

← Back

A year that streaked by

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Wipe off the rear view mirror on the year of sports in 1987 and what do you get? Streaks. Lots of them.

There were long ones, good ones, bad ones and crazy ones. There were mean ones (the Flyers' Dave Brown clubbed the Rangers' Tomas Sandstrom), blond ones (Steffi Graf) and one gray streak (Woody Stephens) who finally ran out of magic when his horse in the Belmont ran out of the money.

But along with the streaks, we also got some stains.

For openers, there was the steroid scandal at the college bowl games involving Oklahoma All-America linebacker/nincompoop Brian Bosworth.

There was the scandal that rocked Southern Methodist University, which got the 23 skidoo from the NCAA - a two-year "death penalty" for its football program.

There were scummy agents **Norby Walters** and **Lloyd Bloom**, who seemingly were at every college campus flashing pinkie rings and giant rolls of cash to kids with pro potential who were easily conned.

There was former Los Angeles Dodgers general manager Al Campanis, whose completely insensitive and ignorant statements regarding blacks created a national furor and led to a promise of fairer hiring practices by major league baseball and other sports.

There were baseball players giving us a whole new meaning to the expression "tools of ignorance" as Houston's Billy Hatcher (corked bat), Philadelphia's Kevin Gross (sandpaper)

and Minnesota's Joe Niekro (emery board) were suspended for trying to build better stats through carpentry.

And we can't forget the Great NFL Strike of '87 that had millionaires walking picket

lines, arguing with fed-up fans, throwing eggs and wrestling with assistant coaches (in Kansas City).

That left us with the Sunday afternoon and Monday night spectacle of plumbers playing the defensive line, bartenders throwing TD passes and florists booting extra points. At the same time, Pete Rozelle went into hibernation and Gene Upshaw tried to bear up as the pressure to settle grew to epic proportions.

If all that didn't make you a candidate to lie down on a couch and talk to a guy with a bad haircut, consider '87 also gave us LSU basketball coach Dale Brown, who used a press conference to talk about Jim Bakker, Imelda Marcos, Saturn and voodoo among other things.

Want more? How about:

Basketball player Chris Washburn, who required the services of a baby-sitter when he was at Golden State.

The horse - De Rigueur - that was disqualified after winning a race at Ascot, England, for eating a Mars bar.

Kansas City running back Paul Palmer, who enjoyed a Boo Boo bear cartoon so much that he went out and had Boo Boo carrying a football tattooed on his leg.

The New York court that ruled it was OK to verbally abuse an umpire.

The Denver court that ruled it was OK for a football coach to call an agent a sleazebag.

Kansas City outfielder Bo Jackson, who

signed with the Los Angeles Raiders and claimed football was just a hobby.

Two players from service academies (Army's Kevin Houston and Navy's David Robinson)

finishing 1-2 in college basketball's scoring race.

Boorish Bob Knight pulling his Indiana team off the court with 15 minutes remaining in a game with the Soviet National team.

The trainer in Lexington, Ky., who sued a jockey after a losing race at Keeneland.

Florida State pitcher Richie Lewis who, after being drafted in the second round by the Expos, asked the team for a \$100,000 signing bonus, four World Series tickets for each year he's in the Montreal organization, airfare twice a year so his parents could visit him, double the Class AAA per diem allowance and the use of a telephone credit card for a year.

A group of 20 Alabama boosters giving football coach Ray Perkins \$200,000 so he could pay off his house in Tuscaloosa. Perkins paid off the house - then jumped to Tampa Bay of the NFL.

Houston Oilers GM Ladd Herzeg being accused of mooning a wedding reception in Buffalo, N.Y.

Bosworth showing up for the Orange Bowl game wearing an anti-NCAA T-shirt that read: National Communists Against Athletes.

Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson setting a world record in the 100 meters (9.83 seconds) and later having his driver's licence revoked for having too many speeding tickets.

Catcher Dave Bresnahan of Class AA

Williamsport, who tried to pick off a runner at third base with a potato and promptly found himself in the eye of a storm that eventually led to his release.

