lowa Today

Weather

Section



Good things come in 3s

KLAHOMA CITY, Okla. — Holiday Bowls are traditionally high-scoring, wild-andcrazy football games.

But, if Iowa and Wyoming don't put on brilliant offensive displays tonight for some reason, don't despair. Just switch your television dial to tonight's Iowa-Oklahoma All-College tournament championship matchup.

Points will be scored. By the ton.

Should Iowa have been upset by Illinois State Tuesday night, please disregard the above. Iowa will be playing Oral Roberts tonight at 7 instead of meeting Oklahoma at 9. Just go ahead and watch the Holiday Bowl, because Oral Roberts isn't blessed in the basketball

department. Oral Roberts met the Oklahoma juggernaut in the All-College opener Tuesday evening. It seemed Oral's players represented themselves fairly well in the first half. Then you looked at the scoreboard at intermission, and noticed Oklahoma led 65-43.

The final was 144-93. That's Oklahoma, brother.

CONTRARY TO popular opinion, the Sooners do not shoot first and ask questions later. They shoot first, shoot second, shoot third, then re-load and shoot again.

The only question they ask is what is that thing with changing red numbers that is perched atop the backboards.

Oh, those are 45-second shot clocks. What do we need those for, ask the Sooners. Surely no one's ever waited that long to shoot.

Not only does Oklahoma like to send the ball towards the basket, it likes to do so from long-range.

In its first 10 games, all victories and most by huge margins, Oklahoma tried 223 three-point goals and made 87. That's 39 percent, which doesn't sound so hot. But it's the same in point production as shooting 58.5 percent from twopoint land.

And, you get more offensive rebounds from the goofy threepointers.

OKLAHOMA APPROACHED its game against Oral Roberts with the belief that mere two-point shots would not be enough against the 1-6 Titans. OU's first four baskets were 3-pointers.

At the half, the Sooners had eight 3-pointers. They finished with 13. Art Pollard, the 10th player OU Coach Billy Tubbs used in the game, put up a three-pointer the first time he handled the ball.

It was good. Oral Roberts didn't make a 3pointer in the first half. If Oklahoma's eight 3-pointers only counted for two points, the halftime score would have been 57-43. That's not close, but it's still in the ballpark.

Thus, give Tubbs credit for being one of America's first major-college coaches to not only endorse the three-point shot, but to make it an integral part of his offense.

When the 3-point shot was introduced, it was roundly criticized by coaches as not being a hard enough shot to make. It was seen as a bogus rule change, a complete farce.

WRONG, WRONG, WRONG. The players love the shot, and more importantly, the fans love it. It's only in its second year of existence on the national level, but it's here to stay. The coaches who acknowledge its potential and power will be the coaches who stay ahead of the game.

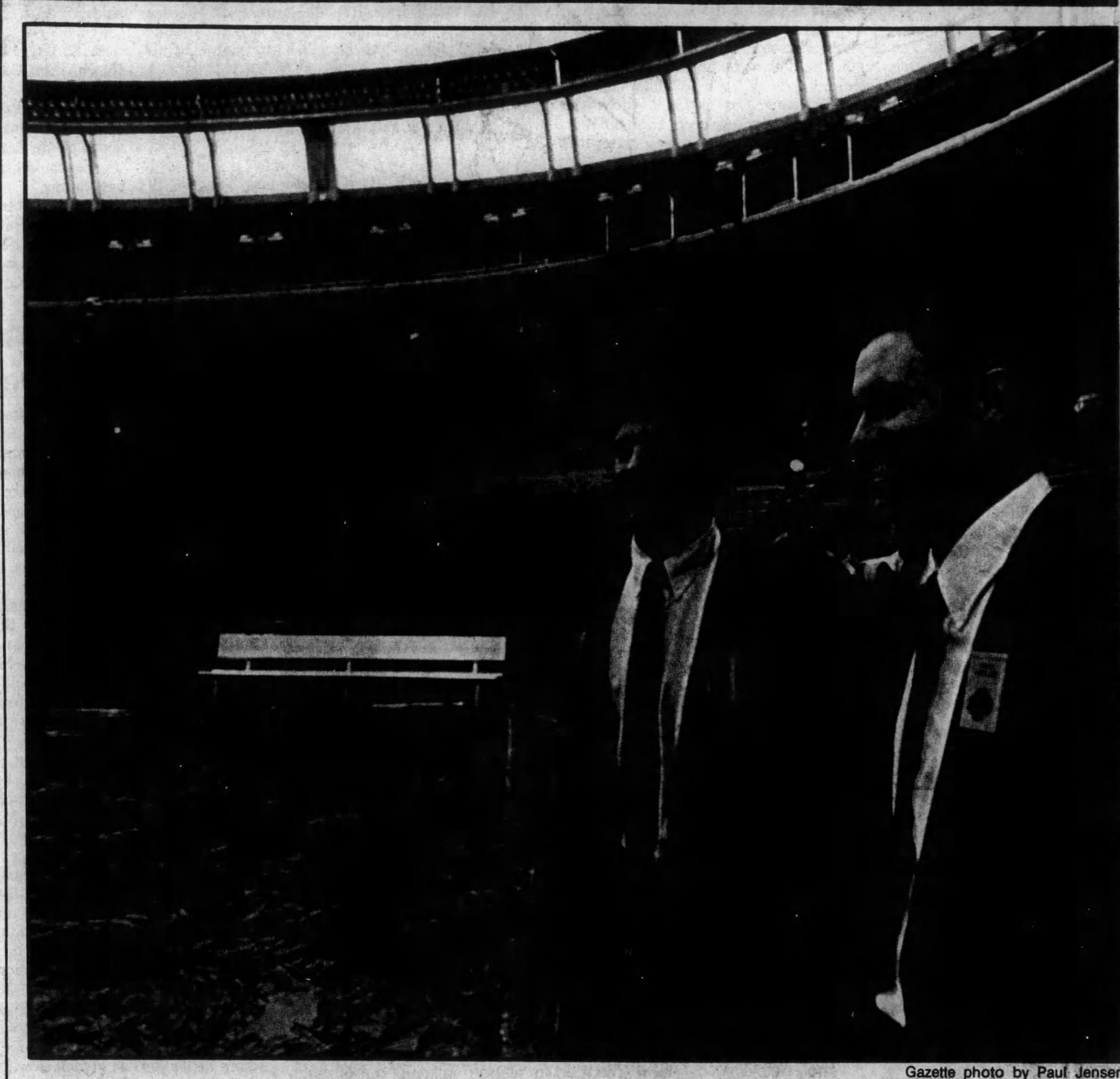
If Georgetown Coach John Thompson is smart, and he is, he'll have two or three good jumpshooters on next year's U.S. Olympic men's basketball squad.

