
Wednesday, May 18, 1988

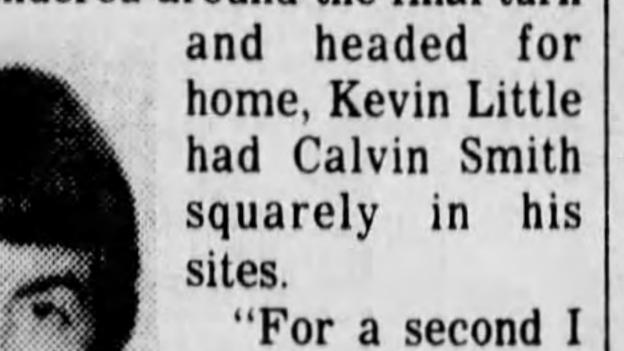
SPORTS VIEW

The Bulldogs



Little is big as a sprinter

As the field in the Drake Relays Men's Special Invitational 200-meter dash thundered around the final turn



thought I had him," Little said. "I seemed to catch him right on the turn. But as soon as we came off the KEVIN turn we stayed LITTLE even. We went a little further and I

knew I couldn't catch him." Smith is an Olympic gold medalist, a former world record-holder in the 100 meters and the latest inductee in the Drake Relays Hall of Fame. Little is a Drake sophomore from Ankeny whose career is just starting to blossom. On paper, it didn't sound like race in 20.46 seconds. Smith was second in 20.70 and Little third in 20.92.

"I felt Johnson would be the one to beat, but I was surprised that I finished that close to Calvin," said Little, who did finish ahead of world-class runners Emmit King and Floyd Kerr in his favorite race. "It was an honor to finish right behind a world champion like Smith. I felt like all my hard work this year paid off in that race."

It's the opinion of Drake track coach Bob Ehrhart that Little has the potential to be in the class of the Johnsons, Smiths, Kerrs and Kings some day.

"He's made great improvement each and every year," Ehrhart said. "With a little more experience and maturity, I think he'll develop into an international-caliber athlete."

Little's accomplishments this season back up Ehrhart's prediction. At this year's Missouri Valley Conference indoor championships, Little won the 55- and 200-meter dashes and shared the most valuable performer award. At the Kansas Relays, he captured his second consecutive 200 championship with a career-best and Little was again named the most valuable performer after capturing the 100 and 200 and running the leadoff leg of the Bulldogs' winning 4x100

Little would like to run fast enough in the 200 to qualify for next month's NCAA championships in Eugene, Ore., and the Olympic Trials later this summer. The NCAA qualifying standard is 20.64. The Olympic standard is 20.67, which can't be a windaided time. The NCAA does allow wind-aided performances. He'll take his next crack at those standards at the Gatorade Invitational in Knoxville, Tenn., this weekend.

"I'd like to go to the NCAAs and become an all-American," Little said. "If I qualified for the Olympic Trials, I know I don't have a chance of making the team. But I'll go to get the experience of running against that type of competition. Maybe I'll be able to use it to my advantage four years from now."

Ehrhart believes the 1992 Olympics is not a pipe dream for Little, who holds the Iowa high school record of 21.50 in the 200.

"I don't think it's outside his limits, and he seems to run better against major competition," Ehrhart said. "In another four years, he might be where we want him to be."

Little, a 5-foot 11-inch, 145-pounder nicknamed "White Lightning" by his teammates, breaks most sprinter stereotypes. If anything, his diminutive appearance psyches out his oppo-

"At Kansas, one guy came up and asked me what I ran during my workouts," Little said. "Another guy just kept looking at me. I think they were a little intimidated."

