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SPORTSPEOPLE

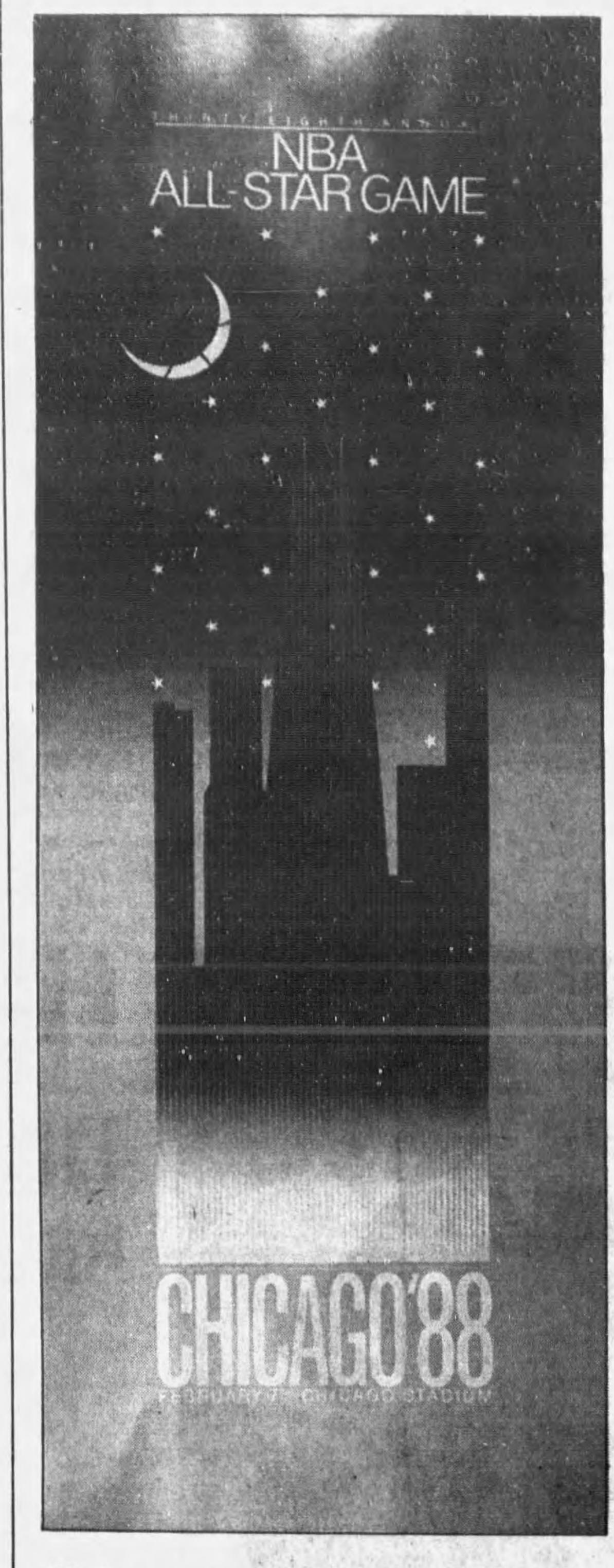
By Linda Kay & Mike Conklin

Odds&

We called Charlotte Ditka at her home in Pennsylvania Tuesday to ask her reaction to her son's latest honor. "I'm just glad it happened in my lifetime," she told us. "I think he deserved it a long time ago, but of course, I'm a mother." Charlotte has been lobbying for her son's election to the Pro Football Hall of Fame for so many years that it has become something of a family joke. In fact, when she called Mike to congratulate him on Tuesday, he told her: "Maybe they finally heard you, Mom."

Reaction time, II

Mike and Diana Ditka got back from Florida on Monday night, and Mike had already left for the office Tuesday morning when Diana got the word from sportscaster Rich King that her husband was a Hallof-Famer. "I called him and told him I'm very proud, and I love him, and I'm very excited, and it was about time," Diana told us. "Like he said, it was the icing on the cake, and that's the truth." Mike didn't display his feelings about the honor and probably wouldn't, she said, until the induction ceremony in Canton, Ohio. "Mike's a real modest guy," she said, "and he's not going to show a lot of emotion about it."



Soviet star Tretiak prices himself out of NHL

Soviet hockey legend Vladislav Tretiak tried to land a coaching job with the Stanley Cup champion Edmonton Oilers, but his \$250,000-a-season asking price put him out of reach, according to a newspaper report.

Citing an unnamed Ottawa source, the Montreal Gazette reports that Tretiak, with the blessings of his Soviet sports ministry superiors, approached Oilers owner Peter Pocklington through an intermediary last August about a job as goaltending coach. The noted former goaltender

was prepared to move his family \$ to Edmonton for three years, provided the price was right.

