Wednesday, February 3, 1988

SPORTS VIEW

We interrupt this program

By SCOTT OSTLER

1988 Los Angeles Times My plan was to trash the Super Bowl.

I was going to register my disgust with this overfed, waddling pig masquerading as a sporting event. I figured I would write about how the Super Bowl has become the most consistently disappointing spectacle in American sport. Old Reliable.

As artistic and scintillating as a hangover.

I wanted to take a parting shot at the wretched excess, the week-long stuffing of corporate faces with caviar and champagne while much of America is starving. The Great American Tax Writeoff.

That last part would have been easy. There was a story going around after the game that truckloads of Wheaties, packed in boxes saluting the Super Bowl champion Denver Broncos, had been hauled off and burned. This while children in Tijuana, 10 miles from San Diego, starved and begged in the gutters for pennies. But, I changed my mind.

First of all, General Mills sucked the wind out of my self-righteous sails on that Wheaties burning. A spokesman for the company explained that all 12,000 boxes were shipped back to the packing plant in Lodi, Calif. They were unpacked and repacked in plain brown boxes and donated to the Second Harvest Food

It was a great game

Bank. Then the empty Bronco boxes were trucked off and burned.

Still, Mark Twain said golf is a good walk ruined. The Super Bowl is a good football game ruined.

But, when I thought about it, I didn't have the heart to properly trash the Super Bowl, because this

year it was a great game. It was great because of Doug Wil-

The game itself was not a clinker. It was a dazzler. It just ended early.

The first half took about 2 hours, and provided all kinds of thrills. For 2 minutes, John Elway was stunning, Zeus in an orange helmet. For one quarter, Doug Williams put on one of the great sports exhibitions ever.

And, Williams is black, or have you already heard about that?

Some called this the most overblown story of Super Week - Doug Williams carrying the black banner. A lot of people got sick of reading about it, although I suspect most of those who did so were not black.

But why, other than out of embarrassment, should we play down the fact that the first 42 starting Super Bowl quarterbacks were white?

Williams wisely played it down because he knew for this game, it was more important to be black and good than to be black and loud.

He couldn't say what he surely knew: that a lot of black Americans would be rooting for him, not out of racial hatred for John Elway, but out of pride for Doug Williams.

Early in his career, Williams got flak for mentioning that black kids root for him. So, he knew that this was

no time to mount the soapbox. He couldn't say, "I want to win this game for all the black players over the years who have been switched from quarterback to another position, who have been cheated because of a pervasive belief that blacks lack the

necessities." He couldn't say, "I want to win this for all the black kids who never even dream of playing quarterback, or becoming a dentist, or flying an airplane, because they didn't know black people were allowed to do those

things." He couldn't say, "I want to win this for all the black people who could use a little inspiration. And for any black fans who may be wondering, for these 21 years, whether a black man can excel at the most demanding position on the field, in the greatest of pressure games."

Sunday afternoon, when all about him were losing their heads, Williams stood tall and cool. "A cucumber," said a teammate.

After the game, the Redskins, black and white, were all proud of Williams, and he of them.

Why fight it? Why play down the significance of this being the last Super Bowl where we'll have to play up the significance of a player's color?

So today's planned message on the depraved state of the Super Bowl has been pre-empted. I'll return to that theme next year, because the entire

event really is getting uglier. Sunday's game, however, was a

beauty.

rare victory

Surprising Wildcats lead Big Eight with 4-0 record

Probable Lineups

a commote minerpe				
IOWA STATE (16-5)	K	ANSAS STATE (12-4)		
Grayer, 6-5		Richmond, 6-5		
Baugh, 6-5	F	Bledsoe, 6-7		
Rhodes, 6-8	C	McCoy, 6-7		
Thompkins, 6-3	G	Henson, 6-1		
Woods, 5-9	G	Scott, 6-2		
Time and place -	7.0	5 nm Ahaarn Field		

house, Manhattan, Kan. Radio - Cyclone Network. Television - WOI. Ames-Des Moines; KCRG, Cedar Rapids; WQAD, Moline, III.;

KIOA, Ottumwa; Heritage Cablevision, Mason

By RON MALY

Register Staff Writer MANHATTAN, KAN. - Over the years, not many good things have happened to Iowa State's basketball team in Kansas State's historic Ahearn Fieldhouse.

