

Good Signs at Suwanee Give Hope for Future

The Atlanta Falcons will be better this year. How could they not? Teams as bad as the 1987 Falcons, teams of almost symmetric wretchedness, come along once every 16 years. Not since the 1971 Buffalo Bills had a team finished last in points scored and yielded, but our resourceful Falcons turned that double play with room to spare.

That was then. Now looks better. Not to say good, not even to say mediocre, but better. Where last year the Falcons were rudderless on both sides of the ball, they've found new guys to steer. Chris Miller gets the offense; the rookie linebackers Aundray Bruce and Marcus Cotton figure to guide the defense. Just where these kids will take this franchise, nobody can say. They can scarcely leave it anywhere worse than where they found it.

Last year the Falcons went 3-12 and elevated the blowout loss to an art form. Four times they lost by more than 30 points. The aggregate score of their last three games was 98-20. They were as bad a team as anyone could remember, worse even than the expansion Tampa Bay Buccaneers, who at least had a defense. The Falcons had nothing. You knew this already.

What you mightn't know is that training camp finds the Falcons acting uncommonly feisty. They know that they haven't a playoff shot, that 8-8 is likely beyond their reach. Still, they're resolved that the losses they absorb won't be so pleasant for the other guy. Last year the Falcons were the NFL's homecoming opponent; this bunch mightn't be sound enough yet to win, but it promises to come closer trying.

Campbell Knows What's Needed

The coach, Marion Campbell, isn't one to bandy words. He says what he thinks. By last year's third preseason game, Campbell was sounding warnings, threatening his players, speaking acidly of job security. Surely he'd sensed what was to come. This year, he says he senses something else, and for that he's thankful. Yes, it's easy to wax grandiose in July, but the Falcons aren't doing that. They're lacing their optimism with reality and finding realistic reasons to be cheerful, their first in a while.

Says Campbell: "Our goal is to be competitive. To do that, obviously we needed more good football players. I've already demonstrated I wasn't pleased with what I had last year; I let 18 of 'em go. We'll be young this year, and I expect the spirit to be there. Heck, on numbers alone you should be able to tell there's jobs open. If a player can't get excited over that, something's wrong.'

Beyond attitude, an amorphous and transitory thing, Campbell sees a tangible foundation in place, one he hopes will last a decade. For too long the Falcons had neither a quarterback for their offense nor speed for their D. Now they've the beginnings of both.

"I've coached more than one No. 1 defense in this league," Campbell says, "and every one of those teams had speed. And you can't teach it. I remember my first year back here (1986, as Dan Henning's defensive coordinator) how we hung out some pretty good defensive stats, but all the time I kept worrying about not getting to the quarterback. I remember saying, 'Sooner or later, that's gonna jump up and bite us.' And it

Rebuilding Instead of Plugging Gaps

The plodding Falcons made but 17 sacks last year, four by the scrub-teamer/plumber Buddy Moor. Hence Bruce and Cotton, the bookend destroyers. Campbell: "Aundray hasn't disappointed us in anything. (Hurt now, Bruce is expected back within a fortnight.) He's gonna be outstanding. Marcus is like Aundray, only not as big. With their speed, they're gonna make big plays, get to a lot of things. That's the kind of defense you want — a one that dictates to the offense. If their quarterback isn't concerned about you, you're in trouble."

And his quarterback? Campbell: "The people down here didn't get to see our quarterback last year, not really. Chris Miller is a rookie. There's no other way to look at him. I'm a big quarterback guy: I'm one who thinks if you don't have one, you draft one, and you keep drafting till you find one." The Falcons didn't draft a quarterback this spring. They think they're set.

Maybe they're wrong. Maybe Miller will wash out. Maybe Bruce and Cotton will be big-mouthed busts. For a change, though, there's a sense of considered building at Suwanee, less of gaps plugged in haste than of a work in the first stages of progress. Says Campbell: "Nothing comes easy in this business, but I'll say this: I'm gonna enjoy working with the Bruces and Cottons and Millers.'

Hawks Need Battle's Clutch Shot To Win Opener in Soviet Series

By Jeffrey Denberg Staff Writer

TBILISI, U.S.S.R. — In an ancient Georgia once ruled by wild horsemen, basketball players from a new Georgia were honored winners Monday.

Playing in a sold-out arena in the Georgia Republic that could have been modeled after the square Palestra in Philadelphia, the Atlanta Hawks were greeted with platters of fruit presented by costumed women in exotic gowns and headdresses and were serenaded with 1960s rock tunes and a Soviet version of "Georgia On My Mind."

