

Paul Palmer can't dodge the press after admitting getting paid in college.

Chiefs' Palmer

Pain but no fame for 5 Bears

PRO FOOTBALL

By Bob Sakamoto Chicago Tribune

PLATTEVILLE, Wis.-This is an exclusive fraternity. Wimps and crybabies need not apply. Check your feelings at the door.

Tolerating pain and anonymity in large doses is a prerequisite. You sacrifice your body to make others look good. If they look bad, you get most of the blame.

Only certain individuals have the makeup for such an undertaking. The Bears have such a group, one of the better offensive lines in the league.

These guys perform the grunt work so Jim McMahon can complete a pass or Neal Anderson can break loose. They are noticed only when they blow an assignment or get hurt.

Mistakes along the line have



Tribune photo by Ed Wagner

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SAILING

Chicago boats win Mac honors

By William Recktenwald Chicago Tribune

MACKINAC ISLAND, Mich.-Chicago boats captured both top overall spots in the 81st running of the Chicago-to-Mackinac yacht race, officials announced Tuesday.

Jack Levy, a Chicago advertising executive, skippered the 35foot Aces Wild to first place overall among the 257 boats racing under the International Measurement System, one of two handicapping systems used in the race. IMS boats were divided into 10 sections.

Jeannine, a 35-foot Graham & Schlageter-designed boat owned by Jack Roeser, was first overall in the 44-boat IOR (International Offshore Rule) fleet, which was split into two sections.

Levy, whose six-person crew included his wife, Theresa, and his son, Mel, was lucky to even make this year's race. On Mother's Day, his boat was heavily damaged when it broke loose from its mooring in Monroe Harbor. Repairs were finished less than two weeks before the race. He made Metzger's Elan. the 333-mile run in just under 57 hours. Levy raced with 25 other boats in IMS Section 8. Hugh Mc-Carthy was second with Justice. Walter Linderman, in Magic, was third. Jeannine led the IOR fleet as well as IOR Section 2. Edward Palm's Fast Company (one of two boats in the race by that name), a 37-footer from Grosse Pointe, Mich., was second in the section as well as second overall in the IOR fleet. Next came George Congreve's Slip Sliding Away from Michigan City, Ind., which also shared its name with another entry. In IOR Section 1, Nitissima, George Uznis' 50-footer from Detroit, was ranked first in the section and third in the overall fleet. Gene Mondry's Leading Edge, another Detroit boat, was second, and the 42-foot Signature from Menominee, Wis., took third.



Dick Jennings finished first but

can't run away from his past

By M.G. Missanelli Knight-Ridder Newspapers

LIBERTY, Mo.—When the morning workout concluded, Paul Palmer removed his helmet, lifted his sweat-soaked jersey over his shoulders, and ambled slowly off the practice field, the subject of a thousand stares.

A year ago, fans and reporters were intrigued by the natural football abilities of the running back from Temple University whom the Kansas City Chiefs plucked as their top pick in the 1987 National Football League draft.

Today, they are curious for more dubious reasons. Today, Palmer may be known less as the promising football player, and more as the college player who cheated.

Palmer's admission last week that he was paid by sports agent Norby Walters before his senior season at Temple-and the university's subsequent offer to forfeit certain games and its decision to delete some of his records—has touched off an explosion of controversy. Most of the shrapnel has hit Palmer directly.

"Paul has not been a very happy camper over the past few days," Jim Carr, the Chiefs' public relations assistant, said Tuesday.

For now, at least, Palmer's normally happy-go-lucky personality has turned

been infrequent. But injuries? The Bears suffered enough casualties up front to qualify as a M*A*S*H unit. Four of the five starters underwent surgery in the off-season. Two days into training camp, both starting tackles were sidelined.

It's getting to the point where the Bears are ready to deal for a healthy tackle.

All too often, offensive linemen are blended together as one entity, faceless guys in the trenches. Maybe that explains their closeness. But underneath all that grime and sweat, each has an identity all his own. Here's an attempt at humanizing them:

Keith Van Horne, No. 78-At 30, this 6-foot-7-inch, 283-pound tackle is the dean. He is a personable, articulate behemoth from Southern Cal with a degree in broadcast journalism. Listeners to WCKG-FM have heard him as a part-time DJ.

He had surgery on both shoulders and his left Achilles tendon last spring. The Bears fear he may have come back too soon, and soreness in his shoulders has forced him to miss four days of workouts. He isn't expected back at practice until next week.

"It's very frustrating," Van Horne said. "Our line has been together for four years and should be in our prime. I came into camp very optimistic about our offense. Nothing against Walter Payton, but our offense should be more balanced, and if we're healthy, we can open up things for the young-

Injured Bear tackle Keith Van Horne talks to assistant equipment man Tony Medlin during a practice session in Platteville.

charities. Mayhem may be a part of his life, but so are the works of Mark Twain, Herman Melville, Ernest Hemingway and Bernard Malamud.