The 3-point shot has been part of international basketball for several years now, and it is a vital part of most nations' game. Many national teams will pass up reasonably good shots to send the ball out to a shooter outside the 3-point circle.

Big men and good interior play still are necessary, of course. Oklahoma power forward Harvey Grant was slightly awesome Tuesday with 40 points and 19 rebounds.

But you kids, listen up. Shovel that driveway land start popping those 20-foot jump shots.

OLIDAY BOWL



Gazette photo by Paul Jensen

Brad Quast (left) and Chuck Hartlieb survey the tarp-covered turf at San Diego Jack Murphy Stadium during a light rain Tuesday.

Excitement this game's middle name

Holiday matchup pits teams that know how to score some points

> By Mark Neuzil Gazette sportwriter

SAN DIEGO — Never a dull moment.

That phrase describes not only the history of the Holiday Bowl, but the seasons of the two teams involved in tonight's 10th edition of the football game at sold-out Jack Murphy Stadi-

Eighteenth-ranked Iowa, 9-3 and winner of five straight, meets Wyoming, 10-2 and victor in its last nine games, in the 6:30 p.m., Iowa time, kickoff.

ESPN is televising the game live. It has been raining here for a day, but clear skies are forecast for game time. Iowa has been established a four-point favorite.

The Hawkeyes, who tied for second in the Big Ten with Indiana, have been here before. Iowa scored 18 fourth-quarter points, including Rob Houghtlin's 41-yard field goal as time expired, to edge San Diego State 39-38 a year ago today.

That kind of exciting finish was nothing new to the Holiday Bowl, which has seen eight of its nine games decided by a touchdown or less, including five in the final 30 seconds and four by a single point.

Late heroics are old cowboy hat to Wyoming this year, too. The Cardiac Cowboys, who went unbeaten in winning their first Western Athletic Conference title in 11 years, won four

times in the final two minutes.

CAN IT HAPPEN again tonight? Coach Paul Roach, a rookie boss at age 60, hopes he doesn't have to find out.

"This is the type of team I don't think it's easy to come back on," Roach said of Iowa. "I don't want to get in that position."

The Hawkeyes, who began the year 4-3, blew fourth-quarter leads in losses to Tennessee and Michigan State. But that was before Chuck Hartlieb emerged as one of the country's top quarterbacks.

Still, "it would be out of character for our team not to make a run at them when we're down," Roach said.

Wyoming's rallies have featured the arm of quarterback Craig Burnett (2,799 yards, 20

• Please turn to 2B: Holiday

Hawks Redbirds By Mike Hlas

Gazette sports columnist OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. - After letting a 16-point lead get away, lowa's basketball team lost to Illinois State 89-88 Tuesday when ISU guard Matt Taphorn sank a three-point goal with five seconds

left in a first-round All-College

tournament game..

The 14th-ranked Hawks (7-3) will meet Oral Roberts tonight in the 7 p.m. consolation. Illinois State, 5-4, will face No. 10 Oklahoma in the championship game. Oklahoma ripped Oral Roberts Tuesday, 144-

With all five starters scoring in double figures, Iowa broke away to a 75-59 lead with 8:36 left in the game. But a furious 19-2 spree gave Illinois State a 78-77 lead with 4:04 to go.

