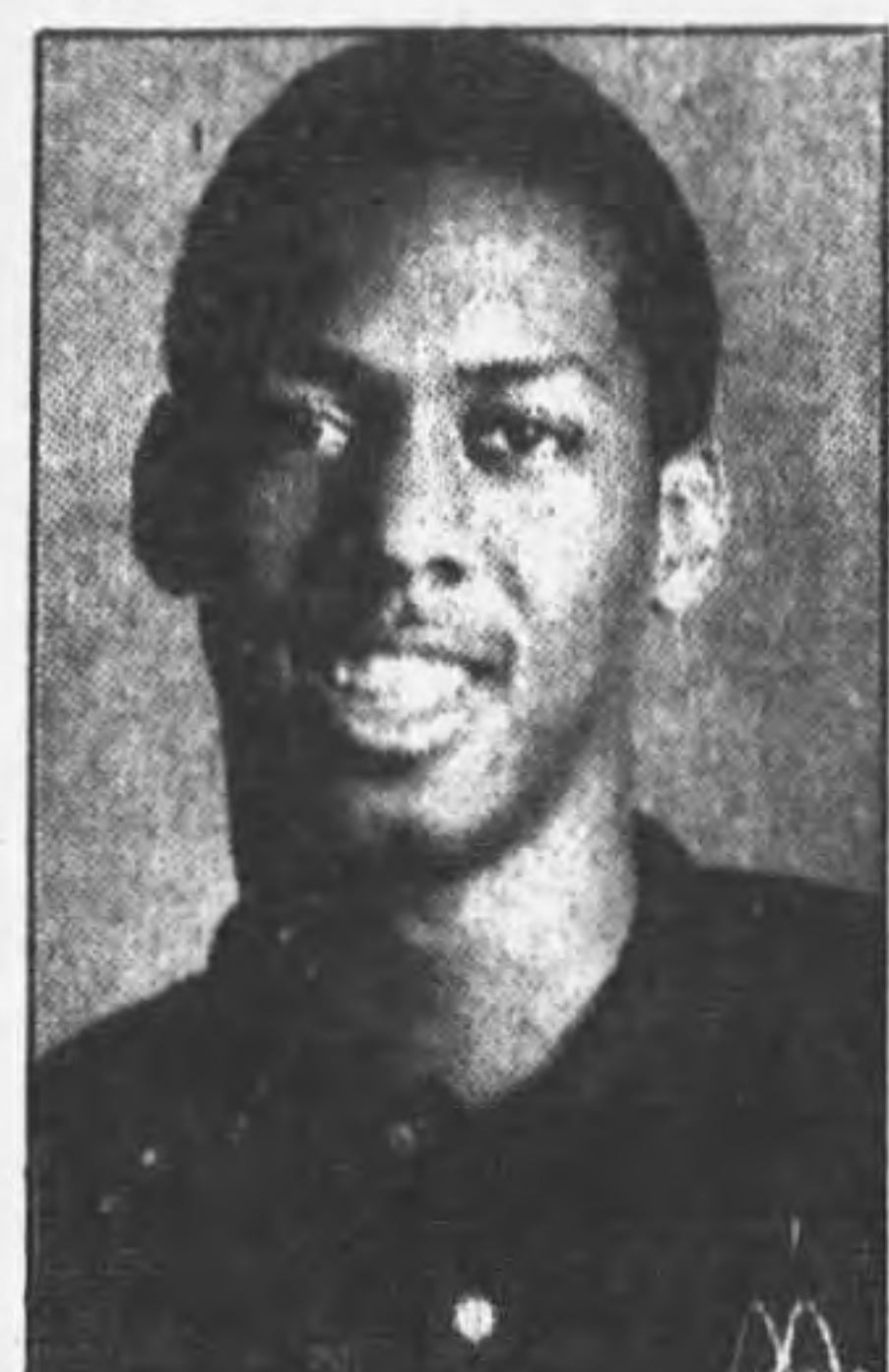
And finally, ESPN college football analyst Beano Cook on Mike Ditka, who played at Pitt when Cook was that school's sports information director: "He's America. People out there love him. He doesn't take any stuff from his players—that's what they love."

Kansas' Manning brought down a notch

Since his high school days, Kansas's Danny Manning has been listed as a 6-foot-11-inch forward.

Manning says he knew better—and he lost 2 inches when new measurements of the Jayhawk players were taken last week.

Manning measured 6-9 during annual team physicals, the same height listing he received during physicals before last month's Pan Am Games in Indianapolis.



Manning

"I told you I wasn't 6-11," Manning said. "But that's all right, I'll get it back in the press guide anyway."

One university official said high school basketball players often exaggerate their heights to gain a strategic and psychological boost.