But Pocklington countered with three one-year contracts—at \$150,000 a season—with the second and third years at the Oilers' option, the Gazette said.

The \$150,000 offer would have been divided into a \$100,000 salary with the remainder placed in an investment portfolio.

That offer would have made Tretiak the highest-paid assistant coach in hockey. Most earn

\$40,000 to \$70,000.

Pocklington's offer was handdelivered to Tretiak's intermediary in Ottawa by an Edmonton businessman with links to Tretiak.

A Tretiak link to the Oilers was Oiler center Wayne Gretzky, who put the former goaltender in touch with his Edmonton-based business agent, Mike Barnett.

To date, no reply to Pocklington's offer has been received either from Tretiak or from Soviet sports officials, the Gazette said.

2 Chicago-area bowlers in finals of NFL alumni tournament

Saturday, Mike Miller and John lannantone get to go bowling with Elroy Hirsch.

The two Chicago-area junior bowlers will be competing in the finals of the NFL Alumni Super Bowling Championships, being held in Honolulu in conjunction



\$33,000 has already been won through local, state and regional competition. An additional \$9,000 will be at stake in the finals.

Miller, a senior at St. Joseph High School in Westchester, and Iannantone, a junior at Stagg High School in Palos Hills, and two other team members will be joined by Hirsch.

Post-mortem

Here's a chuckle we just had to share in the aftermath of Super Sunday. It seems the San Diego Super Bowl Task Force had warned potential tailgaters that there were to be no private parties on the grounds surrounding Jack Murphy Stadium while the game was in progress. Almost everybody got the message: Only two RVs were left at the stadium before the kickoff and both were summarily towed before the game. It just so happens that one of the offending vehicles belonged to Dick Rozelle, who just happens to be the commissioner's brother.

Illini clone?

He's described as being articulate and slick. He's supposed to be good with QBs, but he's also considered headstrong and not very good at delegating authority. Several years ago, he got into a war of wills with a top defensive coordinator who ended up losing his job. Sounds like Mike White, doesn't it? Actually, that's the description given to us of John Mackovic, the man Illini Athletic Director Neale Stoner was said to be backing as White's replacement. The descriptions were supplied by a good source in Kansas City, where Mackovic coached the Chiefs. . . . Our question was this: Why was he fired after taking KC to the playoffs for the first time in years? Said our source: "Player revolt was the reason given, and that's partly true. The players didn't relate to Mackovic and viceversa. But they were more upset that some assistants were about to be fired. They felt those coaches were the reason they made the playoffs, not Mack. The owner [Lamar Hunt] stepped in, and he never really got along with Mack."

Chicago never looked better

Get used to this design. It's the official National Basketball Association All-Star Game serigraph, and the NBA, CBS and Turner Broadcasting will all be using the design this weekend. The 12-by-32inch limited edition prints, designed by Jeff Pate, are available from Serigraphics of Indianapolis.

Canadians discover real meaning of the Olympics with the Pro Bowl.

There will be 12 teams—four junior bowlers and an NFL alumnus—in the finals of the

tournament, sponsored by the Miller Brunswick Corporation and con-

ducted by the National Football League and Young American Bowling Alliance.

Among the NFL alumni competing are Tommy Nobis, Otto Graham, Ollie Matson, Ken Stabler and Bobby Bell.

The event gives young bowlers a chance to compete for \$42,000 in scholarship money. A total of

A very closed practice

Players on Israel's Davis Cup tennis team, training in Palermo, Sicily, are being driven to practice sessions in bulletproof cars with a police escort.

"It's not pleasant to be so closely watched, but we were told it's a necessary measure and we must accept it," Joseph Stabholz, Israel's captain, said Tuesday.

The Israelis are scheduled to play Italy in a first-round match starting Friday.

Authorities decided to tighten security around team members because of tension over Israel's handling of unrest in its occupied territories. The squad is constantly guarded, with armed police patrolling the courts during practice.





lannantone

Miller, 17, has been bowling since he was 4. He has a 172 average, 279 high game and 702

high series. Iannantone, 16, is on the basketball and football teams at Stagg. He has been bowling for 11 years and has a 146 average and 257 high game.

In addition to Saturday's competition, the finalists will attend the Pro Bowl (including a tailgate party), go to a luau and take a tour of the Arizona Memorial

BRIEFS

A Tuscaloosa, Ala., grand jury indicted sports agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom on three misdemeanor counts connected with payments their firm made to former Alabama basketball star Derrick McKey, Alabama Atty. Gen. Don Siegelman said. The pair face the same counts as does former sports agent Jim Abernethy, who has been indicted in the case of former Auburn football star Kevin Porter. The counts are: violation of the state's deceptive trade practices act, a commercial bribery violation and tampering with a sports event. McKey lost his senior year of eligibility and Alabama was hit with a financial penalty because of his dealings with Walters and Bloom.