Iowa then sank six straight free throws to take a 83-78 advantage with 2:16 remaining, but Taphorn hit consecutive three-point shots to • Please turn to 2B: Hawks

ISU's Grayer 2 grand for words in win

Cyclone forward scores 29 to pass 2,000-point mark

Special to The Gazette TOLEDO, Ohio — Jeff Grayer scored 29 points and cracked the 2,000-point barrier for his career Tuesday night as Iowa State dumped Navy, 83-61, in the consolation game of the Blade Classic basketball tournament.

Grayer raised his total to 2,001 as he became the ninth player in the Big 8 Conference to reach the

www.lowa State, an upset victim of Butler in the opening round Monday night, played slugglishly again against Navy before pulling away in

the second half. Grayer hit 9 of 16 shots from the field and 11 of 13 free throws, and grabbed 11 rebounds. He trails only Barry Stevens (2,190) on ISU's alltime scoring list.

"Grayer had a great night," said Cyclone Coach Johnny Orr. "He didn't shoot well, but he was in traffic all night."

Lafester Rhodes contributed 18 points and Mike Born added 11 as the 16th-ranked Cyclones raised their record to 10-2 heading into

Please turn to 2B: ISU

Price is right again as Iowa women roll past No. 6 Virginia

Special to The Gazette

MIAMI, Fla. — For the second night in a row, sophomore forward Franthea Price led fifth-ranked lowa to victory in the Burger King/Orange Bowl Classic women's basketball tournament Tuesday.

Price's 21 points, 14 rebounds and four steals powered the Hawkeyes to a 75-59 win over No. 6-ranked Virginia. She scored a career-best 23 points in Monday night's win over No. 2 Auburn.

Iowa, 8-0, faces top-ranked Texas, 9-0,

tonight at 6:30 Iowa time in the championship

Texas, which defeated Rutgers 86-75 in the other semifinal, will likely be without junior All-American Clarissa Davis, who went down with a knee injury in Tuesday's game. Davis, the Naismith Player of the Year last season, scored a career-high 45 points against defending champion Tennessee earlier this

The Cavaliers, 7-1, play eighth-ranked

Rutgers, 5-1, for third place in the eight-team tournament.

Price, last season's Big Ten Conference Freshman of the Year, picked up the slack when Iowa needed it most. With Iowa's top scorers Michelle Edwards and Shanda Berry 9. sidelined during much of the first half with three fouls apiece, Price came on hitting 7 of 8 shots from the field for 14 points and nine rebounds at the intermission.

Berry and Edwards both started the second half but picked up their fourth fouls less than

three minutes into play. Neither returned to action until less than 10 minutes remained. Despite seeing limited action, Berry added 13 points to the Iowa attack, while sophomore Jolette Law added 10 and Edwards pitched in

Stephanie Schueler, a 5-4 guard from Sioux Falls, S.D., who had seen action in only three games and was scoreless heading into the contest, came off the bench to hit 2 of 3 attempts from the field and 4 of 4 from the

• Please turn to 4B: Women

Hawks keep only 2 alive at Midlands

By J.R. Ogden - Gazette sportswriter

EVANSTON, Ill. — The Iowa wrestling team continued to have problems Tuesday, sending just two grapplers into the semifinals of the 25th annual Midlands Open.

The Hawkeyes' two steadiest matmen — Brad Penrith at 126 pounds and Royce Alger at 177 advanced into today's semifinals at Northwestern's McGaw Hall, as did the Hawkeye Wrestling Club's Barry Davis.

Semifinals are at 1 p.m., with

finals at 7:30 tonight. Iowa is in third place heading into today's final two sessions with 32 points. The Sunkist Kids Wrestling Club is in first place with 48.75 points and seven wrestlers in the semifinals, followed by Wisconsin (36.50). Cleveland State is in fourth place with 31 points and top-ranked Arizona State is in fifth with 30.75 points. The Hawkeye W.C. is in

"We are lacking execution right . . mostly," Iowa Coach Dan Gable said as just two of his 17 • Please turn to 4B: Midlands



Hawkeyes Kevin Gamble (35) and Ed Horton celebrate iow defeat of Oklahoma in the NCAA Regional tournament in Seattle.

Hawks' flight caught lowans' fancy in '87 a school-record 18 straight victolowa's 30-5 mark

state's top story over the past year

> By Chuck Schoffner Associated Press

spectacular basketball season, the end of a long streak and a prolific scorer who became the darling of the state's high school

fans topped the Iowa sports news in 1987. Some off-the-field controversies involv-

ing a sports agent also made headlines during the past year, as did another successtul University of Iowa football season and national honors for Iowa basketball Coach Tom Davis.

In his first season at Iowa, Davis guided the Hawkeyes to a 30-5 record that included

ries at the start of the season. The Hawkeyes were ranked No. 1 nationally at midseason and came within one game of reaching the NCAA Final Four.

That exciting season was voted the top sports story of the year in Iowa by writers and broadcasters taking part in the annual Associated Press survey. It recrived 11 of 20 first-place votes and had 170 points in the balloting.