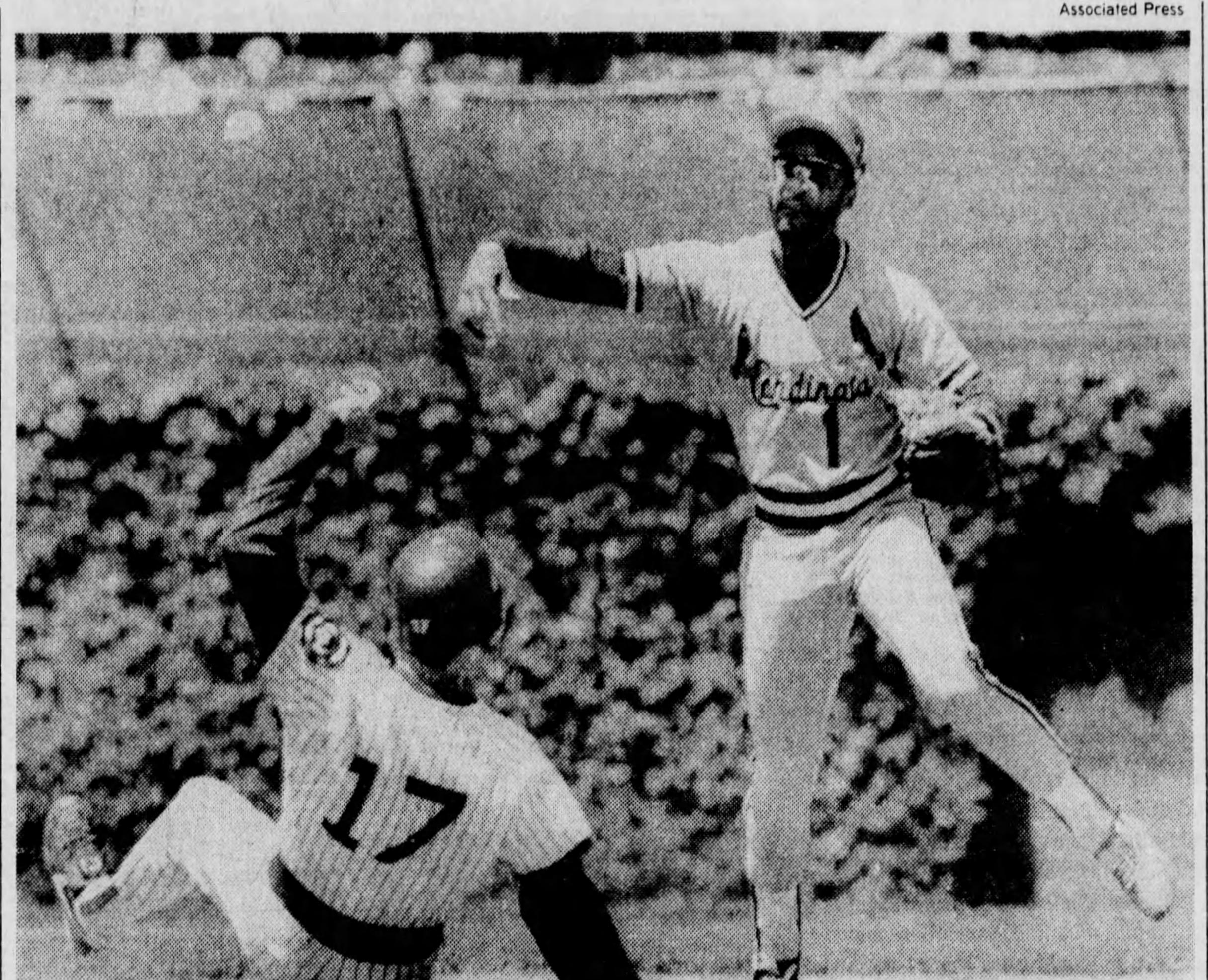
In addition to ability, Ehrhart points to Little's approach and work habits as the reasons for his success.

"He's got great natural ability, but he works as hard or harder than anyone on the team," Ehrhart said. "He's very competitive and loves to win, and I think his mental approach is as good as anyone I've ever had. He's not real emotional before a race, just calm and collected. Great athletes are never overexcited. Kevin never

Little said the calm presence his

coach sees is often a facade. "I think I hide it good," Little said. "Sometimes I do get real nervous, but I just try to keep it inside. I learned that the hard way, through experience. But I guess that's the best way to learn."

