

Odds &  
**INS**

By Linda Kay &amp; Mike Conklin

Northwestern officials didn't have to look far in Welsh-Ryan Arena to find someone for the university's first Athletic Director's Corporate Recognition Award, which will go annually to a person or business showing support of Wildcat athletics. It went to Pat Ryan, Chicago insurance executive and 1959 NU alum. If anyone wondered about Ryan's contributions, they just had to look around. He's the Ryan in Welsh-Ryan. His wife, Shirley, is the Welsh.

**The presentation ...**

... was made at Northwestern's annual N Club Hall of Fame-Senior Athlete banquet Wednesday night. NBC basketball analyst Al McGuire was a worthy sub for Ara Parseghian, who had to cancel as main speaker. McGuire said he envied the Wildcats' Bill Foster for staying in basketball coaching. Said McGuire: "Bill is a dynasty builder. He's proven it at four other schools, and he'll do it here." The former Marquette coach drew laughs when he spoke of rival ABC analyst Dick Vitale. Said McGuire, "That guy belongs in a rubber room because he's really off the wall." Noting the presence of senior basketball star Shon Morris, he said: "You can be a pro. Being realistic, I don't think you'll be a whirlwind, but you can have a nice, four- or five-year career [in the NBA]." Morris' response: "I think someone must've slipped him a few bucks."

**Ageless winner**

The Keebler International couldn't have found a better person than Wilma Rudolph to serve as honorary chairperson for its June 18 prep track and field invitational in Elmhurst. The meet is open to women this year for the first time. Rudolph was the 1961 Sullivan Award winner after her performance in the 1960 Summer Olympics, when she became the first U.S. woman to win three gold medals. But Rudolph also can relate to the event being held in the Chicago area, where she competed in the 1959 Pan American Games. . . . Said Rudolph: "I remember walking out on Lake Shore Drive and looking at the hotel I was staying in, and I was amazed at how big everything was. I ran in Soldier Field, and I thought it was just huge. I didn't win everything in Chicago, but I think it was a turning point in my career."

Rudolph said she continues to be pleased at the honors she receives for accomplishments that occurred nearly 30 years ago. So, how old is she? Answer: "I'm like Jack Benny. I'm 29 and holding."

**Jim's dandy**

Former Illinois and National Football League star Jim Grabowski figures to become more prominent on TV after working several years on the Illini radio sports network. He's signed to work as an analyst on the tube for next season's Big 10 game of the week, which will be produced by Rasmussen Communications in Champaign. The play-by-play man will be Wayne Larriave. Grabowski will start early. He's also signed to do six Arena Football League games this summer for MizLou. The first, involving the Bruisers, can be seen Friday night on a tape delay on SportsVision.

**Linking up**

■ The Mike Ditka Charity Golf Open is Tuesday at Renwood Country Club in Round Lake Beach. Among the participants will be Diana Ditka, who swings a mean golf club, and members of the Bears. Proceeds benefit Medi-Check International, which provides free emergency medical identification tags for handicapped children.

■ Sherm Finger, Knollwood Country Club pro and president of the Illinois PGA, will conduct a free golf clinic Wednesday evening at the Doral in Chicago.

■ The fourth annual St. Joseph Associates Celebrity Invitational is June 13 at the Marriott Lincolnshire Resort, where the golf and tennis often are secondary. One year, organizers also held a club-throwing contest.

■ Another year, contestants got a shot at seeing how far they could drive golfballs with specially attached parachutes. This year, organizers are bringing in a High Striker—one of those carnival-type gizmos in which you use a sledgehammer to see how high you can make a leaded weight travel up a scoreboard. With big Jim Covert of the Bears an honorary co-chairman, we have a feeling whose score will be the target.

■ Any golfer scoring an ace in the American Cancer Society's tournament June 20 at Westmoreland Country Club will win a 1988 Chrysler LeBaron convertible.