As the basketball season was nearing an end, Iowa State captured the NCAA wrestling championship, dashing Iowa's hopes of becoming the first school to win 10 straight titles in a sport. That was voted the No. 2 story of the year.

meview A girls' basketball player from the small town of Ventura cap-

tured the hearts of Iowans with her • Please turn to 3B: 1987

From page 1B

skills and was voted the No. 3 story of 1987. Lynne Lorenzen broke the national high school scoring record late in the season and finished with 6,736 career points in leading her team to the six-player state championship.

The story voted the fourth biggest of the year took place off the field and actually had its beginnings three years ago. It was disclosed early in the year that sports agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom of New York had given money to college athletes while they were still eligible, including former Iowa football players Ronnie Harmon and Devon Mitchell.

Later it was revealed that former Iowa State player Lester Williams took money from Walters and an alleged association with Walters threatened to curtail the 1987 season of Iowa running back Kevin Harmon, Ronnie's brother.

BOWL TRIPS have become an annual affair for the Iowa football team under Coach Hayden Fry and this year was no exception. The Hawkeyes were 9-3 in the regular season and met Wyoming in the Holiday Bowl — Iowa's seventh straight postseason appearance. That was the No. 5 story of the year.

Davis was rewarded for his efforts at Iowa by being named Associated Press Coach of the Year. That finished sixth in the story-of-the-year voting.

Another long streak ended in Madrid, Spain, when former Iowa State runner Danny Harris, who still trains in Ames, beat Edwin Moses in the 400-meter hurdles. Harris' victory ended Moses' 122-race winning streak and was voted the seventh-best story of the year.

The Palmer boys' basketball team finished eighth in the voting after capturing its second straight Class A state championship and running its winning streak to 52 games, while the lowa women's basketball season was voted the No. 9 story. The Hawkeye women had their best season ever, going 26-5.

Clinton's Dan Knight became the seventh high school wrestler in Iowa to win four state championships, an accomplishment that was voted the No. 10 story.

Iowa State's wrestling championship received five first-place votes in the balloting and was 15 points behind the lowa basketball team as the top story.

Lorenzen received two first-place votes and Knight had one. The other went to a story that didn't make the Top Ten — the Estherville football team. The Midgets almost forfeited their first-round Class 3A playoff game after one player was killed and another was injured in a traffic accident, but they went ahead with the contest one day late and made it all the way to the championship game.

WHEN DAVIS got the Iowa basketball job in April of 1986, school officials knew they had landed a coach with an excellent reputation. But nobody expected what was to transpire.

Davis installed a relentless running game that featured full-court pressure and frequent substitutions and it fit his personnel perfectly. No lead by an opponent was too big for the Hawkeyes as time and time again they came back from big deficits to win.

Iowa became the No. 1 team in the country on Jan. 19 and proved itself worthy of that ranking by knocking off Purdue and Indiana in back-to-back games. But the Hawkeyes were a spent team when they played Ohio State on Jan. 24 and lost 80-75.

There was more winning to come, however, as the Hawkeyes finished third in the Big Ten, then reached the finals of the NCAA West Regional against Nevada-Las Vegas.

Iowa raced to a 19-point lead in the first half and appeared to be headed for the Final Four, but got a dose of its own medicine when UNLV roared back in the second half to win 84-81.

Iowa history. And after mediocre junior years, Brad Lohaus and Kevin Gamble emerged as stars in the Davis system and were chosen in the NBA draft. Lohaus is still with the Boston Celtics. Gamble was cut by the Portland Trail Blazers after a few games and now plays for the Quad City Thunder of the Continental Basketball Association.

Iowa State's wrestling team had been playing second-fiddle to Iowa for several years when Jim Gibbons became the Cyclones' coach on his 26th birthday in April of 1985.