After all of this, the Hawks had just enough left at the finish to defeat the Soviet National Team 85-84 on a running jumper by John Battle with six seconds to play. The game ended with a pass from Sergei Torakanov into the

arms of Kevin Willis at halfcourt.

Torakanov had put the Soviets ahead with 19 seconds left when he completed a four-point play after Willis fouled him on a three-point shot. He was granted a free throw in accordance with international rules.

The defeat is believed the first for the Soviet National Team against a touring team within its borders. Atlanta is the first NBA team ever to visit.

On a festive night, the Soviet Georgians filled the streets around their 10,000-seat arena, and 450 policemen

were on duty to keep order. Whether by its nature or police pressure, the crowd was startlingly quiet by American standards. There was no cheering or steady crowd noise, only silence or intermittent reactions — both positive and negative — for both sides.

"I couldn't believe it when the crowd hissed their own team," said

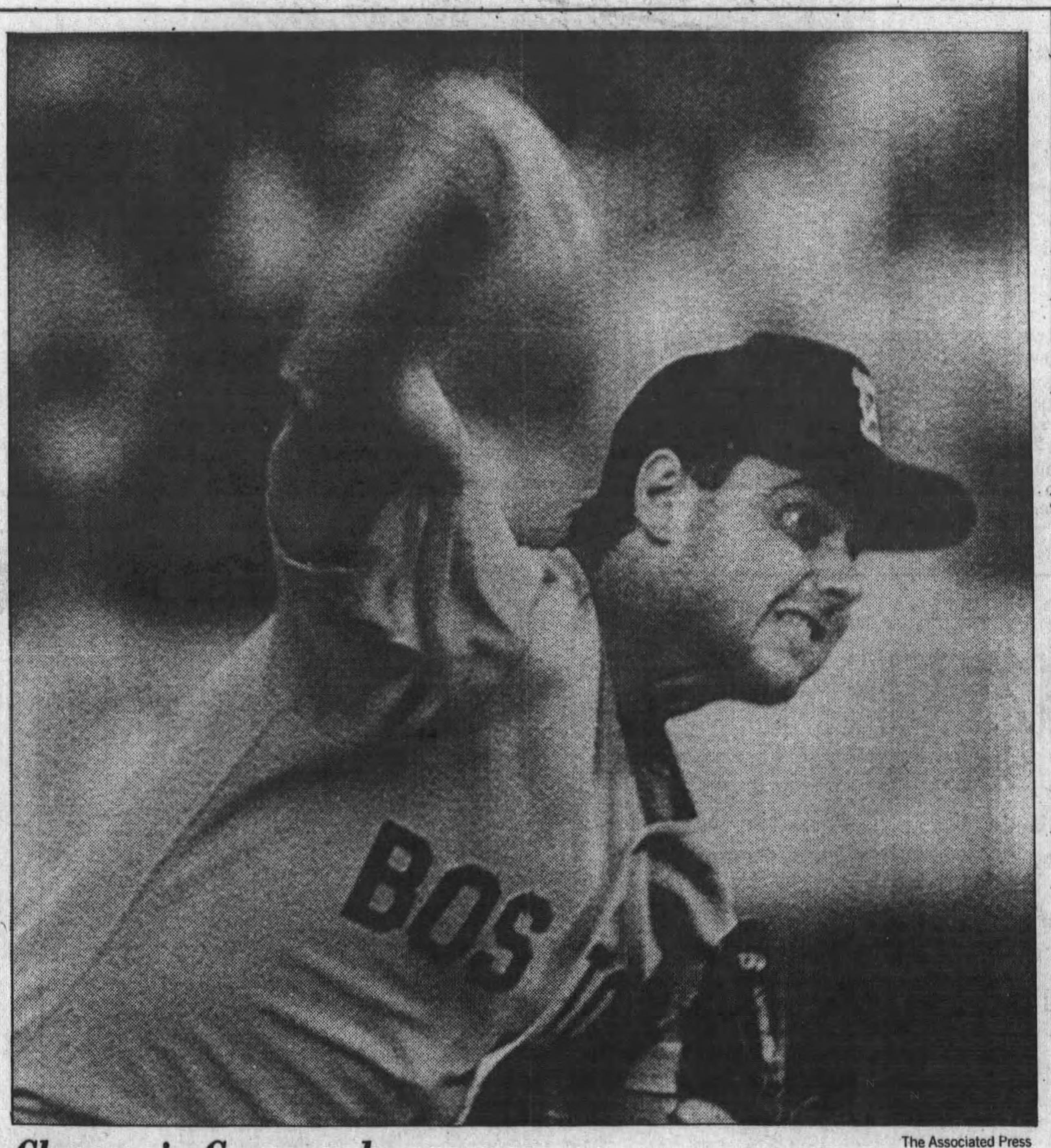
Soviet coach Alexander Gomelski said the hissing was nothing unusual. "Georgians know basketball. They like good plays."

