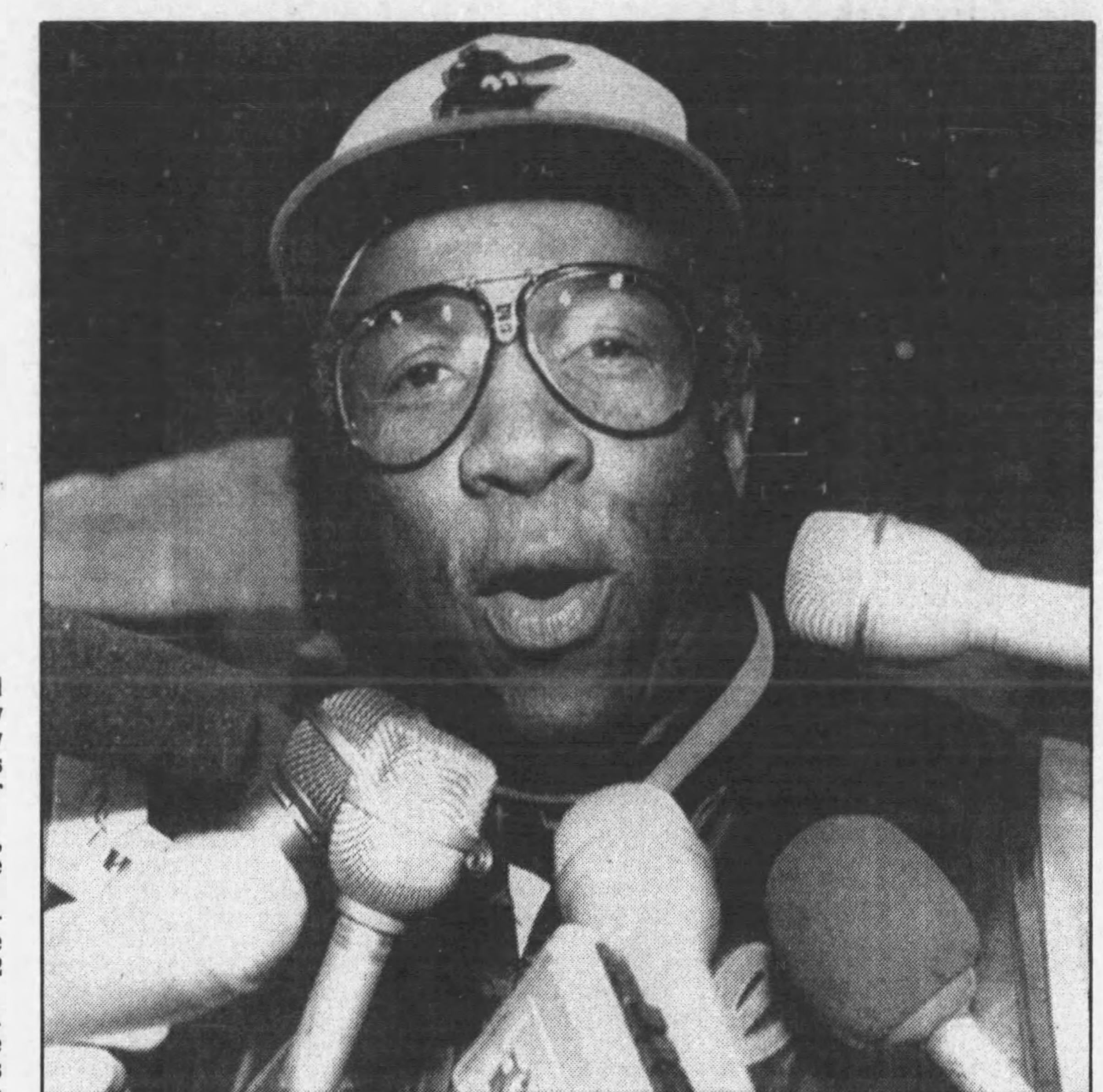
Baltimore jubilation is low key

Orioles are primarily happy, relieved losing streak's over

White Sox are the victims, Page 10B Orioles back to losing ways, Page 10B By Terence Moore Staff Writer

CHICAGO — After the Baltimore Orioles stopped chasing ghosts on Friday night, there were mostly tired smiles in the visitors' clubhouse at Comiskey Park. No shouting, no dancing, just relief that the O's were no longer the Woes, the Oh's or the Zer-O's after a 9-0 victory over the Chicago White Sox.

There was champagne in the Orioles' clubhouse, but the only open bottle sat mostly full in pitcher Jose Bautista's locker. Earlier, it was reported to the massive media contingent from around the world that the Orioles were celebrating their first victory of the season after 22 tries with bubbly flowing everywhere. The report couldn't be verified for the moment. Because of all the writers, all the TV cameras, all the Orioles symphathizers in the ballpark, team officials decided to close Comiskey's tiny visitors' clubhouse until after Orioles manager Frank Robinson finished his post-game press conference on the steps of the visitors' dugout. **Orioles general manager Roland Hemond laughed** behind the dugout as a White Sox fan poured beer over his "lucky" suit. Hemond hadn't worn his pinstriped threads since the White Sox won the American League West in 1983 when he was their general manager. "I told the guy, 'Go ahead. Pour. I don't mind,'" Hemond said. "It's been a tough month. It's the players who really suffered through this thing. They should celebrate." They didn't. Not much. They approached their streak-stopping victory with slightly more than a shrug. They were too exhausted to do otherwise. One victory. That's all they wanted, but the zeroes kept coming so quickly that Orioles outfielder Fred Lynn said at one point, "There's more pressure on us to win one game than all the pennant races I've ever been associated with. This is inconceivable." Not only were the Orioles losing, but they were doing so with style. They were outscored during the streak 129-44. Their team batting average never moved higher than .204, and it was at a major-leaguelow .200 when they came to Chicago this weekend. The Orioles' pitching wasn't much better, either. Their 5.96 ERA sat at the bottom of the majors. In addition, the Orioles led only 25 out of 182 innings during the streak.