But maybe that's about to change tonight. At least, the week got off to a better start than Cyclone Coach Johnny Orr anticipated.

"I was talking to my players," Orr said Tuesday, "and told them they were still ranked 16th in the Associated Press poll.

"It just blows my mind that we've lost three straight games, yet we're still in the Top 20. I told the players it took us so long to get into the Top 20 when we were doing so many good things, and now we're doing so many bad things and we can't get out.

"Oklahoma Coach Billy Tubbs said the fact we're still a Top 20 team restores his faith in the sports writers who do the voting. It tells me they don't know what they're doing."

Iowa State will take a 16-5 season record and 2-3 Big Eight mark into tonight's 7:05 game against the conference's first-place team.

The Wildcats, fresh from a 72-61 streak, are 4-0 in the Big Eight and 12-4 overall. However, they aren't in the AP Top 20, and Coach Lon Kruger said they don't deserve to be.

This will be the final time Iowa State will play in 11,220-seat Ahearn Fieldhouse, which will be replaced next season by 13,500-seat Fred Blamlage Coliseum.

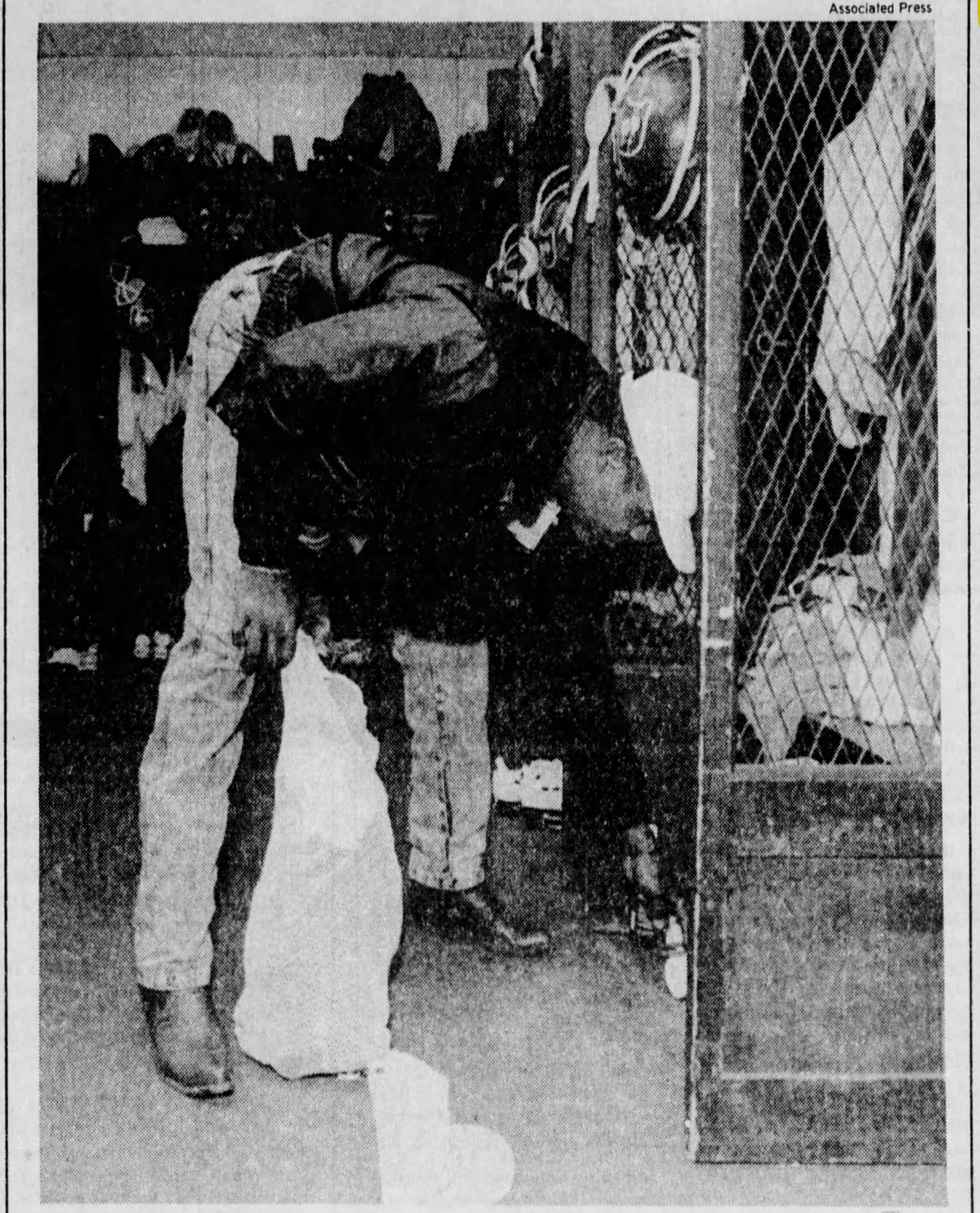
Iowa State won't miss Ahearn, where Cyclone teams have a 4-35 record. Orr's only victory here came two years ago, 77-73.