The Associated Press reported that Green Bay Packers Vice President Tom Braatz has offered Cleveland Browns offensive coordinator Lindy Infante the Pack's headcoaching job and says he wants a reply by Wednesday. "There are no major hurdles left. It's a matter of timing at this point," Braatz said. Infante has left Honolulu, where the Browns' staff will coach the American Conference team in Sunday's Pro Bowl. "He is away tending to personal business," said Browns coach Marty Schottenheimer. ... Miami (Fla.) wide receiver Michael Irvin, who caught 50 passes for the national champions this season, said he would bypass his final year of eligibility to pursue a career in the NFL. ... Former Ohio State star and NFL player Pete Johnson was found innocent of cocaine charges in Columbus, Ohio.

Rich & Famous

In light of Sunday's Super Bowl result, we thought we'd share a report on the 20 richest men in thoroughbred racing appearing in a recent issue of Thoroughbred and Harness Racing Action magazine. Top honors belong to Edward DeBartolo Sr., whose net worth is estimated at \$1.25 billion and whose holdings in racing include Thistledown outside Cleveland, Louisiana Downs near Shreveport and the soon-to-open Remington Park in Oklahoma City. Right behind De-Bartolo is Forrest Edward Mars Jr., the owner of Mars Candy, whose estimated worth is \$1.2 billion and who owns lots of horse flesh. And in the third spot is the latest football giant to hold the Vince Lombardi Trophy. He's Jack Kent Cooke, who's worth about \$1 billion and owns and breeds thoroughbreds. By the way, a Chicagoan did grace the list: Richard Duchossois is ranked 12th with a net worth of \$350 million. He, of course, owns Arlington Park, breeds horses at the Hill 'N Dale Farm in Barrington, and races them in Illinois, California and Great Britain.

News, notes and nonsense

Lute Olson, coach of No.-1 ranked Arizona, has been tough on his old conference this season. The Wildcats are 4-0 against the Big 10 with victories over Illinois, Michigan, Iowa and Michigan State. ... President Reagan greets outstanding female athletes at the White House Thursday to commemorate National Women in Sports Day. Among those expected to meet the Prez: Jackie Joyner-Kersee, Pam Shriver, Zina Garrison, Bonnie Blair and Stephanie Hightower. ... North Park College shoots for the NCAA Division III homecourt victory record Wednesday night when it plays Carroll. The Vikings have won 62 straight to tie a record set by De Pauw last year, and, according to the Dunkel ratings, they're about a 20-point favorite to make it 63. ... Harvey Ratner, a nationally recognized sports trainer, gives a clinic Wednesday at the Mid-Town Tennis Club on how to improve peripheral vision. ... For the eighth year in a row, the Bulls will award two \$1,000 college scholarships to local high school seniors based on academic and extracurricular activities. Applications, available at the team's headquarters, must be submitted by Feb. 26. ... Ed Kelly may no longer be with the Chicago Park District, but the sport of boxing, one of his pet interests, remains on its agenda. International boxing referee and former U.S. Olympic coach Rollie Schwartz covers various aspects of the sport at a free clinic Sunday in the Davis Square Park Fieldhouse. And finally: Mike Ditka has a lot to smile about these days, which makes him a fitting candidate to represent the Chicago Dental Society during Children's Health Month. His pearly whites will be on display in TV ads through February.

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The Olympic torch relay has filled Canadian citizens with the selfless spirit of Olympism.

Seems that a number of Canadians who ran legs have been selling their red and white uniforms (given to them free by sponsor Petro-Canada) for as much as \$4,000.

One torch-bearer, a civil servant from Thunder Bay named Jim Fitzpatrick, wanted \$18,000 for his.

"It's not that I'm not patriotic," Fitzpatrick shrugged. "But I look upon it as a good business venture."

57

Reduce that Winter Games roster to 57 countries, now that Ireland and Senegal have pulled out. The Irish two-man bobsled team and the Senegalese skier apparently thought better of it. That means that 7 of the 2,603 beds at the athletes' two villages will be empty.

Stargell not campaigning for Chuck Tanner's job

The Atlanta Braves have finished in last place the last two seasons under Chuck Tanner. Willie Stargell, the Braves' third base coach, has made no secret of the fact he wants to manage in the big leagues. Should Tanner be worried?

Not really, Stargell says.

He says he'd feel uncomfortable replacing Tanner, who managed Stargell and the Pittsburgh Pirates to a World Series championship in 1979.

