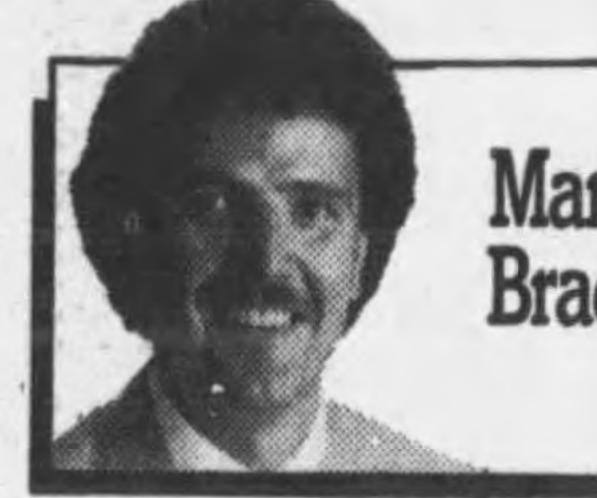
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SECTION D

THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION

MONDAY, MAY 9, 1988



The reluctant gunner

To watch Randy Wittman some nights is to see hesitation made flesh. But on this night, the protracted season's most vital, Wittman was a flame burning bright, a beacon pointing toward Boston. The two times when the Atlanta Hawks needed him most, the usually reluctant hero stepped boldly forward. And started gunning.

When the Hawks, their flying start overridden by fatigue, faltered in the second quarter, Wittman scored eight points in seven minutes. Came the fourth quarter and the inevitable Milwaukee rush, his shots parried thrust upon thrust. He made five baskets that period, each a dagger to the Bucks' heart, each a welcome jolt to Wittman's sometimes shaky faith. By game's end, Wittman said, "I felt I could've thrown it up from halfcourt and have it go in. I was in one of those grooves."

And the Hawks, after much thrashing, were finally rid of Milwaukee, safely in the playoffs' second round. They won 121-111, winning the way they were supposed to win all along, winning with defense and athleticism and precision. Had the Hawks played the entire season the way they played Game 5, they wouldn't be opening the next series in Boston; the Celtics would be coming here. But that's another matter. What counted Sunday was that the Hawks, in a game of huge import to this franchise, again worked with focused fury.

Wittman a barometer for Hawks

Maybe the spectre of embarrassment, expressed Saturday by both Dominique Wilkins and Tree Rollins, drove the Hawks to such a performance. Maybe The Omni's crowd, again smallish (12,190) but this time raucous, spurred the team. Maybe Milwaukee, a middling and ancient team, simply hit its wall and crumpled. Valid as those explanations might be, they're not all of it, likely not half. The chief determinant this night, as it is most nights, was Randy Wittman.

Funny how it works. Whenever Wittman scores big, the Hawks win. Wilkins has scored 51, 47 and 50 points in losses. In those games Wittman scores 18 or more points, the Hawks are 6-1. He lends symmetry to the offense, augmenting the flying Wilkins as no other Hawk can. Kevin Willis is OK as a third option, a risk as the second. Antoine Carr scores the same sort of points 'Nique does. Wittman's points and shots are his alone. For reasons why the Hawks slid from 57 wins last year to 50 this, look first to Wittman, who scored but 10 points a game. By his standards, he shot poorly. Too many

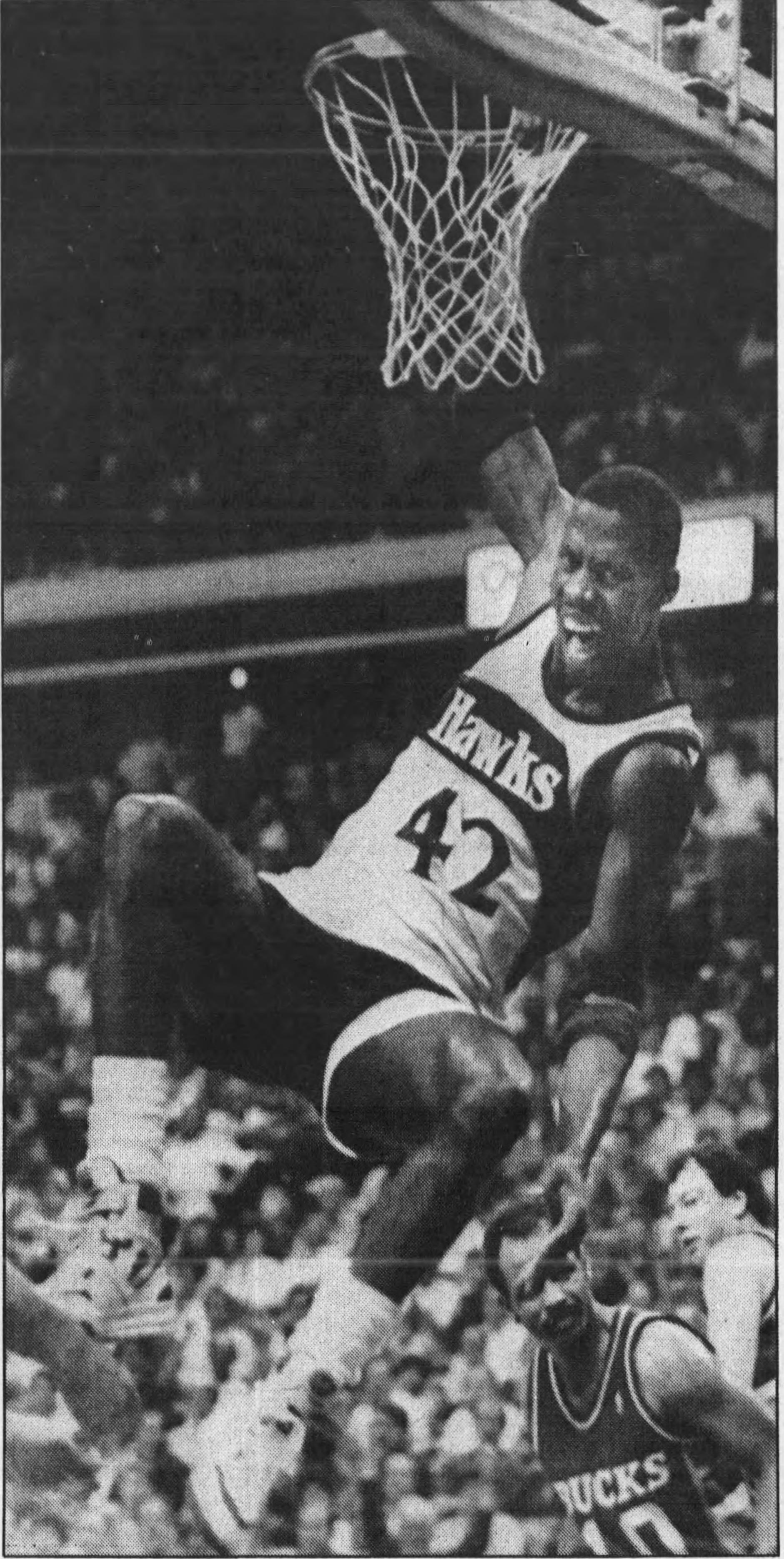
times, he simply stopped shooting. Had Wittman stopped shooting Sunday, his team would've stopped playing until autumn. Wilkins scored 14 of the Hawks' first 16 points, but as often happens with such galvanic liftoffs, 'Nique nearly burned himself out. Midway through the second quarter, the Hawks had seen a 10-point lead become a onepoint deficit. At the press table, one genius turned to another and said, "Either somebody else gets going or the Hawks

