

Odds & INS



By Linda Kay & Mike Conklin

Our spies tell us the Cubs didn't win any friends Monday morning at Wrigley Field, where fans formed lines early in hopes of purchasing tickets to the first night game. About 120 persons were sweating it out—literally—when, minutes before the windows opened, it was announced: "The Aug. 8 night game is speculation by the media." Unbeknownst to those in line, the team already had suspended sales for Aug. 8 a week earlier.

Nighttime is the right time

Former Cub great **Ron Santo**, who attends only one or two games a year in Wrigley Field, will be there for the first night game. Said Santo: "I've got four season tickets, and I give them away every year. This season, I added the proviso that I get the tickets back for the first night game." Santo, busy these days organizing his third annual Juvenile Diabetes Foundation fundraiser July 13, maintained that lights wouldn't have kept the Cubs rested in 1969, when they were passed in the stretch by the hated Mets. Said Santo: "It wouldn't have made any difference. Who needs rest when you're after a pennant? You can't be tired. I think **Don Kessinger** was the only one who said he could've used more rest."

More night stalking

We recommend buying tickets for the second night game, Aug. 9. They're available, and besides, what if it rains Aug. 8? ... Will the Aug. 8 game be like the playoffs? Probably. Of 75 special letters sent in advance to print media about coverage, 45 have been returned with a positive request for credentials. ... Did anyone notice that five of the seven night games had been early starts, and only two were 3 o'clockers?

The horsey set

Don't fault **Susan Carey** if she found Monday's opener at Hawthorne Race Course a trifle tame. The wife of Hawthorne President **Tom Carey** had just returned from Opening Day at Royal Ascot in England, where she was the guest of the queen's chef. There, she reports, all eyes were on the legs of **Lady Diana** and **Sarah Ferguson**, who sent the British press into absolute fits by failing to wear hose on Opening Day. Now, how can Hawthorne top that?

Soak the rich?

New coach **Mike Keenan** might be expensive, but Blackhawk fans won't be asked to pay the freight. Well, not all Hawk fans. The club is announcing the only ticket price hikes for next season will be for the most expensive box seats—\$27 to \$30. The other prices—\$8, \$12 and \$17—will stay the same. The club said it's the first time there haven't been across-the-board raises in several seasons. ... Prediction: Everybody be ready to dig deeper next year if Keenan turns the team into a winner.

NBA heat wave

On Sunday, **Wilt Chamberlain** suggested in a national TV interview that perhaps **Kareem Abdul-Jabbar** has outlasted his usefulness with the Lakers. On Monday, we heard from Abdul-Jabbar: "I try not to pay much attention to childish remarks, especially when they come from someone who is not competing but is telling you how great they might have been. It's just a little too much hot air." So tell us, Kareem, what do you really think of Wilt? ... P.S. Los Angeles insiders tell us that the Lakers are likely to protect former **Bull Mike Smrek** in the National Basketball Association expansion draft later this week. The Lakers and the Pistons don't have to reveal their protected list until after Game 7.

Sam the man?

We hear talks between the Bulls and free agent **Sam Vincent** aren't exactly setting speed records. Next week's NBA draft may have more than a little to do with that. For now, the two parties are apart in the low six figures. Said Vincent, "I'd like to continue playing here." The former Michigan State star told us he's pleased that Detroit is doing so well in the playoffs because it makes the Bulls look better and better. Two years ago, he was a rookie with the Boston Celtics when they won their last NBA title. "I got a [championship] ring, and it might be a while before they get another," he said. Vincent, a fast-break specialist, didn't fit into Celtic plans when they decided to go to a half-court game. "It's funny," he said, "because now I hear that under [new coach] **Jimmy Rodgers**, they're going to just toss the ball up and run."

