Wednesday, December 23, 1987

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Agents join the ranks of to 5th victory undesirables

By BILL CONLIN

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Whenever Hollywood needs to portray true slime, there are those vulnerable old bedfellows, the press agent and the publicity flack. They are predatory birds of a feather in the black and white world of film.

Well, Hollywood, there's a new villian waiting to be typecast.

The sports agent — college variety. Get to work, screenplay writers, there are Oscars and Emmys waiting to be awarded to the first who can compress the life and times of one of these pusillanimous Pied Pipers into 120 minutes or less.

Norby Awards

Or how about a new award called a 'Norby" for the film or miniseries that best captures the marriage made between dumb jocks and law-school dropouts in three-piece suits.

In fact, we could have an entire evening on cable TV featuring the Norby Awards. Including:

 Best Supporting Alumnus: To the individual who introduces the most underclassmen to a member of P.I.M.P. (Professional Investment Management Portfolios).

• The Dead Pony Award: To the agent or agents responsible for the

"We decline to serve as paymaster of the wages of crime, or referee between thieves."

- Judge Charles Brieant

most total days of probation, all sports, at an NCAA Division I school.

• The Crazy Eddie Plaque: Presented to the Division I basketball player who successfully rips off the most audio and video equipment from student (non-athletic) dorms.

• The Road Scholarship: Prestigious Norby awarded to the studentathlete who attends the most junior colleges before matriculating to a four-year university. A change in the 1987 rules: Candidates enrolled in more than one correspondence course during a semester will be credited with attending just one junior college.

Age Of Athletic Innocence

Back in 1951, in an age of virtual athletic innocence before Brian Bosworth-size contracts were invented. guys wearing pegged pants and plaid sports jackets hung around summer basketball leagues and got close to some of the great basketball players of that era. At first it was a little spending money here, a suit of clothes there. A job, a fixed parking ticket.

So, they took the money, \$100 here, \$1,000 there. It began to unravel when a courageous center from Manhattan College, Junius Kellogg, went to the police and said he had been approached about shaving points and that teammates were influencing scores for money.

Before it was over, a lot of schools and big-name players, including several stars from NCAA and NIT champion City College of New York, were implicated.

Between 1947 and 1950, according to official records, points were

shaved in 86 games by 32 players. The bag men and errand boys went to jail. The high-rollers slithered back under their upholstered rocks to await the next opportunity. Laws were passed. The NCAA legislated against summer playground leagues.

They're Baaaaaaaack!

Well, they're baaaaaaack! This time, they're disguised as agents. Am I the only guy who thinks the three-point

goal is a license to shave points? Well, actually, college agents, as opposed to the more cyclical fixers, have been out in force since TV money added a fistful of zeroes to professional sports salaries. Now, however, they are getting themselves and their clients indicted.

In a ruling with widespread implications handed down in White Plains, N.Y., last Friday, U.S. District Court Judge Charles Brieant tossed out a \$500,000 lawsuit by Norby Walters. The Dalai Lama of agents petitioned that he had a binding contract with former Auburn University running back Brent Fullwood when the athlete was an underclassman.

In dismissing Norby's suit, Judge Brieant said, "We decline to serve as paymaster of the wages of crime, or

referee between thieves." But I wonder how many traditional hustlers are getting rich on missed three-point shots, and if we are closer to the next college point-shaving scandal than California is to the next great earthquake.

Drake sails in row, 78-67

Spurt in final 10:23 thwarts Illinois-Chicago

By DAN McCOOL

Register Correspondent

CHICAGO, ILL. - Drake outscored Illinois-Chicago, 23-13, in the final 10 minutes after having several chances to blow the game wide-open and coasted to its fifth straight victory, 78-67, at the UIC Pavilion Tuesday night.

Illinois-Chicago came back from as much as a 9-point deficit to take the lead at 49-48 with 13 minutes 6 seconds remaining.

The Flames took their final lead with 10:23 left on a free throw by Jeff Delaney, but 4 points by Bart Friedrick and 3-point field goals by Walter James and Curtis Stuckey put the Bulldogs safely ahead, 63-54.

The Flames were also bothered by a 1-of-9 shooting effort during a short span of the second half that allowed the Bulldogs a 10-0 scoring run. Drake also had a scoring burst late in the game after a timeout by Bulldog Coach Gary Garner was taken to do nothing more than fire the team up to stop the Flames on their next posses-

Drake later put together an 11-0 scoring run in the final 3 minutes. The Bulldogs were 11-of-20 from the field in the second half and finished with a 47.5 shooting effort for the game.