Valdas Khomicus, the National Team captain, added, "They do this all over Soviet Union. In Vilnius (Wednesday for the Hawks' second game), even more people will be for the Americans."

HAWKS Continued on 6C



DAVID WINK/Staff



Clemens in Command

Texas Rangers en route to a 2-0 victory. Clemens

ARLINGTON, Texas - Roger Clemens of the Bos- struck out 14 as the Red Sox won their 12th ton Red Sox delivers another strike against the straight. For Clemens, 14-5, it was his seventh shutout of the season. Story Page 4C.

Temple Forfeits Six Wins in 286 Due to Palmer

Runner-up for Heisman Had Signed Deal With Agents Walters, Bloom

> By Chris Mortensen Staff Writer

Temple University announced Monday night that it would forfeit six victories from the 1986 football season because star running back Paul Palmer played while under contract to sports agents Norby

Temple becomes the first university to voluntarily forfeit football games because of a player's dealings with Walter and Bloom. The agents signed more than 50 college athletes, the majority of them football

players, between 1985 and 1987. Palmer also will be stripped by Temple of any prizes, awards and records set during the '86 season. He was a consensus

first-team All-America pick and Heisman Trophy runner-up. Temple president Peter J. Paul Palmer

Liacouras announced the decision on the forfeits. "We unwittingly played a player, a star who broke many records at our school, who actually was an ineligible player. That's like taking a running back from the NFL and putting him in college. It's just not fair to the opposition. And if you

feel the only fair thing to do is offer forfeits." The university also indicated it will accept Palmer's repayment of scholarship money for the '86 season as stipulated in a pre-trial diversion agreement he has entered with the U.S. Attorney's office in Chicago that is investigating Walters and Bloom. The pre-trial agreement will prevent Palmer from being

don't win fairly, you should lose. At this point, we

prosecuted. Previously, the only sanction against a school came when the NCAA withheld \$253,000 in basketball tournament money from the University of Alabama because it was revealed that two players, Derrick

PALMER Continued on 5C

'Amateur' Status Depends on Sport With Olympians

By Terence Moore Staff Writer

First, the semantics. According to officials of the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC), the word "amateur" isn't in their dictionary.

"We're using 'eligibility' these days," says USOC president Robert H. Helmick. "We don't use 'amateur' anymore because it's too confusing."

Amateur. Eligibility. The word hasn't mattered. Despite recent efforts by international Olympic governing bodies, the guidelines that determine which American athletes should qualify for the Games remain murky.

Why is John McEnroe eligible for the 1988 Seoul Games while Magic Johnson is not? Why are some track-and-field stars able to earn hundreds of thousands of dollars a year and still compete in the Olympics? Why does the U.S. Olympic baseball team consist mostly of players who have signed professional contracts? Why is Greg Louganis eligible but Greg LeMond not?

AMATEURS Continued on 6C



The Associated Press

Jimmy Connors hits a backhand volley Monday in victory over Andres Gomez in final of D.C. Tennis Classic, Connors' first tournament title since 1984.

INSIDE SPORTS

NCAA Says Evidence of Violations Warrants Investigation of Kentucky

Judge Orders Defense of America's Cup, But Will Allow U.S. to Use Catamaran

Braves Plan to Use Jimenez in Relief If Smith Is Ready

The Braves Report, Page 5C Reds On Deck, Page 5C By Darryl Maxie Staff Writer

Long relief will be the short-term solution for pitcher German Jimenez.

When the pinched nerve in pitcher Zane Smith's right foot heals, there will be no place for Jimenez in the Atlanta Braves' five-man rotation.

Manager Russ Nixon has committed to rookie John Smoltz as the fifth starter behind Zane Smith, Rick Mahler, Pete Smith and Tom Glavine, with Jimenez in long relief. Smoltz, a Nixon favorite because of his minor-league credentials (10-5 record, 2.79 ERA in 1351/3 innings), beat the New York Mets 6-1 in his major-league debut Saturday.

Smoltz is scheduled to make his second start

Thursday against the Cincinnati Reds. Both general manager Bobby Cox and Nixon gave Jimenez rave reviews after the former Mexican Leaguer secured a place in the organization with his first major-league victory in four starts, a 4-2 win Sunday over the Mets.

BRAVES Continued on 5C

ON DECK

Braves vs. Cincinnati Reds

The games: Tuesday doubleheader (5:40 p.m.), Wednesday (7:40 p.m.) and Thursday (5:40 p.m.).

