

Odds & INS



By Linda Kay & Mike Conklin

Do the Bulls care that they added another \$30,000 to their team pool Sunday by advancing to the second round of the playoffs? Not really. In a National Basketball Association era when the average salary is \$500,000, an extra \$2,500 or so apiece almost rates as pocket change.

If the money was ...

... substantially more, it still wouldn't have made a big difference after the victory over Cleveland in the Stadium. The Bulls' organization showed more emotion than a high school basketball team winning the state championship. It started with Jerry Reinsdorf. "When the owner comes in and puts his arms around you with tears in his eyes, you know it means something," said Doug Collins.

The Bulls' coach ...

... labeled the victory "the most special moment for me in the playoffs." Collins had his daughter, Kelly, at his side during the postgame press conference. The coach made several runs at clearing the air on issues, including Charles Oakley's complaints after Game 4. Said Collins: "We're not at odds. I understand why he wants to be more in the offense. I just told him to come to me. I don't want it in the papers." In another classy moment, the coach apologized to WGN's Chuck Swirsky for his boorish answer to a question from the radio reporter after the previous game. Collins probably opened another vein when he took exception to a column in the Daily Herald in Arlington Heights. Still, we have to admit that he does face some pretty stupid questions from the media. Less than 20 minutes after the pulsating, draining win Sunday, one reporter asked him about individual matchups for the next round—before the outcome of the Detroit-Washington series had been determined.

P.S.: Collins said his best playoff move may have had nothing to do with how he coached during any game. "The smartest thing I ever did was give 'em Friday off," said the coach, referring to the day after the Game 4 loss in Cleveland. "I just told them to go home and rest."

Jerry II

Following the game, Bulls operations chief Jerry Krause appeared to be as exhausted as anyone involved in the action. Krause said he couldn't breathe easy even after Rory Sparrow gave Chicago a 107-101 lead with six seconds left. Said Krause: "In the NBA, it's never over 'til it's over. I've seen six-point leads go quicker than that. This was such a big one for us in a lot of ways. People aren't going to doubt us anymore."

Krause is the behind-the-scenes architect of the squad. He was beaming over the clutch performance of Scottie Pippen, his prize first-year discovery from Central Arkansas. Said Krause, "Scottie showed what he can do, but I know he's just scratching the surface."

Floor burns

■ You've heard of players performing while hurt. What about TV cameramen? A full-court pass by Oakley over-shot its mark Sunday and struck Channel 2 cameraman Chuck Davidson, who was staring intently into the viewfinder, flush on his forehead. The impact shattered his glasses. After shaking off grogginess, Davidson worked his way through a headache.

■ A fan who brought his own basketball was swamped by security forces after he ran onto the floor late in the first quarter. He attempted a layup at one basket while the game was taking place at the other end. The fan entered the playing area at midcourt, bolting into action just a few feet from Mayor Eugene Sawyer in a front-row seat. The fan was arrested. "He was a kid with some problems," said the security man, an off-duty policeman, who made the pinch. "His first problem, of course, was that he entered by the mayor. But I told him this: 'Kid, we're not arresting you because you ran onto the floor. We're arresting you because you missed the layup.'"

■ Mayor Sawyer, with press secretary Monroe Anderson at his side, obviously was into the action. When Michael Jordan finally tied the game for the Bulls at 66, Sawyer was among the first to his feet to lead cheers. Several times we saw him yelling "Charge" at the urging of the PA system.

Did you know ...

... this was only the second time in Bulls' history that the team had won a fully extended playoff series at home? Omen: The last time was 1974, when Chicago beat the Pistons 96-94 in a best-of-seven series. In fact, it was only the third time in club history that the Bulls won any playoff series in a home game. ... At tipoff time, the Cavaliers were seeking to become only the third team in NBA history to win a best-of-five series after losing the opening two games. ... About that money: We figure the Bulls' total pool is up to \$82,500. They got \$27,500 for tying for the third-best record in the conference during the regular season. They added \$25,000 for being in the playoffs' first round and get \$30,000 for making the second round.

Something Cavalier

■ The Cavaliers' Ron Harper showed class by coming to the Chicago locker room to offer his congratulations to the winners. After Krause gave Harper a hug, the Cleveland star—with a big smile—shouted to anyone listening: "We'll be back. Tell 'em Mikey [Michael Jordan] elbowed me in the neck and now I owe him one."

