

SPORTSPEOPLE

Odds & **INS**

By Skip Myslenski & Linda Kay

But you never would have guessed this: Going into this weekend, the football teams of Northwestern and Michigan State have the Big 10's longest winning streaks. Each has won two in a row.

Never give up

When Lori McNeil was here for the Pringle's Light Classic in August, she drove herself hard. The tennis tourney was merely an exhibition, but McNeil didn't treat it lightly. She practiced between matches at the Rolling Meadow Club, and she practiced after them, and she even roused doubles partner Robin White early one weekend morning to make certain she'd have someone to practice with at the end of the day. We made the observation that she appeared to be a woman on a mission, and McNeil nodded her head in agreement and said: "It's been this way ever since I've been back from Wimbledon. I didn't have such a successful trip, but I learned a lot of things." McNeil, who upset Chris Evert Wednesday at the U.S. Open and plays Steffi Graf in the semifinals Friday, was seeded 11th at Wimbledon but suffered an embarrassing loss in the first round. "In the bat of an eye I was 11th in the world," Lori told us, "and in effect, losing in the first round was kind of like a slap in the face. It awakened me. It showed me you can't become complacent." ... Footnote: You may have read that McNeil is the first black woman since 1958 to advance as far as the Open semifinals. The woman who last did that and eventually won the title was the wondrous Althea Gibson, and—coincidentally enough—she discusses the pressures she felt back in '58 on Friday's "Magic Years in Sports" (ESPN, 6:30 p.m.).

From here to there

Last week it was the Arlington Million, and Friday night it is the first West Virginia Breeders Classic at the Charles Town Races (yep, that's the name of the track) in Charles Town, W. Va. The catalyst behind this unlikely event was former Giant linebacker and West Virginia native Sam Huff, who was inspired while watching the Maryland Million. He enlisted the support of Gov. Arch A. Moore, who promised to match corporate funds, and then Huff went out to find sponsors. Four of the five he eventually signed up were not unexpected, but then there is Louis Rich. How did the maker of cold cuts end up sponsoring a horse race? This way: Huff was playing in an NFL alumni golf outing in Madison, Wis., where one of his partners was from the Louis Rich division of Oscar Mayer. That man asked Huff to play in a Mayer golf outing, and Huff said he would be happy to if Rich sponsored a race for \$25,000. And, *voila*, there you have the Louis Rich Cold Cuts Stakes.

Overdose

There is a Bear tailgate party at Ditka's on Friday night and, just up the block at the Hard Rock Cafe, a pep rally. Channel 7's Tim Weigel and Mike Adamle preview Monday's Bear-Giant game at 11 that night in a telecast originating at the rally, and on Saturday night at 6:30 on Channel 2, Jeannie Morris has "A Conversation with Mike Ditka." And, gee, this is all just the weekend warmup.

