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Alabama officials anticipate **Bloom** extradition

By Chris Mortensen Staff Writer

8

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. - Alabama law officials expect sports agent Lloyd Bloom to be extradited from California in time to stand trial May 9 for his involvement with former University of Alabama basketball players Derrick McKey and Terry Coner.

"At this point, we don't have any indications there are going to be any delays (with extradition)," said Alabama Assistant Attorney General Bill Wasden. "We should know something in the next couple of days. Our office has been in contact with California almost on a daily basis."

and New York agent Norby Walters have been charged by a Tuscaloosa grand jury on three counts of misdemeanor crimes -

commercial bribery, deceptive trade practice and tampering with a sports contest.

Walters was arraigned March 16 and entered a plea of not guilty. Bloom has failed to appear twice, according to Wasden, though the agent's attorney, M.L. "Mike" Trope, maintains his client will "subject himself to the jurisdiction of the state court."

Wasden said, "We cannot proceed blindly under the assumption the defendant will exercise good faith and appear."

Wasden said the May 9 trial would be rescheduled if the extradition procedure is delayed because, he said, "We think Bloom and alters should be tried together as accomplices."

Alabama Gov. Guy Hunt signed the extradition papers Friday and forwarded them to Cal-

ifornia Gov. George Deukmajian.

Though Trope has claimed California seldom, if ever, extradites a resident on a misdemeanor charge, Wasden said, "Just check. ... It happens. We don't anticipate any problems based on our conversations with them (California officials)."

Deukmajian was unavailable for comment, said a spokeswoman for his office Wednesday.

Wasden and fellow Assistant Attorney General Don Valeska said they became increasingly leery of Trope's good-faith statements on oom when Trope himself stopped returning phone calls in the past week.

Contacted Wednesday night, Trope declined comment.

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Colts acquire 'White Shoes'



and Brown

By J. Edwin Smith Staff Writer

Charlie Brown and Billy "White Shoes" Johnson, teammates last season with the Atlanta Falcons, were acquired in separate moves Wednesday by the Indianapolis Colts.

The Falcons traded Brown to the Colts for a conditional 12th-round draft choice. Brown, a wide receiver, did not fit into their plans this season. Coach Marion Campbell announced after the season that Brown would not return.

Johnson, a wide receiver and the NFL's alltime punt return leader who was released by the Falcons earlier this year, signed a one-year freeagent contract.

The production of both players tailed off last season. Brown caught five passes for 103 yards, while Johnson, a three-time All-Pro punt returner, had eight receptions for 84 yards and 21 punt returns for 168 yards (8.0 average).

Brown, 29, played three seasons with the Falcons after spending his first three NFL years with the Washington Redskins. Details of his contract could not be determined, and he was not available for comment.

Brown made \$250,000 last season and was one of 23 Falcons extended "qualifying" offers at the end of January. The offer doesn't have to equal the player's 1987 salary, but according to the old collective bargaining agreement still in force, players who have received qualifying offers may elect between June 1-15 to accept or play for 110 percent of their 1987 salary - in Brown's case, \$275,000.

The Falcons would have to honor that request or release the player's rights. Johnson, reached by telephone in Indianapolis, said, "As I've said all along, those people who contend that I still don't have it are sadly disillusioned. "I knew all along that I would be signing with someone. I knew it for a fact. I'm just sorry again. That's all that counts." they (the Falcons) didn't think I could still do the



Former Falcons receiver Billy 'White Shoes' Johnson says he's happy to be with 'an organization that is really trying to win.'

tle with a 9-6 record, then was eliminated from the playoffs in the first round 38-21 by the Cleveland Browns.

"I am happy, believe me, just happy to be with an organization that is really trying to win," Johnson said. "More important, the Colts had no reservations whatsoever about signing me.

"We've been talking since February, and I'm just happy the Colts are giving me a chance to play. The Falcons wanted me to (retire) gracefully, but I wasn't ready to do that. I've figured all along that I still had too much playing time left in me."

Johnson said the Colts "still think I can do the job." He said he will return punts and perhaps play as an extra receiver on third-and-long situations.

He has returned 278 punts for an NFL-record 3,291 yards and has has 402 career receptions for 5,251 yards.

"The subject of my age never came up," said

to play center

By I.J. Rosenberg Staff Writer

The Georgia Tech basketball team believes it has found what it desperately missed over the past two seasons — a center.

The Yellow Jackets signed Maurice Brittian of Hutchinson (Kan.) Junior College Wednesday. Brittian, who played at Atlanta's Sylvan High School under the name Maurice Ezzard, is expected to fill Tech's void at the post position.