■TV/radio: All games on Channel 17 and 750-AM.

Tuesday's pitching matchups: First game - Rick Mahler (8-9) vs. Tom Browning (8-4). The winless starts are piling up for Mahler, who last won June 22 in Los Angeles. Browning had a six-game winning streak snapped July 16 in Montreal and got a no-decision in his last start, also against Montreal last Thursday. Second game - Pete Smith (3-10) vs. Tim Birtsas (0-1). Smith allowed seven hits in seven innings last Wednesday in Philadelphia but lost when Juan Samuel homered. Birtsas, mainly used in long relief, lost his only start 3-2 on June 29. He gave up only two runs and three hits.

Wednesday's pitching matchup: Tom Glavine (3-11) vs. Danny Jackson (12-5). Glavine allowed only two runs and five hits last Friday in New York but was outpitched by Dwight Gooden. Jackson went eight innings the same day against Montreal, allowing seven hits and striking out six.

Thursday's pitching matchup: John Smoltz (1-0) vs. Jose Rijo (11-5). Smoltz made his major-league debut by allowing four hits in eight innings at New York. Rijo struck out 12, the most by a Reds pitcher since Sept. 30, 1985, but lost 1-0 to Montreal.

■ Reds Update: It's been an uphill battle since May 27, the last time the Reds were .500 (23-23). They lost two of three to Pittsburgh and have only gotten as close as one game under .500. They lost three of four to the Expos at home in their last series. They are hitting only .243 as a team, but opponents are hitting even less (.237).

- Who's Hot: OF Eric Davis has hit in seven of eight games in which he has had an official at-bat and is 11-for-28 (.393) in that period. 1B Nick Esasky has hit in five straight games and stole home Sunday against Montreal. P Danny Jackson has won seven of his last nine starts, allowing only 18 earned runs in 721/3 innings (2.24 ERA).

■ Injuries: Atlanta — P Jim Acker (elbow, 21-day disabled list); P Chuck Cary (knees, 60-day DL); P Zane Smith (foot, day-to-day). Cincinnati - P Ron Robinson (elbow, 15-day DL); SS Dave Concepcion (shoulder, 15-day DL); SS Barry Larkin (RH fingers, day-to-day); OF Eric Davis (groin, day-to-day); C Bo Diaz (knee, day-to-day).

- Darryl Maxie

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REDS PITCHING

Player	AB	R	H	HR	RBI	Avg.
Sabo	349	50	103	11	39	.295
Larkin	350	59	101	10	36	.289
Daniels	305	56	87	9	39	.285
Oester	15	0	4	0	0	.267
O'Neill	288	35	75	10	41	.260
Davis	287	53	74	16	51	.258
Esasky	230	23	58	7	40	.252
Treadway	248	25	61	2	20	.246
Collins	111	6	27	0	10	.243
Diaz	238	20	54	7	25	.227
Winnnghm	94	10	21	0	6	.223
McClendon	99	7	22	2	11	.222
Durham	124	14	27	4	8	.218
Reed	137	10	28	0	9	.204
Concepcn	152	6	30	0	6	.197
Milner	43	3	8	0	2	.186
Totals	3306	390	801	78	356	.242

BRAVES BATTING AB R H HR RBI Avg.

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Perry	315	41	104	6	47	.330
James	262	35	73	2	25	.279
Oberkfell	320	33	86	3	29	.269
Thomas	385	41	101	10	47	.262
Simmons	58	4	15	2	9	.259
Benedict	125	7	32	0	14	.256
Hall	213	27	54	1	15	.254
Gant	324	46	82	10	39	.253
Griffey	191	21	48	2	19	.251
Runge	49	10	12	0	5	.245
Murphy	358	55	83	18	50	.232
Roenicke	114	11	26	1	7	.228
Virgil	215	18	49	8	20	.228
Morrison	43	3	9	1	9	.209
Royster	74	6	15	0	1	.203
Totals	3302	374	833	65	352	.252

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BRAVES PITCHING

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7 21	.45	Alvarez			5.2 52	37	
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8 8	10	Z.Smith	4-7	4.24 108		33	
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THE BRAVES REPORT

Murphy Warming Up

Now that he has hit five homers in his last 12 games, his first hot streak of the season, Dale Murphy said he realizes he has been pressing. "It's my only explanation for the type of season I'm having," he said. "But it's not really an excuse. I just haven't done the job, and it's no one's fault but my own." In his last nine games, he is 13-for-37 (.351) with three home runs and five RBI. Murphy has brought his average above .230 for the first time since June 19. He hit his 18th homer of the season to right field in the eighth inning Sunday. "Going to the opposite field showed me that I'm staying on top of the ball. And I'm a better hitter when I do that," Murphy said. "I don't think I'm all the way back yet, but I'm close. I'm taking good swings at bad pitches. Before, I was taking bad swings at good pitches. But I'm not getting too excited. All I'll say is I'm feeling comfortable at the plate. I'm still day-to-day."

