

Odds & INS



By Linda Kay & Mike Conklin

What's so great about coaching basketball at New Mexico? "It's a job where basketball is really big," said Lou Henson, who coached at rival New Mexico State for nine years before coming to Illinois. "They get 18,000 fans for every game. They built a big arena for basketball years before most schools started doing it."

Can you win ...

... an NCAA title at New Mexico? That might be the catch. Said Henson: "It'd be awfully difficult. The state only has about 1 1/2 million population. You'd have to spend a lot of time on the road looking for players." ... Henson said he took his name out of the running at the outset, despite many contacts he has in the Lobo network from his stint in the state. The Illinois coach, who just got a contract extension, is obviously monitoring the situation closely. On Monday, he knew Bobby Knight had decided to stay at Indiana almost as quickly as most reporters.

A no-show

The folks at the Jack Quinlan Memorial Golf Tournament at Olympia Fields knew Monday that something was brewing in the Bobby Knight situation. Knight, who had committed to the event, was a no-show. The tournament, which benefits the Boys and Girls Clubs of Chicago, didn't lack for stars. There were some added starters, such as Dan Hampton of the Bears, and a number of guests from the sports world golfed together. For instance, Bears personnel director Bill Tobin, Jim McMahon and Channel 7's Tim Weigel were in a foursome.

Perhaps the most interesting combination we heard was this: Notre Dame coach Lou Holtz and Bears defensive coordinator Vince Tobin in the same foursome. You have to wonder who was asking whom for advice. The Bears may be the pros, but they've lost Wilber Marshall. The Fighting Irish have lettermen at every position. ... Perhaps the best news to come from the Quinlan is that Blackhawks star Doug Wilson's ailing shoulder is obviously mending. His group shot a best-ball 61. However, former Hawk Cliff Koroll and WGN-TV's Steve Stone were in groups that had 56s to finish as leaders. The most curious score, to us, was the back-of-the-pack 74 shot by Andy Pafko's foursome. The former Cub great lives on a golf course.

Listen up, campers

■ If the new faces at this week's Bears mini-camp in Lake Forest need extra inspiration for making the team, they should consider that wearing the Orange and Blue makes you a member of the most marketable team in the NFL—and never mind that the Bears are two seasons removed from the Super Bowl. Last year, the team's licensed merchandise outsold items from any of the league's 27 other clubs by a big margin. The Bears accounted for 14.5 percent of total sales volume in 1987. The defending Super Bowl champion New York Giants accounted for 10.3 percent in '87, and the runner-up Denver Broncos were a distant third at 8.5.

■ Here's Dave Duerson's definition of the Bears' mini-camp: "It's the first real opportunity for the rookies to be introduced to the Bear system. For the veterans, it's more or less a reunion, and for Mike Ditka it's a chance to see how poorly in shape we are."

Tourney-bound

The North Star Conference has trouble getting its members into the NCAA women's basketball tournament and so, by golly, the league will stage its own postseason event. De Paul will host the inaugural tourney next year. All eight schools in the 5-year-old women's league will play in the single-elimination event. "We felt that holding a postseason tournament would provide the conference with more basketball visibility," said De Paul's Jean Lenti Ponsetto, the league president. Other conference schools are Akron, Cleveland State, Illinois-Chicago, Wisconsin-Green Bay, Valparaiso, Northern Illinois and Marquette. The league does not receive an automatic NCAA bid, but the Lady Blue Demons are defending women's NIT champs.

A real devil

Just when you think nothing can top hockey's absurdities, such as the controversy surrounding New Jersey Devils coach Jim Schoenfeld, along comes soccer. In a recent MISL playoff game, Baltimore coach Ken Cooper became so incensed at a call that he ran into the middle of the field to argue with the referee. Then, Cooper had to be physically restrained from attacking the opposing goalie. As he was being escorted from the field and into the locker room, Cooper took off his silk tie and threw it at officials.

