

Tribune photo by Charles Cherney

Vreni Schneider of Switzerland zips down the course Wednesday on her way to the gold medal in the women's giant slalom. Story, Page 11.

Soviets overwhelm Canada

By Phil Hersh Chicago Tribune

CALGARY-The Soviet Olympic hockey team is delivering an emphatic message to those who suggested their time has come and gone.

The Soviets' answer is not

They may have lost two of the last three World Championships. They may have lost their own Izvestia Trophy tournament in December. They may have lost to Canada the week before these Olympics opened.

But they have not lost in six games here, have outscored the opposition 37-10 and are now odds-on favorites to win their

The Czechs won't win a medal in hockey. Page 10. Debi Thomas, Katarina Witt 2-3 in compulsories. Page 11. Results, medal standings and TV schedule. Page 11.

seventh gold medal in nine appearances in the Winter Games.

The Soviets clinched at least a bronze with Wednesday's 5-0 triumph over Canada, a game so one-sided that merely getting across their blue line was a small

Napoleon had a better chance of reaching Moscow than Canada did of scoring on this Soviet de-

Yet Canadian coach Dave King was not yet ready to concede the Olympic title to the Soviets, who meet reigning world champion Sweden Friday and Finland Sunday. All three teams are in contention for the gold medal.

"They have won, and things are going well, so they seem pretty solid. But against the U.S. [a 7-5 Soviet win], they didn't look like a powerhouse," King

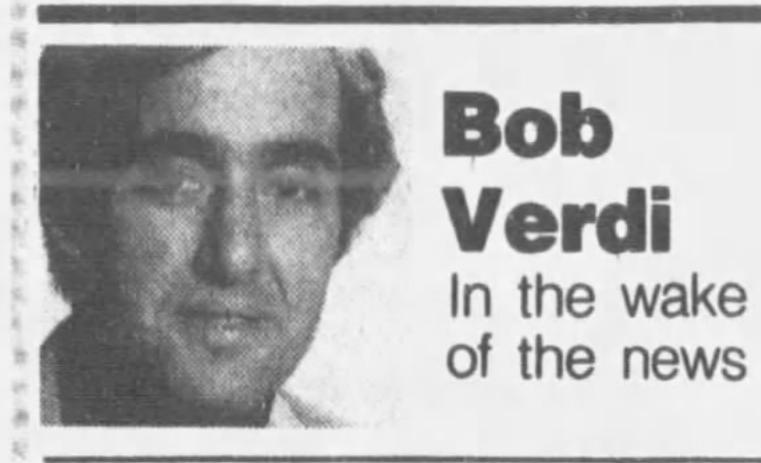
"When you get momentum

victory for the Canadians. and a couple of wins going, a team comes together pretty quickly. But their problems aren't over yet. The Swedes will give them a good game."

Both the Swedes and the Finns were impressive winners Wednesday. In the opening set of the medal round, Sweden beat Czechoslovakia 6-2 and the Finns routed West Germany 8-

The West Germans, who knocked the U.S. out of the medal round, had allowed just 12 goals in their five previous

Once the U.S. team was gone, ABC-TV apparently decided the See Hockey, pg. 10



Verdi In the wake

George is a pro at disaster relief

Chicago Tribune

CALGARY—In luge, as in life, the American way to tackle trouble is by appointing a committee. The more brains the better, and so yawn.

United States Olympic disorganizers, painfully aware that our nation's athletes will leave these XV Winter Games with less gold around their necks than in their watchbands, took immediate action Wednesday to remedy two weeks of pratfalls by the red, white and blue crew.

The solution, you'll be relieved to learn, is George Steinbrenner, a convicted felon.

"This is a wonderful spectacle," George decreed. "There is nothing nicer to see than a Russian athlete hugging one of our athletes. That's what the world should be all about."

In his role as Attila the owner of the New York Yankees, Steinbrenner doesn't often come out in support of peace and understanding, but these are trying moments. Which is why opposing athletes from around the planet have been hugging America's with a passion here, the problem being that foes generally must wait at the finish line for our boys and girls to arrive. All of this will change, of course, with Steinbrenner's appointment as chairman of the Olympic Overview Commission, a newly created body to examine the U.S.A.'s corpse.