News, notes and nonsense

These kinds of things are considered all-important indicators, and so we thought we would pass this along: This past week, there were a number of skirmishes or scuffles or whatever you want to call them among those same Illinois football players who were so uninspired in their loss last Saturday to North Carolina. ... On paper (as they say) it looks impressive: The "new" Big 10 Network debuts Saturday (on Channel 66) with a *whole new lineup* as well as with the Ohio State-West Virginia and Illinois-Arizona State games. Included in that lineup are executive producer Chuck Howard, who was one of the earliest members of Roone Arledge's Army at ABC, producer Peter Engelhart (ABC) and directors Ric LaCivita (CBS) and Ken Fouts (NBC)—all of whom once worked along New York's Broadcast Row—and veteran announcers Jim Simpson, Steve Davis, Chris Schenkel and Frank Broyles. ... Stepping out: Brian Dayett, Frank DiPino and Bob (Remember Me?) Tewksbury all once played for St. Leo College in Florida, and on Friday some 100 of the school's local alums are making it a day at Wrigley. ... No radio show, but: Dennis McKinnon begins his semi-weekly reports on Sports Phone at 2 Friday afternoon. The wide receiver's words will run throughout the season between 2 and 3 each Friday afternoon and the day following a game. ... Ensign David Robinson has been given leave from his submarine base in Georgia to attend the NBA dinner benefitting Little City Sunday night at the Hyatt. Magic Johnson has also confirmed he will join the crowd of some 50 former and current basketball stars who will use the evening to honor the recently retired Julius Erving. The dinner is a sellout and is expected to raise \$500,000 for the home for the mentally handicapped in Palatine. ... Eric Heiden is a late entry in the Circuit Bicycle Challenge that gets underway Friday night at 7:30 in Downers Grove, continues Saturday afternoon at 1 in Evanston and wraps up Sunday afternoon at 12:30 in Chicago, starting at Buckingham Fountain. Pro cyclists from around the world will participate. ... The latest model: Last winter, it was Ditka who stomped along the sidelines after being dressed by Gallagher Chicago's president Gene Crowley. This winter, Crowley will be dressing Bulls' coach Doug Collins. And finally: WBBM radio broadcasts live Saturday from the Chicago Historical Society, which is commemorating the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution with an exhibition entitled "We The People." Sports-caster Rich King wanted to be part of the historical gala, too, so his morning "Sportsline" show will be there—perhaps with play-by-play of a colonial-era bayonet competition.

Chicago mob kicks off football season with a profit-sharing plan

Call it sharing the wealth. Chicago mob bosses are trying to boost morale as the college and professional football betting seasons begin by ordering more profits filtered down to lower echelon syndicate figures, according to federal investigators. The effort comes as Internal Revenue Service officials estimate that as much as \$350 million will be wagered with an estimated 2,500 mob-controlled bookmakers in the six-county Chicago metropolitan area between now and the Super Bowl in January. "There's been some discontent among the mob's street workers and underbosses that they're not getting a big enough slice of the profits while the top guys continue to live high in their expensive homes and cars," a top federal gambling investigator, who asked not to be identified, said Thursday. "In effect, the mob is giving out raises to try and keep their people happy." As underbosses to reputed local syndicate chief Joseph Ferriola, about 50 members of the Chicago crime family receive a regular cut of the take from gambling and extortion rackets. But more important, according to agents, is that the underbosses are responsible for keeping independent bookmakers in line by directing the collection of "street taxes" from the bookmakers for allowing them to operate. In recent testimony in federal court, an admitted independent bookmaker said he paid \$10,000 a month to the Chicago mob so he would be allowed to operate. The payments demanded from bookmakers are determined by the

size of their operations, agents said. Since Ferriola assumed leadership of the Chicago mob two years ago and built a \$500,000 home in Oak Brook, some of his top aides have followed his example, irking lower ranking mobsters, informants have told IRS and FBI agents. A federal grand jury was convened last November to investigate organized crime's gambling operations in the west and northwest suburbs. It has continued to hear witnesses during the summer months. Chicago mobsters have also been found to be involved in a growing number of illegal betting operations in Las Vegas, according to Capt. Preston Hubbs, head of the Metro Police intelligence unit. Hubbs said there are indications that organized crime groups from Chicago, Los Angeles, New York and Buffalo are gearing up to handle illegal betting in Las Vegas. Nevada is the only state in which sports betting is legal. Its 65 licensed sports books are expected to take in more than \$1 billion in wagers between now and the end of the football season. Hubbs said an increase in illegal betting in Nevada was detected by law enforcement officials after the federal government ruled in 1985 that all cash transactions, and all wagers of \$10,000 or more, must be reported to the IRS. Although the intent was to prevent the laundering of criminal proceeds, Hubbs said it has driven many major gamblers from legal to illegal bookmakers.

By Ronald Kostol



Vice President George Bush discusses his tennis game with Swedish Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson after Thursday's doubles match with Vitas Gerulaitis (left), Bjorn Borg (right) and Swedish Ambassador Wilhelm Wachtmeister at Bush's Washington home.