News, notes and nonsense

Whitey Herzog's visits to Chicago take on extra meaning this season. The Cardinal skipper will be at Ditka's Tuesday night, when he and his wife, Marylou, will check out ideas for his new restaurant opening later this summer in St. Louis. Jimmy Rittenberg, who manages Ditka's, is supervising Herzog's Powerhouse Night Club. ... You can get a sneak preview of Oak Brook's upcoming polo season at Faces in Chicago Wednesday night, when Michael Butler will be on hand to answer questions. Shann Gayle of the Bears also will attend. ... Mark Childers of Talent Network Inc., which handles Andre Dawson, has signed the Bears' Richard Dent to a merchandising agreement.

Finally: Is it us? Jays Foods is throwing a Chip Off The Old Block Party June 4 in Lincoln Park to promote its products. The main attraction is pro wrestler Jake "The Snake" Roberts, whose claim to fame (gag) is a very unappetizing huge snake he drapes over his shoulders. Tasty, eh?



Matador Jose Maria Manzanares had the cape, the sword, the nice suit and the spiffy hat, but his opponent at a bullfight Monday in Madrid found a way to upstage him.

Cyclist Greg LeMond is rolling along, slowly, in his comeback from 1987 hunting accident

Greg LeMond says he has completely recovered from last year's hunting accident, but his comeback has been a slow process.

"That is no problem, not at all," the 1986 Tour de France champion says of the injuries suffered on April 20, 1987. "My big problem is, however, that I still lack overall conditioning, particularly for the mountains.

"I also lack the ability to race day after day, for one, two or three weeks. I don't recover as quick as I used to. I just don't have the kilometers that I

had in 1985 or 1986. Then I had years of training in my legs.

"This year, it's like coming from nothing, like starting a whole new career."

The 26-year-old LeMond says he may be trying too hard.

Early last month, he crashed during a race in Belgium and was sidelined again for a while. He entered three other one-day races in Belgium, and went through a "very hard" time in Italy. Earlier this month, he gave up on the first day of the Four Days of

Dunkirk race.

"I was completely exhausted so I had to stop and recuperate," he says.

Things went better in the six-day, 560-mile Tour de Romandie race through Switzerland, which ended in Geneva Sunday. It was the longest race he covered since his accident.

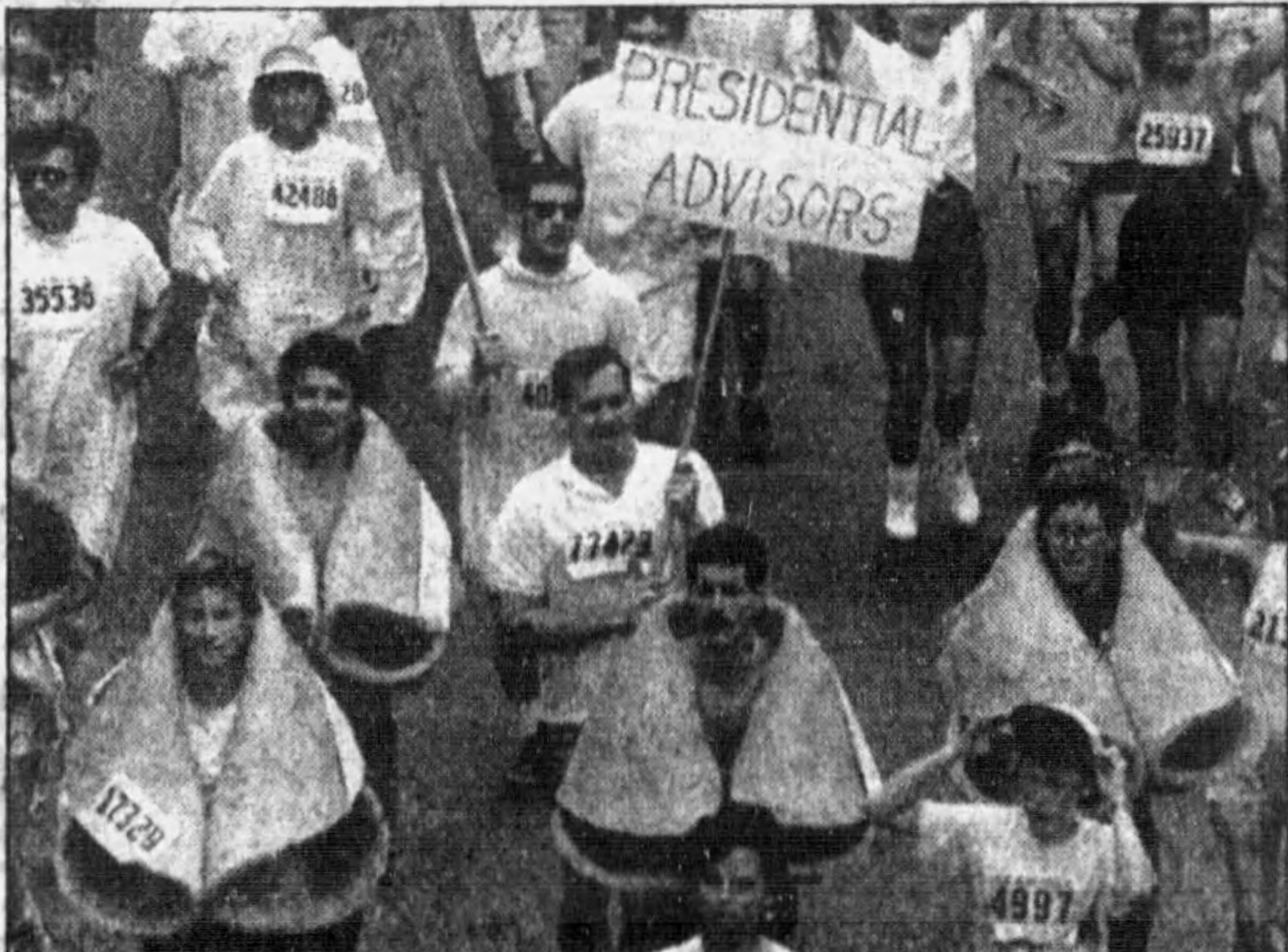
He finished the toughest stage, through the Valais Alps, 57th among 120 riders. Sunday, he pulled out at the last checkpoint before the finish, skipping the final 6.9 miles because he was in a hurry to get home to his wife