Etc.

First baseman Gerald Perry held on to the National League lead

in hitting, despite going 2-for-16 in the Mets series. . . . The Braves and Reds share similar memories from 18 years ago today. Both teams had players who connected for three home runs. The Braves' Orlando Cepeda had three consecutive homers in an 8-3 victory over the Chicago Cubs. Johnny Bench of the Reds hit three straight homers off Steve Carlton, then with St. Louis.

The Record

Overall: 34-62. With Russ Nixon: 22-35. With Chuck Tanner: 12-27. Vs. West 13-30. Vs. East: 21-32. Vs. lefthanders: 15-13. Vs. righthanders: 19-49. Day: 9-15. Night: 25-47. On grass fields: 25-43. On artificial turf: 9-19. Onerun games: 14-15. Extra innings: 6-4. Doubleheaders: 1-1-2. Last year: 42-54 (fourth place, 91/2 games back).

Next

Braves vs. Reds, Tuesday, 5:40 p.m. at Atlanta-Fulton County Stadium. Probable pitchers: (first game) Rick Mahler (8-9) vs. Tom Browning (8-4); (second game) Pete Smith (3-10) vs. Tim Birtsas

- Darryl Maxie

South Star Gets Kicks on Golf Course

By Steve Figueroa Staff Writer

While his South all-star football teammates were working out in the heat Monday morning at Georgia Tech, kicker Joey Tollison was on the golf course.

It's not that Tollison thinks he's too good to practice with his team for the Georgia Athletic Coaches Association high school all-star football game Friday night at Bobby Dodd Stadium. It's just that golf is his No. 1 sport, and he had committed to a junior tournament in Columbus this week before his selection to the squad.

"I've played in this particular tournament the last four years," said Tollison, who finished fifth in the Class AAA state golf tournament at Richmond Academy in Columbus. "I really didn't expect to be named an all-star in football. And it was too late to change anything by the time I found out that both these events were the same week."

Tollison and his parents are driving between Columbus and Atlanta three days this week so the soccer-style kicker can attend the afternoon all-star practice. The Insurance Youth Tournament at Bull Run Country Club ends Tuesday.

Tollison shot a 78 and tied for fifth place in the first round. He then returned to Atlanta for

a 3 p.m. practice. After practice, he headed straight back to Columbus to rest for his 8:30 a.m. tee time Tuesday.

"We had to make some special arrange-

High School All-Star Week

What: Baseball, basketball and football games between all-stars of North and South Georgia.

■ When: Baseball game Wednesday at 7 p.m.; girls basketball game Thursday at 6:15 p.m.; boys basketball game Thursday at 8 p.m.; football game Friday at 8 p.m.

Where: Baseball game at Chandler Stadium; basketball games at Alexander Memorial Coliseum; football game at Bobby Dodd Stadium.

■ Tickets: Tickets for all events are \$5.

ments with the tournament director to get me in the first group Tuesday morning," said Tollison, who will handle placekicking and punting Friday. "And coach (Butch) Brooks has let me miss the morning practices and then work real hard in the afternoon. Everybody has been real nice about it."

Tollison has been playing golf since he was 10. He started football only last year when Richmond Academy coach Steve Crislip sent out a call to the soccer team for kicking prospects.

Tollison's first season of football consisted of kicking off during the last five games. But he did all the kicking as a senior, setting school and county records.

"I wish we had had him three more years,"

said Crislip. "He was a big weapon for us."

Tollison made 9 of 14 field goals as a senior, including a Muscogee County-record 50yarder against Burke County. He also placed 80 percent of his kickoffs into the end zone and punted for, a 44.9-yard average. He has made field goals of 65 wards in practice.

Tollison had several scholarship offers to smaller schools but chose to walk on at Wake Forest this fall. He will also play golf.

"I finally decided to go with an 'academic' school in Division I and just try to earn a scholarship," Tollison said.