Ex-coach OK before, after surgery

Former Clemson football coach Frank Howard underwent back surgery Thursday at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta. Howard was listed in fair condition after the 2 1/4-hour operation. While a nurse was checking the former coach's pulse as the anesthesia was being administered, Howard, 78, said: "Honey, as long as you stand there and hold my hand and look at me with those pretty brown eyes, I ain't going to sleep." Howard was Clemson's winningest coach, compiling a 165-118-12 record. He retired Dec. 10, 1969, after 39 years on the Clemson staff, 30 of them as head coach. Howard continued to serve as athletic director until he retired in 1971.

BRIEFS

- Ex-Ohio State wide receiver Cris Carter has filed a \$1 million suit against sports agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom. The suit, filed in U.S. District Court in Columbus, Ohio, alleges the agent induced Carter by fraud and unfair use of Carter's brother, George, to enter into an agreement and to accept a loan while Carter was eligible to play for Ohio State. As a result, the suit states, Carter lost his eligibility at Ohio State and "the certain prospect of being a high first-round National Football League draft pick in 1988." The Philadelphia Eagles picked Carter in the fourth round of a supplemental draft.
- Phoenix Suns guard Jay Humphries has admitted he used marijuana in 1985. He has entered a drug-rehabilitation program that will allow him to have his record wiped clean within a year. Because the admission doesn't involve use of a narcotic or cocaine, Humphries faces no sanctions from the National Basketball Association. An agreement worked out with prosecutors doesn't call for Humphries to testify in a drug-conspiracy case.
- The NCAA has placed Marist's basketball program on two years probation for recruiting violations involving foreign students.
- Angel Cordero Jr. passed Johnny Longden as the No. 3 winningest jockey, riding Seattle Knight to victory in the sixth race at Belmont Park. Cordero has 6,063 winners. Cordero trails Bill Shoemaker, who has more than 8,600 winners, and Laffit Pincay, who has about 6,800.
- The New Jersey Devils have restructured their front office, naming Lou Lamoriello to the dual role of president and general manager. Max McNab will be the executive vice president. The Devils have traded center Greg Adams and goalie Kirk McLean to Vancouver for center Patrik Sundstrom, the Canucks' fourth-round draft choice in 1988 and the option to switch second-round draft picks that year.
- A news conference to announce the site and date of the next America's Cup races will be held at Friday at the San Diego Yacht Club.
- Promoter Bill Mordey has offered ex-International Boxing Federation heavyweight champion Michael Spinks \$3 million to fight Joe Bugner in Sydney in November. ... Michael Nunn fights Chicago native Dale Jackson in a 10-round middleweight bout Friday in Davenport, Ia.
- In the Golden 10K Run (55 and over) at Lincoln Park, Ben Mostow, 84, set a state record for the 80-and-over division with a time of 1 hour 18 minutes 55 seconds. In the women's 70-74 division, Algene Williams, 71, set a state record in 1:52.9.
- Green Bay Packers defensive end Ezra Johnson was examined by an orthopedic specialist after twisting his left knee during practice. ... Seattle Seahawks linebacker Brian Bosworth will wear No. 55 instead of 44. He wanted to wear his college number, but NFL officials said he had to wear a number in the 50s or the 90s. ... Minnesota Vikings strong safety Joey Browner has threatened to sit out Sunday's game against the Detroit Lions if his contract isn't renegotiated. He signed a four-year, \$1.375 million contract before last season. Browner wants to be compensated for playing on special teams. ... Oregon quarterback Chris Miller has rejected the latest offer from the Atlanta Falcons. The Falcons offered a \$1.9 million, four-year package. Miller wanted an \$800,000 signing bonus, with about two-thirds of that in an annuity. ... The Houston Oilers would consider moving to San Antonio if the city builds a domed stadium, according to owner Bud Adams. ... A judge has refused to grant a temporary restraining order that would block Irwindale's sale of \$90 million in bonds to finance a stadium for the Los Angeles Raiders.
- Golfer JoAnne Carner and Louise Suggs, swimmer Debbie Meyer-Reyes, track star Madeline Manning Mims, gymnast Lyudmilla Tourischeva, tennis player Maureen Connolly Brinker and multiple-sports athlete Marie Marvingt have been named to the Women's Sports Hall of Fame.
- Ray Stewart, a 33-year-old Canadian struggling to retain his PGA Tour card, shot a 6-under-par 65 to tie Curtis Strange and John Mahaffey for the opening-round lead in the Bank of Boston Golf Classic in Sutton, Mass. ... Jose Maria Canizares overcame rib and shoulder injuries and shot a 5-under 67 to take the first-round lead by one stroke over Robert Lee in the European Open in Walton Heath, England. ... Chi Chi Rodriguez shot a 5-under 67 to take a one-shot lead over Gary Player in the first round of the World Seniors Invitational in Charlotte, N.C.

