

From left, coaches Kyu So Lee, Marv Dunphy, captains Karch Kiraly, Yoon Chang Chang Caal put signatures on volleyball.

## **U.S. Has 'Serious' Volleyball Exhibition**

# **Bloom Striking Back Against Prosecutors**

Sports Agent Files Complaint 'I would consider the sources of Vs. Assistant U.S. Attorney

Wednesday, July 13, 1988

#### **By Chris Mortensen** Staff Writer

Sports agent Lloyd Bloom filed a complaint Tuesday with the Illinois State Bar Association alleging that Assistant U.S. Attorney Howard M. Pearl of Chicago i guilty of misconduct in the federal grand jury investigation of Bloom and former associate Norby Walters.

**Bloom** and his attorney, M.L. Trope of Los Angeles, allege in the complaint that Pearl and former Assistant U.S. Attorney Francis J. Murtha of Chicago violated Illinois Bar Association rules in gathering evidence against **Bloom** for the grand jury.

**Trope said Pearl is trying "unethically** and perhaps criminally" to gain leverage to force **Bloom** into "making a deal" with the government in which the agent would testify against Walters. Pearl refused to comment, and Murtha denied the

this (complaint). It's a non-issue, and it's nonsense. I never represented myself as an attorney.'

THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION

#### - Francis J. Murtha, **Assistant U.S. Attorney**

Paul Palmer's money. There is nothing I have done that prevents me from turning over information to Howard Pearl."

Murtha claimed that Bloom used a portion of Palmer's money to purchase a Rolls Royce for Lincolnshire, Inc., a credit services business formed by Bloom. Trope did not deny the allegation.

Murtha also said, "I talked to Dennis Gilbert once; I told him I was Paul Palmer's financial adviser, and I never said I was working with the grand jury. In fact, I expressed myself to Trope and Bloom that I do not practice law anymore."

Murtha was suspended as an attorney by the Illinois Bar Association on April 5, 1982 for misuse of a client's funds, and he was convicted of federal income tax fraud on Dec. 28, 1986, for which he served 30 days in prison and remains under probation. Murtha also has been decertified as a sports agent by the National Football League Players Association (NFLPA). **Bloom** is the only other sports agent known to have been decertified by the NFLPA. The federal investigation is in its 15th month, and the grand jury is considering charges of racketeering, mail fraud, extortion and obstruction of justice against Walters and Bloom, former sports agents who signed more than 50 college football and basketball players, according to sources close to the investigation. Trope said Pearl has accused Bloom of fraudulent misuse of a \$145,000 investment Palmer made with Lincolnshire Inc. **Trope** insists it is a civil dispute and says Bloom has offered Palmer a 10-year monthly payout with eight percent interest, guaranteed by a letter of credit. Murtha rejected the offer, insisting upon full immediate refund of the money. Trope says that, since January, Pearl has been trying to get Bloom to "roll over on Norby (Walters)." Bloom has resisted, Trope says, because he does not believe any crime has been committed; also, the government's offer in which **Bloom** would plead guilty to one count of mail fraud would still require **Bloom** to spend time in federal prison.

Kiraly, Olympic Mates Meet South Korea at Georgia State

#### **By Tom McCollister** Staff Writer

On the surface, Wednesday night's U.S.-South Korea volleyball match at Georgia State may appear to be little more than an exhibition, just another stop on a five-city tour, a buildup to the Olympic Games in two months. But don't tell that to U.S. coach Mary Dunphy. Games are games.

"When the whistle blows, this team doesn't know the difference between practice, exhibition and the real thing," Dunphy said of his defending Olympic gold medalists. "It is the most competitive team in the world, a proud bunch of guys who don't know the meaning of going through the motions.

"This is test time. This is our season. You don't win the Olympic gold medal unless you take every match seriously.

"And it's things like what happened Monday night in Chicago that keeps you going strong. When the team was introduced, we received a one-minute standing ovation. That gives you chill bumps, makes you want to do your best."

The match starts at 7:30 p.m. at Georgia State physical education complex.

### **Olympic Volleyball** At a Glance

What: Olympic Volleyball Preview Tour. Teams: World champion U.S. National Team vs. South Korean National Team. When: Tonight, 7:30. Where: Campus gymnasium, Georgia State. Tickets: \$16, \$12 and \$9. On sale at SEATS outlets and at the Georgia State box office.

Atlanta is the third stop on the tour. The first two, in Dallas last Friday and Chicago Monday, resulted in 3-1 U.S. wins in the best-of-five-games format. The two teams play in East Rutherford, N.J., Thursday and San Francisco Friday.

"Winning means winning, now or later," Dunphy said. "I've got some mixed emotions about how we've gone about it thus far. We've been playing different combinations and thus giving up points in bunches. But I'm pleased where we are as a team. It's 70 days from the Games, and I think we're on schedule."

Winning hasn't been enough for U.S. captain Karch Kiraly. He says his team has struggled in the two previous matches.

"We want to be a lot better than we are

right now," said Kiraly. "We shouldn't struggle against this team that much. They (the Koreans) are playing better here than they did when we played them on their home court in March. We played them five or six matches and pretty much dominated them there, better than we have in these two matches."

What Kiraly wants is a top performance. every night. The pressure is beginning to build as the Americans head to Seoul as obvious favorites. They won the Olympics gold in '84 and followed with a victory in the '85 World Cup, the '86 World Championships and '87 Pan American Games.

"We put a lot of pressure on ourselves because our expectations are so high," Kiraly said. "We've been the best team for four years. We have dominated all of the competition, including the Koreans and the Soviets. We would love to play great and expose it on television."

After the American tour, the U.S. team will travel to Sweden, France, the Soviet Union and Japan before going to Seoul.