lose." Somebody was Wittman. Rifleman closed it with vengeance

He'd scored but two points the first quarter, eschewing one unencumbered 14footer to make a poor pass. But now, his team sagging, Wittman forced himself to start shooting. He scored on a leaner, hit a whirling banker, pulled up off the break and buried an 18-footer. Suddenly there was no hesitation. Suddenly the Hawks were up 11.

The lead would become 15, then 20, and surely the Hawks were home and dry. But wait. The Bucks opened the fourth quarter pressing, and the Hawks fell to pieces. From 89-70 it became 91-80, eons to go. Milwaukee's trap had the Hawks rattled, confused, spread all over creation. But the Bucks, scrambling to double-team, were well-spaced, too. Into the breech stepped Wittman, who made five straight jumpers. He would finish with 29 points, by far his seasonal best, and afterward Glenn Rivers would say: "He was shooting it great. When it came down to crunch time, he didn't miss."

Of his shots, Wittman would shrug and say: "They were just open jumpers. I was just hitting them. That's what I'm put out there for. Really, it was our ball movement that did it." But ball movement buys a team nothing if a shooter doesn't close the sale. This night, the Hawks' rifleman closed it with a steely vengeance. His team won. That's no coincidence. It never is.



KEITH HADLEY/Staff

Hawks' Kevin Willis scores on a breakaway dunk for two of his 20 points on Sunday.

Hawks cash in the Bucks

Atlanta advances with 121-111 win

Complete coverage, Page 6D By Jeffrey Denberg Staff Writer

It happened just the way Dominique Wilkins said it would.

Take the battle to Milwaukee, he said. Be the aggressor. Issue a challenge.

That's what Wilkins and the Atlanta Hawks did Sunday night, and the result was a 121-111 victory over the Bucks that put the Hawks in the second round of the NBA playoffs. The series starts at Boston on Wednesday night.

And here Wilkins made another vow: "We're gonna play wild," he said. "We're gonna take the fight to the Celtics and see what happens."

What happened Sunday night at The Omni must have been terrifying to the Bucks, who became the third Eastern Conference team to be eliminated in a fifth and final game on the road.

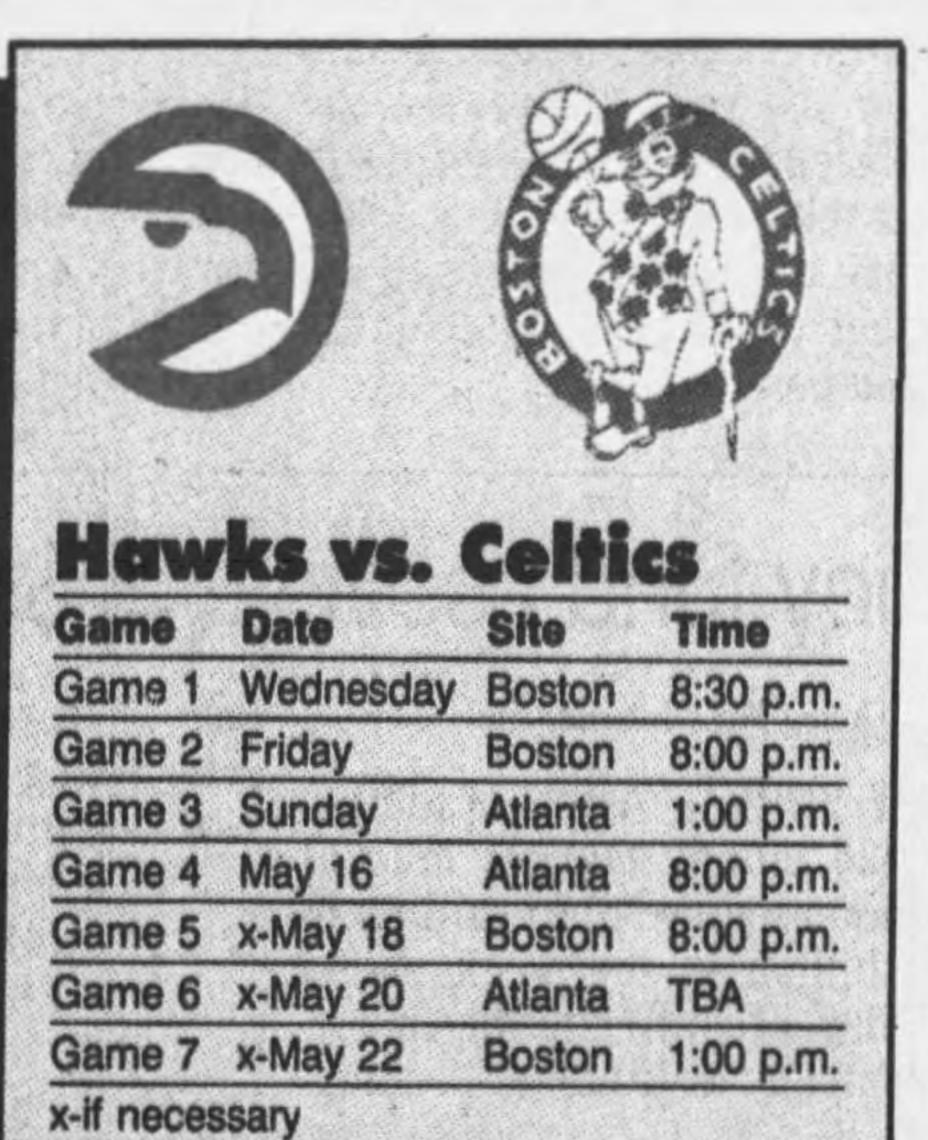
With Wilkins leading the way, the Hawks tore away from the start, slipped occasionally but had the firepower to punish the Bucks any time they drew close.