- Rick Brown



Chicago's Mark Grace fails to prevent Ozzie Smith from relaying a throw to first for a double play in the first inning.

a fair match. On the track, it was. Baylor's Michael Johnson won the Baylor's Michael Johnson won the

By CARRIE MUSKAT

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CHICAGO, ILL. - Greg Maddux lost the home-field advantage Tues-

day to a bad hop. What looked like a routine ground ball in the 11th inning by St. Louis' Luis Alicea bounced erratically over

a second baseman Ryne Sandberg, re-

sulting in two runs and Maddux's de-

Alicea's two-run hit lifted the Cardinals to a 3-0 victory over the Chicago Cubs, who garnered just three hits off left-hander John Tudor.

Maddux, who hurled a 10-inning, 1-0 victory over San Diego in his last outing May 11, held the Cardinals to two hits over 10 innings before St. Louis' surge in the 11th.

With two out, the Cardinals loaded the bases on consecutive singles by ball." Tom Brunansky, Bob Horner and Tony Pena. On a 3-2 count, Alicea hit a grounder to right that skipped high

over Sandberg, enabling Brunansky and Horner to score. Jose Oquendo then singled to left to score Pena. The St. Louis runs were the first against the 22-year-old right-hander in 263/3

"I don't think that will happen again in five or six years," Maddux said. "If I wouldn't have gone 3-0 on him Alicea, maybe he wouldn't have been as aggressive on the pitch. I'm pleased with the way I pitched, but not with the outcome."

Maddux's teammates thought he deserved better, too.

"I felt like I made a decent jump, being so surprised by the bounce," Sandberg said. "I still missed it by three or four feet. It was a helpless feeling. That was a routine ground

Maddux said: "It was just like someone letting the air out of your

Cubs' Manager Don Zimmer figured the ball struck a water sprinkler - but whatever it was, the Wrigley Field ground crew was inspecting the edge of the infield very carefully after the game.

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O.Smith ss	5000	Grace 1b	4010
McGee cf	3000	Dawson rf	4000
Brunansky rf	4110	Law 3b	4010
Horner 1b	5110	Palmeiro If	4000
T.Pena c	5 1 1 0	Berryhill c	4000
Alicea 2b	4022	Jackson cf	3010
Oquendo 3b	3011	D.Martinez	ph 1000
Tudor p	3000	Dunston ss	3000
Ford ph	1000	Mumphrey	
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Spot in Olympics on Grayer's mind

By RICK BROWN

Register Staff Writer Grayer all-Big earned Eight and all-America basketball honors and became Iowa State's career scoring leader, but he wants more.

Grayer, the Cyclones' gazelle in sneakers, is chasing GRAYER two more goals - a career in the National Basketball Association and a spot on the United

States Olympic team.

The June 28 NBA draft is growing near, and Grayer is expected to be selected in the first round. He solidified his status with a strong performance at the Orlando All-Star Classic in Florida last month, and already has made trips to Milwaukee and Miami to talk with personnel of those teams. But a challenge of a different kind awaits Grayer today.

He, along with B.J. Armstrong and Matt Bullard of Iowa, will be among the more than 80 players taking part in the Olympic Trials at Colorado Springs, Colo.

Likes Challenge

"I've always dreamed of making the Olympic team," Grayer said. "It's one my goals. Any time a challenge comes at me, I get geared up for it. I hope to get off to a real good start the 1986. first three days, make it through the first cut and go from there."

The list of Olympic candidates is expected to be cut to 40 after the first three or four days of practice. Another cut will be made after a two games May 23 at McNichols Arena in Den-

"I suspect we'll leave Colorado with 20 guys, maybe fewer depending on what happens at the trials," said former Iowa Coach George Raveling, who will serve as an assistant to Olympic Coach John Thompson of Georgetown.

Bill Stein, athletic director at St. Peter's College and a former assistant to Thompson at Georgetown, is the other assistant. Iowa's Rudy Washington is one of eight assistant



ARMSTRONG





MATT BULLARD

coaches being brought in by Thompson to work the trials.

The players who survive those cuts will meet July 15 at Georgetown to resume workouts. A 12-man roster will be picked later this summer.

"A lot of people think the team is already picked," Raveling said. "But there will be guys who play themselves on and off the team at the trials. I told a friend of mine that I'd bet any amount of money that a player makes the team that nobody thought would."