"Anybody who knows me knows I tell it like it is," Steinbrenner assured. "We could be doing better in these Olympics, we should be

doing better." Robert Helmick, president of the United States Olympic Committee, deflected any assertions that he and his fellow poohbahs are panicked over America's Banana Republic haul of two gold medals, one silver and one bronze through Day 11 of this snowball fight. On the contrary, a task force such as the OOC to assist the USOC has been planned for quite some while, and who better than to guide the USOCOOC than Steinbrenner? If anybody knows how to preserve confusion, it's him.

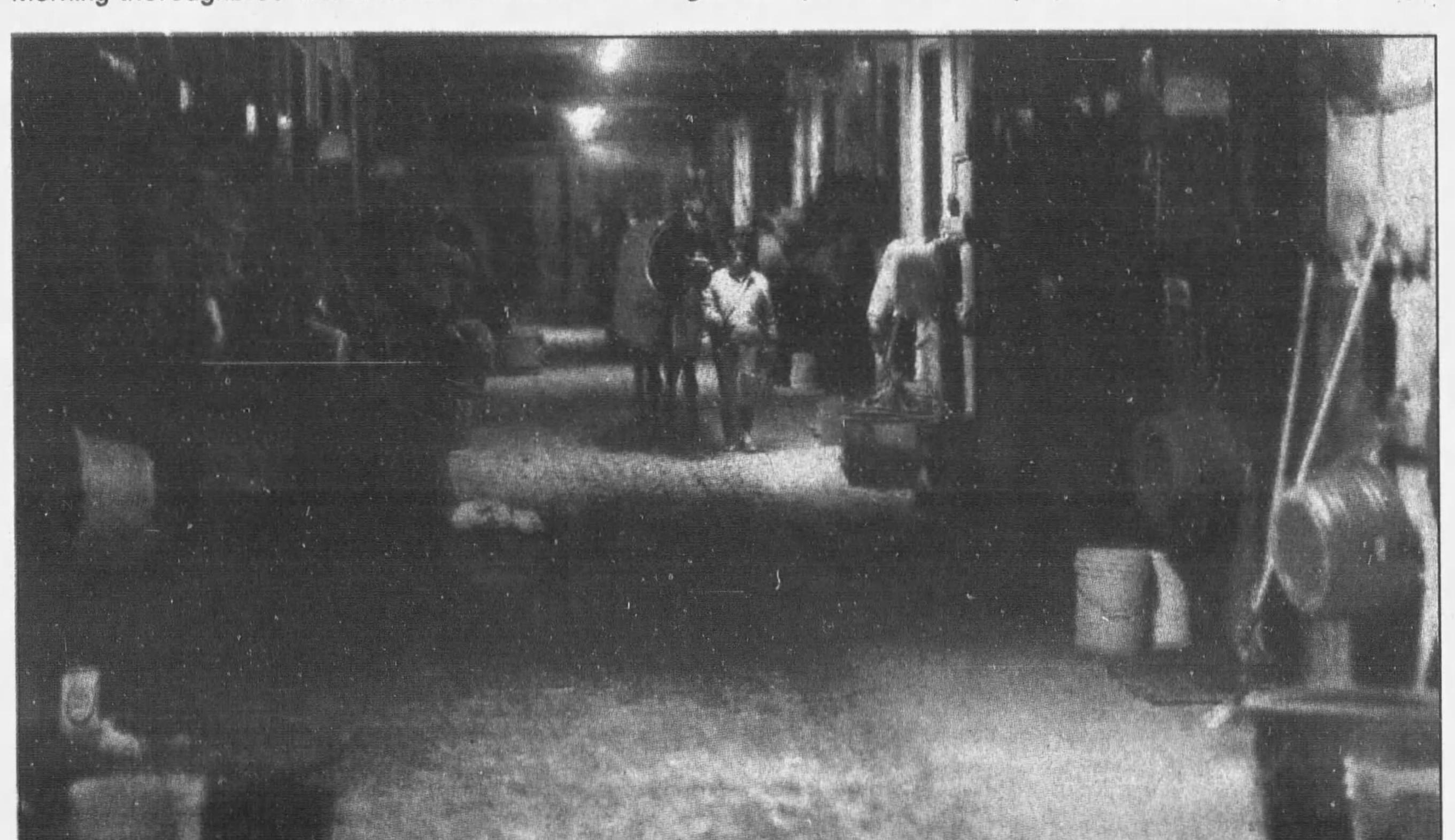
"I couldn't believe when I read about that little girl from Illinois who won the speedskating the other night," confessed George. "She said she had to sneak into the rink at 6 in the morning to practice. That's exactly the kind of thing we've got to investigate."