and two boys in Belgium, where the family lives during the cycling season from February to October.

"It's important," he says. "The oldest, who is 4, just learned to ride his bike last week."

How is the comeback going?

"I am feeling better each day," he says. "But I expected it to take some time. After all, it was a serious accident. But when you're stopped in the middle of your career, when you're almost on top, it makes you hungry for more."



Among the entrants in the Bay-to-Breakers run in San Francisco Sunday was a team of fortune cookies.

A whole team of Dolly Partons?

For those who missed it, the Aggies, a group of former students from the University of California at Davis, won the centipede division in Sunday's 77th annual Bay-to-Breakers run in San Francisco.

The Aggies, however, finished well back in the pack in terms of originality in the 7 1/2-mile race, which again this year was as much entertainment as sport.

In the centipede division, in which teams of a dozen or more runners are connected by anything from simple ribbons to elaborate costumes, the San Francisco 49ers entered a group calling itself the "largest centipede in captivity."

Its smallest member was 260-pound offensive lineman Guy McIntyre. Its captain was Bubba Paris, a 300-pound

pounder who said he had been practicing for the race "a block a week."

Other teams came as trucks, Bay Area Rapid Transit cars and a team of Dolly Partons.

Another highlight of the race was the wedding of Carlyne Cardwell and Bruce Fein. Cardwell and Fein, accompanied by 50 red T-shirted guests and a judge, ran as far as the Rose Garden of Golden Gate Park, where they stopped while the couple exchanged vows. The wedding party then finished the race.

Other runners were dressed as eggs, couch potatoes, Velveeta cheese, President Reagan, former President Nixon, cows and Lotto balls. One man portrayed a television evangelist, running with a TV set over his upper body and his pants down.

'We look with a little amusement at this American game of football where they are running around with this oblong ball and jump into big piles, with arms and legs sticking up everywhere. They run around like goats, butting heads. Then boom! You fall down. It's all very amusing.'

—Per-Hugo Kristensson, president of the Swedish Cultural Society in Chicago, commenting on the Bears' trip to Sweden to play the Vikings

Zamboni gets honorary degree

Frank Zamboni—yes, that Zamboni—has received his first honorary degree, from Clarkson University, an NCAA Division I hockey power in Potsdam, N.Y.