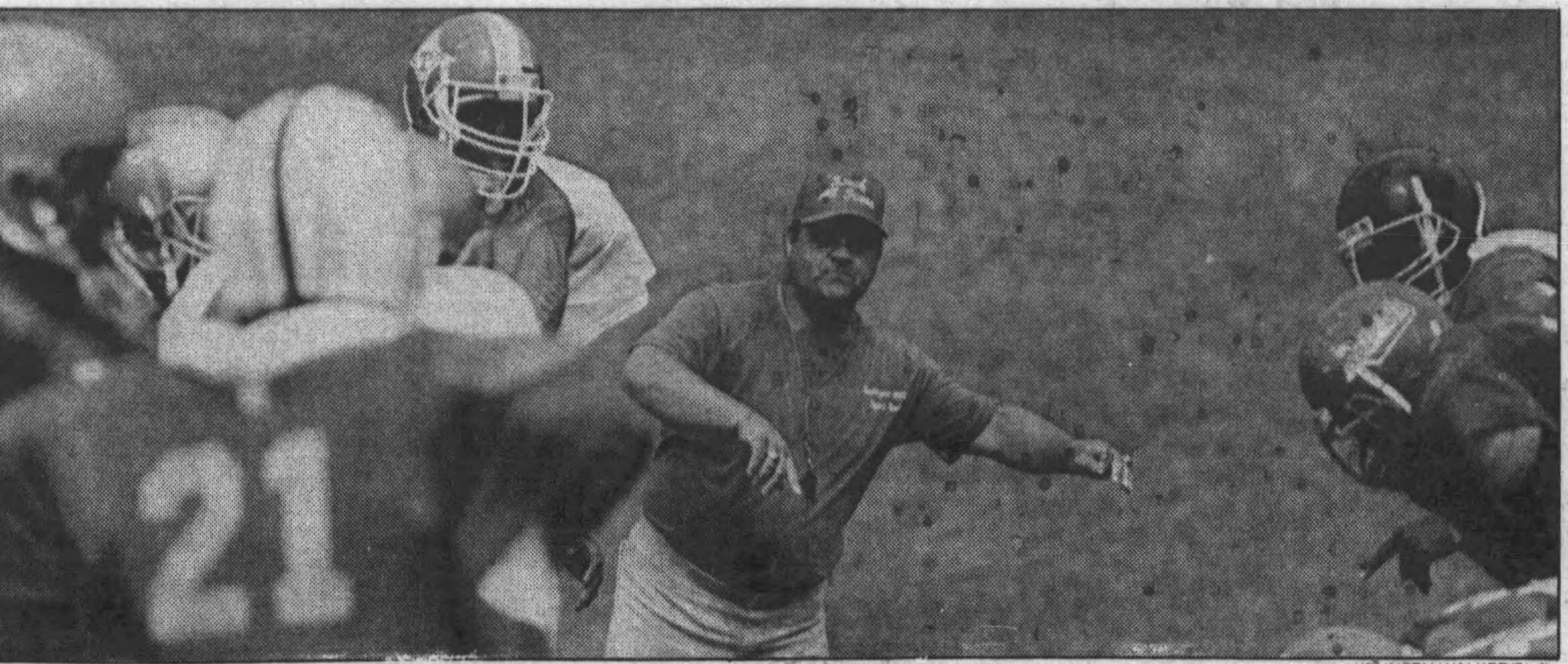
"I've been promised a full scholarship if I do the kicking off or punting this year."

Tollison said college recruiters at Friday's game need not bother to try and change his

"I've already made a lot of friends at Wake Forest and I'm looking forward to going there," said Tollison. "I think it's a good school academically and I'll fit in well on both the football and golf teams.

In Friday's game Tollison will be matched against this year's consensus All-America kicker, Chris Gardocki of Redan. Gardocki, who signed with Clemson, kicked a state-record 59yard field goal this year and has a four-year punting average of 42 yards.

"I heard a lot about Chris this year," said Tollison. "I know he got most of the attention in the state, but that's all right with me. When you're second to the best in America, you really can't complain."



KENNETH WALKER/Staff South All-Star football team coach Butch Brooks signals down the line Monday during a punt-return drill at Rose Bowl Field.

Fitzgerald's Thompson Reports, Then Wins One-on-One Title

By Steve Figueroa Staff Writer

The prospects for the South boys basketball team in Thursday's annual Georgia Athletic Coaches Association high school all-star game brightened considerably Monday morning when Shaun Thompson of Fitzgerald reported to

Thompson, a 6-foot-7 University of Tennessee signee, immediately made his presence felt by winning the one-on-one championship.

After beating his South teammates, Thompson took on North team champion Sebastian Neal of North Clayton. Neal, a 6-5 guard who has signed with Georgia, couldn't handle the bigger Thompson inside and fell 10-6 in the championship match.

WIMS REPLACES GAINES: Edwin Wims of

Calhoun County has been picked to replace Bainbridge's Tommy Gaines, the No. 1-ranked senior in the state, who failed to show up for the start of camp Sunday. Westover's Reginald Tinch is expected to arrive in time for Tuesday morning's practice, so South coach Jimmy Hiers of Richmond Hill was feeling a lot better about his team's chances. "Getting Shaun (Thompson) in camp really helps us," said Hiers. "We still don't have a full team and we won't have the team we were supposed to have, but things look a lot better."