Friedrick led five Bulldogs in double figures with 20 points. Glenn Martin had 16, Walter James 15, Curtis Stuckey 13 and Sam Roark chipped in with 11. Both James and Roark grabbed a team-high 8 rebounds and Roark had five assists. The Flames were led by Delaney's 19 points and 18 by Nate Chambers. Illinois-Chicago held a 47-39 rebounding edge.

"I don't know whether it was us or Illinois-Chicago, but we'd get up 8 or 9 points and I kept hoping we'd be able to extend the lead," Garner said, "but you've got to give Illinois-Chicago credit. They just didn't let us do

What helped the Bulldogs most was the shooting of Stuckey in the final 12 minutes. His 3-point goal with 12:18 left put Drake ahead, 51-49. He then broke a 51-51 tie with a basket at the 11:14 mark. His second 3-pointer of the game produced the 9-point lead with 8:43 left.

While Garner wasn't happy with Drake's overall performance, the effort near the end of the game pleased him. "The thing I'm really proud of is what we did down the stretch, the last 3 or 4 minutes of the game." he said.

DRAKE (78	MIN	FG-A	FT-A	RB	A	TO	PF	TF
James	40	6-12	0-1	8	4	1	3	1:
Roark Friedrick	40	7-11	6-6	6	-0	A	1	20
Stuckey	26	5-9	1-1	4	2	2	4	13
Martin	31	5-9	6-8	2	ĩ	1	0	16
Woodson	11	1-4	0-0	4	1	0	2	2
Berger	20	0-5	1-2	2	1	2	3	1
Kinsey	1	0-0	0-0	1	1	0	0	(
Team				5				
Totals	200	28-59	17-21	39	15	11	15	78
ILLINOIS-C								
	MIN	FG-A	FT-A	RB	A	TO	PF	TP
Hall	11	1-3	1-4	1	1	!	1	4
Johnson	29	0.14	1-3	10	2	4	2	10
Chambers	32 39	2-11	0-0	10	6	0	5	18
Jett Delaney	39	8-19	1-2	2	1	0	3	19
Runge	15	4-9	0-1	6	0	1	1	1983
Veague	18	1-6	1-2	2	1	0	3	3
Jackson	17	0-1	0-0	2	1	1	1	0
Team				5				
Totals	200	29-68	4-13	47	19	9	19	67
Drake				. 4	0	38	-	78
Illinois-Chic					6	31	-	67
Three-p								
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qualify as a wild card team.

a postseason berth with a win.

berth since 1982.

berth.