"I knew right from the first I would go at them, find the seam in their defense, take it to the basket," said Wilkins, who scored 23 points in the first half, finishing with 33, 10 rebounds and four assists. "They've been running two and three guys at me in this series, but this time I wasn't waiting. They didn't catch me standing

But Wilkins had said something else Saturday, when the Hawks held a playersonly meeting. He said it was imperative he get help. That happened, too.

Most noticably, it came from Randy Wittman, who made all seven shot attempts in the second half and scored 29 points on 13-for-19 shooting, by nine points his best game of the season.

"Witt was the difference," said Doc Rivers, who had 15 assists, 14 points and seven rebounds.



"Witt was mean, even in shoot-around today," said assistant coach Brian Hill. "He got after anybody who was fooling around. He was a leader. I'll tell you something: I've never seen him like this. His attitude was

The Hawks, who trailed only once, by a point early in the second quarter, stormed to an 89-70 lead entering the final period, then fell back against the Bucks' wild, trapping defense as coach Del Harris sent fresh troops into the game.

The Bucks got it down to 10 with 7:56 left, but never closer. It was Wittman who chewed on them, sinking four open jumpers as the frantic Bucks flailed away.

Don't discount Kevin Willis' 20 points, but the big man who ruined the Bucks was the one who annually resides near the end of the bench, Scott Hastings. He was on the floor any time the Hawks were in trouble. And when Hastings was on the floor, the Hawks worked out of trouble.

"They didn't know what to make of Scott," said Tree Rollins, celebrating "because now I don't have to do yard work. I just have to prepare for the Celtics (wink)."

Throughout the series, the Bucks punished the Hawks inside, Jack Sikma and Terry Cummings taking it to the hoop, Larry Krystkowiak playing enforcer. Not

HAWKS Continued on Page 11D

Phils' Ruffin defeats Braves 5-1 on 3-hitter

Braves report, Page 5D The Expos are on deck, Page 5D By Gerry Fraley Staff Writer

Saying the same things, the Atlanta Braves completed the first sixth of their season Sunday. One conclusion can be drawn from the first 27 games.

The Braves could go all season without hitting effectively. Their performance in a 5-1 loss to the Philadelphia Phillies at Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium did nothing to change the perception.

Bruce Ruffin, the stereotypical slop-

balling lefthander, held the Braves to three hits, one a double by pitcher Peter Smith. The three-hitter was not the amazing aspect of Ruffin's performance. He used only 82 pitches, and the Braves

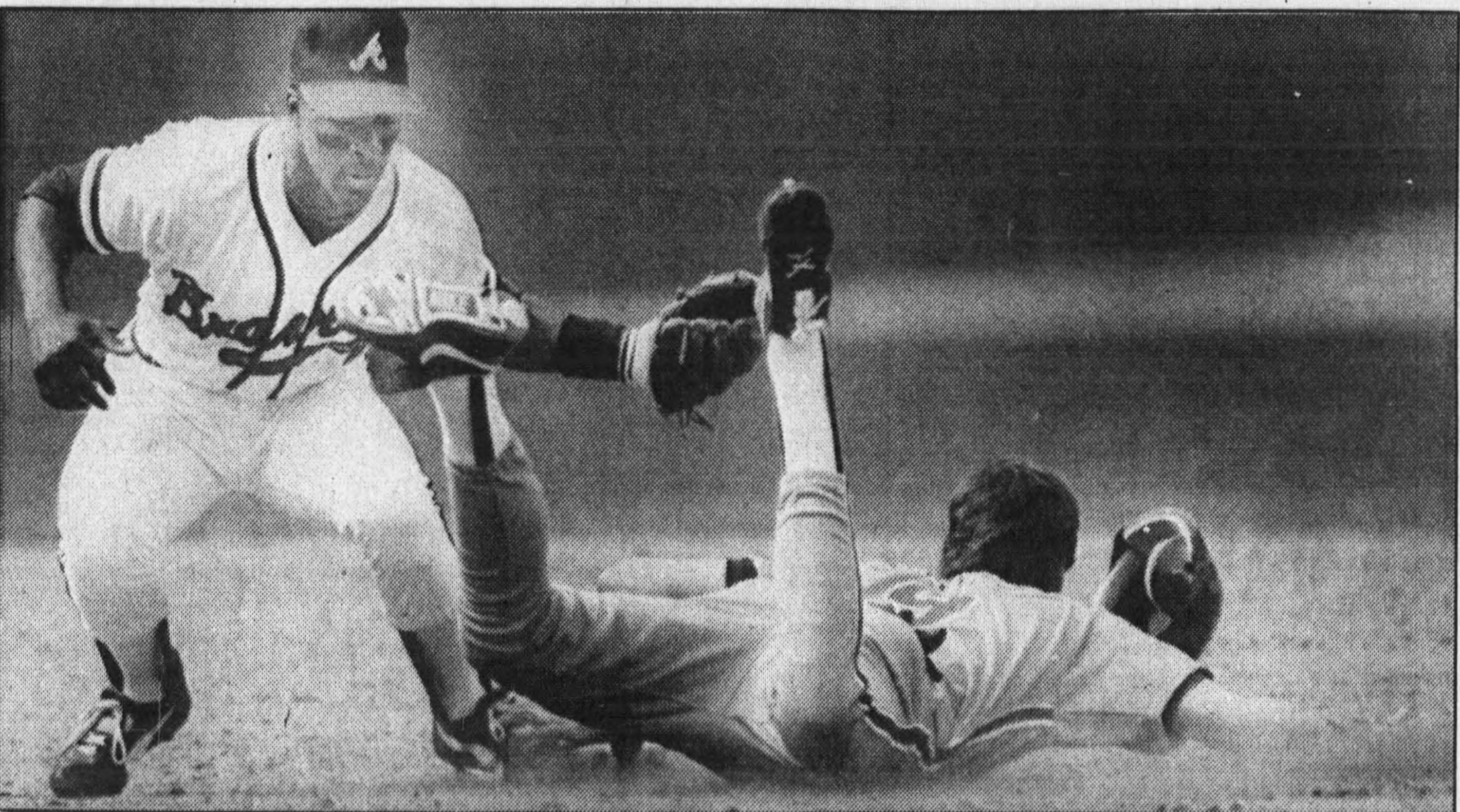
did not get a hit after Andres Thomas' single put them ahead 1-0 in the third inning. Starting with a double-play grounder by Dale Murphy, Ruffin retired the final 19