News, notes and nonsense

Good omen for Vanderbilt QB **Eric Jones**, who's being pushed hard by his school for the 1988 Heisman Trophy. Last year, he was named the Southeastern Conference's Most Valuable Back, an honor that has gone in the past to Heisman winners **Billy Cannon**, **Steve Spurrier**, **Pat Sullivan**, **Herschel Walker** and **Bo Jackson**. ... The second annual **Michael Jordan/McDonald's Charity Golf Classic** will be July 19 at Cog Hill Country Club in Lemont. Proceeds will benefit Ronald McDonald Children's Charities. ... Another honor for **Tony Esposito**, who last week made the Hockey Hall of Fame. Esposito has also made the Chicago Sports Hall of Fame, along with **Fergie Jenkins**, **George Blanda**, **Kenny Holtzman**, **Cazzie Russell** and 16 others. Induction ceremonies are July 14 at Ditka's, with **Mike Ditka** as host and **Mike Adamle** as emcee.

And finally: For those who wondered, yes, the current NBA championship series is the latest in history—by a week. It breaks the record set last year, when the Lakers beat the Celtics in Game 6 on June 14. The earliest? How does April 7, 1956, sound? The Philadelphia Warriors beat the Ft. Wayne Pistons in Game 5.

McEnroe in top form

It is too early to tell whether **John McEnroe's** comeback on the tennis court will be a success.

But it is already clear he has regained his distinction as the game's most outspoken player.

McEnroe claims to have mellowed since his last Wimbledon appearance, in 1985. But he spent part of Monday calling Wimbledon top seed **Ivan Lendl** "a robot" and **Jimmy Connors** a "phony."

"I have more natural ability in one finger than **Ivan Lendl** has in his whole hand. Lendl works harder than I do. So right now, the worker is beating the talent, but I don't feel Lendl is the ultimate ambassador for tennis.

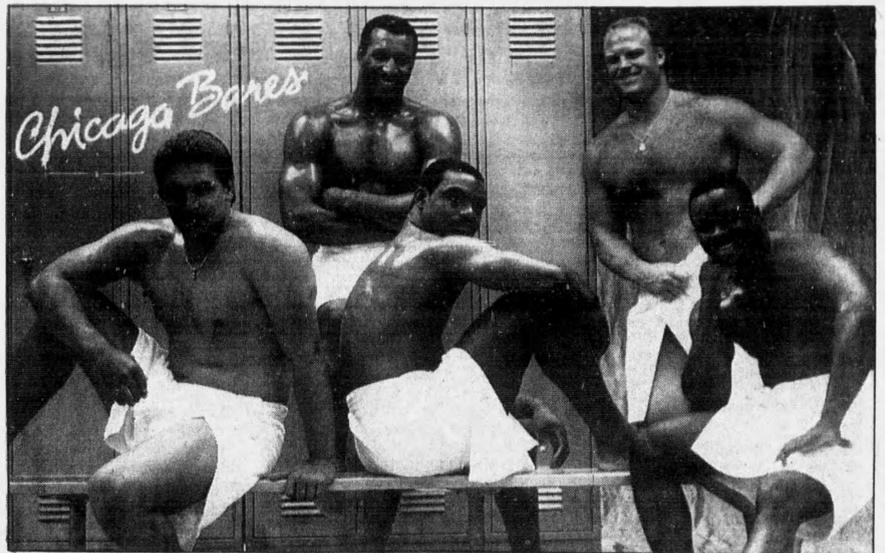
"I've never got to know him that well. And I respect the way he has tried to improve his game, but he doesn't have the personality or creativity. He's like a robot. We don't want 20 Lendl's on the court."

As for Connors, McEnroe spared few words.

"He has learned to be good at making sponsors happy," he said. "There is no way I could ever be as phony as he is. I don't feel I have to be extra nice to certain sponsors.

"But actually, Jimmy and I get along better than ever before. We have actually dined together. Connors and I have a mutual respect. Off the court, it's a hell of a lot easier for us. On the court, we are very competitive and it brings out the worst in us.