Steinbrenner, a common man, was a childhood hurdler during the '40s back home in Cleveland. He says he's been fond of amateur athletics since, which might explain why he choreographs so many trades with the Cubs and the White Sox. In recent days, he

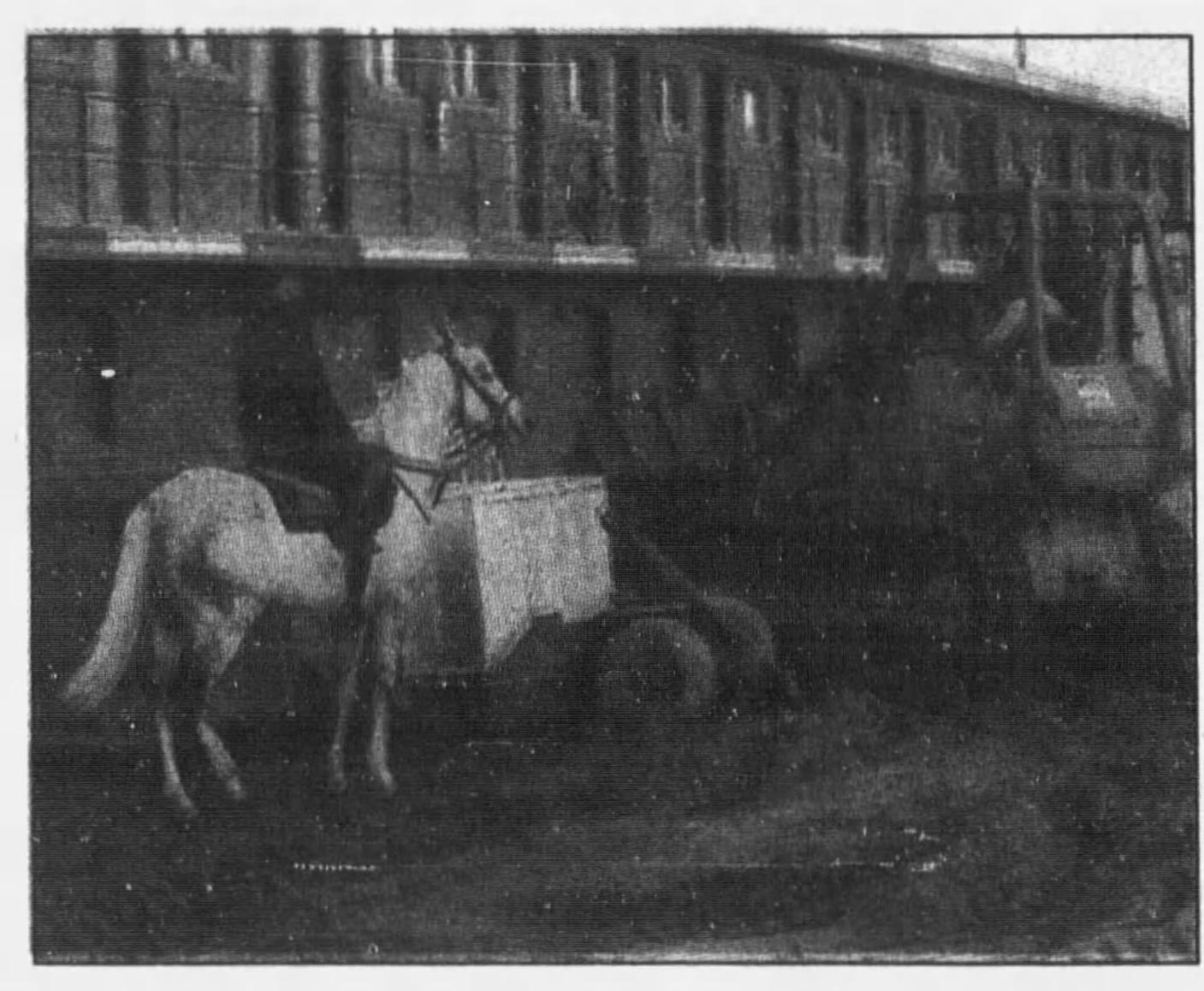
See Verdi, pg. 10



Morning thoroughbred workouts are a familiar scene again as Sportsman's Park prepares for Thursday's opening.