The New York Knicks inviting Dr. Seuss, Dr. Joyce Brothers, Dr. Frank Field, Dr. Ruth and Dr. Leonard "Bones" McCoy of "Star Trek" to salute Dr. J - Julius Erving.

The Edmonton Oilers who, after winning the Stanley Cup, hauled it to a strip bar across the street from Northlands Coliseum and let a bunch of drunken patrons drink booze from it.

San Diego's Marvell Wynne, who suffered severe back spasms dodging ball four and had to be

placed on the disabled list.

Texas pitcher Greg Harris, who had to miss two starts because his right elbow swelled after he spent several hours flicking sunflower seeds into the stands from the dugout.

Pittsburgh catcher Mike Diaz saying something was "bridge under the water," then saying, "I meant water under the bridge. I just misquoted myself."

Detroit Tigers rookie Jim Walewander, who slept on the floor of his apartment in Toledo, Ohio, because he owned no furniture. The drapes in that apartment were made of aluminum foil.

Former major league pitcher Bill Lee announcing his candidacy for president in 1988 as a member of the Rhinoceros Party, which favors abolishing the law of gravity.

Pitcher Mark Grant, who after being traded to the Padres from the Giants, couldn't get uniform No. 22 because somebody was wearing it. So he requested No. 55 because, "If I walked to a mirror and looked upside down the number would seem like 22."

Houston pitcher Charlie Kerfield's contract, which stipulates he must receive 37 boxes of Jell-O for "clubhouse pranks."

Boston pitcher Dennis "Oil Can" Boyd getting in trouble for not returning five videotapes. Among the selections were "Nudes in Limbo" and "Fists of Fury."

The IOC banning female athletes from using birth control pills.

Two mortuaries being on the list of sponsors of lap money at the Indy 500.

Judges receiving more than 12,000 entries in a contest to name the proposed covered stadium in Toronto. Among the entries: Con Dome, Pierre TruDome and HomeTDomeT. The winner? Skydome.

Utah forward Karl Malone taking his recently purchased braces off his teeth and pitching them in the Potomac River.

Mike Zimmerman of Temple City, Calif., who proposed to his wife during a Mets-Phillies game and married her in the batting cage at Candlestick Park. The rabbi wore a catcher's mask.

Dodgers outfielder Ken Landreaux cleaning out his locker and saying his goodbyes to teammates after being told by a caller, who identified himself as a reporter, that he'd been cut. It took manager Tommy Lasorda 30 minutes to convince Landreaux he was still on the team.

A company in Cooksville, Ill., offering golf carts that resemble Rolls-Royces. The carts include a beverage cooler, sun roof, shag carpeting and leather seats. Cost: \$15,000.

John Strausbaugh rolling a 900 series in Columbia, Pa., and having the ABC not recognize the feat because it wasn't in a sanctioned tournament.

Governor Bill Clements of Texas admitting that while he was on SMU's Board of Governors he had OK'd the payment of \$61,000 to football players when the school already was on NCAA probation.

Officials in Miami deciding to stop keeping score during T-ball games for 6- and 7-year-olds after watching parents from opposing teams scream at one another.

Horse trainer Sally Bailie naming her 2-year-old filly All For Ollie after seeing a headline regarding Oliver North and Fawn Hall. The horse's sire? Shredder.

Missouri basketball star Derrick Chievous, who likes sugar so much he has been known to dump 25 packets into his ice tea.

But through all the loony-tune doings, how sweet it was for several athletes.

Who can forget the amazing feat of Milwaukee's Paul Molitor, whose 39-game hitting streak was the fifth longest in modern history. On the day after his string was stopped, Molitor presented an autographed baseball to Cleveland pitcher John Farrell, who had held him hitless.

Or the eighth straight NHL scoring title won by Edmonton's incomparable "Great One" - Wayne Gretzky.

Or the 34-game hitting streak by San Diego catcher Benito Santiago, the longest by a rookie in major league history.

Or the home run spree of the Yankees' Don Mattingly, whose dingers in eight consecutive

games tied the major league record set by Dale Long of Pittsburgh in 1956.

Or the 29 straight games won by the Salt Lake City Trappers of the Pioneer League.