Compiled by Rich Lorenz from staff, wire reports.

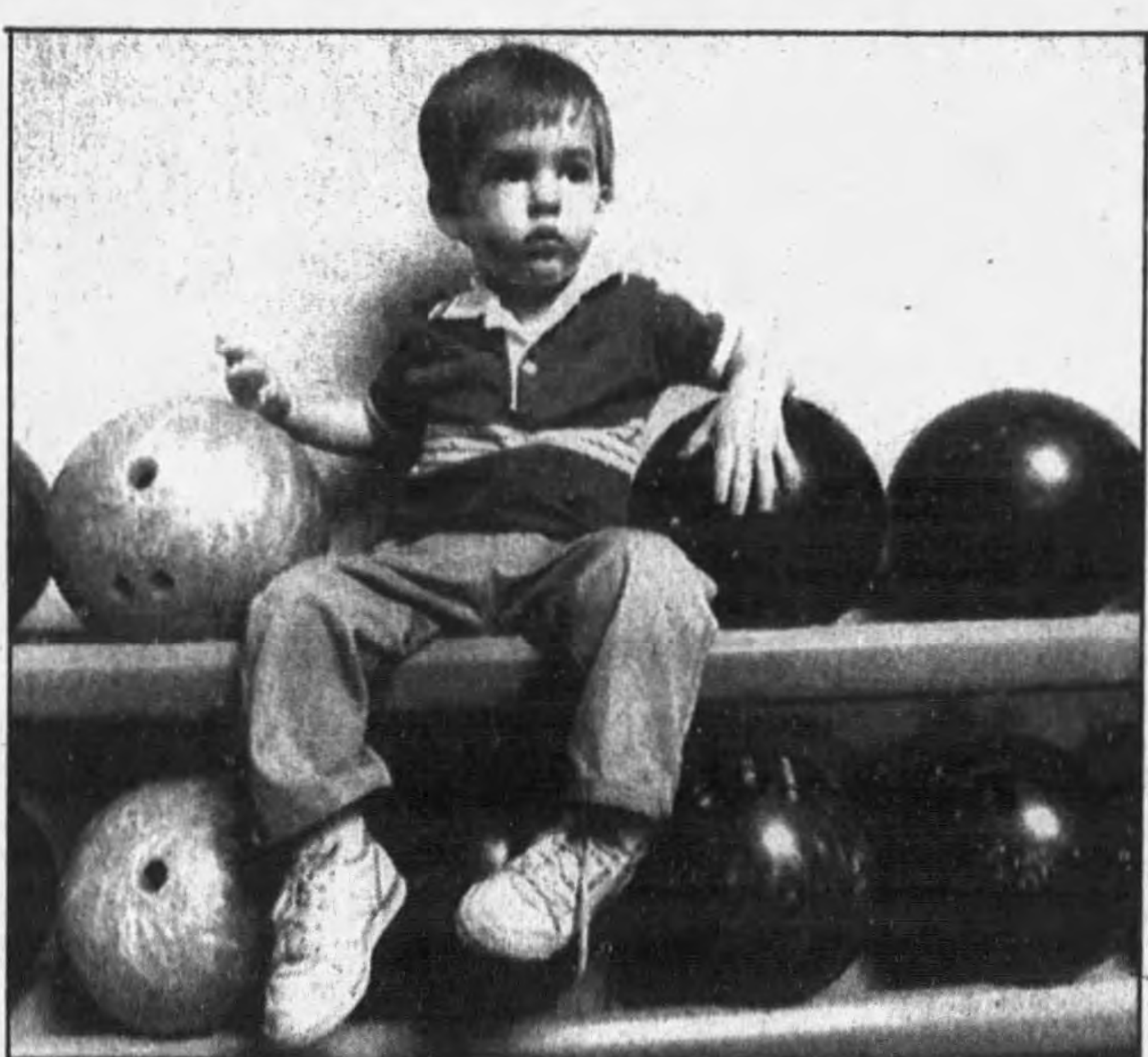
Boz moves into Seattle's starting lineup