Stable personnel walk the horses through the barns to cool them down after the workouts at the Cicero track.



And they're off

Sportsman's Park launches the Chicago thoroughbred season Thursday with a meeting that will last unusually long, through June 18, because Arlington Park is off the schedule while rebuilding. A work crew (left) gets Sportsman's ready for the long haul as a four-legged sidewalk superintendent keeps an eye on the progress, and a stable hand (right) takes care of his chores. Sportsman's will have the richest stakes schedule in its history. Page 5.

Tribune photos by Ed Wagner



agents is near end

By Maurice Possley

A federal grand jury in Chicago is expected to return indictments in the next 60 to 90 days in connection with an investigation that has shaken the college sports world and focused attention on the relationships between agents and star athletes.

Sources familiar with the case, which is being conducted by the FBI and the U.S. Attorney's office, said the expected indictments will be the culmination of a grand-jury investigation of New York sports agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom.

U.S. Atty. Anton R. Valukas, who is directing the investigation along with Assistant U.S. Atty. Howard Pearl, declined to comment.

For nearly a year, the grand jury in Chicago has been delving into the activities and relationships of Walters and Bloom, who have represented dozens of college athletes, including such football standouts as Ohio State's Cris Carter, Washington's Reggie Rogers, Iowa's Ronnie Harmon and Purdue's Rod Woodson.

The investigation has focused on allegations that Walters and Bloom made cash payments to college athletes before their athletic eligibility had expired, sources said. That practice is a violation of National Collegiate Athletic Association rules.

The resurgence in grand jury activity follows a ruling by a New York judge last December that a Walters contract with former Auburn star Brent Fullwood, now a running back with the Green Bay Packers, was "a calculated fraud."

The ruling, by U.S. District Judge Charles Brieant, provides insight into how, in at least one case, Walters and Bloom operated. The decision may also serve to buttress government theories of prosecution.

Last year, a number of athletes who have had dealings with Walters and Bloom and their sports agent business, World Sports & Entertainment Inc., were contacted by federal agents or brought before the grand jury. However, in recent weeks, according to sources, several athletes have been recalled before the grand jury in Chicago to read prepared statements, detailing their negotiations and dealings with the agents.

The grand jury, sources said, is looking into charges of mail fraud based on the theory that colleges and universities were defrauded out of scholarship money and other benefits, such as room and board, by athletes who signed contracts with Walters

See Agents, pg. 6

INSIDE

De Paul rips Jackson State

Kevin Edwards scores 22 points and Rod Strickland adds 17 to lead De Paul to an 81-69 victory over Jackson State. Page 10.

Iowa rolls past Northwestern

Roy Marble scores 21 points to pace lowa to a 91-74 win over Northwestern, which gets 22 points from Shon Morris. Page 10.

College basketball

Indiana 84, Wisconsin 74 North Carolina State 89, Duke 78 Colorado 87, Missouri 78 Auburn 81, Vanderbilt 68 Oklahoma 95, Kansas 87 Kentucky 95, Louisiana State 69

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Roundup, Page 3

Savard sparks Blackhawks past Oilers

By Tim Tierney

Denis Savard has scored 295 goals in eight years with a Blackhawk on his chest and the wind at his back.

He has spun around defensemen, faked out goaltenders and scored from impossible angles. But what he did at the Stadium in Wednesday night's 6-4 victory over the Edmonton Oilers was special.

"It's probably the best goal I've scored," Savard said. "Ever?" the questioner asked. "Yep," Savard said.

The Hawks were short-handed late in the second period with the game tied 3-3 when Savard worked his magic. Not many will remember that Rick Vaive broke out of his slump with two goals, or that Steve Larmer had two goals and an assist, or that Dirk Graham broke the 4-4 tie in the third period.