■ Gale Sayers and Ron Santo are among the sports celebrities participating in the third annual NutraSweet Classic for golf and tennis June 27 at Kemper Lakes Golf Club. This event is expected to raise \$100,000 for diabetes research.

**News, notes and nonsense**

Double-dipping is a Chicago institution, but WLUP sportscaster Chet Coppock was going to fine-tune the concept June 12. He was going to be the ring announcer that afternoon in the Horizon for the Meldrick Taylor-Buddy McGirt boxing match. Then, he was going to change bow ties (not tuxedos) to be ring announcer for the World Wrestling Federation card that evening in the Horizon. Thursday's cancellation of the fight spoiled the plan. . . . Miss the Luvabulls, Bulls fans? They'll be modeling sportswear and performing some routines next Wednesday night at the Thunderbird Bar & Grill in Chicago. . . . Among volunteers answering phones for this weekend's Children's Miracle Network Telethon on Channel 7 will be Mike McCaskey, Ray Meyer, John Paxson, Stefan Humphries and Benny the Bull.

Finally: You can't keep a good chicken down, especially the San Diego Chicken. He's flying (by airplane) here Sunday to appear at Reilly's Daughter in Oak Lawn, where, among his stunts, he will be barbecuing chicken.

**For a guy who struck out 100 years ago, mighty Casey is still a hit**

After 100 years, it remains the most famous "oh-fer" in the history of baseball.

In one lousy at-bat, a big guy named Casey earned himself an undying place not only in the memories of the 5,000 fans who supposedly witnessed it but in the very fabric of our national pastime.

All by striking out on three pitches.

The poem "Casey at the Bat" is 100 years old Friday. Published for the first time on June 3, 1888, with Grover Cleveland in the White House and the World Series still 15 years in the future, it appeared in the San Francisco Examiner under the byline "Phin."

But neither Phin—otherwise known as Ernest L. Thayer—nor anyone else could have predicted at the time that the iambic septameter verse would endure and become baseball's unofficial ode.

Memories blur, and Casey's real or fictional existence mingles with that of Babe Ruth, Ty Cobb, Cy Young, Christy Mathewson and the rest. If there really was a Tinker, an Evers and a Chance—heroes of baseball's second most famous verse—why couldn't there really be a Casey?

Granted, at age 100 the poem shows a few wrinkles. For instance, Casey protected the plate umpire from an angry crowd. These days, his manager might have bumped the ump.

Still, the poem's appeal is intact. Somehow, just as Alexander Cartwright knew when he invented the game that