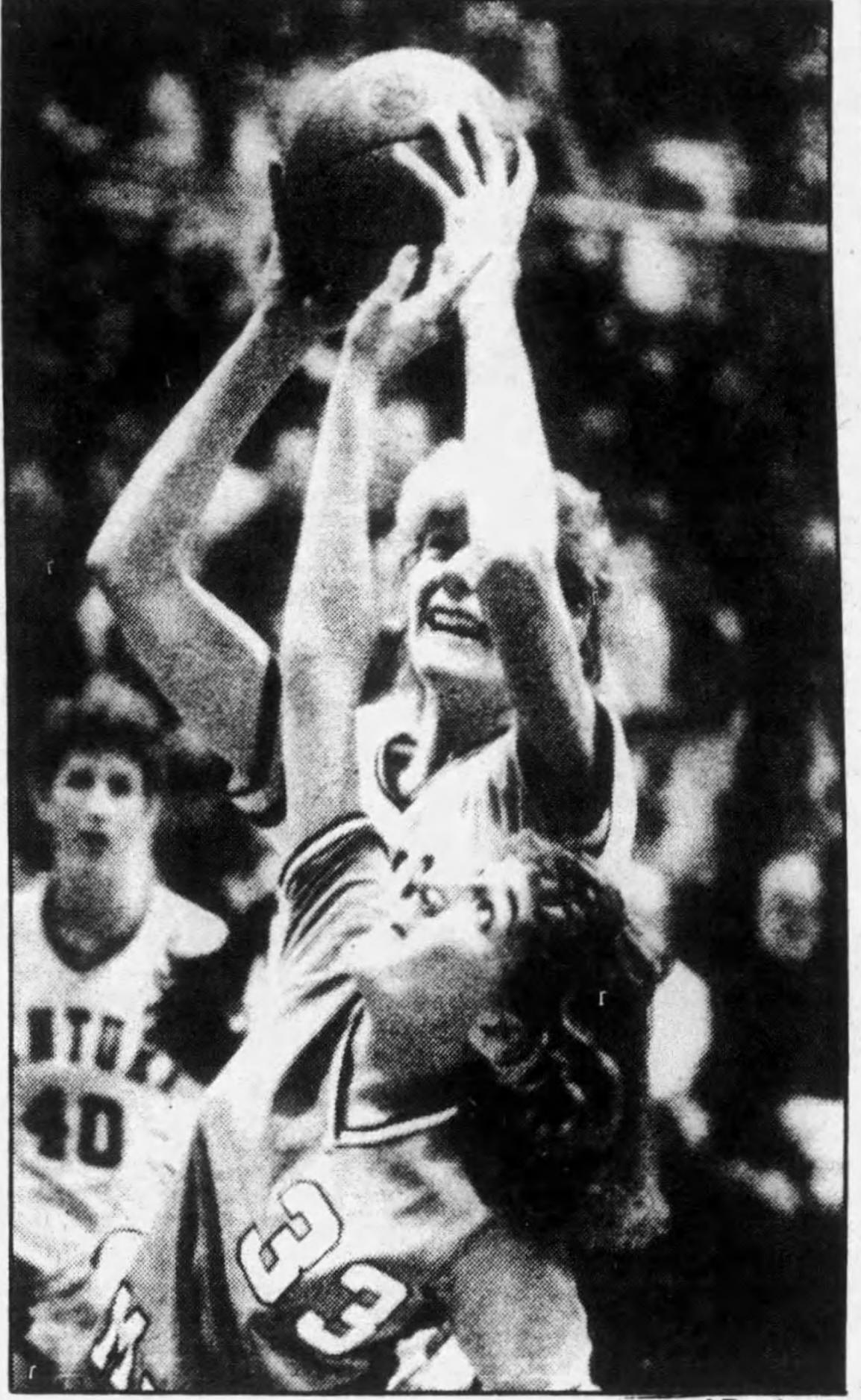
Less than two years later, the enthusiastic young coach had Iowa State on top. The Cyclones dominated the 1987 NCAA meet at College Park, Md., crowning four individual champions and piling up 133 points to 108 for second-place Iowa.

Iowa State's Billy Kelly was the champion at 126 pounds, Tim Krieger won at 150, Stewart Carter



AP photo

A happy Danny Harris celebrates his victory over Edwin Moses, ending Moses' 122-race winning streak in the 400-meter hurdles.



AP photo

With this jump shot, Ventura's Lynne Lorenzen became the most prolific scorer in high school girls' basketball history.

captured the title at 158 and Eric Voelker claimed the crown at 190.

It was a disappointing setback for Iowa Coach Dan Gable and his wrestlers, who had talked all season about making it 10 straight. The Hawkeyes had only one champion - Royce Alger at 167.

However, the nine straight titles that Iowa won are matched only by Southern Cal in track (1935-43) and Yale in golf (1905-13).

LORENZEN DREW national media attention in her bid to break the national high school scoring record held by another Iowa standout, Denise Long of Union-Whitten.

Long scored 6,250 points in her career and was in the stands watching when Lorenzen topped that mark in a sectional tournament game with Meservey-Thornton at Mason City High School.

Lorenzen kept adding to her total after that and in her final game, she scored 59 points to lead Ventura to a 90-69 victory over Runnells Southeast Polk for the state championship. A month later, Lorenzen announced that she would attend Iowa State and is now a starter for the Cyclones.

The controversy involving Walters and Bloom touched Iowa when it was disclosed that Harmon had received \$54,000 from the agents while still in school. An investigation by the university later found that Mitchell also had been paid by Walters and it was learned that Williams received about \$10,000 from the agent during his days at Iowa

Such payments violate NCAA rules, but neither school was punished because athletic officials and coaches were unaware of what had taken place.

In November, the U of I investigated allegations Still, it was a remarkable season — the best in that Harmon's brother, Kevin, received \$350 and airline tickets from Walters, but the probe cleared him of any wrongdoing and he was able to continue

Harmon and his teammates enjoyed another good season after a rocky start. The Hawkeyes lost to Tennessee 23-22 in the Kickoff Classic and stood 4-3 overall and 1-2 in the Big Ten after an embarrassing 37-10 loss to Michigan on national television.

But the Hawkeyes regrouped as Chuck Hartlieb became more comfortable as the starting quarterback and won their final five regular season games. A victory over Wyoming in the Holiday Bowl would make this Iowa team only the second to win 10 games and the first since 1922 to finish the season

with six consecutive victories. Davis' Coach of the Year Award was the high point in a successful career that took him to Lafayette, Boston College and Stanford before he arrived at Iowa. He began this season with a career record of 304-155. Davis also was named Big Ten Coach of the Year, the first coach so honored in his first year in the league.