"Our challenge over the next 70 days is to improve more than any team in the world," Dunphy said. "We plan on meeting the standard that we have set and thus will be ready for the challenges that we will face in Seoul."

allegations.

**Trope** maintains that Pearl violated state bar rules in May by knowingly failing to stop Murtha from misrepresenting himself to **Bloom** as an attorney while Murtha was in Los Angeles gathering evidence of **Bloom's** dealings with former Temple University running back Paul Palmer, now of the Kansas City Chiefs. Murtha is under suspension as an attorney by the Illinois Bar Association.

"I would consider the sources of this (complaint)," said Murtha. "It's a non-issue, and it's nonsense. I never represented myself as an attorney."

Murtha visited Los Angeles on May 19 and, with **Bloom's** consent, examined the agent's financial documents relating to Palmer, the complaint alleges. Murtha "had identified himself to Mr. Bloom as being an attorney in private practice who was representing the business interests of ... Paul Palmer," the complaint states.

By May 24, Pearl had subpoenaed the same financial documents based on information reported by Murtha, Bloom's complaint alleges.

Murtha also allegedly represented himself to Palmer's insurance agent on May 19 as a business attorney for Palmer and as "currently working with the Grand Jury investigation of the activities of Lloyd Bloom," according to Bloom's complaint and a declaration by the insurance agent, Dennis Gilbert. The declaration was submitted with the complaint.

"Murtha told (Gilbert) that he was working for the grand jury, and he has admitted to me by telephone that he in fact turned over information to Howard Pearl," said Trope. "For that to happen with Pearl's knowledge, clearly L Bloom should have been advised of his rights under the Fifth and Sixth Amendments (by Murtha on May 19). He was not." Murtha denied to Trope in a letter dated May 27 that he was a "government agent." But he admits that he turned over information to Pearl when "I discovered, through examination of Mr. Bloom's checking account, that he clearly misused

Murtha has been working with former Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthias Lydon, now a criminal lawyer in Chicago. Murtha and Lydon were federal prosecutors in Chicago from 1970-75. Lydon is the attorney for seven players who signed with Walters and Bloom. The seven players, including former Auburn running back Brent Fullwood, are among the 40 to 50 athletes who have entered a pre-trial diversion program to avoid prosecution for their dealings with Walters and Bloom, sources said. No complaints have been filed against Lydon.

McEnroe, Agassi Among Selections for American Davis Cup Team

#### The Associated Press

**BUENOS AIRES, Argentina** — John McEnroe, the former top-ranked player in the world, will again play for the U.S. in the Davis Cup, officials said Tuesday.

McEnroe is playing on the U.S. team for the second straight year. Also on the team that plays Argentina in Buenos Aires on July 22-24 are phenom Andre Agassi and Wimbledon doubles champi-

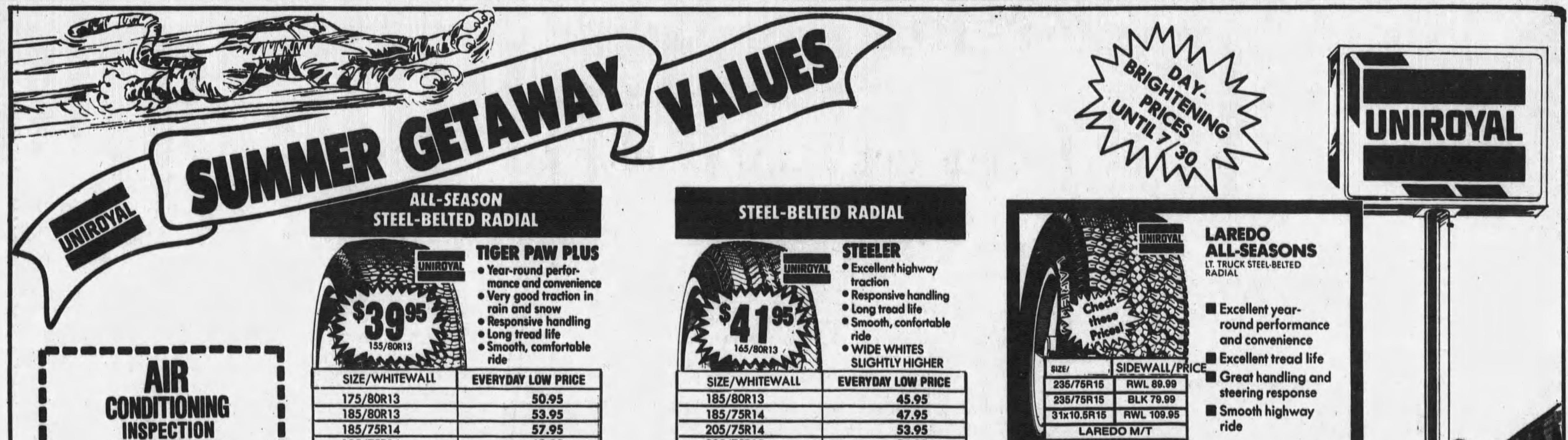
#### ons Ken Flach and Robert Seguro.

Argentina's Davis Cup squad includes singles players Guillermo Perez Roldan and Martin Jaite, both clay-court specialists, and the doubles team of Javier Frana and Christian Miniussi, team coach Modesto "Tito" Vazquez said.

According to the latest Association of Tennis Professional rankings, Agassi is No. 6 in the world, Perez Roldan is 15th-

ranked and Jaite is No. 22. McEnroe, coming off injuries and inconsistent tournament play, is ranked 17th.

The U.S. squad defeated Peru in Lima, and Argentina upset Ecuador in Guayaquil earlier this year to advance to the American Zone finals. The winner of the clay-court competition at the Buenos Aires Lawn Tennis Club will advance to the 1989 World Group.



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