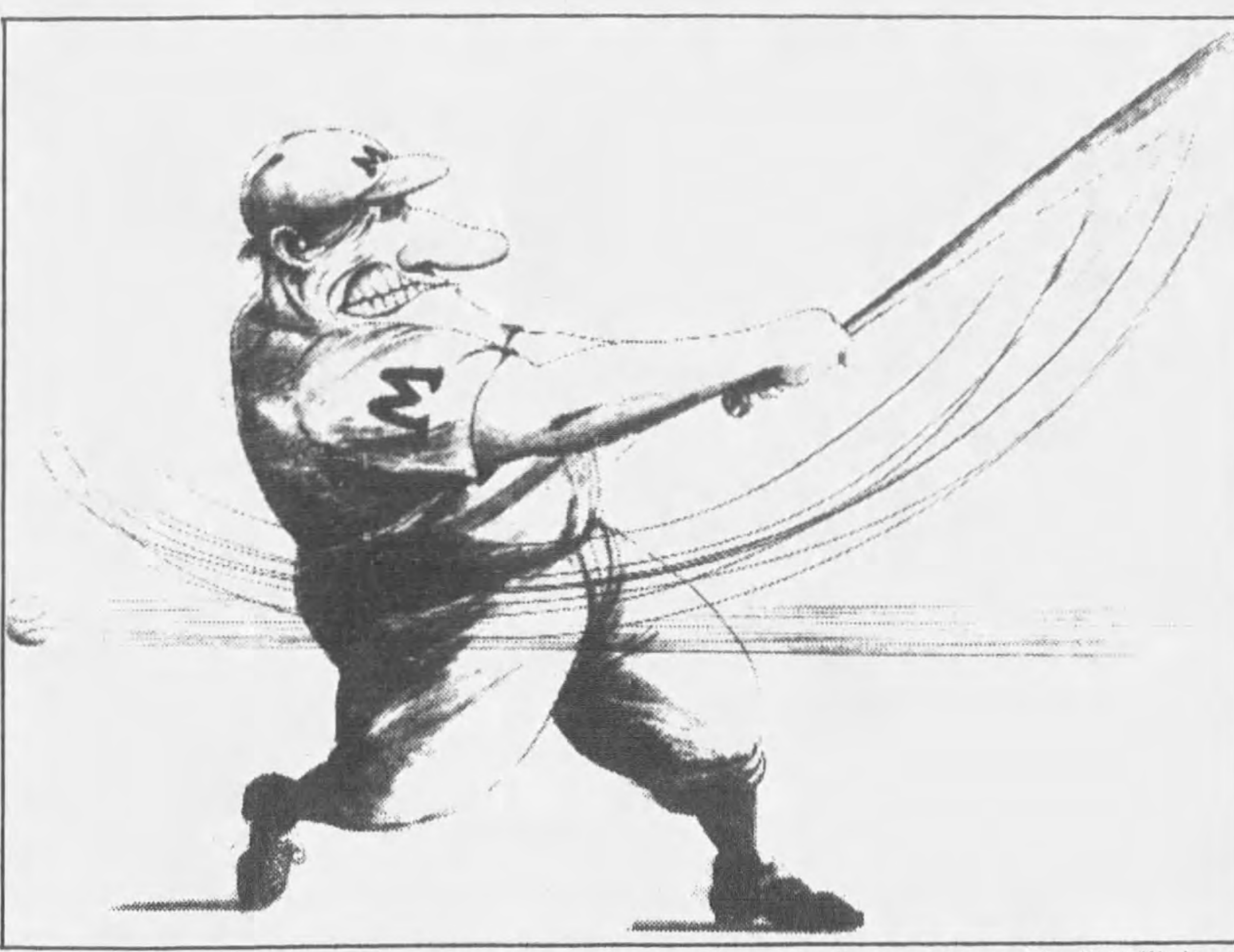


Illustration by Keith Bendis from "The Illustrated Casey at the Bat." (Workman)

90 feet between bases was perfect, so did Thayer see the timelessness of this situation:

Ninth inning, two outs, two on, the home team trailing by two runs.

Critics say that the surprise ending is essential to the poem's charm. Sports-writer Grantland Rice came up with a sequel in 1906 called "Casey's Revenge,"

in which Casey hits the home run and wins the game. Comic Foster Brooks wrote it from the pitcher's point of view as "Riley on the Mound." Neither version lasted.

"The crowds do not flock into the American League parks around the circuit . . . solely in anticipation of seeing Babe Ruth whale the ball over the cen-

ter-field fence," explained actor De Wolf Hopper, who became famous at the turn of the century for his renditions of the poem. "There always is a chance that the Babe will strike out, a sight even more healing to sore eyes."

Thayer offered a surprise ending of his own, from a literary standpoint. He was the writing equivalent of rock music's one-hit wonders.

Hired in 1886 by a Harvard classmate, William Randolph Hearst, to write humor for Hearst's newspaper in San Francisco, Thayer wrote the poem when he was 25. Most of his pieces were penned under the nickname and quickly forgotten. Soon after, he returned East to enter his family's business, and never was published again.

It wasn't until Hopper performed the poem in late 1888 or early 1889 that it found a wide audience. He was appearing in a comic opera at Wallack's Theater on Broadway when he was told that members of the New York Giants and the Chicago White Stockings would attend a performance. A friend suggested that Hopper spice up his act and passed along Thayer's piece.