AS MOSES BUILT his incredible winning streak, the goal of every hurdler was to be the one who broke it. Harris finally did it on June 4 at a meet that wasn't expected to get much attention.

Harris, a three-time NCAA champion at Iowa State and silver medalist at the 1984 Olympics, won the race in 47.56 seconds. Moses' time was 47.69.

"Beating him was the challenge we all faced," Harris said at the time. "I was nervous, but I wasn't worrying about him during the race. That's why I beat him."

The tiny Pocahontas County town of Palmer sits in an area that felt the crunch of a slumping farm economy, but local residents found some solace by rallying around the basketball team.

Led by outside gunners Troy Skinner and Brian Pearson, Palmer made 3-point shots with the ease that other teams shoot layups in rolling to a 26-0 record for the second straight year. The Panthers capped the season with a 70-53 championship game victory over West Point Marquette.

Pearson made 10 3-pointers in the finale and Skinner had four. Both are back this season and Palmer is favored to win its third consecutive title. The lowa women's basketball team enjoyed a

season that matched the Hawkeye men. Led by Michelle Edwards and Lisa Long, Iowa shared the Big Ten title at 17-1 and came within a basket of reaching the Final Four, losing to Louisiana Tech 66-65 in the finals of the NCAA Midwest Regional.

Backup QB will lead Air Force against Arizona St. in Freedom

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — One of the biggest bones in the Air Force Academy's wishbone offense is broken, but backup quarterback Steve Letnich expects to do the job when the Falcons face the Arizona State Sun Devils in the Freedom Bowl.

Sophomore Dee Dowis, who set the NCAA single-season record for most yards rushing by a quarterback with 1,315 this year, broke his right hand in the season finale at Hawaii and won't play against the Sun Devils in tonight's 7 p.m. (Iowa time) game at Anaheim Stadium.

That leaves the job to Letnich, a sophomore who lost his starting role to Dowis a few series into the season opener.

"I'm Dee's backup, that's my job on the team — to be physically and mentally prepared to go in," Letnich said Tuesday. "Unfortunately Dee got hurt. He's what made Air Force go all year.

"My job is to make sure we don't miss a beat, and to make sure all 11 cylinders run at once."

Air Force, 9-3, will be playing for its sixth bowl victory this decade. Arizona State, 6-4-1, could be do." playing its final game under Coach John Cooper, who has led the Sun Devils into their third straight bowl.

two finalists for the vacant Ohio State job. He wouldn't confirm or deny the rumor Tuesday and told reporters, "I will let you know more in the next few days."

Cooper is rumored to be one of

Air Force averaged 386.3 yards rushing per game this year, second only to Oklahoma's 428.8. Dowis' best game was a school-record 241 yards against Utah.

"I'm just going to do what they dictate," said Letnich, who rushed 27 times for 192 yards. "We have the answers to anything they show us. I'll have to read correctly, pitch the ball when I can and tuck it and run when I have to."

Radio station says Cooper in at OSU

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — John Cooper will be the next after the game. Ohio State coach, a radio station reported Tuesday.

coach Glen Mason, once rumored be it. If not, that's OK." to be a candidate for the job, will Kansas.

The station referred to unidentified sources close to Mason and at Ohio State.

Cooper, reached at Anaheim, sas. Calif., where his team will play Air Force in the Freedom Bowl

tonight, said he would not com-Arizona State football coach ment on the Ohio State job until

At a news conference earlier Tuesday, he said: "I have a great WTVN-AM in Columbus also job here. If it happens that they reported that Kent State football choose me to go to Ohio State, so

Mason could not be reached be appointed head coach at for comment on the report that he will go to Kansas.

Kent State spokesman John Wagner said the university has not heard from officials at Kan-

Officials at Kansas said they had no announcement planned.

"I have all the confidence in the world in Steve," Air Force Coach Fisher DeBerry said. "We perceive ourselves as a strong family, and when we face adversity it brings us closer together. Everybody will do their best to rally around Steve. That's why I feel as positive as I

the wishbone when it played Pacific and Arizona, which used a hybrid wishbone and run-and-shoot of-

"Air Force runs the wishbone as good as or better than any team I've seen, including Oklahoma," Cooper

Of Dowis' injury, he said: "They're going to run the same offense. You don't change your philosophy just because your quarterback is injured."

Air Force's two fullbacks, Andy Smith and Quinton Roberts, rushed for 635 and 572 yards. Halfbacks Anthony Roberson and Albert Booker had 569 and 457, respectively.

The Freedom Bowl will also highlight some of the nation's best linemen. Air Force senior defensive tackle Chad Hennings, a native of Elberon who prepped at Benton Community High School in Van Horne, was named first-team All-America and won the Outland Trophy as the nation's outstanding interior lineman.

Arizona State guard Randall Mc-Daniel was second-team All-Ameri-Cooper said Arizona State faced ca and won the Pacific-10 Conference's Morris Trophy as the league's best offensive lineman.

> The Sun Devil offense is led by tailback Darryl Harris, whose 818 yards on 179 carries was third-best in the Pac-10. Fullback Channing Williams had 591 yards on 165 carries and led the league with an average of 5.6 yards per carry.