■ The Bulls' fans let up on Cleveland's Craig Ehlo by the time the teams reached this fifth game. Ehlo, an aggressive guard who played for George Raveling at Washington State, started the series as the Stadium villain when he knocked Jordan to the court in Game 1. His every move was booed here until Sunday. Said Ehlo: "I guess they found out here I'm not too bad a guy after all." The Cavalier said he likes Chicago. It was here he first made an impression with NBA teams at the annual trials held at Illinois-Chicago's Pavilion for scouts. Said Ehlo: "I went from being an unknown to a known in Chicago. This always has been one of my favorite cities."

■ Cleveland's loss knocked out a chunk of Wheaton College's representation among playoff coaches. Dick Helm, who coached at the west suburban school as well as Judson College in Elgin, is an assistant to Cavaliers head man Lenny Wilkens. This leaves former Wheaton player Randy Pfund and, somehow, we feel he was destined to last a wee, bit longer. He's an assistant with the Los Angeles Lakers.

BRIEFS

■ Several complaints by the National Football League Players Association against management, including a bid for back pay totaling at least \$20 million, will be heard Monday as hearings begin before an administrative law judge of the National Labor Relations Board in Washington. The NLRB general counsel already ruled against the NFL in the complaints, but the league's Management Council appealed the decisions and now has the opportunity to present its side. The most important topic, at least in terms of the amount of money involved, concerns the NFLPA's demand that its members be paid for games played Oct. 18-19 last season, three days after the conclusion of the 24-day players' strike. After the players called an end to the walkout, the NFL Management Council refused to let them return to work and instead staged one final weekend of games with replacement players.

■ The NFL players strike last season may have hurt attendance figures, but the Green Bay Packers still turned their second-largest profit in franchise history, team President Robert Parins said. In a report mailed to the club's stockholders, Parins said the team made \$3,005,000 in the fiscal year ending March 31. The team's largest profit was in 1986-87, when the team earned \$3,018,000.

■ An Alabama state prosecutor said he will seek a jail term for sports agent Norby Walters, who goes on trial Monday on three misdemeanor charges stemming from his dealings with former Alabama basketball player Derrick McKey. "We got a conviction and a sentence of a year in an Alabama jail for Jim Abernethy at Opelika, and Lloyd Bloom pleaded guilty to breaking the law," said Don Valeska, an assistant attorney general. "Now, we want to put Norby Walters behind

bars." Walters faces three criminal misdemeanor charges: commercial bribery, tampering with a sports contest and violation of the Deceptive Trade Practices Act.

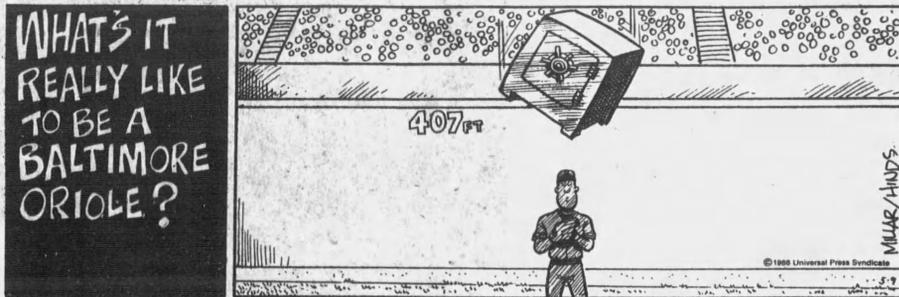
■ While commencement ceremonies were going on at Indiana, demonstrators were drawing attention to a shanty they'd build to protest rapes on campus. "IU supports rape" was spray-painted on one wall of the wood and aluminum structure built in Dunn Meadow on Saturday. "Rape Crisis Center" was on another wall. Graduate student Ann Adams said the protest was designed to confront the problem of sexual assault symbolized by attacks on women and by basketball coach Bobby Knight's recently televised comment on rape and stress, which she said trivialized the issue.

■ World record-holder Evelyn Ashford won the women's 100-meter race in the Shizuoka International track and field meet in Hamamatsu, Japan, while Renald Nehemiah captured the men's 110-meter hurdles. Ashford's time was 11.23 seconds. Her record is 10.76. Nehemiah, who holds the world record of 12.93, was clocked in 13.73.

■ Ikaki Gaston of Spain won the 14th leg of the Tour of Spain cycling race, and countryman Laudelino Cubino kept the yellow jersey as the overall leader of the competition. Gaston covered the 117.9 miles to Andorra la Vella in a time of 5 hours 14 minutes 29 seconds for an average speed of 22.4 miles an hour. Cubino kept the overall lead in the 21-day, 2,071-mile race, which ends in Madrid May 15.

■ Edmonton Oilers defenseman Charlie Huddy was rushed to a hospital Sunday for emergency surgery for internal bleeding in his left thigh. An Oilers spokesman said Huddy would be lost to the Oilers for the remainder of the Detroit series.

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