Chargers gain playoff break

SAN DIEGO, CALIF. (AP) — San Diego's playoff chances improved

slightly when National Football League officials reviewed the possibili-

ties and reduced by one the conditions under which the Chargers could

San Diego, 8-6 after five straight losses, still must beat the Broncos

(9-4-1) in Denver next Sunday to have any chance at their first playoff

Under the initial scenario, it was thought that Pittsburgh, Houston and

Monday's review of the myriad of playoff possibilities left intact the

scenario involving Pittsburgh and Houston, but New England no longer

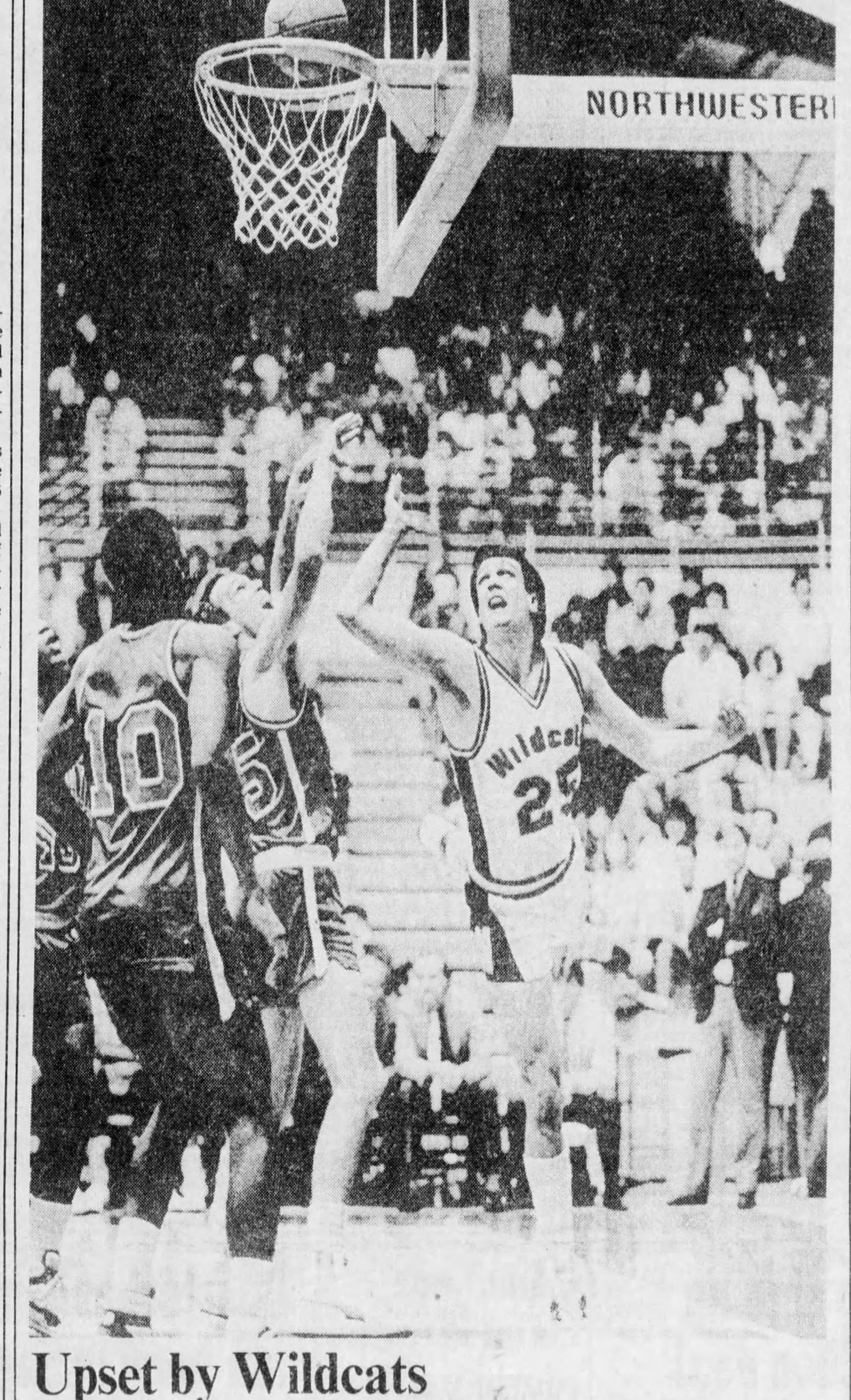
must defeat Miami Monday night for the Chargers to earn the wild-card

The NFL said that if the Chargers and Dolphins win their final games

to finish at 9-6, the Chargers would have the edge in the tie-breaker

based on a better record (7-6 vs. 6-6) against conference opponents.

Miami all had to lose their games in order for the Chargers to qualify for



Shon Morris, a former Altoona prep, watches his lay-up drop during first-half action against De Paul in

Evanston, Ill., on Monday night. Morris helped the Northwestern Wildcats upset De Paul, 78-64. Story: 3S.

Lions, Chiefs in line for top pick

By MIKE O'HARA

© 1987 Gannett News Service DETROIT, MICH. — The Detroit Lions are only one more loss away from claiming the top prize in next April's college draft, but that isn't on Coach Darryl Rogers' mind yet.

He has a key game Sunday in At-

lanta. If the Lions lose — that is, the Falcons win - Detroit gets the No. 1 slot. If Atlanta loses - er, the Lions win

 Kansas City will sneak in, unless the Chiefs upset American Football Conference West contender Seattle. All three teams have 3-11 records

going into the final week of play. "You don't strive for being last,"

Rogers said. "At least I never felt that. There's no question we don't particularly want it. That's not our goal, or will it ever be our goal."

But like it or not, the Lions may have the inside track in the Race for

It is a three-team affair between Detroit, Atlanta and Kansas City. They are face mask and face mask in the stretch drive.

This is the form chart: At the post: Detroit, Atlanta and

Kansas City,. This week's games: Detroit at At-

lanta and Seattle at Kansas City. Edge in a tiebreaker: Strength of schedule or, perhaps more accurately, weakness of schedule determines the first-round draft order if teams finish with the same record. Detroit has an insurmountable lead. The Lions' opponents have a combined 95-112-3 record. Kansas City is 11 games stronger, at 106-101-3. Atlanta, 114-95-1, is out of the running if the teams finish tied.

Detroit's lead over Kansas City cannot be made up next week for two reasons:

Too many teams on the Chiefs' schedule play each other in the final game (San Diego at Denver, Chicago at the Raiders).

 K.C. and the Lions have too many common opponents - Denver, Seattle, Chicago, Green Bay, to name a few. Victories and losses will balance

out fairly evenly for Detroit and Kansas City.