"He's the best in football, when he's healthy," coach Mike Ditka said, recalling how Covert played most of last season in a harness to protect his left shoulder. He had surgery in the off-season but is now suffering from a lower back sprain. He has missed four days and had a CAT-scan that was negative. He returned to camp Tuesday and could be working by Fri-

"He is the most complete offensive lineman," guard Mark Bortz said. "He's got the perfect body and great technique."

Jay Hilgenberg, No. 63—From free agent to best center in the NFC, that's the story of this 6-2, nice guy," is Van Horne's description. "He is one of the top two centers in the game," in Ditka's opninion.

He has been Pro Bowl starter the last three years and has started 68 straight games. Only Steve McMichael has been more durable with 69. He hasn't missed a game in his eight Bear seasons and excelled last year despite shoulder

as "more serious than the rest of kind of season last year to merit us." The Covert glare is a menac- designation as a Pro Bowl altering one. But he has a generous nate. The Bears feel he is just beheart that embraces a number of ginning to come into his own. He had off-season surgery on his right knee.

> Mark Bortz, No. 62-Quiet, modest, the "aw, shucks" guy of this group. When asked to describe his linemates' personality quirks, Bortz begged off. "We give each other a lot of grief, and I don't want them getting all over me," he said.

He displays no such tentativeness on the field. At 6-6, 272, Bortz gives the Bears a large, mobile pulling guard. Also a healthy one. He is the only one of the five who didn't spend time in the hos-

"It's important the line block well early," Bortz said. "With younger running backs like Neal Anderson and Brad Muster, it well help their confidence if the holes are there.

"The injuries [to Van Horne 260-pounder. "Happy-go-lucky, a and Covert] are disappointing. You look forward to working with certain people you've been on the battlefield with."

Offensive line coach Dick Stanfel estimated his starters operated at 60 percent of their maximum last year because of injuries. He is concerned about the early miseries of Van Horne and Covert.

"When you have your two firststring tackles hurt, you've got

Roeser was unable to sail, so Jim Wicklander was at the helm of Jeannine. He had a crew of seven.

"When we got to the island, we saw that we were finishing with boats that give us three hours [under the handicapping system]," Wicklander said. "We had a game

fell in the ratings when the handicapping system was applied.

foot Dragonfire captured first in IMS Section 5, followed by Terrance Boyle's Pegasus and Jerry

In IMS 3, Hank Bernbaum took first for the third consecutive year in his 40-foot China Cloud. Next were Robert Smith's New World and Tom Purcell's Resilience.

In IMS 9, Frederic Horwitz's Pinocchio from Mequon, Wis., was first. Tortuga, owned by Dick Wharton and Bruce Creger, took second, and Shadowfax, owned by Hugh Griffin and Hugh Moore, was third.

First place in IMS 10, the class for the smallest boats, was Moanatoa. The 30-footer was built in 1980 by John and Patricia Cleall and their son, Dean, in a friend's back yard in Oak Brook. This was the third time the Clealls, who raced with three other crew members, have placed first in their section.

Misty, owned by Tom McIntosh, placed second in the section, with Michael Kaczor's Erica third.

Moanatoa experienced equipment problems during the last hours of the race when strong winds developed.

"The block and tackle which control the main sail broke," said Steve Murakami, who was joined in the crew by Andy Kumieca and John Chorley. "We were able to repair it, but it was a real eftort. "We worked hard during the whole race. We must have made 35 sail changes as wind conditions changed. It was a race where teamwork and concentration, along with tactics and experience, were the keys to winning." In IMS Section 4, Miguel Gambetta of Munster, Ind., took top honors in his 35-foot Michela. Next came Jazz, owned by Anthony Sances Jr. of Milwaukee, and Double Digits, owned by Tom Giesler of South Haven, Mich. IMS 2 was led Fail Safe, a 46foot Chicago boat owned by Robert Claffy and Peter Thornton. It was followed by Donald Thinschmidt's Midnight Sun from Kalamazoo, Mich., and John' Malec's 43-foot Slip Sliding Away from Belmont Harbor. The largest boats in the IMS: fleet, racing in IMS 1, moved down in the overall standings when handicaps were calculated. Lunatic, a 45-footer from Detroit owned by Clune J. Walsh, was first in his section but 61st in the overall IMS fleet. Second was the 54-foot Foxfire, owned by Leonard Westdale of Grand Rapids, Mich., with Bruce Ohmart's 46foot boat Respite from Alpena, Mich., third.

sullen and dour.

He had no response Tuesday to the action taken Monday by Temple President Peter J. Liacouras to offer forfeits to the six opponents the Palmer-led Owls defeated during the running back's 1986 senior year. And he seemed unconcerned when a reporter showed him a list of his records that Liacouras will order stricken from the book.