But they will remember what Savard did. It went like this:

Standing up at the Hawk blue line, playing defense, the twirling, catch-me-if-youcan centerman deflected an Edmonton pass and skated into the neutral zone with the puck.

Savard started to rush up the ice, but he back-pedaled to kill the penalty.

"I was trying to kill time," Savard said.



Tribune photo by Ed Wagner Jr.

Blackhawks goalie Darren Pang outduels Mike Krushelnyski of the Edmonton Oilers in front of the net during the Hawks' 6-4 victory Wednesday night.

"I looked left and Mark Messier was coming. I thought I better go right. And when looked up, I saw the two defensemen really deep in their end. So I said, 'Let's give it a try."

Savard decided to make a rush, and the

worked his way through Edmonton's zone, but defenseman Kevin Lowe was still between Savard and goalie Grant Fuhr.

Savard cut past Lowe and slid the puck

See Hawks, pg. 3

Reuss isn't retiring type

He's eager to aid Sox

By Ed Sherman Chicago Tribune

SARASOTA, Fla.—When Jerry Reuss talks about retiring these days, it's in the context of

retiring batters. When the big left-hander talks of his future, it consists of a ball and a pitcher's mound,

not a microphone and a chair. When he talks of challenges, it's a new league, not a new life. Reuss' time, he says, hasn't come yet. "You hear about it so much," Reuss said of

retirement. "You hear the part about the age: 'You been around a long time.' All those things. Then people ask, 'What do you want to do when you' finish your career?' It's another subtle way of someone saying you've played long enough.

"Well, I've never considered retiring. I still believe I can pitch. I believe it now. I'll retire when I've done all that I want to do."

Reuss, 38, still has some unfinished business, which is why he's in the White Sox training camp. An invited player, Reuss is hoping to help the Sox out by earning a spot race began. He went past two Oilers as he in their starting rotation.

The club has promised him nothing more than a look.

"It all depends on how he pitches and how

See Sox, pg. 5

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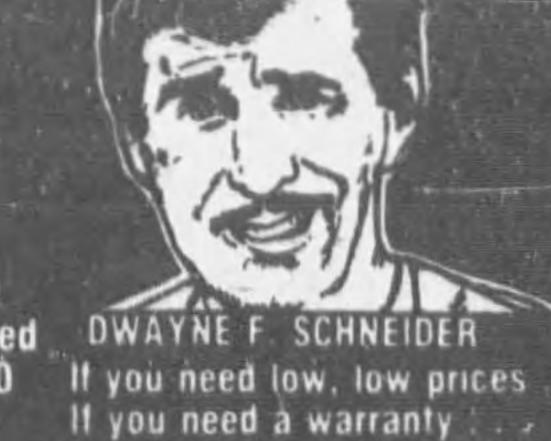
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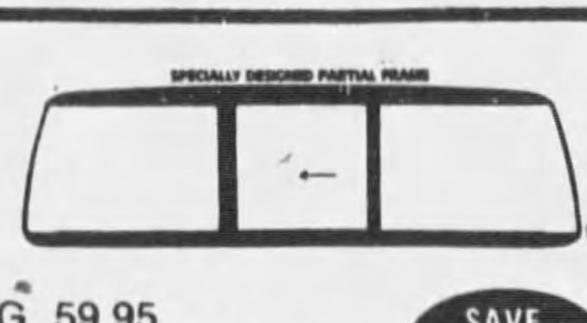