Or the sixth consecutive gold medal diver Greg Louganis won in the 10-meter platform event at the Olympic Sports Festival. Louganis also won the three-meter and platform competition at the Pan Am Games for a record third time in a row.

Or the third straight U.S. Open title won by Ivan Lendl.

Or the 13-game winning streak the Brewers put together to begin the season.

Or the awesome one-day streak of jockey Laffit Pincay Jr., who rode seven winners on the March 14 card at Santa Anita.

Or the four-race win streak Ferdinand ended the year with, including a stirring nose victory over Alysheba in the \$3 million Breeders' Cup Classic.

Or the performance of the New Orleans Saints, who for the first time in their 20-year history had a winning record and made the playoffs.

Or the seven-tournament, 45-match winning streak tennis' No. 1 player - Graf - had before losing the Wimbledon final to Martina Navratilova. Graf, who later lost the U.S. Open final to Navratilova, was the first player in Wimbledon history to show up for the tournament undefeated in the calendar year.

For Navratilova, the Wimbledon triumph was her sixth in a row (eighth over-all), another record.

There also were some rather dubious streaks, as well as some that came to an end.

Horse trainer Stephens, 73, had his streak of five consecutive Belmont victories snapped when his Gone West went south, finishing more than 20 lengths behind winner Bet Twice.

Columbia broke Northwestern's record for the longest losing streak in college football - 34 games - by losing to Princeton Oct. 10. The Lions finished the year with their string intact at 41.

Lakers center Kareem Abdul-Jabbar had scored in double figures for 787 straight games before failing to do so in a Dec. 4 game with Milwaukee.

For the first time since 1973, Chris Evert failed to win a Grand Slam event.

Jockey Chris McCarron won the first two legs of the Triple Crown aboard Alysheba, then admittedly gave the horse a terrible ride in the Belmont, finishing fourth. Had he finished second, Alysheba would have earned a \$1 million bonus.

The U.S. men's basketball team had a 34-game winning streak in international competition before losing to Brazil 120-115 in the finals of the Pan Am Games.

Hurdler Edwin Moses' streak of 122 victories in a row came to an end in June when Danny Harris beat him in Spain.

Daley Thompson's nine-year unbeaten streak in the decathlon was severed by East Germany's Torsten Voss at the World Track & Field Championships.

The Cuban national baseball team hadn't lost a game since 1971 - winning 33 straight - before falling to the U.S. squad 6-4 at the Pan Am Games. The Cubans bounced back to rout the U.S. in the title game.

Boxer Marvelous Marvin Hagler hadn't lost in 11 years, including 12 middleweight title defenses, before dropping a split decision to Sugar Ray Leonard.

Thomas Hearns became the first boxer to win titles in four weight classes when he knocked out Juan Roldan.

The Washington Redskins' streak of 159 consecutive sellouts at RFK Stadium came to an end Oct. 4 in a replacement game against St. Louis.

In the American Hockey League, the Baltimore Skipjacks lost their first 16 games to set a league record.

Hobart beat Ohio Wesleyan 9-5 to record its eighth straight soccer title in Division III, an NCAA record for consecutive team championships.

And speaking of getting your kicks, who could top the years had by:

The Cubs' Andre Dawson, who became the first player named MVP from a last-place team.

Boxer Mike Tyson, who became undisputed heavyweight champ by belting around James "Bonecrusher" Smith to win the WBA title and Tony Tucker to win the IBF title.

Al Unser Sr., a replacement on the Roger Penske team, won his fourth Indianapolis 500.

The Minnesota Twins, who won only 85 regular-season games but captured the World Series in seven games over St. Louis.

Guard Sleepy Floyd, who set an NBA record by scoring 29 points in the fourth quarter of a Warrior playoff defeat of the Lakers.

Indiana, which won the NCAA basketball title on a basket by Keith Smart with four seconds left.

The New York Giants, who dunked the Denver Broncos 39-20 in the Super Bowl, then doused coach Bill Parcells with the customary cooler of Gatorade.

Penn State, which beat Miami (Fla.) 14-10 in the Fiesta Bowl to win the national championship.