"I really have no comment on anything," said Palmer. "It's done, it's over with. I just don't want to talk about it anymore."

Palmer, however, had a spokesman in former Temple star Kevin Ross, now a starting defensive back for the Chiefs. Ross, who was drafted by the Chiefs in the seventh round in 1984, called Liacouras' actions a case of Temple "biting the hand that fed them."

"You know what's funny about this?" asked Ross. "When Paul was helping recruiting and giving the university some name recognition, everything was fine. Now that something like this happens, they turn their back on him. It's out of sight, out of mind, I guess.

"Here's a guy who earned a scholarship, and produced when he got there. Paul Palmer gave that university just as much as it gave him. Taking those records away is a laugh. They'll never be able to take those away from him."

When asked if he thought Palmer was hurt by the recent controversy, Ross replied: "Yeah, I think he is. He is human, you know."

The last thing Paul Palmer needed in this training camp was a major distraction. He made no effort to hide his disappointment over a lack of playing time last year, a season in which he saw most of his action on special teams. Palmer, who averaged about 25 carries a game at Temple, rushed only 24 times last year for 155 yards and played backup to a virtual unknown named Herman Heard. When Chiefs coach Frank Gansz announced he was installing an offense this season that would feature the big play, it seemed tailor-made for the mercurial Palmer. But through the first week of camp, Heard was still running with Gansz's first unit and Palmer was still second string. "That doesn't really mean anything; we're going to need both to play a lot this year," Gansz said. "If Paul is distracted, I certainly haven't noticed it. On the field, he is a very focused individual. He comes out here early every day and he works hard. And I'll tell you, he's getting a lot better. He's catching the ball better and running better. He'll be a big contributor for us this year." "Distracted?" asked Chiefs running back coach Billie Matthews. "I don't think so. You know, a lot of people in this league have made the same mistakes as Paul, getting money in college. And when the news media finds out, they just blow it up. But it's just not that big a deal anymore. It'll probably sting for a while, but Paul's got to put it in the past."

er backs."

Van Horne can be the most pleasant guy by noon. Forget about good morning. "I'm the grouchy one," he said. "I walk into the morning meetings and no one wants to talk to me."

Jim Covert, No. 74-Van Horne characterizes this 6-4, 278pound two-time Pro Bowl tackle

and elbow injuries that required off-season surgery.

Tom Thayer, No. 57—Here's a guy who should always roll up the sleeves on his T-shirts. The 6-4, 270-pound guard is the strongest player on the team, bench-pressing more than 500 pounds. He's your anchorman in a tug-of-war. He turns 27 on Aug. 16 and had the

problems," Stanfel said. "We're hoping that Van Horne simply came back too soon, and that rest will bring him around."

Stanfel said the Bear management will consult him before making any deals for an offensive tackle. "They haven't contacted me yet. We still have hope they will be back."

Ham's foes didn't have prayer Hall inductee 'set new standards for linebackers'

By Cooper Rollow

"How about those Steelers?" Jack Ham first heard those words in a most unlikely setting. Ham, the extraordinarily talented former outside linebacker of the Pittsburgh Steelers, was attending a Sunday evening mass in a suburban church with his fiance early in his Steeler career when the priest suddenly exclaimed, "How about those Steelers?"

The priest asked if Dan Rooney, then the Steelers' vice president and a member of the parish, was present. Rooney wasn't, but a parishioner stood up and announced that Ham was.

The crowd gave a tremendous ovation to Ham, who only that afternoon had contributed mightily to a resounding Steelers' victory over the respected Cleveland Browns. "It was like being out at the stadium," recalls Ham, who normally dislikes publicity. "Everybody was so great, I stayed after mass and signed autographs."



Ham

manager, with a chuckle. Dobre Shunka is Slovak for "Great Ham."

Noll

Newsmen who covered Ham during his glory years in Three Rivers Stadium and coaches who tutored him aren't short on superlatives when they talk about Ham, who made the Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility.

a third-string offensive tackle as a sophomore at Bishop McCort High School in Johnstown, Pa. He became a regular offensive tackle as a junior and moved over to linebacker his senior year.

Ham received a few offers from smaller colleges, but was largely ignored by recruiters because he weighed only 185 pounds.

"I had absolutely no illusions," he says, "about playing pro or even college football."

Ham decided to attend Penn State as a student only. He eventually was offered the last scholarship Penn State had available during his freshman year, in 1967.

Ham was an All-America by the time he became a senior. The Steelers picked him in the second round of the 1971 NFL draft,

plan, and we stuck with it."

Holland Capper's Hot Canary was first in IMS Section 7, where he competed with 31 other identical Tartan-10's. Capper was second in the overall IMS fleet, followed by Jeff Aspeger's Bombshell, second in section and third overall. Third in the section went to Richard Hoffman, sailing Rookie. Those three T-10's are from Chicago.