Zamboni, 87, inventor of the ice resurfacing machine that bears his name, was awarded an honorary doctor of engineering degree at the university's commencement exercises.

"He's very important to us here in the North Country," said Clark Bailey, assistant to acting Clarkson President R. Thomas Williamson.

Bailey nominated Zamboni, a man with a 9th-grade education, for the honorary doctorate.

Zamboni, a Utah native, invented the ice-resurfacing machine that bears his name in 1949 while operating a California skating rink. The machine greatly reduced the time needed to resurface the ice.

More than 4,000 Zambonis are used today in more than 30 countries.

Zamboni company President Richard Zamboni accepted the honorary degree for his ailing father who could not attend the commencement.



Ex-Yankee Joe Pepitone surrenders Monday in New York to begin a six-month sentence for misdemeanor drug charges.

BRIEFS

■ After years of dicker, South Korea has finally—and unequivocally—stated that North Korea will not cohost the Seoul Olympic Games. In a conciliatory gesture, Park Seh-jik, president of the Seoul Olympic Organizing Committee, appealed to Pyongyang to send a team of athletes to Seoul.

■ University of Pittsburgh forward Jerome Lane became the fifth underclassman Monday to enter the June 28 National Basketball Association draft. The 6-foot-6-inch, 230-pound Lane, a second-team All-America who averaged 13.9 points and 12.2 rebounds a game last season, said "a weak draft" and his grandmother's declining health most influenced his decision. Pitt coach Paul Evans told the Pittsburgh Press that Lane wouldn't speak to NBA Scouting Director Marty Blake two weeks ago, "but then he went to Los Angeles and I think an agent got to him out there."

■ A large field will keep Risen Star out of the Preakness, and a decision on whether to enter the colt will be made by Thursday, says trainer and co-owner Louie Roussel III. "Anything over 10 or 11 [horses]" would be too many, Roussel said. Pimlico racing secretary Larry Abbundi said, including Risen Star, there were 12 possible starters.

■ In a legal settlement, the New England Patriots have agreed to pay offensive lineman Brian Holloway an undisclosed sum while the National Football League Players Association said it would drop charges that he was traded because of union activities. Holloway was traded to the Los Angeles Raiders last Sept. 2, a day after he appeared on national television criticizing NFL management for a breakdown in labor talks. Union officials had charged that Holloway, a union vice president and the Patriots' player representative, was traded because of his labor activities. Club officials claimed that Holloway's skills had deteriorated, making him expendable. ... The Indianapolis Colts have agreed to contract terms with free-agent comebacker Louis Breen, who has played for Cincinnati since 1978.

■ Michael Spinks and Butch Lewis, his promoter-adviser, are scheduled to sign contacts Tuesday for Spinks' fight against heavyweight champion Mike Tyson June 27 in Atlantic City. ... Boxer Kenneth Gould of Rockford has been added to the U.S. lineup for Saturday's USA-USSR Heavyweight Invitational in Stateline, Nev. The 147-pound Gould, a two-time U.S. champion, was added to match the weight-class breakdown of the Soviet team.

■ The Montreal Canadiens have given Minnesota North Stars owners Gordon and George Gund permission to talk to left wing and team captain Bob Gainey about the Stars' general manager opening, according to the Minneapolis Star Tribune.