Quarterback Daniel Ford, who started nine games, completed 112 of 227 passes for 1,484 yards and 11 touchdowns.

"With Ford at quarterback we got better offensively, but the strength of our offense is running the ball," Cooper said.

"I think it will be a high-scoring game," Cooper said. "Both teams will move the ball."

Badgers slip past Panthers

Wisconsin claims a 64-56 victory

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (AP) — Trent Jackson scored 18 points and Byron Robinson added 17 Tuesday night to lead Wisconsin to a 64-56 victory over Northern Iowa in the second round of the UNLV-Bud Light Holiday Classic basketball tourna-

Wisconsin bounced back from a 102-65 loss to 15th-ranked Nevada-Las Vegas a night earlier. Northern Iowa had upset Louisiana State 90-80 Monday night at the Thomas and Mack Center on the UNLV campus.

Northern Iowa's Steve Phyfe led all scorers with 22 points.

Nick Nurse added 11 points for the Panthers, who fell to 5-5.

Wisconsin took a 20-12 lead after 14 minutes of play. The Badgers led 30-23 at halftime.

Northern Iowa outscored Wisconsin 10-4 at the outset of the second half to draw within one point, 34-33.

But the Badgers, 5-4, then got field goals from Robinson, Jackson and Danny Jones to make it 40-33. The Panthers weren't closer than

four points after that. Wisconsin led, 59-54, with 24 seconds left.

Wisconsin's Tom Molaski led all rebounders in the game with 10.

UNI (56): Bailey 1-1 0-0 2, Newby 3-13 2-3 9, Cox 0-3 0-0 0, Parker 3-10 4-4 10, Nurse 4-7 0-0 11, Williams 0-2 0-0 0, Socha 0-0 0-0 0, Phyfe 7-13 8-8 22, McDermott 1-2 0-0 2. Totals 19-51 14-15

WISCONSIN (64): Tapp 0-0 1-2 1, Robinson 4-5 9-10 17, Molaski 3-8 2-3 8, Jackson 7-18 3-4 18, Tompkins 0-1 0-0 0, Locum 0-1 0-0 0, Jones 6-11 3-3 15, Schubring 0-2 1-2 1, Portman - Wisconsin 30, UNI 23, Total fouls - UNI 20, Wisconsin 16. Fouled out — Nurse, Jones. Rebounds — UNI 31 (Bailey 9), Wisconsin 34 (Molaski 10). Assists — UNI 9 (Nurse

2, Williams 2), Wisconsin 15 (Robinson 6). A - 2,000.

FOOTBALL — The Minnesota Vikings will start Tommy Kramer at quarterback when they meet the New Orleans Saints in an NFL wild-card game at New Orleans on Sunday. Coach Jerry Burns made the decision to go with Kramer, rather than Wade Wilson, after watching Kramer in practice. Kramer, bothered by a pinched nerve in his neck, did not start in the Vikings' last game against Washington, which the Redskins won . . . The Cincinnati Bengals announced Tuesday they have decided to retain Sam Wyche as head coach in 1988, despite his team's 4-11 performance in 1987. Wyche, 42, will earn about \$250,000 in the final year of a five-year contract . . . The NFL Players Association was scheduled to return to federal court Wednesday in its effort to accomplish what the 24-day players' strike could not: end the NFL's free-agency system. U.S. District Judge David S. Doty was scheduled to hear motions by the players association for a preliminary injunction and partial summary judgment in its antitrust lawsuit against the league owners . . . Oklahoma's Barry Switzer, the third-winningest coach in the history of college football, was one of four inductees into the Orange Bowl's Hall of Honor on Tuesday. The others were Penn State Coach Joe Paterno, former Penn State defensive tackle Mike Reid and former Colorado center-defensive lineman Joe Romig.

SPORTS BRIEFLY

BASKETBALL — The Cleveland Cavaliers activated second-year guard Ron Harper from the injured list Tuesday and waived rookie forward Kannard Johnson . . . Larry Fleisher, executive director of the NBA Players Association, on Tuesday said the union has rejected an offer from league owners to resume discussions on a new collective bargaining agreement. The players are seeking an end to the college draft, the right of first refusal for free agents and a salary cap . . . Boston's Larry Bird has taken the lead among Eastern Conference forwards in the latest NBA all-star balloting released by the league on Tuesday. Bird, an all-star in each of his previous eight seasons and most valuable player of the 1982 game, has received 242,498 votes so far. Atlanta's Dominique Wilkins, the leader among East forwards last week, is second at 240,980.

MISC. — Pitcher Jack Morris, who created the biggest stir among free agents a year ago, quietly ended his second stab at free agency Tuesday by signing a two-year contract with the Detroit Tigers worth about \$4 million. Morris will earn salaries of \$1,988,000 in 1988 and \$1,989,000 in 1989. . . The National College Sports Festival, now entering its third year, announced Tuesday that the Corpus Christi resort area will be the Midwest venue for the National Championship of College Sports in the spring of 1988. Set to run for four consecutive weeks, March 6 through April 2, the Festival should draw an additional 5,000 spring break visitors to the Texas cities of Corpus Christi, Port Aransas and Rockport. . . . Olympic 100-meter champion and world record-holder Evelyn Ashford will compete in the U.S. Olympic Invitational track meet Feb. 13 in East Rutherford, N.J., meet director Ray Lumpp announced Tuesday.