There was nothing memorable about Ruffin's pitches. He mixed in a changeup with an unassuming sinking fastball and a

The Braves went up, chased pitches early in the count and went back to the bench. When the Braves did drive a ball, Ruffin had the backing of rare good Philadelphia defense. First baseman Von Hayes' stop of Gerald Perry's liner saved a run in the first and indicated how this day would

"They're all being so aggressive, maybe they're trying too hard," manager Chuck Tanner said. "Maybe we should leave them alone and let them go up and hit instead of putting too many thoughts into their head. 'We're not hitting. Except for about

BRAVES Continued on Page 5D



RENEE' HANNANS/Staff

Braves shortstop Andres Thomas tags out the Phillies' Von Hayes, who tried to steal second in ninth inning of Sunday's game.

Walters trial begins today in Tuscaloosa

By Chris Mortensen Staff Writer

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. - New Yorkbased agent Norby Walters goes on trial today for signing two University of Alabama basketball players during the 1986-87 season. Alabama Assistant Attorney General Don Valeska says he will attempt to "put Walters behind bars."

"We're going to show these agents that whether you're from Atlanta, or Los Angeles, or New York, you can't come into the state of Alabama and bribe our young athletes," said Valeska, chief of the state's criminal division. "Norby Walters is going to find out we're not messing

Walters has been indicted on charges he violated three state laws - commercial bribery, deceptive trade practices and tampering with a sports contest stemming from his agency's signing of and payments to former Alabama basketball players Derrick McKey and Terry

Walters has entered not-guilty pleas to all three charges, and his lawyers will argue that NCAA rules should not be enforced by Alabama lawmakers. Walters lawyers also will attempt to portray the Alabama basketball program as exploitive of young athletes, sources said.

The jury selection process will begin this morning in Tuscaloosa County Court, unless Circuit Court Judge John M. Karrh rules to dismiss the charges under pretrial motions made in his chambers

McKey, whose rookie NBA season with the Seattle SuperSonics ended Saturday, and Coner, who is no longer play-

ing basketball, will testify for the state. If Walters is convicted on all three charges, he faces a maximum of six years in jail and \$12,000 in fines. If he is convicted of any of the three charges, the

TRIAL Continued on Page 10D

Three of four state champs try to defend baseball titles

By Steve Figueroa

Staff Writer Three of last season's four high school state baseball champions are back to defend their titles this year, but McEachern failed to return, leaving the Class AAAA tournament wide open.

Back to defend their titles are Westside (22-3) in AAA, Shiloh (22-5) in AA and Clinch County (16-9) in A.

AAAA crown is Sprayberry, the champion of McEachern's region. But Yellow Jackets coach Terry Cadenhead wants nothing to do with the favorite's role.

"In the game of baseball, there's no such thing as a favorite," he said. "There are a lot of good teams in the AAAA tournament and anybody can beat you at this point. The team that executes the best and makes the fewest errors will win."

Sprayberry (22-5) must be considered a strong contender, however. The Yellow Jackets went 5-1 during the Region 5-AAAA/9-AAAA playoffs, emerging from sister leagues that many veteran coaches considered the strongest in the state.

When senior Mike Hostetler is on the mound, Sprayberry is a match for any team. Now 13-0, Hostetler has an earned run average of 1.16 and has struck out 168 The most obvious challenger for the batters in 102 innings. He has allowed only 57 hits.

Hostetler will be the starter when Sprayberry plays host to Newnan (25-5) Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. in what should be one of the better first-round state playoff matchups. His opposition will be Newnan ace Matt Donahue, who is 14-3 with five saves and an ERA of 1.05. The senior righthander has 130 strikeouts in 107

Coaching Newnan this season is veteran Joe Pope, who came out of retirement to take over when Joe Brasfield resigned at Christmas to take over at Fayette

Pope, 65, won three state championships in Georgia and one in Florida in 21 seasons. His grandson Chris starts in right field for the Cougars, batting .400 and tied for the team lead in homers with seven.

Newnan features several other talented players, including outfielder Eric Jeter (.460, 6 HRs) and catcher Kevin Henderson (.480, 7 HRs).