Interrupting the second act, Hopper recited the poem, got a terrific ovation and adopted "Casey" as his trademark. By his estimates, he performed the 5-minute 40-second rendition about 10,000 times.

Steve Aschburner  
Minneapolis Star Tribune**'CASEY AT THE BAT'**

By Ernest L. Thayer

The outlook wasn't brilliant for the Mudville nine that day;  
The score stood four to two, with but one inning more to play,  
And then when Cooney died at first, and Barrows did the same,  
A pall-like silence fell upon the patrons of the game.

A straggling few got up to go in deep despair.  
The rest  
Clung to that hope which springs eternal in the human breast;  
They thought "If only Casey could but get a whack at that—  
We'd put up even money now, with Casey at the bat.

But Flynn preceded Casey, as did also Jimmy Blake,  
And the former was a hoodoo, while the latter was a cake;  
So upon that stricken multitude grim melancholy sat,  
For there seemed but little chance of Casey getting to the bat.

But Flynn let drive a single, to the wonderment of all,  
And Blake, the much despised, tore the cover off the ball;  
And when the dust had lifted, and men saw what had occurred,  
There was Jimmy safe at second and Flynn a-hugging third.

Then from five thousand throats and more there rose a lusty yell;  
It rumbled through the valley, it rattled in the dell;  
It pounded on the mountain and recoiled upon the flat,  
For Casey, mighty Casey, was advancing to the bat.

There was ease in Casey's manner as he stepped into his place;  
There was pride in Casey's bearing and a smile lit Casey's face.  
And when, responding to the cheers, he lightly doffed his hat,  
No stranger in the crowd could doubt 'twas Casey at the bat.

Ten thousand eyes were on him as he rubbed his hands with dirt;  
Five thousand tongues applauded when he  
wiped them on his shirt;

Then while the writhing pitcher ground the ball into his hip,  
Defiance flashed in Casey's eye, a sneer curled Casey's lip.  
And now the leather-covered sphere came hurtling through the air,  
And Casey stood a-watching it in haughty grandeur there.

Close by the sturdy batsman the ball unheeded sped—  
"That ain't my style," said Casey. "Strike one!" the umpire said.