The Seattle Seahawks' \$11 million investment is going to start paying dividends. Rookie Brian Bosworth will start at linebacker Sunday when the Seahawks open their regular season in Denver, coach Chuck Knox says. Bosworth, selected by the Seahawks in a June supplemental draft, signed a 10-year package on Aug. 14 after missing Seattle's first exhibition game. "He has come in and he's doing some things real well," Knox says. "He's gotten better

every week and Keith Butler has not been 100 percent. So we're going to go with Brian." Bosworth played behind Butler, a 10-year pro, at weak-side inside linebacker in two preseason games. Bosworth went all the way in place of Butler, who had a bad back, in last weekend's 34-10 preseason finale victory over San Francisco in the Kingdom. Bosworth made a team-high nine tackles against the 49ers. Knox says he has spoken to Bosworth about a Bosworth statement this week that he intended to try to injure Denver quarterback John Elway if he could. "If what was reported was accurate, then Brian Bosworth was wrong," Knox says. "That's not Seahawk football. We're not out to inflict career-ending injuries on anybody. We want to play the game the way it's supposed to be played." "Brian Bosworth has been an excellent citizen here, but he's young. We've had him for less than a month. He's an amateur yet."

Rick Honeycutt a cut above other scuffball pitchers

Before there was Joe Niekro, before there was Kevin Gross, before there was scuffball madness in our land, there was Rick Honeycutt. Before Niekro and Gross had their run-ins with the law this season, Honeycutt had the distinction of being the last man to get caught doing dastardly things to the nearest available baseball. It was September, 1980. Honeycutt, now with the Oakland Athletics, was pitching for Seattle. He had started the year 9-3. He ended it 10-17. He wasn't happy. So one day, the umpires strolled to the mound. They found a thumbtack taped to Honeycutt's hand. Nobody seemed to believe that he'd been meaning to hang a Sonics schedule on his bulletin board and that this was his way of reminding himself. It was also kind of tough for him to stand there and say, "Gee, what tack?" That, you see, was because of the big gash on his forehead with the blood coming out. Honeycutt says he will never forget the gash. Because he got it when he reached up to wipe the sweat off his brow. And he forgot he had that thumbtack taped to his hand. And ... uh-oh. "I should have known right then that it wasn't going to work," Honeycutt says.

