Odds & INS

By Linda Kay & Mike Conklin

Did the baby kick, too? We weren't able to get a direct answer from **Cathy Butler**, who was attending a baby shower in her honor in Atlanta while husband **Kevin** was performing his last-second heroics in Green Bay. But the couple's next-door neighbors in Mundelein did get a phone call from Cathy right after the winning kick, and according to **Nancy Stenzel**: "I'm sure that baby's doing a lot of moving." Stenzel said Cathy, who is six months pregnant, received a play-by-play description of the game from a friend who monitored it at an Atlanta bar and relayed the action to the women at the shower. But knowing she'd want to see it all for herself, Nancy assured Cathy she and husband **Greg** had captured the game on tape. "It'll be in your front door by the time you get home," Nancy told her, "along with a sign on the door."

A world of hurt

If you think **Mike Ditka** must have been in agony through most of Sunday's squeaker, consider the plight of his wife **Diana**. She was supposed to be the celebrity guest at Ditka's restaurant Sunday for its weekly Coach's Club, but had to beg off. On Tuesday, she'd had bunions on both feet surgically removed at Lake Forest Hospital and was still finding it painful to walk.

All that glitters ...

During a nationally televised match three years ago, a diamond bracelet on **Chris Evert**'s wrist came loose and fell on the court. Naturally, Chrissie bent to scoop it up and, just as naturally, the cameras followed her every move. She was later asked to exhibit the errant article at a press conference—and unwittingly began a boom market in diamonds that now rivals the proliferation of oversized rackets in the sport.

... is not gold

Among those currently wearing diamonds during play are **John McEnroe**, who sports a stud in his ear, and Wimbledon winner **Pat Cash**, who does likewise. On Monday, as the Virginia Slims tourney gets underway here, tour pro **Stephanie Rehe** stops by Henry Kay Jewelers in Water Tower Place to model the slinky bracelet that is now a staple on the court and off. The trinket runs anywhere from $1,000 to $35,000—depending on its weight, daaaarlings—and it isn't restricted to those who play tennis. **Princess Stephanie** of Monaco, model **Carol Alt**, singer **Diana Ross** and actress **Joan Collins** are all devotees.

The missing link

So what's life like for the 76ers without the Doctor along for house calls? It got lost in the hoopla surrounding the Bulls' nifty home win against Philadelphia Saturday night, but it's obvious the visitors sorely missed **Julius Erving**. "It won't ever be the same for us without No. 6 being there," guard **Maurice Cheeks** told us. "It's so different I don't know if I'll ever get used to it." Cheeks, a nine-year veteran, feels the 76ers lack players with one-on-one abilities under the basket and told us he has been asked to shoot more from outside to loosen up defenses. There's no doubt that coach **Matt Guokas** is counting on the Chicago native to provide plenty of leadership. As Guokas said Saturday: "The last two years, we've asked Mo to increase his scoring and he's done it each year. I'm sure he can do it again." ... By the way, we hear that the quiet, classy Cheeks is a somewhat reluctant cocaptain. Erving had been the team's sole captain for as long as anyone could remember, but when Cheeks learned teammate **Charles Barkley** wanted to replace the Doc, he stepped forward to share the job. Mo was worried that the talented but immature Round Mound of Rebound wouldn't furnish the necessary leadership.

Laugh, laugh

Iowa officials smiled when they learned that attorney **John Culver** was to be the arbitrator in agent **Norby Walters**' attempt to recover some $50,000 paid to former Hawkeye star **Ronnie Harmon** while he was still in school. Culver, you see, is a former U.S. senator from Iowa and an ex-football star at Harvard, where he roomed with **Ted Kennedy**. To be sure, Culver did rule earlier this week that Harmon could keep the bulk of the money he received from Walters, who, as it turned out, never did get the running back as a client. But ...

... who got the last laugh?

In the course of Culver's investigation, it was disclosed that **Kevin Harmon**, Ronnie's younger brother, got what appeared to be an illegal airplane ticket from Iowa. Last Wednesday, the school had to scramble to get NCAA assurances that Kevin would be eligible to play and that it would not have to forfeit any games. "The ticket Kevin got may have come from Walters' original money, but it was paid for by Ronnie," an irate Iowa official told us. "Who's to say a brother can't give something to a brother? But what ticks us off is that Culver never gave us a tip ahead of time about the situation. We didn't find out until the final decision came out, and then we had to go through all kinds of headaches to make sure Kevin could play Saturday at Northwestern."