** SUNDAY, MAY 1, 1988

Agent Bloom arrives for arraignment

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The Atlanta Bournal AND CONSTITUTION

By Chris Mortensen Staff Writer

Sports agent Lloyd Bloom arrived in Atlanta on Saturday night and will be arraigned Monday morning in Tuscaloosa, Ala., to answer charges that he broke state laws by dealing with former University of Alabama basketball players Derrick McKey and Terry Coner.

Bloom's appearance is voluntary, but he was subject to arrest in Los Angeles after California Gov. George Deukmajian signed extradition papers Thursday.

Bloom, who had no comment, was accompanied by his Los Angeles-based attorney, M.L. "Mike" Trope.

"We said all along that Lloyd would subject himself to the jurisdiction of the court," said Trope. "The extradition procedure was unnecessary."

Alabama Assistant Attorney General Don Valeska disagreed, saying, "I don't believe they would have showed up if we had not filed the extradition papers in California. It's funny how all of a sudden they show up, isn't it?" Trope reiterated that Bloom's opposition to appearing at the arraignment partly stemmed from not having the money to pay for the airplane ticket. Trope paid for the flight after Alabama officials refused to. Trope also said he was awaiting the outcome of a twice-delayed pretrial hearing involving Norby Walters, **Bloom's** former business associate. Bloom, who failed to appear for a March 16 arraignment and apparently reneged on another agreement to appear in April, must enter a plea on three misdemeanor charges — commercial bribery, deceptive trade practice and tampering with a sports contest - stemming from his involvement during the 1986-87 season with McKey and Coner. Bloom will be taken into state custody prior to the arraignment for a procedural booking, Valeska said. **Bloom** is the former vice president of World Sports and Entertainment, a company founded by Walters, who already has entered not guilty pleas to the same three charges. A trial has been set for May 9, but Walters' attorneys have asked for a continuance. The agents, no longer business associates, will be tried together by the state, but do not share the same attorneys.

Frank Robinson questioned by a worldwide selection of reporters after Baltimore's win.

to start a major-league season at 0-13 when they committed four errors one night in Milwaukee. In addition, the Orioles finished with two passed balls, two missed signs, a misjudged fly ball and a base-running mistake.

The next night, the Orioles set the major league's all-time record at 0-14 when the Brewers' light-hitting Jim Gantner drove in the winning runs with his first two RBI of the season. The Orioles' 8-6 loss featured four Baltimore players watching a routine popup drop between them behind second base.

When the streak reached 0-15, with a 7-1 loss in Milwaukee, the 1988 Orioles owned the worst losing skid in club history. Consider that the 1954 Orioles held the previous mark at 0-14, and all they did was finish 59 games out of first place.

When the streak reached 0-21, with a 4-2 loss in Minnesota, the Orioles had passed three other teams for the longest losing streak at any point of any American League season. As a result, the only losing streak left for the Orioles to break was the 23-game skid of the 1961 Philadelphia Phillies, who continue to hold the major-league record in modern times.

Through it all, the Orioles' problems became a global story. There was a group of TV cameramen sent from Japan after the streak reached Kansas City. There was a reporter from Winnipeg who began folstreak reached 0-18, eight radio stations from across the country had decided to plug into the Orioles' flagship station on game days.

The Associated Press

"It's no fun being followed around and being laughed at and made fun of," said Orioles shortstop Cal Ripken Jr., who flashed signs last week that the streak was cruising to a close after his cool bat began to sizzle. He managed only two hits during his first 43 at-bats (.047), but he had eight hits in his last 15 atbats near the end of the streak.

He went 4-for-5 on Friday night, including a ninth-inning homer to secure the Orioles' victory.

They're 21 games under .500 after resuming their losing ways on Saturday night, when they dropped a 4-1 to Chicago, and it's only May 1. But within keeping of his positive attitude throughout the Orioles' problems, Robinson said he doesn't believe that the season is over for his club.

"Our objective at this point is to try to get to .500 as quickly as possible," said Robinson, who replaced Cal Ripken Sr. as the Orioles' manager seven games into the streak. "We know we probably won't win 21 games in a row, but we still can have a good season.

"The good thing is, we're not that far into the season. If we were something like 25-75 and talking about reaching .500, then that's a little tough. If we When **Bloom** is arraigned Monday, Valeska said he will ask Circuit Court Judge John M. Karrh to set bond at a relatively high cost.

"The bond should fit the conduct of Mr. Bloom," said Valeska. "He has not shown us that he can be trusted. We allowed Mr. Walters to go free without posting bond because he honored his word from the start."

For Bloom and Walters, May is expected to be a troubling month because of two separate investigations, one in Alabama and a broader, lengthier probe by the U.S. Attorney's office in Chicago.

The year-long federal investigation by the U.S. Attorney, the FBI and a grand jury is expected to result in indictments of Bloom, Walters and a handful of college athletes for their dealings between 1985 and 1987.

They tied the record for the longest losing streak

lowing the Orioles in Minneapolis. By the time the

can get to .500 by the middle of June, who knows?"