But the Cougars received a serious blow when No. 2 pitcher Shohn Lewis (10-2) was struck in the face with a line drive last week. He is probably lost for the

Lewis' injury makes freshman Andy Jordan (1-0) the likely choice to face Sprayberry senior Greg Brown (7-3) in the second game of the best-of-three playoffs Wednesday in Newnan.

In Class A, Clinch will be trying for a third straight crown, but the Panthers are without graduated pitching star Danny Smith, the statewide player of the year last season with a career record of 32-7.

"We're basically the same team as last year except for Danny," said coach Cecil Barber. "You've got to have a little luck to win the state, but I feel like we've got the talent to challenge again."

Westside will be favored again to win in South Georgia. But if the Patriots do return to the state final, they may find five-time state champ Marist waiting.

After two rare off years, Marist (27-2) is back with one of its best teams. The War Eagles, who won state titles in 1977, 1981, 1983, 1984 and 1985, are led by outfielder Jacob Austin (.485, 4 HRs), called "one of the best players we've ever had

here" by veteran coach Jerry Queen. Shiloh repeated as region 8-AA champ in what was supposed to be a rebuilding

The favorite in the AA field, however, may be Berrien (25-0), the only undefeated team in the state.

Berrien features one of the best onetwo punches in any classification. Scott Purvis is 8-0 as a pitcher with an ERA of 2.79 and is hitting .506 with seven homers and 44 runs batted in, while teammate Jason Hamil is 9-0 on the mound with an ERA of 2.42 and is batting .443 with seven homers and 41 RBI.

Schedule, Page 8D

Trial

From Page 1D

state will ask the jury to order Walters to make restitution of the \$250,000 in NCAA basketball tournament revenue Alabama lost as a result of the agent's dealings with McKey and Coner.

Former Atlanta agent Jim Abernethy on March 1 became the first agent ever tried and convicted for making payments to a college athlete, Auburn football player Kevin Porter. Abernethy was convicted of tampering with a sports contest; he was acquitted of commercial bribery and deceptive trade practice. He has been sentenced to one year in Lee County (Ala.) jail and fined \$2,000. He is free while his case is

on appeal. Walters' former associate, 29year-old Lloyd Bloom, pleaded guilty last Monday to deceptive trade practice and worked out a deal with prosecutors. In exchange for his testimony at the trial this week, Bloom will wash police cars for one week while staying at the hotel of his choice and expense.

"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 Valeska. "Now, we want to put Norby Walters behind bars."

Valeska defended Bloom's unique deal, saying, "First, we need Lloyd Bloom to testify. And I think there is some humiliation for these city-slicker agents to wash state troopers' cars for a week."

It was Bloom, with the aid of former "recruiter" Terry Bolar, who signed McKey and Coner to a contract on Feb. 12, 1987. Both players received \$2,000 and signed an agreement that called for \$300 monthly payments and cars, accord-

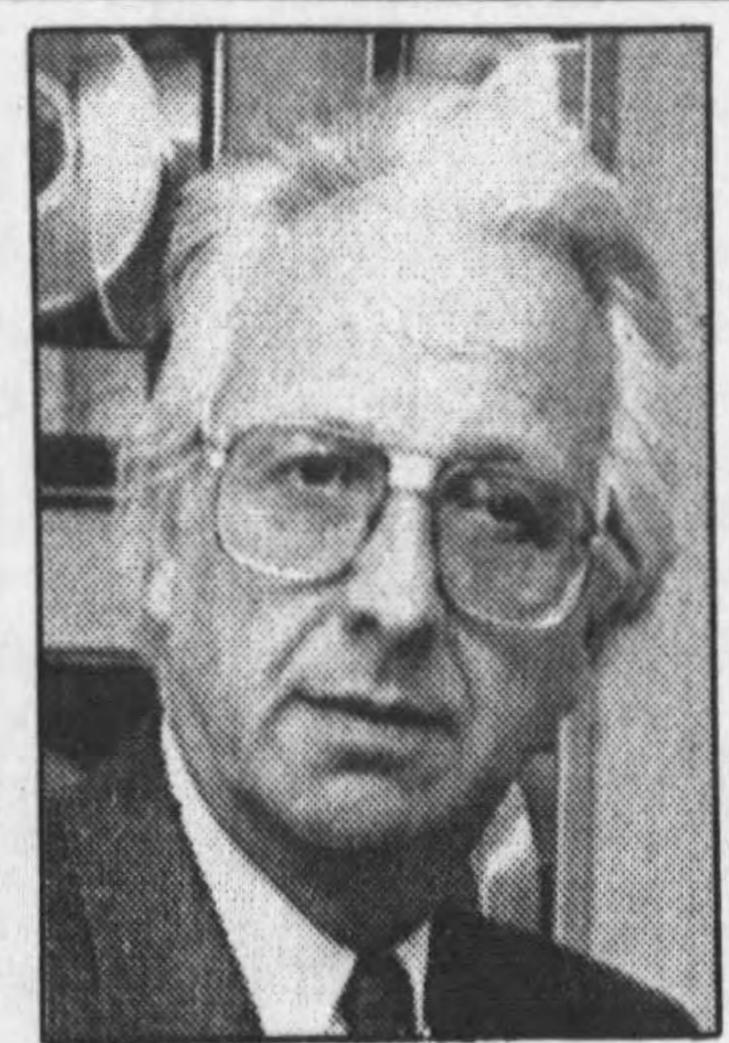
ing to copies of the contracts. Because Walters did not physically enter the state, the indictment delivered also charged his agency, World Sports and Entertainment