Orr said freshman forward Mark Baugh will remain in the starting lineup. Elmer Robinson lost the job to Baugh for last Saturday's game against Oklahoma, then didn't play at all in the 96-91 loss because he was late for a curfew the night before. Orr said Robinson will play tonight.

"Look for Victor Alexander a 6foot 9-inch, 265-pound reserve center to play more against Kansas State than he has in other games," said Orr. "We'll do that so we can rest some of our other players.

"Kansas State will use a zone de-

IOWA STATE Please turn to Page 3S



The season's over

Broncos tight end Clarence Kay wraps up the season by cleaning out his locker at the team's training facili-

ty in Denver on Tuesday. The Broncos were the Super Bowl losers for the second year in a row on Sunday.

victory last Saturday that ended Kansas' 55-game home-court winning streak, are 4-0 in the Big Eight and Ditka first tight end in pro football 'Hall'

big, big thrill for me."

CANTON, OHIO (AP) - Mike Dit- can't tell you how excited I am. It's a the fifth Raider to get the honor. Ham ka said it really wasn't fair to have had as much fun as he did playing football and still be elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

The Chicago Bears coach was elected Tuesday along with Fred Biletnikoff, Jack Ham and Alan Page.

"It's mind-boggling," said Ditka, who played 12 years in the National Football League as a tight end.

Biletnikoff, a flanker with the Oakland Raiders famed for his timing

JACK

and exacting pass routes, said: "

1970s, said: "I'm ecstatic. I'm going in with some pretty good company." Page, a cornerstone at defensive

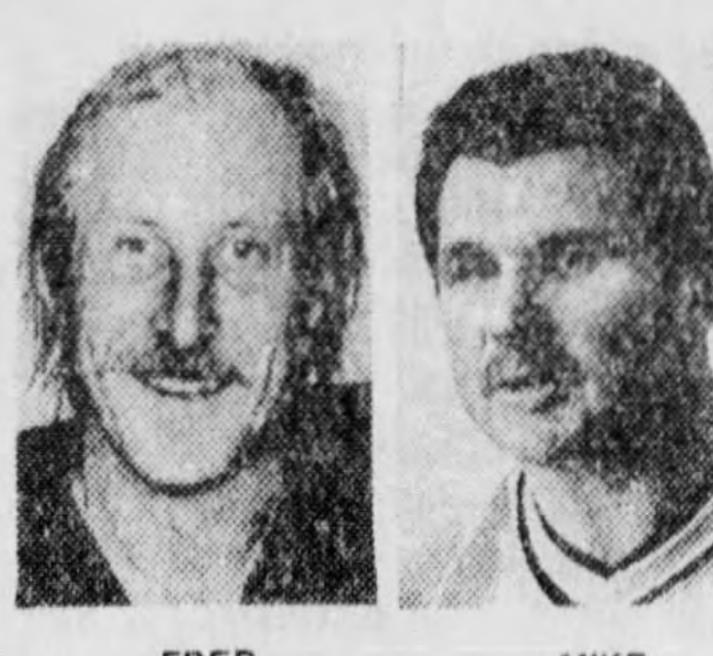
tackle on the Minnesota Vikings famed "Purple People Eaters" defense, said, "My whole career was a highlight."

Ham, a key performer in the Pitts-

burgh Steelers' "Steel Curtain" dur-

ing four Super Bowl victories in the

Ditka is the first pure tight end ever elected to the Hall. Biletnikoff is



FRED BILETNIKOFF DITKA



was the second player from the Steelers' Super Bowl years to be honored, Tarkenton.