News, notes and nonsense

The best swimmers from the United States begin Olympic preparation in Honolulu later this month under direction of U.S. national swim coach **Richard Quick**. But don't think the sunny clime and island environment make for fun and games. In addition to swimming from six to nine miles a day, the future Olympians have to attend classroom sessions that deal with goal-setting and time management, handling the media and the abuse of drugs and alcohol. ... **Gary Fencik** serves as host for the third Super Bowl Preview Party benefitting Epilepsy Services at the Palmer House on Dec. 9. It is the group's major fundraiser of the year. ... A half-hour highlight show devoted to in-depth coverage of the Bulls debuts Saturday on SportsVision. ... One of those diamond bracelets mentioned above will be given away to a lucky patron at the Virginia Slims tournament Friday night. Sorry, we don't know how many carats it contains.

And finally: The Big 10 is circulating its annual football coach-of-the-year ballots, and whether Indiana gets to the Rose Bowl or not, **Bill Mallory** gets our vote. He merits it simply for beating Ohio State and Michigan in the same season.

BRIEFS

■ Race-car driver **Jim Fitzgerald**, 66, was killed when he crashed his car in the early stages of the Trans-Am Series race in the St. Petersburg Grand Prix. Fitzgerald, a teammate of actor-racer **Paul Newman**, crashed his Nissan 300ZX Turbo in Turn 1 of the third lap in the scheduled 50-lap race on the 2-mile downtown street course. The race was stopped for 45 minutes while rescue crews worked on Fitzgerald at trackside, and the barrier and fencing where he hit was repaired. He was taken to nearby Bayfront Medical Center, where he was pronounced dead on arrival. Fitzgerald, from Clemmons, N.C., was the oldest driver in the race, which ended the Trans-Am season. He is the winningest driver in Sports Car Club of America history, with more than 350 career victories. ... **Rusty Wallace** benefited from **Geoff Bodine**'s misfortune to win the Winston Western NASCAR 500 at Riverside, Calif. Bodine was well on the way to his first victory of the season when his right-rear tire went flat 11 laps from the end. Wallace earned $47,725. Shortly after the race's start, three of **Bill Elliott**'s crewmen were injured in an accident on pit road. One, **Charles Hill**, 22, of Dawsonville, Ga., was reported in critical but stable condition after surgery to remove his spleen and repair minor tears to his liver. He also suffered a broken arm and dislocated hip. The others—**Butch Stevens**, 36, of Charlotte, N.C., and **Steve Colwell**, 35, of Blairsville, Ga.—were in stable condition, each with a fractured leg. After **Hershel McGriff**'s car blew its engine and oiled down the track, **Jim Robinson** appeared to tag the rear of **Michael Waltrip**'s car, sending Waltrip's Chevrolet spinning into the pit occupied by Elliott's car and crew.

■ The U.S. team beat Europe 10-2 for the title in the World Championship of Golf at Inagi, Japan. The Americans won five matches while losing only one. Each of the six U.S. players received $60,000, while the Europeans got $35,000 apiece. Australia-New Zealand beat Japan 9-3 and finished third among teams representing the four PGA tours. The Americans took a 6-2 lead after four matches Sunday. **Sandy Lyle** beat **Mark Calcavecchia** of the U.S. 70-72, but the U.S won three matches: **Payne Stewart** defeating **Ian Woosnam** 70-72, **Lanny Wadkins** beating **Bernhard Langer** 70-71 and **Scott Simpson** defeating **Nick Faldo** 68-72. Then, Europe's **Ken Brown** led **Curtis Strange** by one shot after the 17th hole, threatening to cut the U.S. lead to 6-4. But on the 224-yard, par-3 No. 18, Strange rolled in a 13-foot birdie putt for a 70, while Brown missed a 3-foot par putt and finished at 71. That gave the U.S. an 8-2 lead and the victory. ... **Yuko Moriguchi** shot a par 72 to beat fellow Japanese **Ayako Okamoto** by three strokes to win the Mazda Japan Classic in Hanno, Japan. With her second-place finish, however, Okamoto overtook American **Betsy King** and came out on top of the U.S. LPGA tour's money-winning list to become the first non-American to do so.

■ Three horses trained by **Peter Ferriola** that raced at Aqueduct last week subsequently tested positive for the prohibited medication Lasix, track stewards said. Two days ago, stewards, on the order of the New York State Racing Board, scratched Ferriola's two entries on Saturday's card and his four Sunday entries. Sunday, they scratched his four trainees entered for Monday's Aqueduct races. Ferriola, Aqueduct's leading trainer this meeting, has denied any wrongdoing. The board is expected to schedule a hearing on the matter this week.

■ **Aileen Eaton**, known as one of boxing's most astute promoters, died at 78 after a long illness.

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