Trials Experience

Grayer, Armstrong and Bullard all took part in the Pan Am Trials last summer. Grayer was recovering from ankle surgery and wasn't in peak condition. Armstrong and Bullard both made the World University Games team, which won a silver medal. Bullard also played for the United States Jones Cup team in

"I think all three are solid candidates to make the Olympic team." Raveling said.

Grayer, who led the Big Eight in scoring this year with a 25.3 average and finished with 2,502 career points, impressed Thompson as well as 50 NBA scouts with his performance in Orlando. He was named to the alltournament team after averaging 24 points in the three games.

"The best thing is that Thompson knows that Jeff can play," said Iowa State Coach Johnny Orr. "He's got a picture of him in his mind. Jeff's just got to go to the trials, work hard and have good practices. If he plays like

> OLYMPICS Please turn to Page 2S

Oilers eye NHL title school-record 20.79 clocking. At last week's MVC outdoor championships,

1988 New York Times

EDMONTON, ALBERTA - Early in this decade, when the New York Islanders were Stanley Cup champions and the best team in the National Hockey League, the Edmonton Oilers were refugees from the disbanded World Hockey Association, a team full of fresh kids who were full of fresh talent.

During a second-round playoff game against the Islanders in the spring of 1981, the Edmonton players irritated the defending champions by sitting on the bench and chanting, like high school cheerleaders, "Here we go, Oilers, here we go!" To the Islanders, it seemed unprofessional.

"They were cocky then," Mike Bossy, an Islander star of that era, recalled. "And they are still cocky."

Everybody showed their feelings in those days, said Kevin Lowe, a 29year-old defenseman who was the first player drafted after the Oilers joined the NHL. "We were kids, we were striving to be known and struggling for respect," he said. "And we were just having fun. People took it in the wrong sense. We didn't fit in the general mode of NHL teams."

Now, as the Oilers prepare to face Boston in the Stanley Cup finals beginning here tonight, they are not young, or striving to be known or struggling for respect. They still don't fit into the general mode of NHL teams: They are far better than most.

They are appearing in their fifth

championship round in the last six seasons and are seeking their fourth

championship in five seasons. Slick, quick and tricky, the Oilers remain a slippery crew, a constant reminder that hockey is a fluid game played on liquid in a temporarily frozen form. If they are still cocky, as Bossy said, it is a mature cockiness.

"They are an enthusiastic bunch of guys," said Glen Sather, the president, general manager and coach,

