

NEWS

"This was almost as much of a...

By Linda Kay & Mike Conklin
Chicago Tribune • Published: Aug 26, 1988 at 12:00 am

"This was almost as much of a surprise to me as to everyone else,"

Kathe Clements told us Thursday. She was alluding to the indictment of sports agents **Norby Walters** and **Lloyd Bloom**. "Oh, I'm happy the truth is going to come out," she said, "but I don't feel like I'm a part of it. It's been months since the FBI talked with me, so it's obvious to me I'm not a part of it. All of what's happening now is totally removed from me." Clements, a former employee of agent Steve Zucker, was beaten up in Zucker's Skokie office 18 months ago by a man in a ski mask. While the beating proved the catalyst for an investigation linking Walters and **Bloom** to organized crime, Clements doesn't believe the man who roughed her up was sent by the two. "I'm not really convinced," she told us. "Why was it done? I just don't know to this day. When you work in an office like Zucker's, maybe someone thinks there's something wonderful to be found there, all kinds of great autographs and money, maybe. My own feeling is, it was someone who knew the office, who'd been there before. The place was pretty hard to find." Clements returned to work a few weeks after the incident, but she parted company with Zucker last September and started her own marketing firm. She told us that when she read the newspaper accounts of the indictments this week, "I just felt like I wish my name wasn't in there."

A LIGHT NOTE

The Bears say they're no longer focusing on William Perry's weight, but they obviously had to come up with some number Thursday when they published the roster for Friday night's game. Just for your information, Perry is listed at 320.

PAYBACK TIME

When Terry Cummings grew up in Chicago's housing projects, he and his six brothers used to travel the city and Indiana looking for pickup basketball games. The Milwaukee Buck star said there were no clinics to inspire kids at the time. That's why he's gotten a kick from a three-day camp he ran this week for kids from Altgeld. Joining him were brothers Lee and Chris Cummings. The scene shifts to Milwaukee Saturday, when Cummings and other NBA stars will play in the VIC Classic in the Mecca. This is to raise funds to help with similar projects he's involved with, including the Boys and Girls Clubs of Chicago and Milwaukee. Said Cummings: "If there'd been camps for me, it would've made things a lot easier. Maybe I can make things easier for someone else."

FULL CIRCLE

What difference can a year make? In the world of minor-league football, a lot. A year ago, NFL clubs seeking replacement players pillaged local minor league rosters so thoroughly that two Chicago teams folded. Tom Yakowicz, player personnel man for the Du Page Eagles, says it's a buyer's market in 1988. His Eagles are so strong they're off to a 2-0 start and ranked No. 2 among the nation's semipro teams. The Du Page roster is filled with replacement players, including Darryl Richardson (Bengals), Mark May (Vikings) and Larry Miller (Vikings). Unlike many semipro clubs, the Eagles do not belong to a league and keep an open roster. Said Yakowicz: "This is a busy time for us with NFL clubs making cuts. We should get stronger." Sunday, the Eagles get a chance to see just where they currently rate. They play the No. 1 Gladiators in Racine, Wis.

NEWS, NOTES AND NONSENSE

Former Raider coach Tom Flores and his wife, Barbara, plan to be in Soldier Field Friday night as guests of the Hyatt Corp. They're in town for a Saturday wedding. . . . Harry Grossman, the 91-year-old Cub fan who switched on the Wrigley Field lights for the first night game, will be on David Letterman's show on Sept. 14. We hear Grossman was reluctant to make the trip to New York, but Letterman talked him into it. . . . Mike Pyle, Stan Mikita and Digger Phelps will be joined by 19 pros from the women's golf tour Monday for the Sand Creek Charity Pro-Am in Chesterton, Ind. . . . Gordie Lockbaum, the two-way football star

from Holy Cross who was just cut by Pittsburgh, has been contacted by the Providence franchise in the Arena Football League.

"He's the prototype player for our league, and we'd love to have him,"

said AFL Commissioner Jim Foster. . . . The Blackhawks play a benefit softball game Saturday against the Oak Brook police on that west suburban community's park playground. Proceeds will benefit the West Suburban Association for Retarded Children.

And finally: The Bears have the day off Sunday, so Michael Butler invited the players and their families to join him at the Oak Brook Polo Club. Maybe Butler wanted the Bears because they're experienced in replacing divots.
