Grinker no booster of lowa's agent law

By Mark Neuzil Gazette sportswriter

Sports agent and attorney Ron Grinker said he has not had a chance to examine the new lows state law concerning persons in his line of work. But after hearing some of the details, he said he doesn't think much of it.

Legislation signed into law by Gov. Terry Branstad last week requires agents seeking Iowa athletes to register with the state, post a \$25,000 bond, meet NCAA rules and have an Iowa-based attorney involved in the negotia-

"It's not practical for me to go to 50 states and place a bond there," said Grinker, who is based in Cincinnati. He represents 27 NBA players, including former Hawkeye Brad Lohaus, plus former Iowa collegians Jeff Grayer and Kevin Gamble.

The Iowa regulations were sparked by controversy over payments to former Hawkeye football player Ronnie Harmon by New York sports agents No. and Lloyd Bloom while he was playing for Iowa in violation of NCAA rules.

Agents found in violation of the rules can be fined \$10,000 and face criminal prosecution as well as being banned from recruiting clients in the state.

Grinker feels the athletes should be penalized, too.

"You have to create a deterrent to the athlete as well," he said. "If there's a bond for the agent, why not a bond for the athlete as well, saying they would protect the university, instead of some NCAA Mickey Mouse paper.

"A bad agent can't sign a player and give money to a player if the player doesn't want to take it. The kids have learned it well. They're there with their hands out. Is your governor signing a law legislating them?"

Grinker, who has been a sports agent for 24 years, said the advent of multi-million dollar contracts invited the wrong element into the business. "When I first started, (contracts were for) \$6,000 or \$8,000 and nobody wanted to do it. Now that there are millions involved, everybody wants to do

"The reality is the risk-toreward ratio is so great, people take a shot at it. They feel if I get caught, I get caught."

Grinker said he would support a federal law mandating behavior of agents and athletes, provided it had enough teeth to make punishment a sufficient deterrent.

SPORTS BRIEFLY

BASEBALL — New York Yankees Manager Billy Martin has been fined an undisclosed amount by the American League for kicking dirt on umpire Tim Welke after being ejected during the Yankees' 7-6 loss to the Texas Ranges on May 6. . . Left-handed pitcher Ron Guidry has been transferred from the 20-day rehabilitation list to the 21day disabled list, a Yankees spokesman said Wednesday. The club said Guidry is eligible to come off the disabled list at any time . . . Illinois state senator Greg Zito proposed on Wednesday that the state buy the Chicago White Sox for about \$55 million and sell shares to the public for \$10 each, guaranteeing that the team — whose present owners are considering a move to Florida — would remain in the state 'eternally"... Meanwhile, Florida lawmakers gave initial approval to the first \$5 million of a \$30 million package to lure the White Sox to Florida, but a House budget amendment wouldn't allocate a penny unless the team signs a long-term lease . . . The executive committee of the International Baseball Association on Wednesday granted a request from the Cuban Olympic committee to extend the deadline for teams which will participate in baseball at the Summer Olympics, and gave the Cubans until May 25 to apply for a berth in the Games at Seoul, South Korea.

■ MISC. — Tero Palmroth of Finland passed the final phase of his Indianapolis 500 rookie test on Wednesday, Harry Sauce withdrew and the U.S. Auto Club told Dale Coyne he would not be allowed to drive . . . Hall of Fame Bowl officials announced a television contract extension with NBC through 1990 and said this year's game will be played Dec. 30 in Tampa Stadium . . . Dallas center-forward Roy Tarpley, the first reserve in NBA history to finish among the top 10 in rebounding, on Wednesday was named winner of the league's Sixth Man Award for outstanding contributions by a non-starter. The 7-foot Tarpley averaged 11.8 rebounds, 13.5 points and 28.5 minutes . . . Former world heavyweight boxing champion Floyd Patterson will receive an honorary doctor of humane letters degree at Marist College's commencement exercises on Saturday. Associated Press

SOVIETS: Face lowans tonight

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greatness, but not a whole lot of teamwork."

SOVIET COACH Vladimir Obukhov, 52, has been his country's chief national junior coach since 1968. He coached the Soviet National team in 1985-86. Obukhov spoke through an interpret-

"The tour has been very interesting for me, more interesting than in the eight times I was here before," he said. "Our guys are a little bit tired, but it has been worthwhile.

"In spite of being tired, we are real men and never show it." The Soviets will challenge the with a talented trio: 6-

foot-6 forward Andrey Lukyanets

(pronounced "Luke-yahn-itz"). who is averaging a team-high 25.3 points; 6-8 center Gintaras Einikis ("Eh-neek-us") with a 16.8 pointaverage and 11.3 rebound clip; and 6-3 floor leader Rauno Pekhka ("Peck-hah"), who is hitting at a 16.6-point clip.

Iowa's homegrown team boasts eight players bound for Division I colleges. The roster includes Cedar Rapids Washington 6-1 allstate guard Marcus Coty, who is headed for Northern Illinois.

The Iowans are led by 6-6 "Mr. Basketball" Wade Lookingbill of Fort Dodge and 6-8 forward Kevin Nixon of Council Bluffs Thomas Jefferson, who have averaged over 24 points apiece.

AGENT: Guiding careers of Lohaus, Gamble, Grayer

Detroit this year.

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court, shoots the ball well and is a great passer, Grinker added.

Lohaus is confident he'll remain with the Celtics; so confident, he's looking to buy a house in the Boston area.

While Lohaus is settling in, Gamble is searching for a home. Gamble, a 6-foot-6 guard played, days ahead, he's scheduled to play for a few weeks for Portland last season before finishing the year in the CBA.