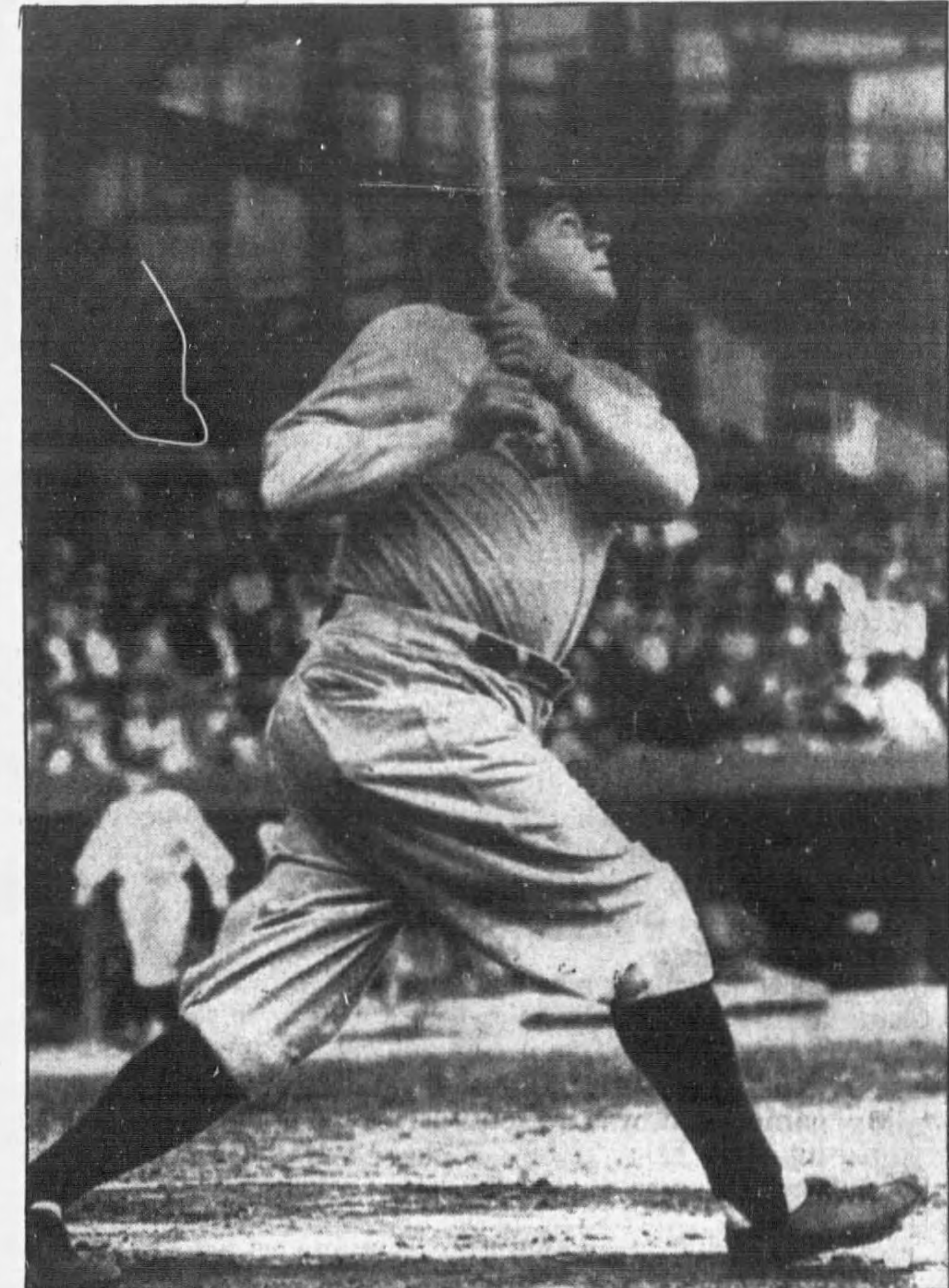
From the benches, black with people, there went up a muffled roar,  
Like the beatings of the storm-waves on a stern and distant shore;  
"Kill him! Kill the umpire!" shouted someone on the stand;  
And it's likely they would have killed him had not Casey raised his hand.

With a smile of Christian charity great Casey's visage shone;  
He stilled the rising tumult; he bade the game go on;  
He signaled to the pitcher, and once more the dun sphere flew;  
But Casey still ignored it, and the umpire said, "Strike two!"

"Fraud!" cried the maddened thousands, and echo answered "Fraud!"  
But one scoreful look from Casey and the audience was awed.

They saw his face grow stern and cold, they saw his muscles strain,  
And they knew that Casey wouldn't let that ball go by again.  
The sneer has fled from Casey's lip, his teeth are clenched in hate;  
He pounds with cruel violence his bat upon the plate.

And now the pitcher holds the ball, and now he lets it go,  
And now the air is shattered by the force of Casey's blow.  
Oh, somewhere in this favored land the sun is shining bright;  
The band is playing somewhere, and somewhere hearts are light,  
And somewhere men are laughing, and little children shout;  
But there is no joy in Mudville—mighty Casey has struck out.



Big swings, homers—and strikeouts. Babe Ruth (top), Greg Luzinski (left) and Reggie Jackson kept Casey's spirit alive.

**BRIEFS**

■ International Olympic Committee President Juan Antonio Samaranch says he is willing to go to North Korea in a last-ditch effort to coax the communist nation into participating in the Seoul Olympics. North Korea has said it will boycott the Olympics because the IOC and South Korea refuse to allow it to co-host.