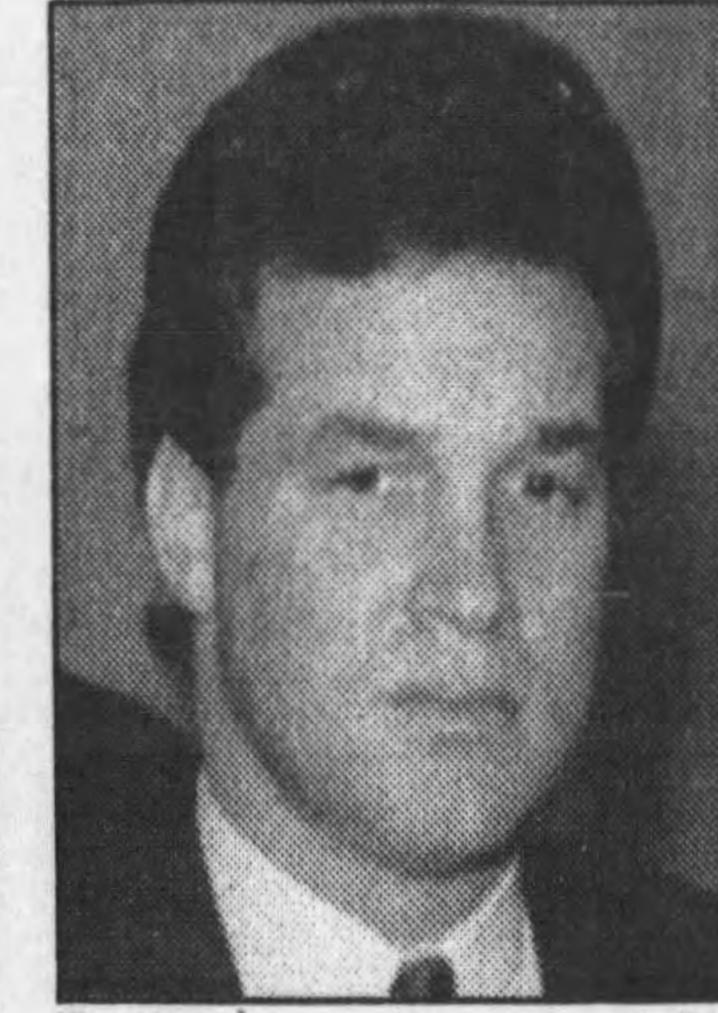
"Norby Walters had the money, he sent Lloyd Bloom in the state with the money," said Valeska.

Walters, 56, refused comment this weekend. He has contended he has not broken any laws while dealing with more than 50 college athletes. A year-long Chicago-based federal investigation is in its final

The state prosecutors, Valeska and Assistant Attorney General Bill Wasden, will argue that Walters is guilty of tampering with a sports event by concealing his contracts with McKey and Coner, which, under NCAA rules, would have made the two players ineligible to participate in games after Feb. 12. The state also will argue that every Alabama game in the 1987-88 season was affected because McKey, the Southeastern Conference Player of the Year, lost his senior season of eligibility.

However, the law states that a person guilty of tampering with a





Lloyd Bloom (right), a former associate of Norby Walters (left), has agreed to testify for the state against Walters.

Alabama's case against Norby Walters (Sections of these laws unrelated to case have been deleted)

13A-11-120. Commercial bribery.

(a) A person commits the crime of commercial bribery if he: (1) Confers, or agrees or offers to confer, any benefit upon any employee or agent without the consent of the latter's employer or principal, with intent to improperly influence his conduct in relation to his employer's or principal's

13A-11-143. Tampering with sports contest. (a) A person commits the crime of tampering with a sports contest if, with intent to influence the outcome of a sports contest, he: (1) Tampers with any sports participant or sports official, or with any animal, equipment, or other thing involved in the conduct or operation of a sports contest, in a manner contrary to the rules and usages purporting to govern the sports contest in

question. 8-19-5. Unlawful trade practices.

■ The following deceptive acts or practices in the conduct of any trade or commerce are hereby declared to be unlawful: (22) Engaging in any unconscionable, false, misleading or deceptive act or practice in the conduct of trade or commerce.

Georgia makes SEC tournament with 9-2 victory over Kentucky

Special to The Constitution



LEXINGTON, K.Y. - Georgia defeated Kentucky 9-2 Sunday to clinch a spot in the sixth-team South-Conference eastern baseball tournament.

To qualify, the Bulldogs needed help from Florida, which defeated Vanderbilt 8-7 in 12 innings Sunday in Gainesville, Fla. Vandy finished seventh in the conference.

Georgia (27-26, 11-16) will play first-place Florida in the opening round Thursday in Starkville, Miss.

Brian Jester went 4-for-5 with three RBI for Georgia. His run-scoring single in the sixth inning broke a 2-2 tie.

Georgia starter Steve Muh (7-6) pitched eight innings and allowed two runs.

Kentucky (34-21, 18-9) swept the Bulldogs 11-0 and 7-2 Saturday

Box score, Page 8D

Zaun powers N.C. State past Georgia Tech 11-7

Special to The Constitution

RALEIGH, N.C. — Turtle Zaun drove in four runs with a home run and a sacrifice fly, and Bill Kleno-

shek had three RBI on a double and two singles to power N.C. State past Georgia Tech 11-7 in ACC baseball Sunday afternoon at Doak Field.

Sam Drake (5-7) took the loss for

Georgia Tech (38-20, 12-8) thus remained in third place in the ACC and will face sixth-place Wake Forest in Wednesday's opening round of the ACC tournament at 8 p.m. in Greenville, S.C. N.C. State (43-12, 13-6) earned the No. 2 seed and will meet Maryland in the first round at 5 p.m.

North Carolina will meet Virginia in the first round of the conference tournament at 10 a.m. Wednesday, followed by top-seed Clemson against Duke at 1 p.m.

Box score, Page 8D

Lady Bulldogs win SEC golf with a record-setting total

The Associated Press

GULF BREEZE, Fla. - Sue Thomas shot a final-round 71 to lead Georgia to a record-low 864 and the team title in the Southeastern Conference women's golf tournament. Florida was second with a

Florida's Cheryl Morley scored a three-round 211 for the individual

championship. Thomas was second at 213. Heather Kuzmich of Georgia was third at 215.

