

SPORTSPEOPLE

Odds & **INS**



By Linda Kay & Mike Conklin

What's Thanksgiving Day without Turkey awards? Our cup runneth over for the top 10 dubious achievers in 1988—and there's still more than a month left in the year. There were some tough picks, but here are our selections:

1. Ben Johnson

Mr. Steroid's sprint past Carl Lewis was nothing compared to the dash he made for the exits when he failed to pass the Olympic drug test in South Korea. Now, he may be headed for tax problems. He may have to give up some of those expensive items he acquired as an amateur athlete.

2. Robin Givens

Without a doubt, the No. 1 heavy in the year's leading soap opera. So what did she expect when she married Mike Tyson, a street kid who makes his living by being violent? She and her mother, Ruth Roper, may have set the feminist cause back 25 years.

3. Wade Boggs

If Givens makes the list, the Red Sox hitting star can't be far behind after we read about his ideas of life on the road. He beat the palimony rap, but he's no longer the idol of many. We're trying to figure out why his wife is still with him after all those years of cooking special chicken dishes.

4. Mark Gastineau

If he played anywhere but in New York, his walkout on the Jets wouldn't rate two lines in the sports briefs. On the other hand, if he didn't play in N.Y., Brigitte Nielsen probably wouldn't give him the time of day.

5. Dana Kirk

Some of the Memphis State coach's indiscretions didn't make him any different than a few of his peers, but his alleged snitching on Larry Brown to the NCAA definitely put him in a class by himself. On the other hand, we shouldn't be too hard on Kirk. He appears headed for the slammer following his tax-related legal problems.

6. Larry Brown

Kirk may have snitched on Brown, but Brown sure didn't waste any time getting out of town, which, considering it was Lawrence, Kan., may not have been a bad idea to begin with. But please, Larry, spare us those looks of hurt when you talk about how sorry you feel for the sanctions on the Kansas program you left behind.

7. Bob Knepper

He is never going to give a keynote address to the National Organization for Women (NOW) following his famous "females belong in the kitchen" remarks during spring training. If the Astros' pitcher isn't feeling heat in his wife's kitchen in the off-season, wait until Pam Postema becomes a National League umpire.

8. Brian Bosworth

Things were just starting to quiet down around this nerd, and then he published a book, which may have hit a new low in the kiss-and-tell department. Bosworth's the only guy who ever made us feel sorry for Oklahoma football coach Barry Switzer.

9. John Ziegler Jr.

Where was John? No one could find the NHL boss when a commissioner's ruling was needed during a Stanley Cup semifinal game between New Jersey and Boston. He didn't surface for several days, and the Blackhawks' Bill Wirtz had to take his place. That's only fitting. Wirtz is more powerful, anyway.

10. Peter Pocklington

The Oilers' owner tried to make Wayne Gretzky and his actress wife, Janet Jones, the culprits in the superstar's trade to Los Angeles. Later, we learned it was Pocklington's greed that was the catalyst for a deal that left Canada weeping.

Honorable mentions

Robert Ulrich—Who's he? He's the mayor of St. Petersburg, Fla., and the person who tried to steal out White Sox. We get the last laugh, though, because nearby Tampa may beat St. Pete to another team.

John Thompson—We didn't think it was possible, but Big John had some Americans rooting for the Soviets in Olympic basketball.

University of Illinois—How many schools lose their football coach (Mike White) and AD (Neale Stoner) in separate scandals in the same year?

Norby Walters—His biggest impact came in previous years, but the fallout in college athletics from his sleazy deals is still being felt.

Lawrence Taylor—How many chances does this Giant linebacker get at drug rehab?

Jimmy Johnson—Let's get the Miami coach in the NFL, where he belongs, and out of college football.

Princeton football team—The Tigers snapped the nation's longest college football skid by losing to Columbia.

Michael Fay—His unwarranted America's Cup challenge, successfully met by Dennis Conner, made us suffer through an unnecessary barrage of sailing stories.

Andy Williams becomes a part of PGA history

Entertainer Andy Williams, for 21 years the celebrity host of San Diego's annual PGA tournament, has ended his association with the event.