■ Alfredrick Hughes scored 35 points and Jim Les had 15 assists to rally the Express (3-4) to a 129-109 victory over the Youngstown Pride in a World Basketball League game at the Horizon. Hughes also had 11 rebounds. The Express shot 84 percent (16 of 19) in the fourth quarter. Sugar Ray Hall had 26 points for the Pride (3-3).

■ Joe Mulack doubled in the go-ahead run in the bottom of the seventh as St. Xavier (59-27) recovered from an early four-run deficit to eliminate Oklahoma City (54-23) 8-5 in the NIAA World Series in Lewiston, Idaho. St. Xavier had 17 hits, including five doubles and a triple. Don Lusso (8-5) was the winner. . . . Three hits each by Bruce Schreiber and Mark Stenske led Wisconsin-Oshkosh over William Patterson 10-6 in the NCAA Division III World Series in Bristol, Conn.

■ Joe Yates, 36, assistant athletic director at Louisiana State, has been named athletic director at St. Louis. Yates replaces former St. Louis Cardinals kicker Jim Bakken, who resigned April 4.

■ Sports agent Norby Walters will avoid criminal

charges by paying the University of Alabama more than \$200,000 and agreeing not to deal with Southeastern Conference athletes, according to a settlement announced by Alabama Atty. Gen. Don Siegelman. Walters faced misdemeanor charges for his dealings with former Alabama basketball players Derrick McKey and Terry Coner.

■ Effective in 1993, Southeastern Conference schools will not award athletic scholarships to freshmen who don't qualify academically. The rule was passed by league presidents in the final day of their business meetings. SEC Commissioner Harvey Schiller said the conference will be the first to have such a regulation.

■ The New York Islanders have re-signed coach Terry Simpson to a multiyear contract.

■ Former Houston Oilers quarterback Dan Pastorini was involved in a brief scuffle with a police officer and was jailed after being arrested on a public intoxication charge, a Houston police spokesman said. Pastorini, 39, had to be subdued and handcuffed after grabbing an officer during a dispute over who would count the money he was carrying when police arrested him and another man on public intoxication charges, according to police spokesman Dan Turner. Pastorini was released after posting a \$100 bond.