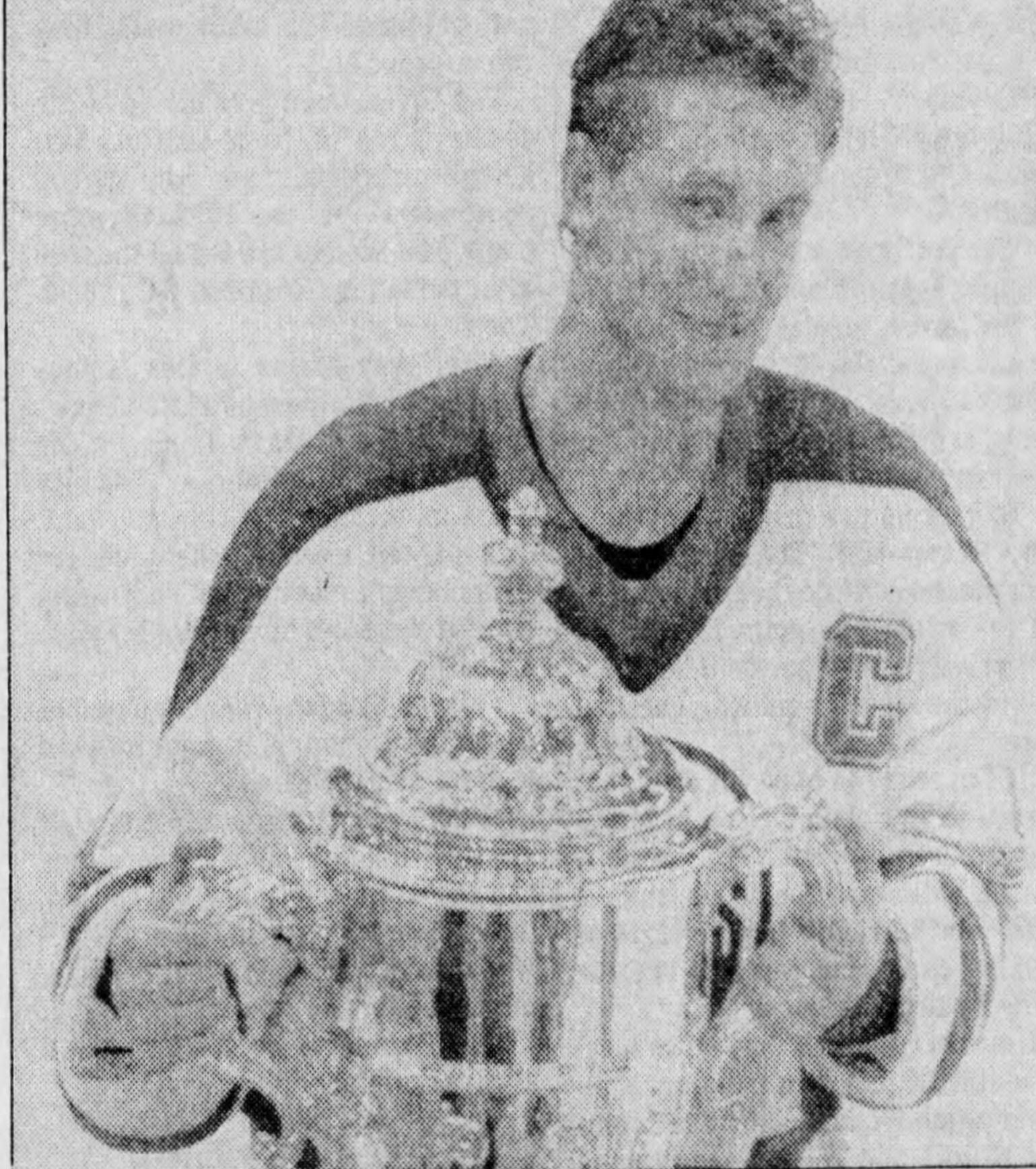
"and very proud of themselves." John Davidson, a former goalie for the St. Louis Blues and the New York Rangers, covered the Oilers last week for Canadian television. "They are not the young, brash crazy bunch of guys who used to do it just on skills alone," he said. "They are coachable. They make adjustments."

The thing you notice now, Bossy said, is how they have matured. "They are not as freestyle," he said. Hockey, when played well, is a game of pulse and pace. The Oilers like to dictate both before drilling

their foes. "They are like sharks," said Jacques Demers, the Detroit coach, whose team Edmonton eliminated in five games in the Campbell Conference final last week.

No Champagne

In eliminating the Red Wings, Edmonton raised its postseason record to 12-2. Of their last 21 playoff series, the Oilers have won 19.



Edmonton's Wayne Gretzky, shown with the Campbell Conference Trophy, is one of the Oiler kids who has matured into a quiet, confident veteran.

They no longer sing to each other on the bench. They don't get excited anymore about conference titles. When they carried the Campbell trophy off the ice last week, someone put it on the corner of a Ping-Pong table in the locker room.

Everyone pretty much ignored it as they quietly showered and gave a few interviews. There was no champagne, no war whoops.

"We really haven't won anything," explained Wayne Gretzky, Edmonton's virtuoso center and captain byear, Maddux, the brother of Chicago who, at 27 now, is completing his | Cub pitcher Greg Maddux, had a ninth NHL season. "We come to the rink and do our jobs like any businessman. We don't show off and we don't put people down. But we see the light

> OILERS Please turn to Page 4S

Associated Press International League teams pitching rich

By RANDY PETERSON Register Staff Writer

The light-hitting Iowa Cubs have made Cy Young Award impersonators of a number of overachieving American Association pitchers this season. This weekend, they could face the real thing.

When the International League teams make their initial appearances in Des Moines beginning this weekend, some teams will bring with them some bona fide major leaguers. One of the more notables is Steve Bedrosian, last season's Cy Young Awardwinner with Philadelphia.