Williams' withdrawal leaves the Bob Hope Desert Classic as the only PGA event bearing the name of a celebrity, a departure from the 1960s and '70s, when such entertainers as Sammy Davis Jr., Bing Crosby and Glen Campbell were associated with professional tournaments. Increasingly, the titles of PGA tournaments reflect their corporate sponsors.

The San Diego event was started in 1952 as the San Diego Open. Williams began his association in 1968, but since 1981 shared billing with whatever company assumed corporate sponsorship.

Williams, who was on a Christmas tour, was unavailable for comment.

Officials of the Century Club, which organizes the event, said Williams has had no financial involvement in the tournament, which will be played at Torrey Pines Feb. 14-19 and offers a \$650,000 purse. Besides being the event figurehead, Williams served as an organizer and primary entertainer for the pro-am dinner show.

"Andy Williams singing 'Moon River' always brought a climactic ending to the show," said Tom Morgan, the executive director of the Century Club. "The Andy Williams Open has been synonymous with San Diego. We all feel a tinge of sadness that that's gone."



Texas A&M coach Jackie Sherrill gets the thumbs-up from a plaque—that's a replica of his hand—unveiled Wednesday. Copies of the plaque will be sold to set up a scholarship fund for A&M corps and band students.

After 5-6 season, Paterno promises to be a homebody

With Penn State's first losing season in 50 years still fresh in his mind, coach Joe Paterno says he will cut back his out-of-town travel for charity, university fundraising and professional organizations and spend more time with his players and coaches.

"The last few years maybe my presence wasn't strong enough. Regardless of how you assign duties, the head coach has got to be around," Paterno said Wednesday.

"My biggest job is to get some control

of my schedule so I am around here when there are problems. We can't get this thing right until I'm around more."

Penn State finished 5-6 after being beaten by Notre Dame last Saturday, for its worst season since 1938, when it finished 3-4-1. The string of nonlosing seasons is an NCAA record.

"If we were 6-5, there would be just as much wailing and gnashing of teeth. Our fans are used to better and are a little bit spoiled. We're used to better, too," Paterno said.

In two years, Penn State has the potential to be a contender for the national championship, said Paterno, 62, who has committed himself to four more years as head coach. To help the Nittany Lions reach their potential, Paterno will cancel out-of-town engagements.

"I've just got to say no," he said, adding that he wanted to be more accessible to the assistant coaches and players. "I've got to spend more time with these kids and get to know which one of them are the right kind of people."



World Series star Orel Hershiser—he's the one without the whiskers—gives some pitching tips to Goofy during Hershiser's visit Wednesday to Walt Disney World in Florida.

Substitute bowler on a roll with a 300 game, 886 series

Pat Landry had never bowled a 300 game or had an 886 while substituting in a league in Lansing, Mich. Landry, 21, of Pontiac, rolled 33 strikes in 36 balls. He had games of 298, 300 and 288.