Often, those heights were listed in guides without question.

Most Jayhawks measured Thursday had a 2-inch discrepancy between actual height and the height listed in previous media guides.

Mike Masucci, a freshman center who measured 7-0 and 7-1 last year at Grandview (Mo.) High School, is actually 6-9.



AP Laserphotos

The photos are in for next year's "Women of Tennis" calendar. Carling Bassett (above) may be one of the tour's more glamorous players, but Martina Navratilova will be on the cover.



New Zealander's Cup challenge up to N.Y. court

The next America's Cup will be held nine months from now—in June, 1988—in San Diego, among boats twice the size of 12-meters.

If that seems like the joke that the San Diego Yacht Club once thought it was, do not laugh too loudly, at least not until Wednesday when the issue goes to court.

Perhaps because the New Zealand challenge was taken lightly from mid-July, when New Zealand syndicate head Michael Fay made it, the issue is only now being talked about seriously.

It got especially serious when the New York State Supreme Court last Tuesday issued a restraining order barring the San Diego Yacht Club from taking any action regarding the next America's Cup defense, pending a hearing set for Wednesday in that court over the legitimacy of the challenge. It was July 15 that Fay announced a formal challenge to San Diego for a Cup series to be raced next June 1, 3 and 7.

The dimensions Fay proposed basically describe the dimensions of the famous J-boats, the monstrous sloops used to race America's Cup until the 1930s.

The boat that New Zealand designer Bruce Farr is working on is a giant ultra-light of about 120 feet overall, a 150-foot mast, with as much as seven times the sail area of a modern 12-meter.

Upon receiving the challenge, San Diego and Sail America—the campaign name of the Stars & Stripes syndicate—scoffed, and wrote the matter off as some kind of publicity ploy by Fay.

Nevertheless, Fay hung in there, seemingly supported by language in the deed of gift.

That document was written in 1887 for George Schuyler, then the last surviving owner of the schooner America that had originally won the Cup from the British in 1851. The deed states that a challenger to the Cup must give notice 10 months in advance, name the dates of the race and state the size of his yacht up to 90 feet on the waterline.

Even Sail America agrees that Fay has met all three requirements. The deed goes on to say that if challenger and defender can't agree to other terms of the race, the Cup will be decided in a three-race match.

Under the deed, written at a time when Cup racing was between the defender and a single challenger, the defender must take challenges in the order they come, rather than pick and choose which challenges it will meet first.

On that clause, Fay rests his case. According to Sail America, however, there's been lot of water under the keel in a century. Says Sail America's John Marshall: "The deed of gift also includes all the changes that have taken place in 100 years."

Small as it may be, New Zealand dominates big boat sailing. Should they prevail in court, they would force Dennis Conner, a nearly obsessive preparer, into a boat he will not possibly have time to test, let alone develop.



Tribune photo by Steve Hanks

The call to the post is music to Gov. Thompson's ears Monday at Arlington Park. He participated in ground-breaking ceremonies for the new track.

No. 1 Elmhurst goes for No. 10

For the past nine years, Elmhurst has been crowned the College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin women's volleyball champion. Coach Jaye Flood hopes to make it 10, but that's still not enough.

She hopes to bring the school another NCAA Division III national title. The Bluejays won it all in 1983 and 1985, and a third title this season would be the charm.

According to the NCAA News, Elmhurst leads a charmed existence this year as the No. 1 Division III team. Just a preseason ranking, but Flood, entering her second season as head coach, couldn't be happier.

"Discipline and desire make a winning team," she said. "If my team wants it, they'll do it. We need to work hard for everything we get."

For the past few weeks, Elmhurst has trained in triple sessions to prepare for its upcoming season, which begins Tuesday against Illinois-Chicago.

The heart of the Bluejays' offense is senior Therese Dorgan, an All-America setter who is also an Academic All-America. The other half of Elmhurst's 1-2 punch is All-America hitter Melanie Moore, a 5-foot-10-inch senior.

"Therese's strength is her leadership, and Melanie is a steady player with no emotional ups and downs," said Flood.

Bears' dinner honors an all-star

At first glance, this appears to be a good sign. Injured Bears quarterback Jim McMahon will host a "We Shall Return" preseason kickoff dinner Wednesday at his restaurant.

The party is expected to be attended by many teammates, including Mark Bortz, Willie Gault, Dave Duerson, Steve McMichael, Otis Wilson, Neal Anderson, Jay Hilgenberg and Dennis McKinnon. The idea is to generate some enthusiasm over the Bears' bid to regain the National Football League championship they lost last season.

But then you have to wonder how serious the mood will be, considering that the guest of honor will be 75-year-old Chuck Jones.