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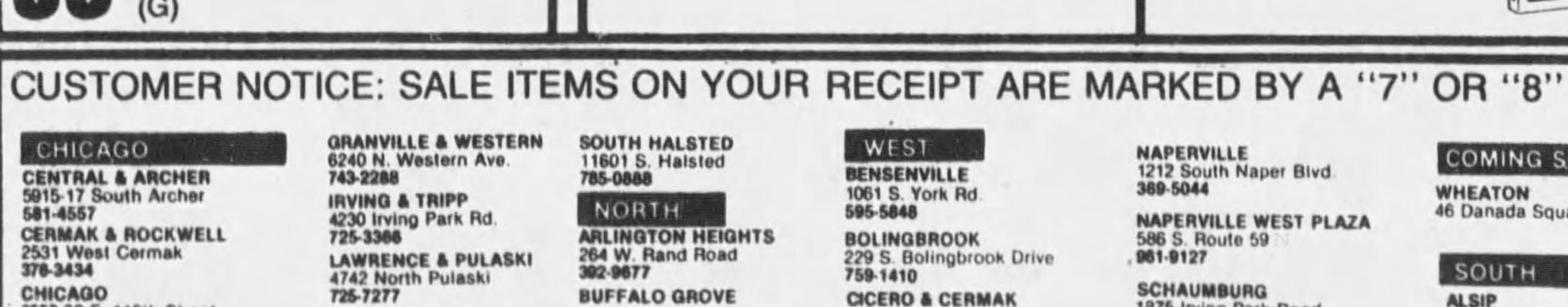
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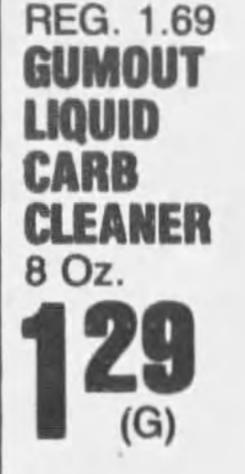
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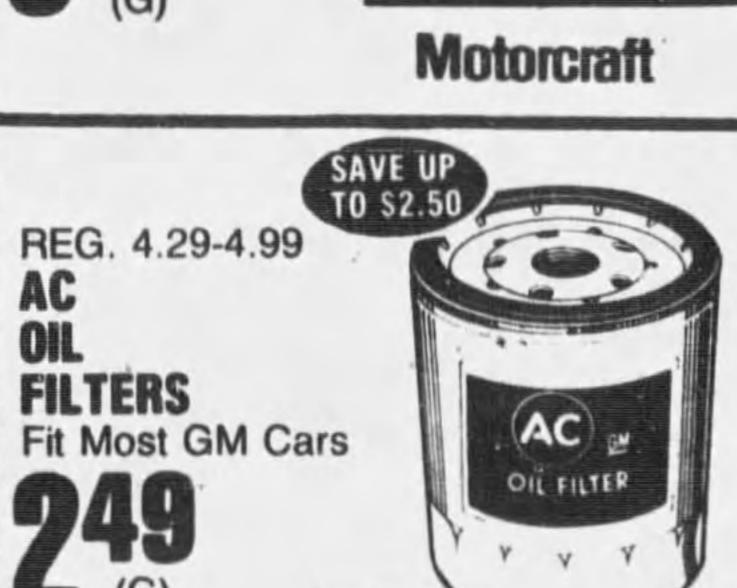
















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FROM PAGE 1

Agents

Continued from page 1 and Bloom in violation of NCAA

A provision of the NCAA constitution states that any individual who "contracts ... orally or in writing to be represented by an agent in the marketing of the individual's athletic ability ... no longer shall be eligible for intercol-

legiate athletics in that sport." Since the allegations against alters and Bloom became public, numerous investigations have sprung up. Some athletes that dealt with Bloom and Walters have been declared ineligible. Alabama was ordered to forfeit more than \$250,000 in receipts from last year's NCAA basketball tournament for using ineligible players Derrick McKey and Terry Coner. Both had dealt with Walters.

And the NCAA on Tuesday announced that, for the first time since 1971, players in this year's NCAA tournament will have to sign affidavits asserting they have not yet signed with an agent and will not do so during the tournament.

After allegations of payments by Walters and Bloom surfaced, the Big 10 sued the agents. The case was eventually settled, and in return the agents agreed to turn over all original documents relating to past contacts with Big 10 athletes.

The increased grand jury activity in Chicago follows the filing of charges in Alabama in the last two months against Walters and former Atlanta sports agent Jim Abernethy.