How to be No. 1: For Detroit, lose. It's that simple.

Atlanta, meanwhile, has to lose and hope Kansas City wins to avoid the same weakness-of-schedule tiebreaker that favors the Chiefs over the Fal-

If the Lions and Falcons tie Sunday, Kansas City is in if it loses. If all three tie, the Lions are in.

Betting line: The early line favors Detroit by 1 point over Atlanta, and Seattle by 5 over Kansas City. If form follows, that means the Chiefs are apt to be No. 28 and thus No. 1. They have played tough in recent weeks, extending AFC frontrunner Denver to the closing seconds last week and are a better team than the 3-11 record indicates. Atlanta and Detroit aren't.

The crowd: According to early reports, the Falcons expect a crowd of about 10,000, their lowest of the season not counting the strike. It's hard to predict accurately, though, because the Falcons have a seasonticket sale base of 30,000.

Draft plans: It's too early to tell what the Lions will do with the first pick - or the second or third. There isn't a franchise player available, such as a Billy Sims, Bo Jackson or Herschel Walker.

"When you talk about going offense or defense, I don't think you lean one way or the other," Rogers said. "What you have to do is find out the talent that's available."

lineup after two losses

'Fridge' is included on list of demoted players

LAKE FOREST, ILL. (AP) -Starting tackle William "Refrigerator" Perry was the most notable of three Chicago Bear defenders demoted Tuesday as Coach Mike Ditka made good on his threat to shake up the lethargic unit.

Following Perry to the bench were strong safety Todd Bell and cornerback Mike Richardson.

Ditka said there will be three new starters on offense as well Sunday when the Bears, playoff-bound after capturing their fourth consecutive Central Division title, play the Los Angeles Raiders.

The changes come in the wake of consecutive losses to San Francisco (41-0) and Seattle (34-21) — marking the first time since 1984 the team has lost two straight. The Bears led the National Foot-

ball League in rushing defense and sacks entering last Sunday's game and were rated No. 1 in the National Football Conference in total defense.

But Ditka remained less than impressed by recent performances.

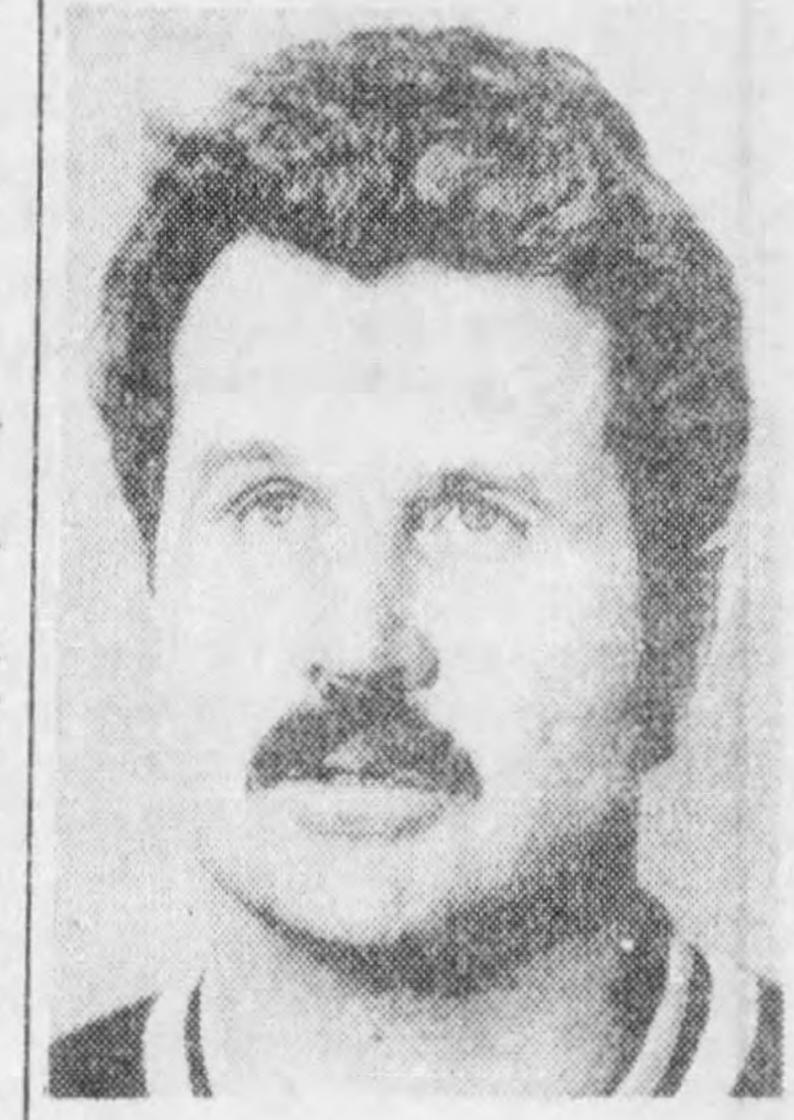
"They're worried about how high their socks are, and whether the white shows a lot, whether their shoes are on right, whether the decals are painted on right, the wristbands," he said. "They look good as they forget to play football."