Who: Jack McKinney

What: McKinney had been coach of the Los Angeles Lakers for just 13 games when he decided to ride his son's bike to a morning tennis match eight years ago. The bike's gears jammed, and McKinney was thrown headfirst over the handlebars onto the pavement. He was in a coma for three days and semicomatose for three weeks afterward. The Lakers fired McKinney while he was still in physical therapy, three games before the team finished its 1979-80 season and won the NBA title.

Career: Before coaching the Lakers, he coached the Indiana Pacers. After his firing, the Kansas City Kings hired him, but nine games into the 1984-85 season, McKinney quit and unknowingly cut himself off from the world of basketball. Livetius Johnson, the 190-pound running back who led Leo High School to a 10-1 season, announced he would attend Michigan. Johnson, who rushed for more than 1,600 yards, chose Michigan over Purdue, Northwestern, Colorado and Notre Dame. "He said he had a good visit at Michigan and it was a place he feels more comfortable," said Leo coach Paul Maggiore.

The Cubs signed relief pitcher Frank DiPino and utility infielder Paul Noce to one-year contracts. No terms were announced. . . . A federal bankruptcy judge rejected a bank's request to take over the contract of San Diego Padres outfielder Tony Gwynn and garner his wages. First International Bank of Chula Vista (Calif.) had petitioned the court to move against Gwynn's contract to pay off a defaulted \$75,000 loan that was among a number of loans the National League batting champion co-signed for his former agent, Lewis Muller. Judge Louise Malugen ruled that Gywnn's earnings could not be seized without the consent of his wife, Alicia, because her assets were named in the bankruptcy filing and were considered community property. Gwynn filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy last May, listing liabilities of \$1,147,000 against assets of \$690,150. First International said that, with interest, its loan to Muller left Gwynn holding the bag for \$98,935. ... The Cleveland Indians signed shortstop Julio Franco to a two-year, \$2.2 million contract. The 26-year-old Dominican, who hit .319 last season, had filed for arbitraton, asking for \$1.125 million. The Indians' figure was \$900,000. ... Atlanta first baseman Gerald Perry won his arbitration case: He was awarded \$425,000, or \$50,000 more than the Braves had offered. ... The Texas Rangers signed veteran left-handed reliever Ed Vande Berg, who pitched for Cleveland last season. . . . New Houston Astros General Manager Bill Wood said he has no interest in signing lefty reliever Joe Sambito, who was cut loose by the Boston Red Sox and has expressed an interest in returning to the Astros, his original club. The Astros, however, are still pursuing right-hander George Frazier, the ex-Cub who pitched for Minnesota last season. . . . Former Astros left-fielder Jose Cruz is weighing offers from the Detroit Tigers, the New York Yankees and two teams in Japan. ... The Tigers may give catcher Matt Nokes, who hit 32 homers as a rookie last season, a shot at the left-field job vacated by Kirk Gibson's departure for Los Angeles. ... The NCAA has approved the use of Worth Sports Company's graphite composite bat on an experimental basis. The NCAA says the graphite bat combines the best features of wood and aluminum.

"I'd feel a whole lot better if Chuck retired and then I was offered the job," Stargell says. "But if the job opens up and [Braves owner Ted Turner] talks to me about it, I'll have some hard thinking to do."

Stargell is participating at the Braves' fantasy camp this week in West Palm Beach, Fla.

"I don't have a timetable or anything, but if something came up now, I could do it," Stargell says of his managing aspirations. "I'd like to manage and I think I'm ready.

"I've been in baseball for 29 years. I know what everybody does, and I'm ready to manage. But there's nothing I can do to hurry it along. I just have to be patient and hope somebody gives me a chance." Now: After 18 months without work, McKinney got a job selling for Ampro Sportswear. McKinney, 52, now lives in Sea Isle City, N.J. He is getting sales training, making calls on local colleges and fitness clubs, professional sports teams and radio stations. His only connection to basketball is scouting on weekends for the Kings and the Los Angeles Clippers. He's also a speaker for the National Head Injury Foundation.

Quote: "I want to show people that I'm not just a jock because, unfortunately, there is a stigma, a tag still printed on athletes and coaches. Coaches are perceived as people who never got a job, who don't work."

Chicago Tribune Graphic,

Ben Johnson won the 60-meter dash in 6.49 seconds at the Community of Madrid track meet in Spain, falling short of his own world record by .08 seconds.

Sherman Bernard Griffin, 24, the U.S. Boxing Association cruiserweight champion, has been sentenced to four years in prison for robbing a Houston video store.

Compiled by Bill Hageman and Bob Vanderberg from staff, wire reports.