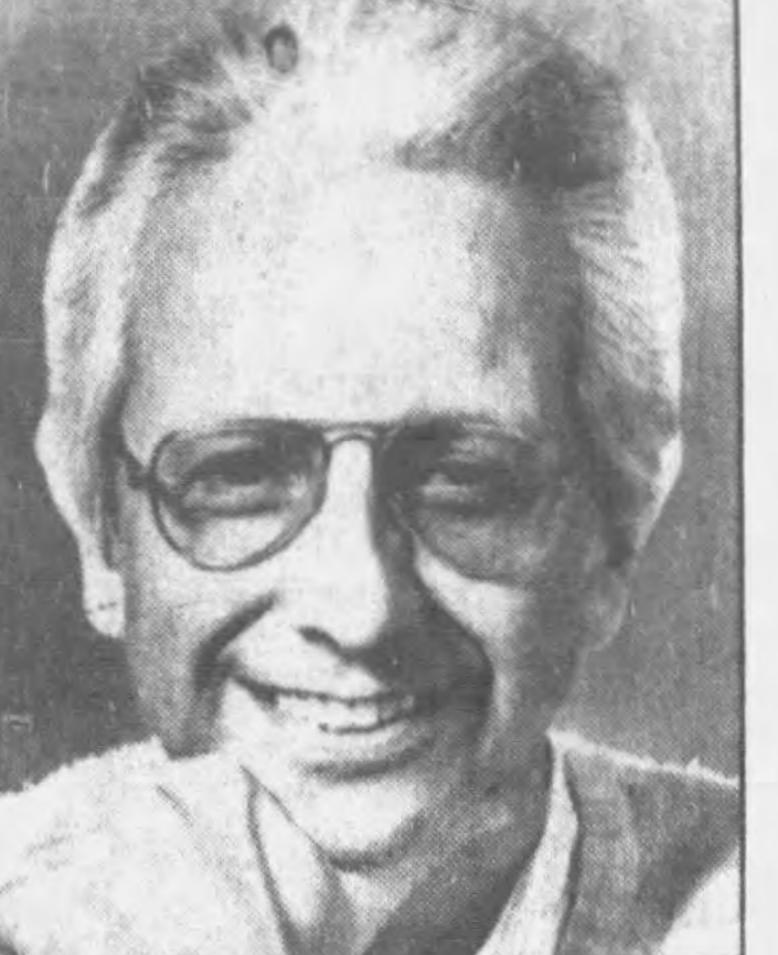
Walters was indicted in Tuscaloosa, Ala., earlier this month on three misdemeanor counts charging that he made cash payments to McKey. That same grand jury last month indicted Abernethy on misdemeanor charges relating to his cash payment to Auburn football star Kevin Porter.

Two court rulings have undoubtedly had an impact on the continuing investigation.

The first, by the U.S. Supreme Court last summer, put new limits on the use of the federal mail frauc statute by prosecutors by barring prosecutions that alleged a loss of intangible rights, such as the right to the honest services of an employee, or, in this case, an athlete.

The new mail fraud restrictions, however, do not affect the loss of tangible property, such as money. Any possible indictment against Walters or Bloom could allege that illegal contracts deprived the schools of scholarship money or other financial benefits that could have gone to other athletes, sources

The second decison came from Brieant, who ruled in December on a \$500,000 lawsuit brought by Walters and Bloom against Fullwood seeking the return of \$8,038 advanced to Fullwood and enforcement of their agreement with Fullwood.



In 1986, during his senior season, Fullwood (who, according to sources, was among those recently called before the Chicago grand jury) signed a contract to be represented by Walters and Bloom. The contract was allegedly post-dated to Jan. 2, 1987, the day after Fullwood's last college game and the first day he could sign such an agreement without forfeiting his amateur status under NCAA rules.

In a 21-page decision, Brieant blasted the agreement between the agents and Fullwood as "not only a betrayal of the high ideals that sustain amateur athletic competition as part of our national education commitment; it also constituted a calculated fraud on the entire spectator public."

The contract was arranged by Bloom, the judge said, and granted the agents' firm the exclusive right to represent Fullwood in negotiations with professional teams following the 1987 spring draft of the National Football League.