Perry's slot will be taken over by end Dan Hampton, who has been slowed by knee surgery. Hampton's spot will be filled by Al Harris.

Bell's demotion clears the way for the return of veteran Gary Fencik, who is the club's all-time leader in tackles and takeaways. Fencik, in his final season at age 33, will be back at his familiar free safety spot, returning Dave Duerson to strong safety.

Richardson, who led the team in interceptions in 1986 with seven but has yet to steal one this season, loses his assignment to Maurice Douglass.

On offense, Kurt Becker replaces Tom Thayer at guard; Matt Suhey starts at fullback because Neal Anderson sprained his knee, and John Wojciechoski takes over at tackle for Paul Blair, who became a starter while replacing the injured Jim Covert.



Mike Ditka Unimpressed by Bears' play

Arm-waving costly for Miami's Foster

MIAMI, FLA. (AP) - Miami basketball Coach Bill Foster was only showing his enthusiasm, but his wild arm-waving during his team's 110-107 victory over Alabama State put his arm in a sling. "It wasn't a good game for a coach,

but it was an exciting game for the fans," said Foster, who dislocated his left shoulder while gesturing for a foul to be called. The coach, who was waving his

arms wildly when Hurricane Dennis Burns was knocked down, had to be helped from the court.

Team physician John Uribe popped the shoulder in place and Foster spent the remainder of the game with his arm fastened to his side in a brace.

MORNING REPORT

ASCHERL RETURNS TO IOWA. Drake from the mid-chest after breaking his neck during a Dec. 12, match in Stillwater, was flown from Oklahoma City, Okla., to Younker Memorial Rehabilitation Center in Des Moines on Tuesday. He has some movement in his arms, but no feeling from his chest down. Ascherl, a 118-pound freshman from Fort Dodge, was injured when Joey Pangelinan of California Poly-San Luis Obispo rolled him over with a legal half-nelson hold. Drake has started a fund to help pay his medical expenses.

BUCKEYE FINALISTS. Don Nehlen of West Virginia and John Cooper of Arizona State are the finalists for the Ohio State football

coaching position that became vacant when University wrestler Tim Ascherl, paralyzed Earle Bruce was fired. Nehlen, 51, and Cooper, selected as the Seniors winner. 50, a former Iowa State aide, are coaching in bowl games. West Virginia meets Oklahoma State on Friday in the Sun Bowl in El Paso, Texas; Arizona State faces Air Force in the Freedom Bowl Dec. 30 in Anaheim, Calif.

> TOP GOLFERS. Curtis Strange was named Player of the Year on Tuesday by the Golf Writers Association of America. Strange, who set a PGA Tour money winning record of \$925,941 this season, also won this award in 1985. Paul Azinger, who edged Strange in the PGA Player of the Year race, was second in the national balloting by the 500-member writers' group. The writers named Betsy King the LPGA

Player of the Year and Chi Chi Rodriguez was

KANSAS CANDIDATE, Ted Tollner, an assistant coach with the Buffalo Bills and former head coach at Southern California, has interviewed for the head coaching position at the University of Kansas. Tollner, a receivers coach for the Bills, emerged as a top candidate after former Ohio State coach Earle Bruce and Kansas officials could not agree on a contract.

MORA ROBBED. When two gunmen realized they were robbing Jim Mora, the popular head coach of the New Orleans Saints, they grabbed their loot and ran. Mora said Tuesday that it was a frightening experience. "My wife

and I came home from a dinner out," Mora said. "We just came into our house and a couple of fellows were outside our house and had been waiting for somebody in the neighborhood to come home. We just happened to be the ones. They followed us into the house and robbed us at gunpoint." One man has been arrested and another is being sought.

NCAA REJECTS REQUEST. The NCAA has turned down Texas A & M's request for restoration of Cotton Bowl playing eligibility to football reserves Melvin Collins and Tony Bartley. A & M Coach Jackie Sherrill had declared the two ineligible pending a National Collegiate Athletic Association appeal because of dealings with Atlanta sports agent Jim Abernethy.

Maury White is on vacation.