From Gazette wire services

Rose Bowl revelers can ride in luxury to game

SALINAS, Calif. (AP) — The luxurious domed Plaza Santa Fe railroad car, a featured fixture on the Santa Fe Super Chief's Los Angeles-to-Chicago run in the 1950s, is ready to roll again, this time to the Rose Bowl. The 85-foot-long, 10-foot-wide,

40-passenger lounge car, restored by a father and son who live in Salinas, will be coupled to an Amtrak train on Thursday for the trip from Oakland to Los Angeles. The travelers plan to arrive in

time for New Year's Eve and the Rose Bowl football game between Southern California and Michigan State on New Year's Day.

"We just want to make our hobby, which is expensive, selfsupporting," said Wayne Yetter, 27, a mosquito control technician with the Northern Salinas Valley Mosquito Abatement Control District.

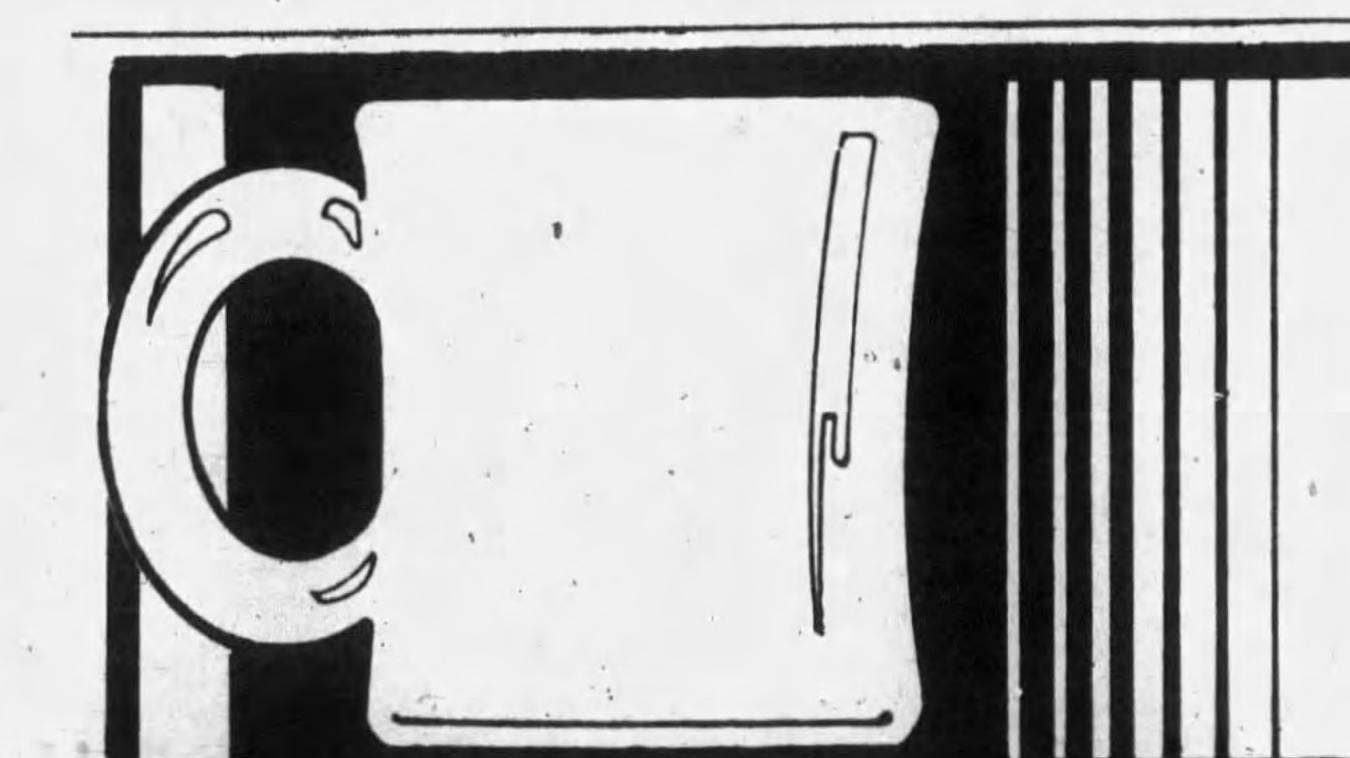
The round-trip cost for the trip in the lounge car is \$325, but along the way passengers will be able to sit in one of eight plush swivel seats or

relax at the sunken bar section while being pampered by whitejacketed waiters.

Yetter and his father, Joe, also

are offering a scenic six-hour trip to San Diego on New Year's Day for an additional \$50. And the Yetters, convinced the

San Francisco 49ers will be playing in the Super Bowl, will offer a trip to San Diego for the National Football League's championship game on Jan. 31.



As fresh as your first cup of coffee ...

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