"I've had four third-places and three second-places, but it really feels great to take a first," said Capper, a Chicago attorney who has sailed in 16 Mac races.

"There were four of us only a few hundred yards apart for most of Sunday. It was a real horse race for the last 30 miles, with Bombshell behind by less than three minutes."

Capper will compete in the North American T-10 Championship in Chicago in August.

In IMS Section 6, the 36-foot Cruachan placed first, followed by Clifton Collins' J-Sen II and Albatross, owned by Bruce and Robert Metcalf.

J-Sen II and Albatross shared third place after J-Sen 11 was penalized for using its engine to free itself after running aground near the finish.

Denise McNamara and her 37-

Cup vs. the Olympics?

Ham was one of the stars who led the Steelers to four Super Bowl triumphs in the 1970s. He'll join Mike Ditka, Alan Page and Fred Biletnikoff on the podium in Canton, Ohio, Saturday, when they become the latest players enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

And how will Ham spend the evening after his induction into pro football's shrine? Partying with his family, friends or the other three being honored?

"Actually," says Ham, "I'm going back to Pittsburgh to play touch football in a charity game that night."

Ham, regarded by football talent appraisers as one of the finest outside linebackers ever to play the game, is genuinely uncomfortable when told he was the best.

"I think he actually blushed when a bunch of fans formed the 'Dobre Shunka' Fan Club," says Ina Gardon Steelar husinger

"The fact is that Jack Ham, circa 1972-1979, was a Mona Lisa," Pittsburgh columnist Phil Musick wrote.

George Perles, the current Michigan State head coach who was a longtime Steeler assistant, said Ham "set new standards in modern football for outside linebackers."

When Ham's head coach, Chuck Noll, was asked to speak at a celebrity roast toward the end of Ham's 12-year pro career, Noll said simply, "How can you roast someone who is perfect?"

"As soon as I saw him," says Penn State coach Joe Paterno, who will present Ham at the Hall of Fame ceremony, "I knew I had found a future star."

Paterno didn't actually see Ham play football until Ham's sophomore year because freshmen weren't eligible. Up until Paterno became a force in his life, Ham wouldn't have given a dime for his chances of becoming a football star.

There was little hint during his teenage years that Ham eventually would become perhaps the most respected outside linebacker in the National Football Laamia Ha was

much to Ham's displeasure. At that point, the Steelers were losers. They had just endured a 5-9 season and Ham frankly admits, "I didn't like the idea of playing for a losing team."

As it turned out, Ham played on only one losing team during his 12-year Pittsburgh career, and that was his first season, when the Steelers were 6-8. After that, i was gangbusters as Ham took his place on the left side of the Steeler defense outside of two smart, rugged pros: end L.C. Greenwood and tackle Mean Joe Greene.

Ham was at his best in big games. Yet he hated being dubbed as a big-play defender.

"I would much rather be known for consistency than for making big plays," he says. "The same goes for hitting. Sure, I was a hitter. But I also loved playing pass coverage.

"A linebacker shouldn't be just a guy who gets to the hole in a hurry and hits somebody. To me, that's just being half a linebacker. You should also do your job on pass coverage."

Noll, a noted wine connoisseur, will drink to that

U.S., ESPN hope not

From Chicago Tribune wires

SAN DIEGO-Pitting the America's Cup against the appeal of the Summer Olympics would be bad for the regatta's spectators, competitors and TV ratings, say Cup defenders and the network with broadcast rights.

"I think it would be in everybody's best interest to have the event staged at a time when there isn't such a grand spectacle like the Olympics going on," said Chris LaPlaca, a spokesman for ESPN.

Sail America, defense manager for the San Diego Yacht Club, will meet this week with New Zealand challenger Michael Fay to try to negotiate a change in the Sept. 19 New York judge.

"Michael and I yesterday expressed our willingness and desire year-old America's Cup race as to schedule the event at some time one of the "big three" internationother than would conflict with the al events, along with World Cup Olympics," said Tom Ehman, executive vice president of Sail America.

"We'll meet tomorrow and poseible Thursday ad be the and of Change said

the week have a definite date. Right now, I'm hopeful and confident we'll have a different date."

But Sail America's eagerness to reschedule the race may not be matched by New Zealand, which used a court challenge to upset San Diego's plan for a multinational competition in 1991 and force an earlier race.

"It's one of the issues that goes on the table," New Zealand spokesman Graeme Colman said. "That's the official date, unless there is mutual consent on moving

"We're assessing our position. We've got to assess more than just the Olympics. The timing of the race is critical to every component starting date, set Monday by a of the campaign. We're actually here to win the America's Cup."

Ehman characterized the 137soccer and the Olympics.

"It's unfair to the general public to see two of the three major sporting events go head to head," !