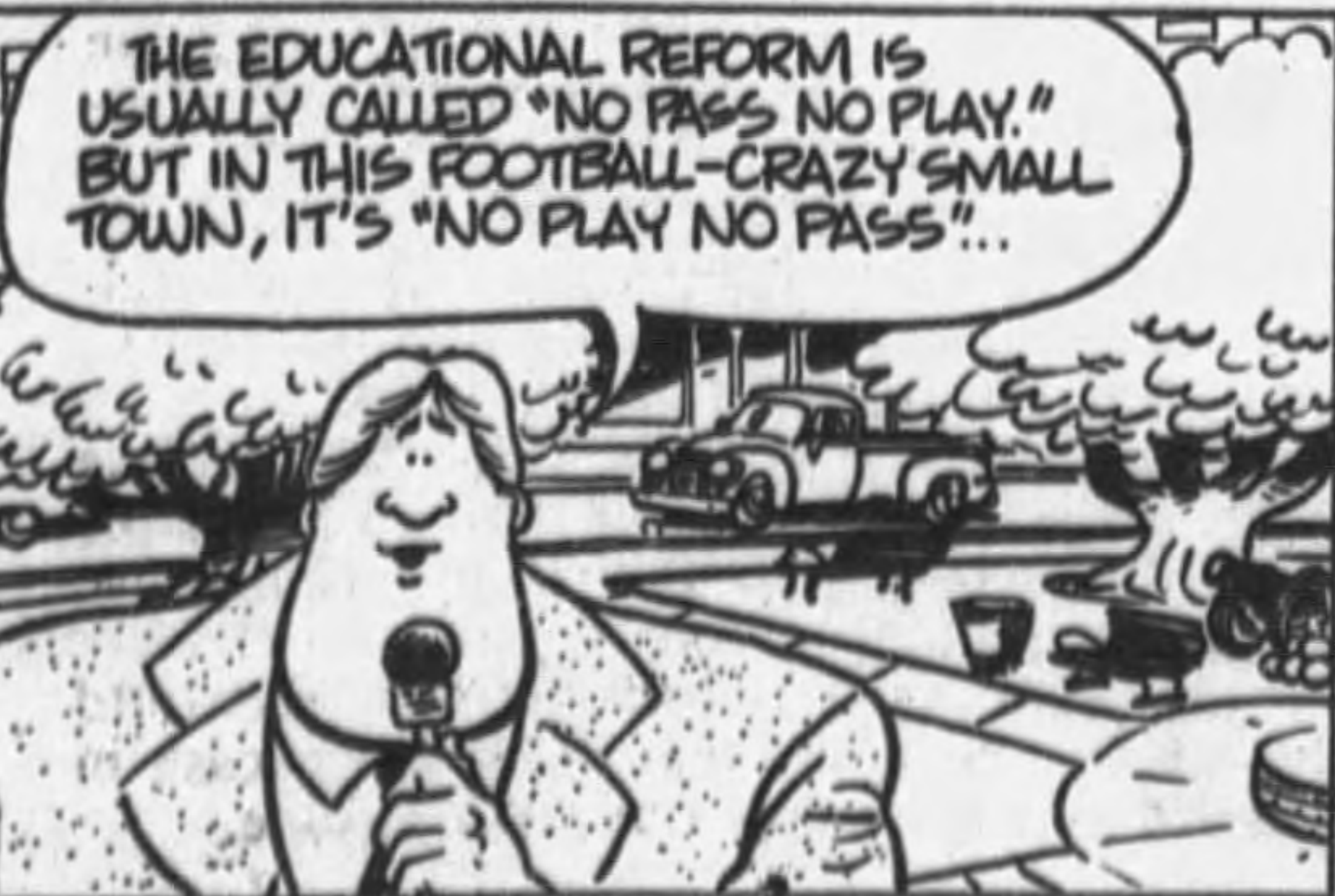


Robbie Gourlay has the best seat in the house at the Avco National Bowling Tournament in Hyattsville, Md.

The street of broken tackles?

Elroy "Crazylegs" Hirsch, who starred on the football field for the University of Wisconsin and the Los Angeles Rams, was among those present Thursday as a street in Madison was renamed "Crazylegs Lane." "I've had lots of thrills in my life and this is one of the biggest," Hirsch said as he climbed a ladder for photographers after an "Oakland Avenue" street sign was removed and replaced with "Crazylegs Lane." The street, located near Camp Randall Stadium where Hirsch performed as a Badger football player in 1941, is shorter than the football field. Originally, an effort was begun to rename Campus Drive for Hirsch, but that was dropped when it was discovered the cost of replacing many large signs would be about \$17,000. Only two small signs were needed on the new Crazylegs Lane. The street has no residences on it. Hirsch, 64, served as Wisconsin athletic director from 1969 until this spring, when he retired.