Ditka, 48, was named NFL Rookie of the Year in 1961 after catching 56 passes for 1,076 yards and 12 touchdowns. Three years later, he had 75 catches, a record for tight ends that stood for 16 years.

Biletnikoff, 44, spent 14 years with the Raiders and caught 589 passes seventh best all-time - for 8,974 yards and 76 touchdowns.

Ham, 39, finished a 12-year career with 251/2 sacks, 21 fumble recoveries

and 32 interceptions. Page, 42, became the first defen-

sive player to be named NFL Most Valuable Player, in 1971.

The other finalists - former Dolphins quarterback Bob Griese, Raiders offensive lineman Art Shell, and Lou Rymkus of Washington and Cleveland -- did not receive the necessary 80 percent of the votes.

Nolverines; Lorenzen out

Hawkeyes haven't won at Michigan since 1981

Drobable Lineune

le i	ineups
	MICHIGAN (17-3)
F	Rice, 6-7
F	Mills, 6-10
C	Vaught, 6-9
G	Robinson, 6-2
G	Grant, 6-3
-	7:05 p.m., Crisler
	F, FOGG

Radio - WHO, Des Moines: WMT, KHAK,

Television - KDSM. Des Moines: KGAN. Cedar Rapids; KWQC, Davenport; KDUB, Dubuque: KCAU, Sioux City; KIMT, Mason City; KOIA, Ottumwa; KPTM, Omaha.

By RICK BROWN

Register Staff Writer ANN ARBOR, MICH. — Bill Jones figures it's about time he savors a vic-

tory in Crisler Arena. Jones, a senior guard, will be starting for 13th-ranked Iowa in tonight's key 7:05 p.m. CST Big Ten basketball clash against No. 11 Michigan. He'll take the floor with an 0-6 lifetime record in the building, but the Hawkeyes will be playing without senior forward Al Lorenzen, who remained in Iowa City Tuesday with a back problem.

"Al's suffering from back spasms that have been bothering him off and on during the course of the season," Iowa Coach Tom Davis said Tuesday. "It bothered him again in practice yesterday.

"It's going to be a day-to-day thing to see if it's a longer absence or not."

Lorenzen is averaging 10.6 points and 5.7 rebounds a game. He's third on the team in three-point field goals and leads the Hawkeyes in blocked shots. Kent Hill will start in Lorenzen's place.

Three of Jones' Crisler Arena defeats have come as a Hawkeye. Iowa hasn't won here since 1981 and has beaten Michigan just once in the last nine games in the series.

Jones' other three defeats here came when he played for Detroit's Southwestern High School in state championship games.

"This is the last time for me, so it's following "Mean Joe" Greene. Page | going to mean a little more," Jones became the second Viking to make | said. "I'll be motivated to play as the Hall, joining quarterback Fran | hard as I can, and, hopefully, we'll

> With Detroit just 37 miles away, this game is special for Jones and point guard B.J. Armstrong, another Motown product. Forward Roy Marble grew up in Flint, just 53 miles away, so he'll be geared up, too. Marble is the only member of the

> Iowa team who has won here. His Beecher High School team won the 1985 State Class B title in Crisler

> Iowa's Davis is aware that none of the six seniors on the team has won

"I try not to think about that, because it's counterproductive," Davis said. "The more you think about it, the worse it gets. You're better off thinking, 'Hey, this is a new game,

don't worry about the past." The players wearing Michigan uniforms do worry Davis, whose team

enters the game 15-5 overall and 5-2

Please turn to Page 3S



Al Lorenzen Out with back spasms

Newest Jamaican sport? It's bobsled, mon

ALAN

PAGE

NEW YORK, N.Y. (AP) - Neither the absence of snow nor sleet nor hail has prevented Jamaica from putting together two-man and four-man bobsled teams for the Calgary Olympics.

That's right - Jamaica, a tropical island that never has been represented in the Winter Olympics.

The Jamaicans believe they can be competitive in the two-man run.

Their optimism stems from their performances in the World Cup at Igls, Austria, in December, when they placed 35th in a field of 41, but produced the fastest time ever for a firsttime team in the competition.

The idea for a Jamaican bobsled team was conceived by George Fitch, an American business consultant in Jamaica. Fitch got really worked up over the idea last August when he was watching the "Push-Cart Derby" in Jamaica. In the sport, teams of men push wheeled carts down hills at breakneck speeds.