The Los Angeles Lakers, who won their fourth NBA championship in the '80s by defeating Boston in six games.

Dale Earnhardt, who won 10 races on the NASCAR circuit.

Oakland's Mark McGwire, who set a major league rookie record by

belting 49 homers.

Boston's Roger Clemens, who won his second straight Cy Young Award despite missing part of the season in a contract dispute.

Jackie Joyner-Kersey, who won the heptathlon by an unbelievable 564 points at the World Track & Field Championships in Rome.

Robinson, who signed a \$26 million contract with the San Antonio Spurs.

Golfer Larry Mize, who captured the Masters by holing a 140-foot chip shot to beat Greg Norman in a playoff.

Skipper Dennis Conner, who guided Stars & Stripes to a victory over the Australian yacht Kookaburra III to recapture the America's Cup.

Pat Cash, the 11th seed who won Wimbledon.

Golfer Scott Simpson, who won U.S. Open.

Pat LaFontaine, whose goal gave the Islanders a 3-2 victory over the Capitals in the fourth overtime of the seventh game of the Patrick Division playoff. It was the longest NHL game since 1943.

That brings us to the quotes of the year. There were some dandies:

Chris McCarron, when asked if he was nervous before riding Alysheba in the Preakness:

"Does Dolly Parton sleep on her back?"

Lakers forward Kurt Rambis, when asked if success has changed coach Pat Riley: "Not at all. I still go over to his house the same time every weekend to wash his car."

North Carolina coach Dean Smith on winning: "If you make every game a life and death proposition, you're going to have problems. For one thing, you'll be dead a lot."

Detroit rookie Jim Walewander, when asked how he found Seattle pitcher Mark Langston. "I took a left at the on-deck circle, and there he was."

Missouri women's basketball coach Joann Rutherford after a game in which a brawl with Oklahoma players had to be broken up by police: "I always try to shake the hand of the opposing coach, but how can I when she's on the floor?"

Boxer Greg Haugen on rival lightweight Vinny Pazienza: "Pazienza has a face like a pizza and he dresses like Liberace."

Bears quarterback Jim McMahon, when asked who wouldn't be a great quarterback playing for the Raiders: "Marc Wilson."

Boston Celtics forward Kevin McHale talking about the joys of Cape Cod: "You can even go on whale watch. Personally, though, I saw enough of Bill Laimbeer in the playoffs."

Boxing publicist Irving Rudd describing the ego of boxer Hector "Macho" Camacho: "His greatest dream is to die in his own arms."

Angels manager Gene Mauch after a 15-4 loss to the Mariners: "That was the most forgettable game I can remember."

Mets broadcaster Ralph Kiner: "Today is Father's Day. So everyone out there, happy birthday."

Padres announcer Jerry Coleman while doing a game in St. Louis: "The sky is so clear today you can see all the way to Missouri."

Texas A&M football coach Jackie Sherrill on his new recruits: "These are the type of players that can make a 10-2 team into an 11-0 team."

NBC's Bob Costas on Alabama coach Wimp Sanderson's multi-colored sports jackets: "It's good to see Pinky Lee's estate has been settled."

Houston Oilers coach Jerry Glanville on 300-pound plus guard Jerrell Franklin: "It looks like somebody sat on his lap and didn't leave."

Former White Sox outfielder Ron Kittle on his salary with the Yankees: "I'm so poor I can't even pay attention."

Yankee first baseman Don Mattingly on his huge salary: "Everybody thinks I've changed, but I'm just a boy from the hills of Indiana. If you don't believe me, ask my butler, Reggie Jackson."

Kansas City reliever Steve Farr, when asked if the soreness in his shoulder might be mental:

"How could it be mental? I don't even have a college education."

Former NBA player Tom Meschery on Wilt Chamberlain, who celebrated the 25th anniversary of his 100-point game in '87: "Wilt once told me that if he could be granted one wish in life he'd like to be invisible for a day, a week, maybe a month. The next time I saw him he was wearing lizard-skin pants and a flowing, multi-colored African shirt, and he

was leading two enormous Afghan hounds down the street on silver chains."

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Page: 16

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