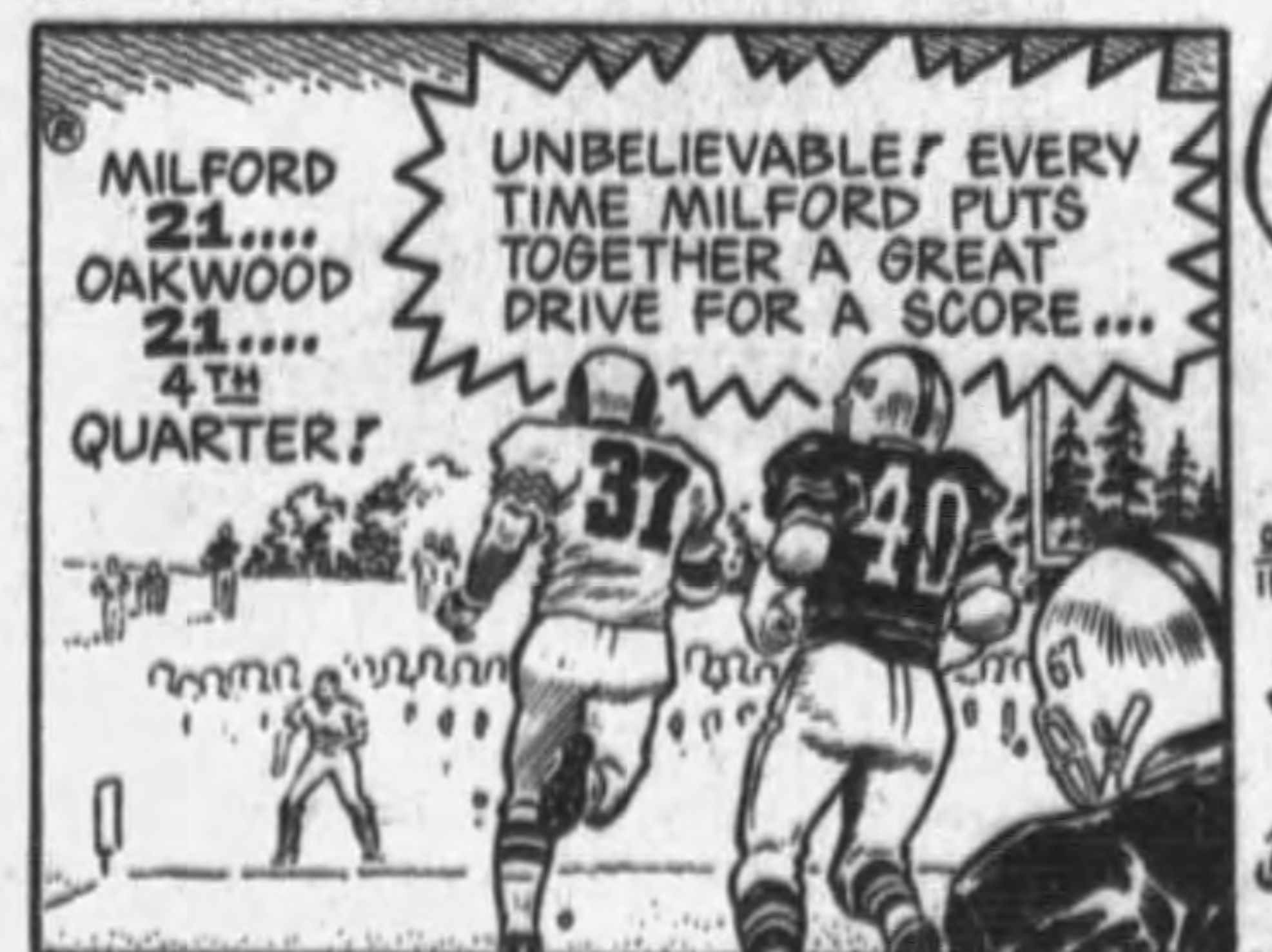
TANK McNAMARA



GIL THORP



MILFORD'S POROUS DEFENSE



MILFORD'S BALL ON THEIR OWN