"It was beneficial for Kevin to leave and play 40 minutes per game in the CBA," Grinker said. "He'll be better prepared for this year. Kevin would have gotten no playing time whatsoever this year with Portland. Being a free agent

is the best of all worlds for him." Grinker worked the same strategy for Lewis, a former La Salle player who toiled for two years in the CBA before sticking with

Gamble recently completed a tryout with Milwaukee. In the at camps in Charlotte, N.C. and Miami, where two NBA expansion teams will locate.

"Kevin Gamble will play in the NBA and have a marvelous career," Grinker said. "Brad will become a good player and maybe a great player."

Grinker is likewise high on Grayer, who signed with the agent

after a recommendation by Manning and Iowa State Coach Johnny

"I represented players from Michigan when Johnny Orr was there," Grinker said. "I happened to be in Kansas for a game to watch Danny Manning play and Orr stopped me and asked if after the season I would meet with Jeff. After speaking with Danny about him, he spoke highly of him as a person and Coach Orr did likewise — and he's not a man to mince words."

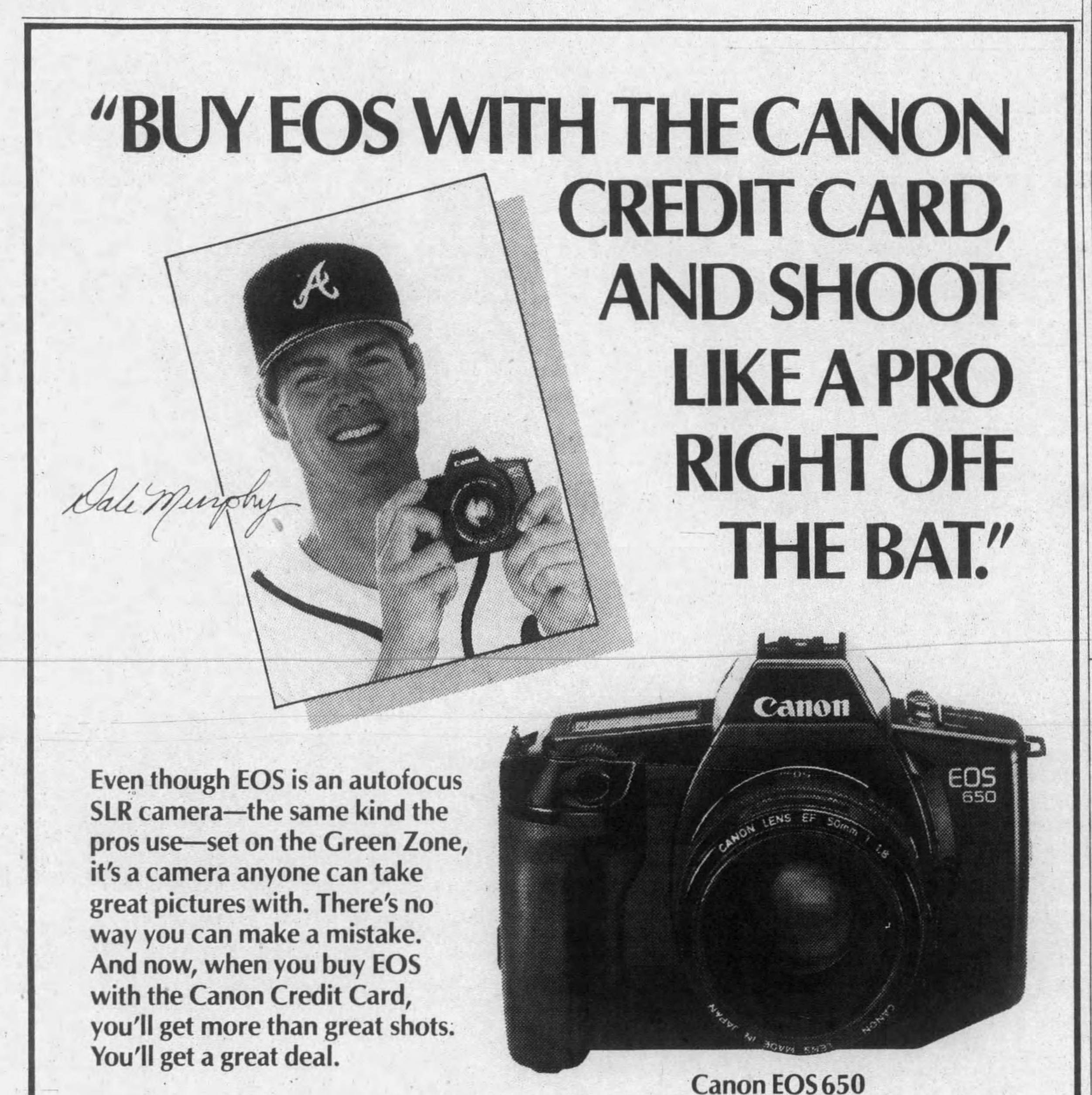
Grayer and Grinker met, liked each other and now await the draft. "Jeff Grayer will shock some people when June 28 comes

around," Grinker said. "And I'll be very surprised if he doesn't make the Olympic team. He might be a top 10 pick in the draft, and I don't think anyone would have anticipated that three months

Grinker said he treats all of his players alike. He currently represents 27 NBA players.

"Danny Manning is no different than Kevin Gamble. He'll be treated the same way. My relationship to Kevin Gamble and Brad Lohaus is identical whether they're in the CBA or NBA."





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