Final results, Page 8D

Dogs' Carter wins 4th straight State Collegiate singles title

Special to The Constitution

ATHENS — Georgia's Trey Carter became the first four-time winner of the State Collegiate Tournament, defeating teammate Mike Morrison 2-6, 7-6, 6-3.

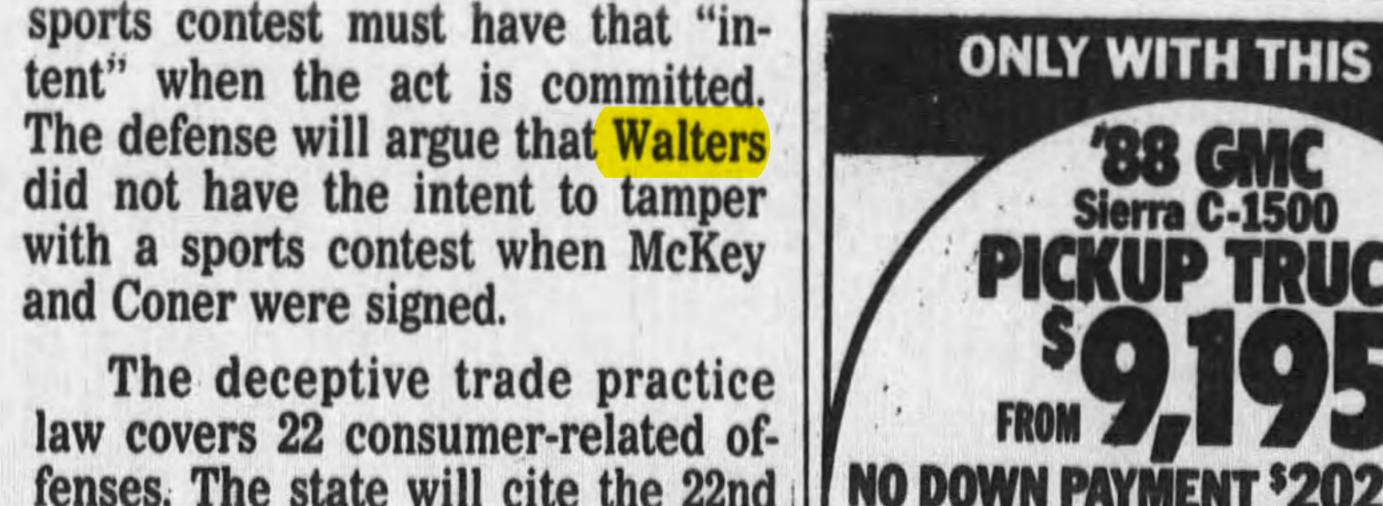
The Bulldogs' No. 1 doubles team of Al Parker and Chris Garner became the first freshman team ever to win the doubles draw, downing teammates Stephen Enochs and Jim Childs, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2.

The Bulldogs have continued to dominate the annual State Collegiates, winning the singles 21 out of the past 22 years and the doubles 19 years in a row.

Final results, Page 8D

Briefly ...

After 36 holes, Georgia State (618) is 13th in the 16-team Vanderbilt Music City Invitational in Nashville, Tenn. Colin Woods (149) leads the Crimson Panthers. Maryland (574) leads the team standings.



law covers 22 consumer-related offenses. The state will cite the 22nd part, which does not allow anyone "engaging in any other unconscionable act or practice in the conduct of commerce." Unlike the Abernethy trial, the state will argue that college athletic events are consumer products and that the public was deceived into thinking it was watching amateur basketball players.

To get a conviction on commercial bribery, the state must prove that McKey and Coner were "agents" or "employees" of the university. The state will argue that a player representing the university is an agent for the school. Also, it may try a new theory that players are employees who get room, board and tuition in lieu of wages.

As for the \$250,000 restitution, documents exchanged in recent weeks show that the NCAA placed sanctions on Alabama because of a rule that compels a student-athlete to come forward when he or she knows of a rules violation. Walters lawyers will argue that the sanctions were the result of negligence by McKey and Coner and the University of Alabama, which they will say failed to properly inform the players of the rules.