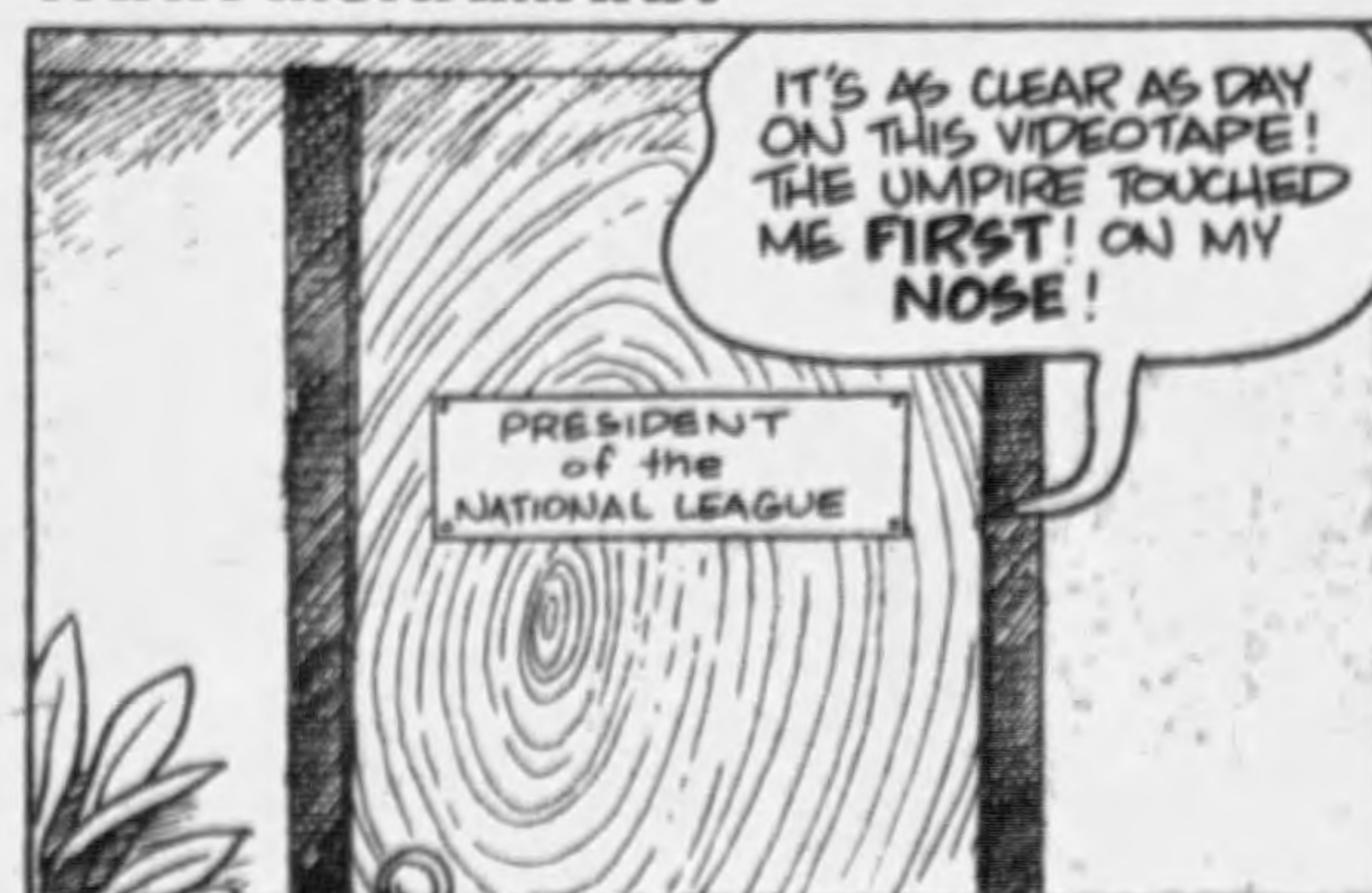
■ Northern Illinois (32-8) and Illinois State (37-10) women's softball teams have received bids to the NCAA Midwest Regional, hosted by Bowling Green.

■ Minnesota (34-25, 17-11) defeated Wisconsin 15-4 and 5-0 to ensure a trip to the Big 10 baseball playoffs Thursday. The Gophers play Michigan State in the first round, hosted by Michigan in Ann Arbor. The Wolverines will play Ohio State. Wisconsin (28-27, 15-13) finished fifth.

■ Jack Drake, an attorney for Norby Walters, says an agreement had been reached to settle the criminal and civil cases against the New York sports agent for his dealings with former University of Alabama basketball star Derrick McKey. But Alabama state officials refused to concede that a settlement had been worked out between Walters' attorneys, the university's counsel and prosecutors.

Compiled by Bill Hageman and Rich Strom from staff, wire reports

TANK McNAMARA



GIL THORP