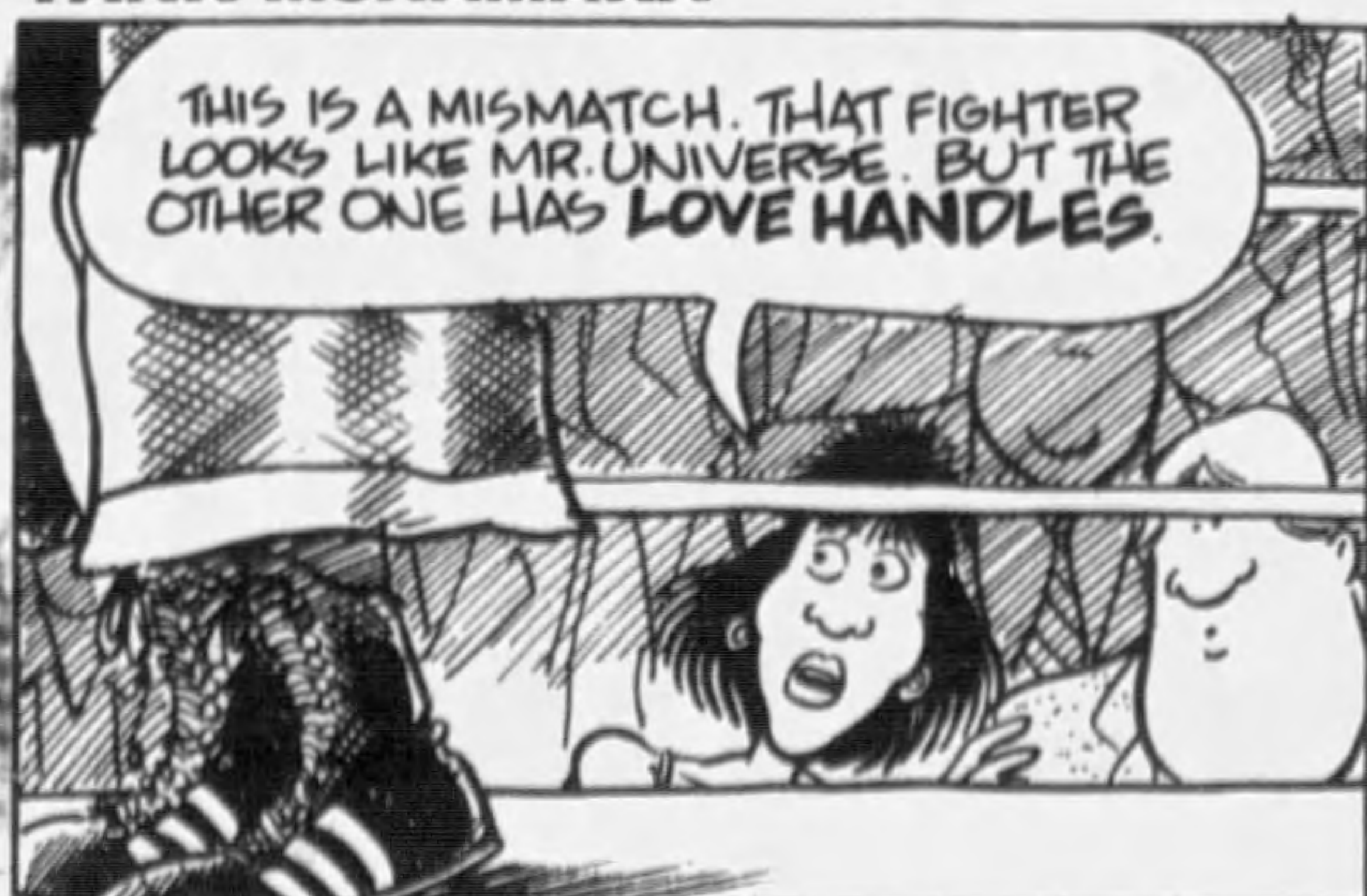
■ Webb Heintzelman, competing in only his second PGA event, shot a 5-under-par 66 to share the lead with Howard Twitty after the first round of the Kem-

per Open in Potomac, Md. Heintzelman is an assistant pro at a suburban Maryland country club. He gained a berth in the field when his name was pulled from a hat.

■ Nancy Lopez took advantage of a late teeoff time that gave her good weather for most of her opening round, and she shot a 4-under 68 to take a one-stroke lead over Laura Davies and Janet Coles in the LPGA Jamie Farr Toledo Classic. Rain plagued players who had teed off in the morning. . . . Sandy Lyle shot a 6-under 66 for a one-stroke lead over Tony Charnley after the first round of the British Masters in Woburn, England. . . . Illinois' Steve Stricker has been named to the Golf All-America team.

■ Edwin Rosario, in his first bout since losing the World Boxing Association lightweight title, stopped Ramiro Lozano at 1:04 of the third round in New York. Rosario (27-3, with 23 knockouts), lost the title to Julio Cesar Chavez in November. Lozano (22-8) was a substitute for Ricky Lehman. . . . Gov. Mario Cuomo's choice to head the New York State Athletic Commission has withdrawn his name, according to the New York Times. John McGinley, a 26-year veteran of the FBI, cited personal reasons for his decision. Jose Torres resigned as the head of the commission two weeks ago, saying he wants to write a book about heavyweight champion Mike Tyson.

Compiled by Bill Hageman and Rich Lorenz from staff, wire reports.

**TANK McNAMARA****GIL THORP**