SOUTH HOLDS ITS OWN: The two squads squared off in a game-type scrimmage with officials Tuesday afternoon at Alexander Memorial Coliseum and observers who predicted an easy victory by the North, which has won six of the. last seven games, were in for a surprise. The North led by six points after the first 20 min-

utes, but the two teams played 10 minutes more and the South held a five-point advantage.

PASCAL WINS ONE-ON-ONE: The South's Tia Paschal, from Thomson High, won the girls one-on-one championship, edging North champ Stacey Franklin of Campbell-Smyrna 10-8. . . The girls teams also scrimmaged and settled absolutely nothing. The North won the first 20 minutes 21-18, then the South won an additional 15-minute period 32-29 for a combined 50-50

TAYLOR IN, PIERCE OUT: The South football team's roster was completed when Baldwin's Vic Taylor, a 6-foot, 200-pound linebacker, was added to replace Bennie Pierce of Lowndes. Valdosta teammates Charles Steward and Reggie Dandy showed up, as expected, on Monday after car trouble prevented their arrival Sunday.

Palmer

From Page 1C

McKey and Terry Coner, had accepted money from and signed a contract with Walters and Bloom

Palmer, a first-round draft pick of the Kansas City Chiefs last year, was first identified as a player who had dealt with the agents in a March 12, 1987 story in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution.

Within a week after the story, Palmer attended a press conference at Temple to deny that he had jeopardized his eligibility during his senior season.

Palmer maintained his denial in several interviews until recently, when he admitted he had accepted at least \$5,000 prior to his senior season. He also admitted to signing a contract with the agents.

Palmer has been one of 40-to-50

athletes who faced federal charges of mail fraud, income tax evasion and obstruction of justice for their dealings with Walters and Bloo Palmer signed an affidavit renewing his scholarship prior to his senior season in which he stated he had done nothing to jeopardize his eligi-

The 16-month federal investigation in its final stages, sources said Walters and Bloom face possible charges of racketeering, mail fraud ion and obstruction of justice, sources said.

The federal grand jury has delayed its decision for numerous reasons, sources said; among them are the tedious negotiations of the pretrial diversion agreements in which more than 40 athletes agree to reimburse their universities for scholarship money to which they were not entitled, serve 100-to-250 hours of community service and testify against Walters and Bloom in any subsequent trial.

Liacouras said that he had sent handwritten letters to the presidents of Western Michigan, Florida A&M, Pittsburgh, East Carolina, Virginia Tech and Rutgers, offering them victories to compensate for the Owls' using Palmer.

"We are forfeiting these games to set an example," Liacouras said. "We believe in good sportsmanship in an amateur setting at whatever cost. Even though the university did not know or have reason to know of

this violation, our team benefited by using a player — indeed, the star of the team - who was not eligible."

Liacouras said that he would instruct Temple's sports information staff to delete the 1986 statistics of Palmer, who finished with 23 career school records. Even without his 1986 statistics, Palmer would still own seven Temple career marks.

NCAA director Dick Schultz said Monday in a statement that "though the action taken by Presi-

dent Liacouras is voluntary and not required by the NCAA, we applaud his efforts to reaffirm the integrity of the Temple athletic program."

Liacouras said that he met Monday with H. Patrick Swygert, Temple's vice president for administration; Owls athletic director Charles Theokas; NCAA faculty representative Joseph Marshall, a Temple law professor; head coach Bruce Arians, and Herb Kessler, a member of the Temple board of trustees and the chairman of a university task force on intercollegiate athletics, and that all were in agreement with his decision to forfeit the games and delete Palmer's 1986 records.

"It's the ethical thing to do," Arians said.

Said Kessler: "You certainly can't sue him, but maybe the burden on him of hurting his teammates and hurting his university will be a heavy one."

Knight-Ridder Newspapers contributed to this report.

Braves

From Page 1C

Still, Cox and Nixon suggested there was an expiration date on the vote of confidence because they believe Jimenez — despite three good outings, including one in relief still has much to learn about pitching, especially the fundamentals that come naturally to many minorleaguers.

Jimenez's 30-day tryout with the parent club ended Monday, but the Braves have completed his purchase from the Jalisco Charros of the Mexican League for about \$100,000.

"We bought his contract out-

not sure what we were going to do Besides deciding on Jimenez's with him," Nixon said. "There were options, but (Sunday's) victory convinced me that he'll stay in the starting rotation for the present."