"Jimmy was the opponent I came closest to hitting on the court. I figured that was one fight I could win."



The latest item for Bears fans is the "Chicago Bears" poster, which will go on sale Aug. 1. Produced by the Burns Service, the poster features (from left) **Ron Rivera**, **Otis Wilson**, **Dave Duerson**, **Tom Thayer** and **Neal Anderson**. It was photographed by **Joann Carney**.

Berra's a big hit in his new role as a movie critic ... even Glenn Cove would love him

Yogi Berra—Houston Astros coach, catcher of the ages and master of odd English—is carving out a new niche as a movie critic.

Last October, Berra joined with **Tom Villante Sports Marketing** to do movie reviews—four a month to be sold as 60-second commercial spots. Sixty-four television stations and 400 radio stations signed up for the ads, sponsored by **Stroh's Brewery**.

Villante, a former Yankees' batboy, came up with the idea of "Yogi at the

Movies" after recalling the days when players would gather around Berra to hear his short, offhand film reviews.

"It was hysterical. He got rid of all the garbage and got right to the crux of things."

Berra has already reviewed "Wall Street," "Biloxi Blues," "Fatal Attraction" and other films he's seen during his travels. He awards them a single, double, triple, home run or strikeout.

The reviews are also good spots for the inevitable Yogi-isms.

Berra called "Fatal Attraction" star **Glenn Close** "Glenn Cove." Yogi admitted he missed the opening of "Shoot to Kill" because he walked in late. He predicted that **Cher** would win an Academy Award because "she's already won the Golden Globe Award."

"I saw 'Crocodile Dundee,' 'Rambo III' and 'Willow' when we were in Chicago, two in one day," Berra says. "The first 'Dundee' was better than the new one and 'Rambo' had too

much violence, it seemed like. But 'Willow,' I liked 'Willow' a lot ... the regular midgets and the midget midgets."

Asked what he thought the Golden Age of Film was, Berra says: "I'd say the '50s. Those John Wayne Westerns, you don't see nothing like that anymore."

But contemporary films have plenty of things going for them, Berra says. "They got color now. That's good. And the sound effects help."

Duh ... it's a 2-day tournament?

What started out as a fundraiser is ending up costing the **Hattiesburg (Miss.) Sertoma Club** big bucks.

The club decided to hold its benefit tournament June 11 and 12 at the University of Southern Mississippi golf course.

"This is our biggest money-raiser annually," says club member **Joel Johnson**, "and part of the package to attract golfers was we would give an \$18,000 car to anyone who made a hole-in-one."

One problem. The club member responsible for buying

insurance to cover the hole-in-one purchased a policy for Saturday only.

You guessed it. Sunday, **Howard Robertson** got an ace on the 175-yard, par-3 ninth.

"None of us knew the policy was not good for Sunday," **Johnson** said.

The club agreed to pay **Robertson** \$10,000 in cash. The club's contingency fund covered half the debt, but now the 40 club members must find funds to pay off the rest of the debt, as well as build up funds used to aid people who are speech and hearing impaired.

Bob Knight has a new wife

Indiana University basketball coach **Bob Knight** and a former Oklahoma girls high school coach are married.

Methodist Bishop **Leroy Hodapp**, a friend of Knight's, says he performed the ceremony for **Karen Vieth Edgar**, 41, and **Knight**, 47, at the Indiana Interchurch Center in Indianapolis on May 23.

"There was no attempt to keep it secret. But Bob wanted to keep it private, without the press, so we did it here in my office," **Hodapp** says.

A Methodist church official said the only other person at the wedding was **Hilda Van Arsdale**, whose sons **Dick** and **Tom** were basketball All-Americans at Indiana before moving on to NBA careers.

The marriage is the second for both **Edgar** and **Knight**. **Edgar** resigned for personal reasons in 1987 after coaching **Lomega High School's** girls basketball team to Oklahoma state championships in 1982, 1983 and 1987. **Knight** separated from **Nancy Knight**, his wife of 22 years, in 1986 and has two sons.