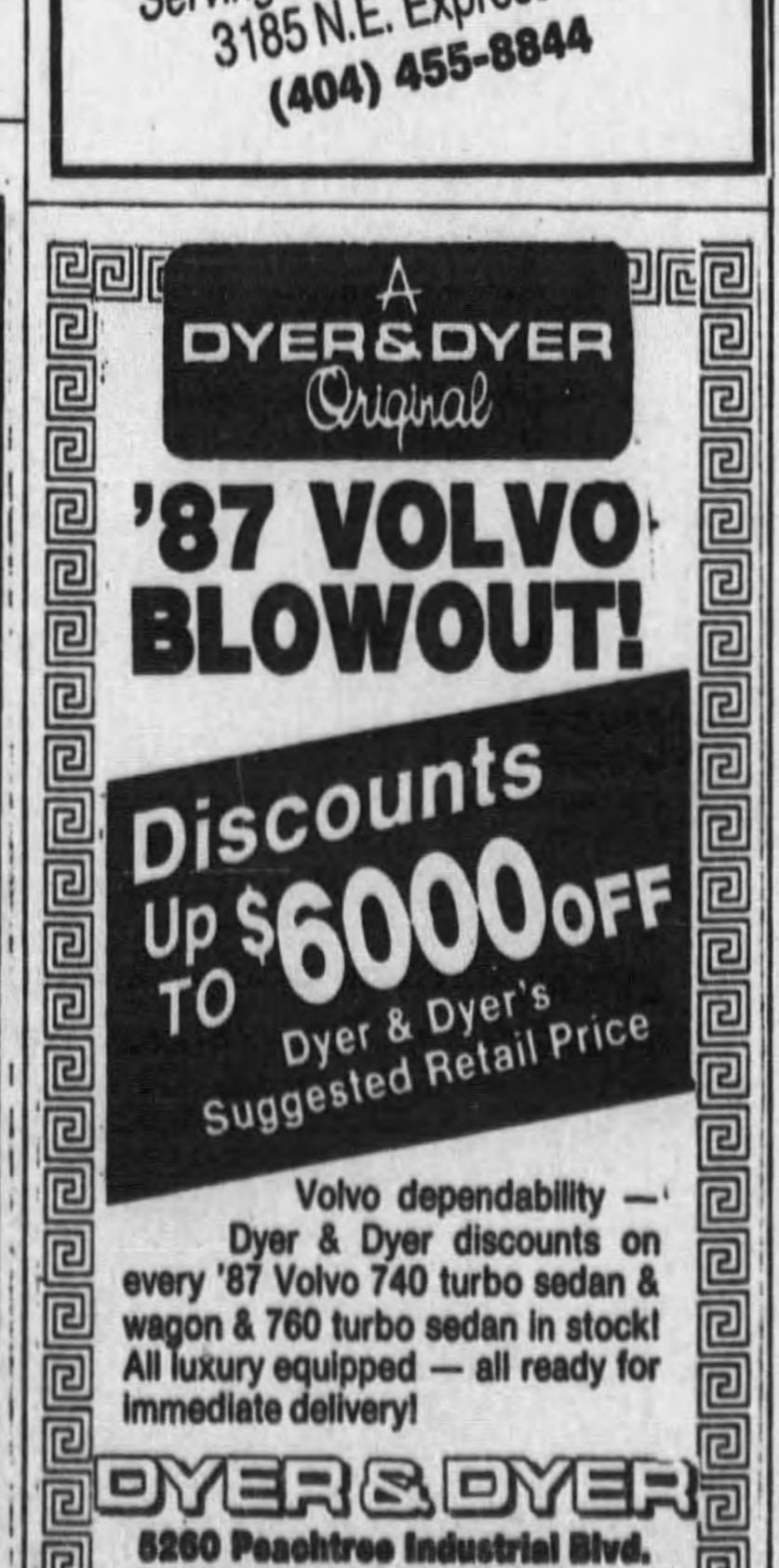
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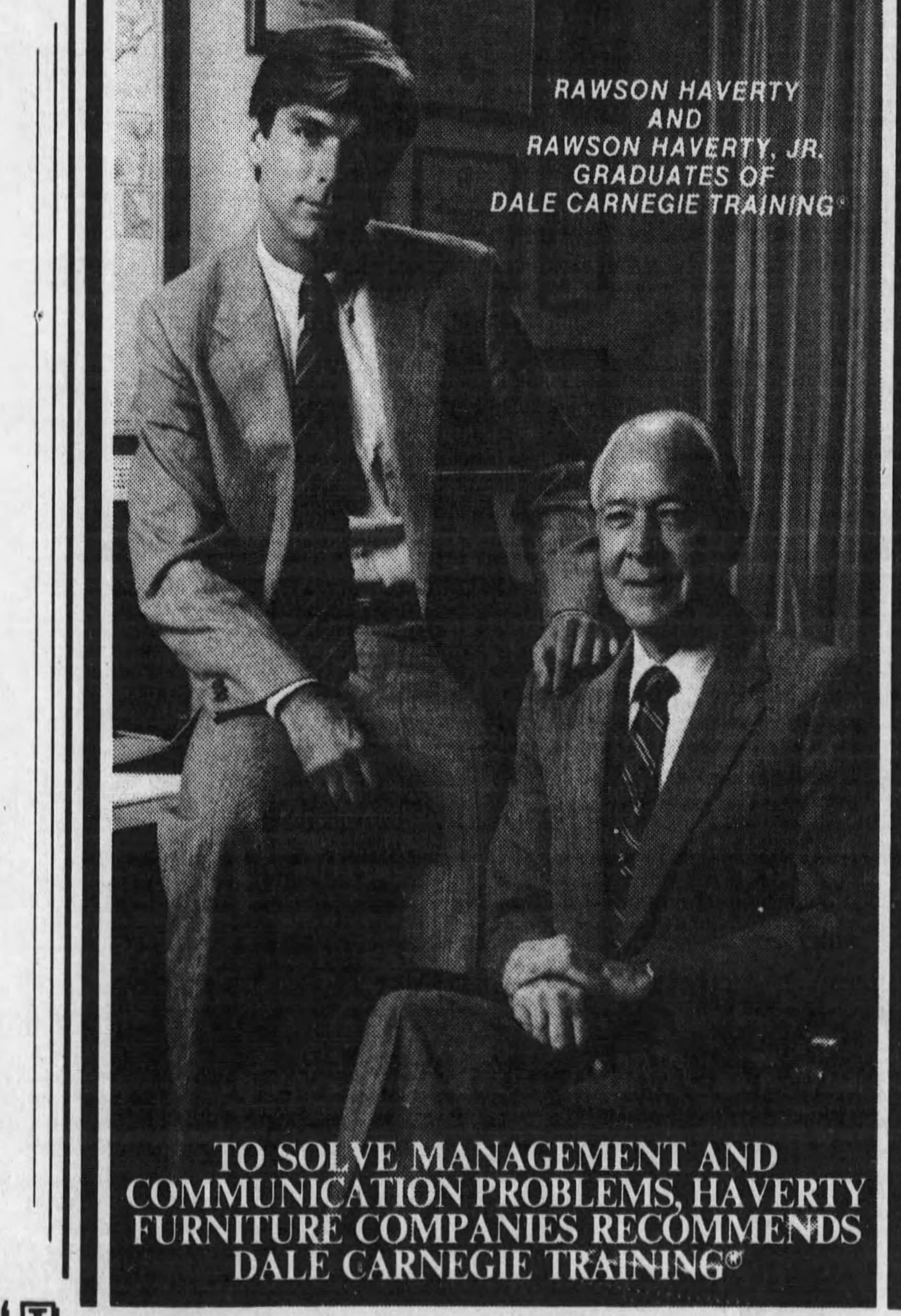
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