Cox said Jimenez would stay with the parent club for "right

Nixon suggested Jimenez would remain in the majors but added, "when I say 'stay here,' I don't mean forever." Nixon stayed away from further speculation about Jimenez's future with the Braves, saying "He's on the club till he's off."

Nixon said Jimenez's "big plus is that he is a left-hander. I can start him or use him in relief. His last two starts have been good, but (Sunday) he threw harder than in

right last week, but we were still any of his three previous games."

place, the Braves have other problems to solve, such as:

Third baseman Ken Oberkfell's trade request. Oberkfell was benched in favor of Jim Morrison on Saturday and Sunday as the Mets started lefthanded pitchers Bob Ojeda and Sid Fernandez. Oberkfell said he is unhappy platooning against lefthanders, though he said he wouldn't mind making the sacrifice for a winning team. Oberkfell said he would try to have a face-to-face meeting with Cox on

Tuesday to discuss a trade. It isn't the first time Oberkfell, in the third year of a four-year, \$2.9million contract, has asked for a trade. He made a similar request in

1985, when he was scheduled to be Bob Horner's backup.

"I've never been a complainer and I don't feel like I'm complaining," Oberkfell said. "But if I don't fit into their plans, why am I here?"

Cox said the Braves have tried to trade Oberkfell during the past two years but haven't been able to work out a deal. Oberkfell has started 83 of the Braves' 96 games.

"We know Kenny can play against lefthanded and righthanded pitching, but it's good for Morrison to get some time in there, too," Cox

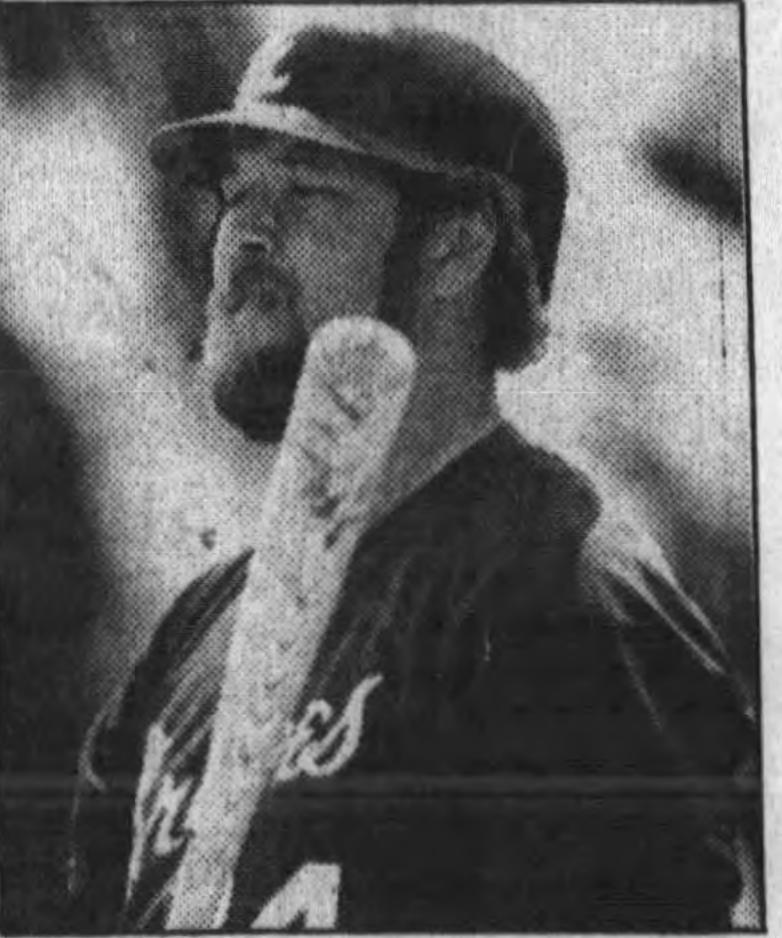
Which outfielder to release first - Gary Roenicke or Ken Griffey — to make room when Albert Hall returns Tuesday. Hall is ex-

pected to be activated in time for the 5:40 p.m. doubleheader with the Cincinnati. The Braves delayed an expected

decision Monday night but are leaning toward releasing Roenicke because he has generated less interest than Griffey on the trade market.

When to release Griffey. Cox has tried to trade the 38-year-old outfielder for months but said Griffey may be released Tuesday because trade talks have been unproductive.

The Braves have been waiting to promote veteran outfielder Lonnie Smith from their Richmond, Va., Class AAA team. He isn't likely to help the Braves defensively but can add much-needed speed.



Ken Oberkfell, unhappy with platooning, has asked for a trade.