BRIEFS

■ **Van Waiters**, a 6-foot-4-inch, 240-pound linebacker drafted from Indiana University to shore up an aging **Cleveland Browns'** defense, reportedly failed a drug test at a National Football League evaluation camp in February and the Browns apparently knew about the test before they drafted **Waiters** in April. The **Akron Beacon Journal** reported it had been told by three unidentified sources who had access to confidential reports from the camp that **Waiters** tested positive for marijuana in a drug screening administered by team doctors.

■ The mother of Tennessee offensive lineman **Leon Baxter** has contradicted medical reports that indicated her son was on a radical diet less than a week before being stricken with a fatal illness. "So many of the things in those medical records just can't be right. I don't think anybody has uncovered the real truth yet," **Bettie Jefferson** said. She said her 18-year-old son ate three meals a day during a visit to his Nashville home the weekend of Jan. 22-25, three days before he was admitted to the hospital with a liver ailment that was blamed on a water diet.

■ **Margie Muzik** of Kemper Lakes Golf Club in Hawthorn Woods shot a 72 to win medalist honors at the Illinois Women's State Amateur Golf Championship in Urbana. **Muzik** defeated defending champion **Cindi Mueller** of Belleville by two strokes, and will head a field of 32 qualifiers for Tuesday's first round of match play. The tournament continues through Friday at the Urbana Golf and Country Club.

■ **Louis Roussel**, trainer for Preakness and Belmont Stakes winner **Risen Star**, said the 3-year-old may be ready for the **Travers** at Saratoga Aug. 20. The colt has suffered from an inflammation in his right front leg.

■ U.S. Rep. **Tom McMillen** (D., Md.), a former basketball All-America and National Basketball Association veteran, told the NCAA Presidents Commission forum that college and university recruiters misled athletes "We are selling a myth in this country," said **McMillen**. "The chances are less than one in 10,000 that a youngster will make it to the professional ranks."

■ Running backs **Brent Fullwood** of Auburn, **Ronnie Harmon** of Iowa and **Paul Palmer** of Temple are among 40 to 45 college athletes who will enter a pretrial diversion program to avoid being charged in the federal grand jury investigation of two sports agents, according to a published report. The athletes also agreed to testify in any possible trial of agents **Norby Walters** and **Lloyd Bloom** and perform 100 to 250 hours of community service under the supervision of a federal probation officer, the Atlanta Constitution reported. ... **Ray Jones**, hired to help Minnesota athletes develop social skills and stay out of trouble, said he only taught basketball during his one year on the job.

■ Two players, catcher **Brent Mayne** and infielder **Bob Hamelin**, were trimmed from the U.S. Olympic baseball team, while a third, pitcher **Gregg Olson**, was sent home to recuperate from a recent bout of mononucleosis, according to a team spokesman. Olson will miss a five-game series in Japan. ... Olympic-bound **Peter Westbrook** and **Peter Lewison** led the New York Fencers Club to the 1988 United States Fencing Association national team championship in sabre and foil competition in Chicago.

■ **Francesco Cesarini** of Italy won the first major Alpine leg of the Tour de Suisse cycling race, while **Helmut Wechselberger** of Austria retained the overall lead after seven stages. **Cesarini** finished in 4 hours 55 minutes 14 seconds over the 129-mile stage, which began in **Leukerbad** and led racers over the Alps to **Locarno** in southern Switzerland.

Compiled by **Bill Hageman** and **Steve Nidetz** from staff, wire reports.

Corrections and clarifications

A photo caption in some editions of the Sports section of the June 18 Tribune incorrectly identified a golfer at the BMW Senior Pro-Am Golf Classic as **Tommy Bolt**. The golfer pictured was **Doug Ford**. The Tribune regrets the error.

TANK McNAMARA



GIL THORP