Who is Chuck Jones? He's a prominent animator who, while with Warner Bros., was the co-creator of such cartoon characters as Bugs Bunny, Pepe LePew, Road Runner and Wile E. Coyote. It sounds as if a Jim McMahon cartoon series may be in the offing.

BRIEFS

■ Anton Valukas, the United States attorney based in Chicago, is investigating the signing of Ohio State receiver Cris Carter by agents **Norby Walters** and **Lloyd Bloom**. Big 10 commissioner Wayne Duke said Monday. Asked if indictments might result from the probe, Duke replied, "I wouldn't be surprised." Duke revealed that his office had been cooperating with Valukas and the FBI since the Big 10 filed a lawsuit seeking disclosure of other athletes who have signed contracts with **Walters** and **Bloom**. He indicated the Carter case might be "just the tip of the iceberg," because other Big 10 football and basketball players are suspected of violating their signed NCAA pledges not to accept money from agents. Duke also said that officials of the Indianapolis Hoosier Dome will meet with him Wednesday in Chicago to discuss the proposed conference basketball tournament. "If it's approved, the tournament will begin in the spring of 1989, but the Council of [Big 10] Presidents will make the final decision, probably before December," Duke said. "A four-day event could net \$7 million to \$8 million from TV and gate receipts."

■ Elans Special, a filly, captured the \$2 million All American Futurity in Ruidoso, N.M. In winning the \$1 million first prize for owner Dr. Lindsey Burbank of Leesburg, Fla., Elans Special snapped a 10-year domination of the race by colts and geldings. Elans Special broke first in the 440-yard race, and under a gate-to-wire urging from jockey Alex Baldillez, put away the remainder of the field, hitting the finish line 1 1/4 lengths in front of Elaina Rae, another of only three fillies in the race. Send The Gals Candy ran an erratic race but rallied to take third.

■ Afleet, a Canadian-owned and bred colt, ran the most impressive race of the year in New York when he went a mile in 1:33 1/5 Monday to win the \$179,400 Jerome Handicap for 3-year-olds at Belmont Park. Afleet beat Stacked Pack by 3/4 lengths and it was eight lengths further back to Templar Hill. Leo Castelli, the favorite in the field of nine, rallied only mildly in the late stages to finish fourth. However, Leo Castelli pulled up and was removed from the track in a horse ambulance. "I can't tell you too much at this point but he seems to be a little sore," said Dr. Ted Hill, the New York Racing Association's chief examining veterinarian. "The left front ankle is the most suspicious area and we'll know more after we take some X-rays." Afleet's victory was his fifth in seven career starts. He was ridden by Gary Stahlbaum, and earned \$107,640 for owner-breeder Richard R. Kennedy.

■ The hockey coach for Swedish team in the Canada Cup competition says the Cup the "most unsportsmanlike tournament I've experienced" and threatened never to play in the event again. Sweden, the reigning world champion, qualified for a semifinal berth against Soviet Union Sunday night in Hamilton, Ont. Canada faces Czechoslovakia in the other semifinal at Montreal Wednesday night. Still, Sweden coach Tom Sandlin is angered over the treatment his team has received in the six-nation round-robin tournament. "The word scandal is not strong enough to describe the way the organizers have treated us," Swedish press quoted the usually low-key Sandlin after his team's game from Sydney, Nova Scotia. "We have traveled 9,000 kilometers [5,600 miles] to play while Canada has played almost all their matches in the same area. . . . And we're not getting enough to eat. We have had to buy extra food downtown." He charged the setbacks are deliberate. "This is not sports, it is business where everything is arranged so that Canada and the Soviet Union will reach the final," Sandlin said. . . . "This is the most unsportsmanlike tournament I've experienced. We have practiced and prepared ourselves for two months for this tournament just to find out that [tournament organizer Alan] Eagleson and the organizers ignore us totally. We will never play a Canada Cup tournament again under these conditions."

■ Utah Jazz power forward Karl Malone says he'll play basketball in Italy if the Jazz refuses to renegotiate his contract. "I know every player hollers 'Trade me, trade me,' but this is very simple," Malone said. "I am not going to play for what the Utah Jazz have offered. That's not a threat. That's a promise." Malone, who averaged 21.7 points and 10.4 rebounds last season, wants to renegotiate the contract signed after he was drafted in 1985. He is seeking a 10-year contract that averages more than \$1 million a year. The team's latest offer called for \$4.2 million over six years. Malone is scheduled to earn \$275,000 and \$300,000 the next two seasons. The Jazz are not worried about Malone's interest in playing in Italy. "That's the silliest thing I've ever heard," said David Checketts, Jazz president. "I've had every agent in the world use that one. That's not even a good threat."

Compiled by Bill Hageman from staff, wire reports.

TANK McNAMARA