Bedrosian, who had pneumonia and pleurisy that caused him to miss all of spring training, pitched his first game of the season on May 9 for Maine, the Phillies' triple-A affiliate. He was expected to pitch in three or four games in the minor league before returning to Philadelphia.

Another major-leaguer temporarily with Maine is pitcher Mike Maddux, who has been sent down to rehabilitate a sore arm and shoulder. Last strained shoulder but pitched in seven games for Philadelphia, going 2-0 with a 2.65 earned-run average. He also pitched in 18 games for Maine in

> INTERNATIONAL Please turn to Page 3S

MORNING REPORT

GRAYER SHRINKS? Jeff Grayer, listed by wa State officials as a 6-foot 5-inch forward, was a first-round pick Tuesday by Fresno of the World Basketball League, which is for players 6-4 and under. The league begins play Wednesday.

NATIONAL TV HOPES. The University of Iowa is holding two basketball dates open to schedule a national television game next season. Among the possible foes, who would likely be played on the road, are North Carolina of the Atlantic Coast Conference and St. John's of the Big East Conference. Iowa is demanding a contract that specifies a return game at home.

CONNORS WITHDRAWS. Jimmy Connors, the fifth-ranked player in the world, withdrew from the French Open tennis tournament that starts Monday because of an injured right foot. Connors, 35, first injured the foot last summer and aggravated the injury three weeks ago.

SPORTSLINE CANCELED. Des Moines ra-

dio station WHO-AM (1040) will cancel its "Sportsline" call-in show next month to make room for the "Jim Zabel Show," which debuts June 13. The 5:30-7 p.m. weekday show will continue to run the Hayden Fry and Tom Davis callin shows, but Wednesday's "Sportsman's Notebook" may be moved to the weekend.

BLISS INTERVIEWS. Southern Methodist basketball coach Dave Bliss will finally interview for the vacant New Mexico job, saying he was happy Lobos officials finally had run out of Big Ten coaches to pursue. Bliss is now the prime candidate for the position after New Mexico tried and failed to lure Purdue's Gene Keady and Indiana's Bob Knight.

THE EAGLE SOARS. Britain's Eddie "The Eagle" Edwards is still flying. Not satisfied with throwing himself off a 90-meter ski jump to finish last at the Calgary Winter Olympics in February, Edwards plans to: jump out of a helicopter; strap himself to the wings of a plane at an air show; and

become the first person to ride a horse over steeplechase hurdles while wearing skis.

MOVING ON. Two members of Gary Garner's Drake basketball coaching staff have found new positions. Terry Carroll, Garner's top assistant, has been named boys' basketball coach at Ottumwa High School. Another assistant, Randy Brown, has accepted a position on the staff at the University of North Dakota. Garner was fired on March 7 after seven seasons at Drake.

AGENT RESTRICTED. A tentative settlement in the University of Alabama's case against sports agent Norby Walters could restrict his contact with athletes throughout the Southeastern Conference. Walters would face a penalty of \$200,000 and would not be able to contact athletes without notifying the league and school involved. The \$200,000 would be paid to Alabama, which lost \$250,000 in NCAA basketball tournament revenues last year because of Walters' illegal dealings with two Alabama players.

TV Today

1:15 p.m. (17) (WGN) Baseball St. Louis at Chicago Cubs.

7 p.m. 8 Baseball Kansas City at Minnesota. (Live) 7:05 p.m. (TBS) Pro Basketball NBA Playoffs: conference semifinal, Atlanta at Boston or Chicago at Detroit.

8:30 p.m. (ESN) Hockey Stanley Cup Final: game one,

Boston at Edmonton. (Live) 10:30 p.m. (ESN) SportsCenter (Live)

1:30 a.m. (ESN) SportsCenter (Live) 2 a.m. (ESN) Hockey Stanley Cup Final: Boston at Ed-

monton, game one. (R)

Quote of the Day

"It was a well-placed land mine."-St. Louis' Bob Horner commenting on the Wrigley Field grass after Luis Alicea's bases-loaded bad-hop grounder won Tuesday's game for the Cardinals, 3-0, in the 11th inning.