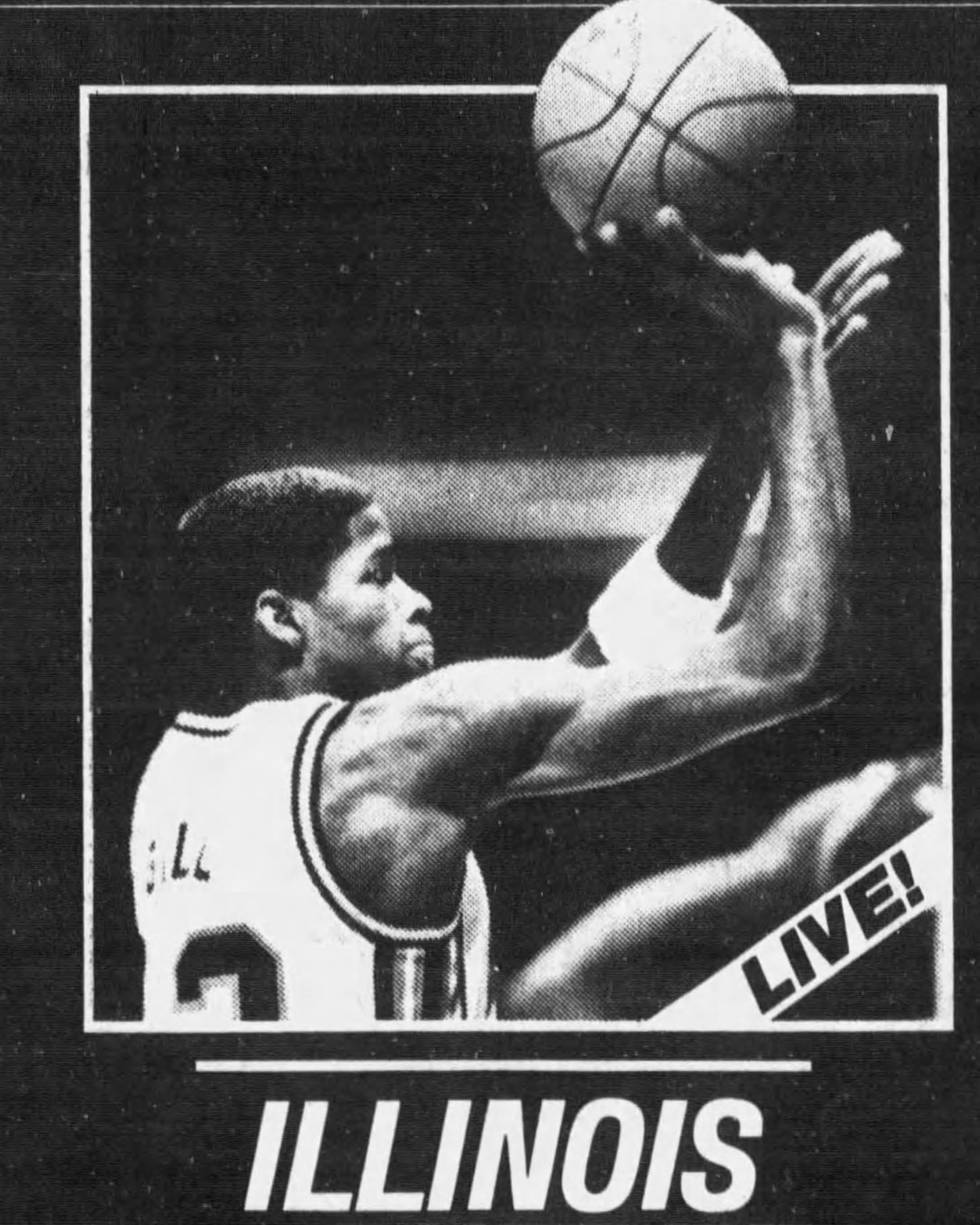
The judge noted that while neither the agents nor Fullwood has admitted that the contract was postdated, "there is a powerful inference that the agreement was actually signed before or during the college football season . . . and unethically post-dated."

Most important, the judge declared, were cash payments to Fullwood while he was still competing on the football field. Brieant said that on Aug. 20, 1986, World Sports & Entertainment paid Fullwood \$4,000 and, at various other times, another \$4,038 was advanced to Fullwood.

Brieant ruled that both Fullwood and the agents were in violation of separate provisions covering payments of money. Walters and Bloom were bound by a provision of the NFL Players Association agents regulations, which forbid a contract adviser from offering "to provide anything of significant value to a player in order to become the contract adviser for such player," according to the judge's ruling.

Brieant declared: "Both sides of the transaction knew exactly what they were doing, and they knew it was fradulent and wrong. This court and the public need not suffer such willful conduct to taint a college amateur sports program.

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