The principle is the same as bobsledding - the

explosive push at the start is the key, accounting for about 40 to 50 percent of success in the race. Afterward, Fitch contacted the World Bobsled Federation about organizing a team.

"We wanted to dispel the myth that you can only become bobsledders if you have snow and ice in your backyard," Fitch said. Bobsled tryouts were held in September. Some

40 candidates were put through a grueling series of eight qualifying steps, including sprints of 30, 60 and 100 meters, push starts and weightlifting. To help, the U.S. Bobsled Federation sent a coach, Joe Tyler, and two bobsledders, Bob Sund-

quist and Rob Dickerman, to the tryouts, along

with some sleds. Eight sledders were chosen, five from the military and three civilians. They were Captain Dudley Stokes, Lt. Devon Harris, Infantry Signalman Michael White, electrician and reggae singer Frederick Powell, student Caswell Allen, mechanical engineer Samuel Clayton, and troops Henry Rekord and Desmond Pryce.

The first six will go to Calgary with the other two serving as reserves.

Stokes, a helicopter pilot, and Harris, a platoon commander and former middle-distance runner, will fill the two skill positions - driver and brakeman, respectively.

"We are not here as a gimmick, not for a show," Harris said. "We want to prove to other people of the world that we can learn a new sport in a short period of time.

"We expect to be very competitive."

White, a sprinter who has run the 100-meter dash in 10.25 seconds and probably will represent Jamaica in the Summer Olympics at Seoul, said that when the team began practicing at Lake Placid, N.Y., "there were a lot of crashes."

"Most of the guys thought it was crazy," he said. "And they disappeared." The ones who stayed - and made the team -

are proud to be on the first Jamaican squad competing in the Winter Olympics.

MACKOVIC REPORTEDLY HIRED. The Chicago Tribune reported that John Mackovic will be formally introduced as Illinois' new football coach at a 9 a.m. news conference today. The Athletic Association's Board in Control of Athletics accepted Athletic Director Neale Stoner's recommendation of Mackovic after meeting for nearly three hours late Tuesday. "He [Stoner] called and said they had given the job to Mackovic," said Peggy Tippett, wife of Illinois defensive coordinator Howard Tippett, who had lobbied hard for the job.

☐ INFANTE WANTED. Green Bay Packers Vice President Tom Braatz offered the head coaching job Tuesday to Cleveland offensive coordinator Lindy Infante, and said he wanted a

reply today. But there could be a complication: The Los Angeles Raiders supposedly have contacted Infante about their head coaching job.

☐ WALTERS INDICTED. An Alabama grand jury has indicted sports agent Norby Walters on three misdemeanor counts connected with payments he made to former Alabama basketball star Derrick McKey. Attorney General Don Siegelman said Walters would waive extradition and voluntarily come to Alabama. No date was set immediately for Walters' arraignment.

TV BIDS. At least four companies have bid for University of Iowa football and basketball TV rights and coaches' shows starting in September. Officials at KCRG-TV in Cedar Rapids,

KDSM-TV in Des Moines and Rasmussen Management Corp. in Champaign, Ill., confirmed they submitted bids. An official at KDSK-TV in St. Louis, which is owned by Multimedia Broadcasting Co., said Multimedia and Raycom Sports submitted a joint bid. Rasmussen owns the 1987-88 rights. Under terms of the bidding proposal, the contract is to be awarded by Friday. But it will probably take longer than that.

TV BLOWOUT. Not only was Super Bowl XXII a blowout on the field, with Washington's 42-10 rout of Denver, it also was a flat tire on the tube. Television sets clicked off or were switched to other channels as Washington scored 35 points in the second quarter. A.C. Nielsen ratings released Tuesday — a 41.9 rat-

ing and a 62 share — show it was the lowest-rated Super Bowl since 1974, between Minnesota and Miami. The rating is a percentage of households with televisions; the share is a percentage of sets in use.

NOT AGAIN. Poor Adams State. Last fall, the Colorado college's football team had to forfeit three victories because the names of some players were left off the list of eligible players the school sent to the NAIA. Now, for the second time in a few months, Adams State will have to forfeit possibly the entire season for missing the deadline to submit eligibility certificates. This time, the unfortunates are the women's track team; the fall guy is track coach David Broad, who has been suspended.