"This signing is as important as any I've ever had because of where the program is right now," coach Bobby Cremins said. "The program has slipped a little because we haven't had a true big man since (John) Salley left two years ago."

Antoine Ford, a 7-foot center, transferred from Tech last summer, and James Munlyn has struggled, forcing Cremins to use Tom Hammonds, a natural forward, at center.

"Now Tommy can go back to power forward, and Maurice will take over in the middle," Cremins said.

There is a strong chance the Jackets will receive more help at center today when they expect to sign 6-9 John McNeil of Chowan (N.C.) Junior College. McNeil, who can also play power forward, averaged 14.5 points and 8.5 rebounds this season.

Brittian, the most valuable player in last month's junior-college national tournament and a Junior-College All-American, is 6-feet-9, 220, smaller than most centers.

But, said Dave Farrar, Brittian's coach at Hutchinson, "Maurice was the only true center I saw this year on the junior-college level. He mixes it up as well as anybody underneath and is very, very strong."

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Neither the Colts nor Johnson, a 13-year veteran who played the last six years with the Falcons, would elaborate on the amount of his contract. Johnson made \$302,500 last year.

Last year, Indianapolis won the AFC East ti- this report.

Johnson, who is listed as 35 though he claims to be younger. "I'm just young at heart. I don't know how old I am. With the Falcons, I believe I was being judged prematurely on age alone, not on talent.

"But I have no axe to grind. I'm playing

The Falcons continued their house-cleaning by rescinding the contract offers to quarterback David Archer and linebacker Buddy Curry, both former starters. Thirteen players on the 1987 roster will not be signed this season.

United Press International contributed to

Regal Classic favored for Blue Grass

The Associated Press

Canadian-bred Regal Classic, making only his second start as a 3-year-old, is the 6-5 morning-line favorite in a nine-horse field for the \$250,000-added Blue Grass Stakes at Keeneland today (ESPN, 4 p.m.).

Regal Classic, coming off a second-place finish on the Keeneland turf in a April 13 allowance with Angel Cordero in the irons, will be ridden today by Pat Day, who rode Regal Classic to a third in the Dec. 20 Hollywood Futurity.

Trainer Jim Day (no relation) will decide on the Kentucky Derby after today's race. The Blue Grass field, with all carrying 121 pounds, with odds, and jockeys: Five Star Camp, 10-1,

Russell Baze; Intensive Command, 8-1, Julio Pezua; Drouilly's Boy, 8-1, Frank Olivares; What A Diplomat, 15-1, Gary Stevens; Cougarized, 4-1, Craig Perret; Regal Classic, 6-5, Day; Delightful Doctor, 15-1, Richard Migliore; Buoy, 6-1, Keith Allen; Granacus, 15-1, Jacinto Vasquez.

In Wednesday's races, Homebuilder upset odds-on favorite Bet Twice, holding off the 1987 Belmont Stakes winner by a head to win the \$80,450 Ben Ali Handicap at Keeneland.

Homebuilder, carrying 119 pounds under Don Brumfield, fought back after being passed in the stretch. Bet Twice, carrying top weight of 126 pounds and Perret in the fourhorse field, finished four lengths in front of Blue Buckaroo.

Brittian's individual statistics were modest. He averaged 12.4 points and 7.4 rebounds last season. But his team went 37-2, and he shot 62 percent from the field.

"Maurice is not a superstar, but of all the players I saw this year after Alonzo Mourning signed (with Georgetown), he was the one that turned me on the most," Cremins said. "He is just smart on the court and very solid inside."

In his first year at Hutchinson, he averaged 9.4 points and 10.3 rebounds and was the only junior-college player invited to participate in the National Sports Festival last summer.

"Coach Cremins has a disciplined and personable approach to basketball that I'm really looking forward to," said Brittian, who chose Tech over Kentucky and Kansas. "He just has a better situation for me."

Brittian was an honorable-mention all-state center at Sylvan. He changed his last name to Brittian after his mother remarried.

He signed with Mississippi State out of high school but failed to make the minimum Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) score of 700 required by the NCAA to be eligible as a freshman.

"We would not have been able to recruit him if he did not go to junior college, because of his SAT score," Cremins said. "He has struggled academically, but he has paid the price of going to a junior college. We have a game plan that as long as he works hard, he'll be all right."

Said Brittian, "I'm just looking forward to going back home and playing in front of my parents and other familiar people." Tech notebook, Page 2E



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