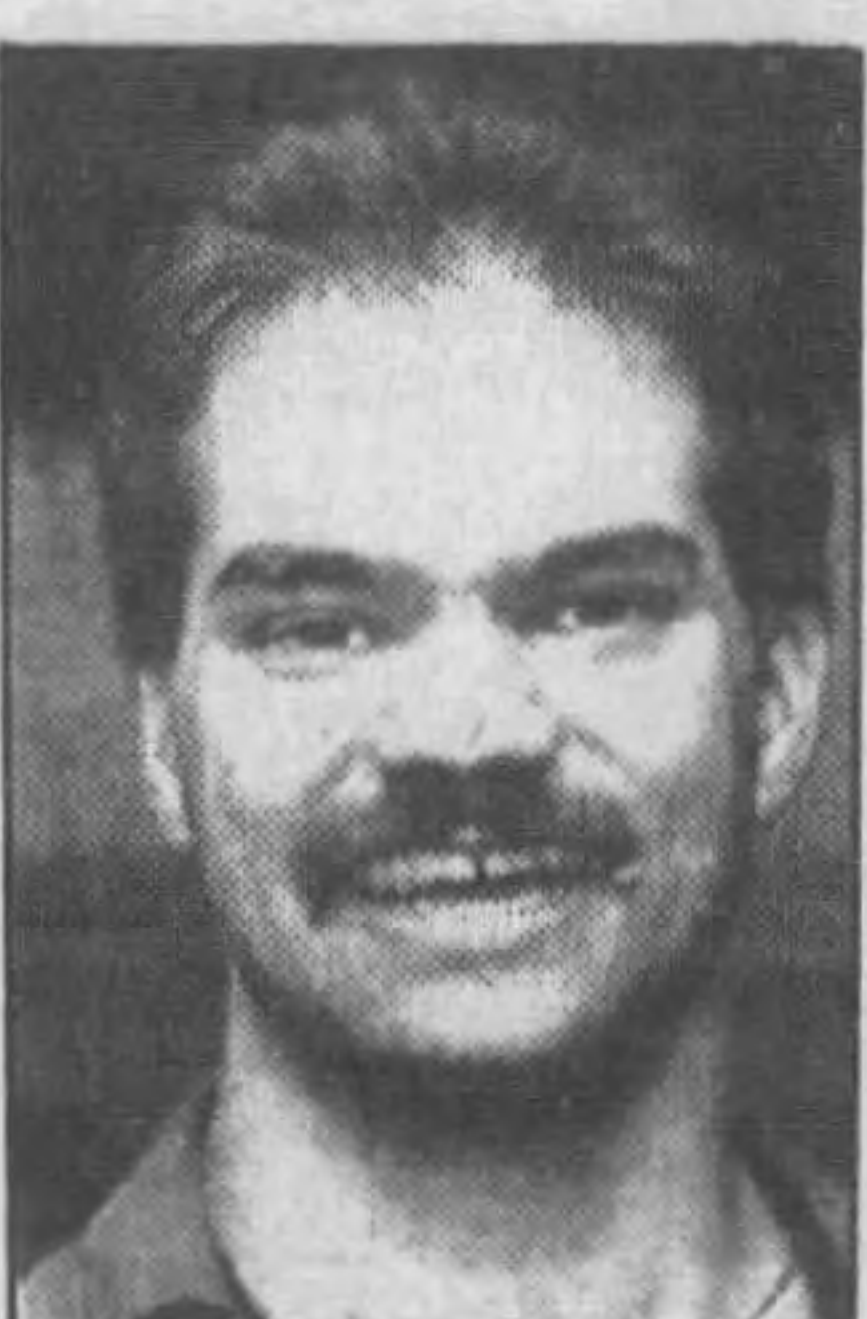
"It was just my night and everything was right. I couldn't do anything wrong," said Landry, whose previous highs were 289 and 760.

Landry's series must be sanctioned by the American Bowling Congress. ABC spokesman Mark Miller said the group will make a decision within a month based on recommendations by its Lansing-area arm, the Lansing Bowling Association.

Landry said he averages 201 on the bowling team at Michigan State, where he is a student, and averages 198 in a men's league Wednesday nights.

The left-hander was bowling by chance Tuesday night with the Capital City Classic league in Lansing. A friend asked him to substitute for a teammate.

"The second game, when I shot the 300, I don't remember the seventh or eighth or ninth frame," he said Wednesday. "I looked up and it's the 10th frame and I've got nine in a row. It was like a natural high. It was unbelievable."



Pat Landry

'If we take the brutality out of sport, we'd be left with golf and tennis. If we take away boxing, what happens to the ghetto kids? Most boxers wind up fairly civilized, because it provides a culture, a discipline. Some are shattered, their brains ruined, but I submit they'd be equally shattered by drugs and poverty.'

Novelist Norman Mailer



Irish have few fans among Miami players

Notre Dame doesn't have much of a chance Saturday against Southern Cal.

Says who? Says the Miami Hurricanes. Of course, the Hurricanes may be slightly prejudiced.

"I think Notre Dame is going to lose," said Miami wide receiver Andre Brown. "Southern Cal has a better team. They have a great team. And we need for them to win."

If the Irish win, their game against West Virginia in the Fiesta Bowl likely will determine the national champion. But if Notre Dame loses, third-ranked Miami would still have a shot at finishing No. 1.

The Hurricanes (8-1) dropped from the top spot when they lost Oct. 15 at Notre Dame 31-30.

Other Hurricanes also picked Southern Cal:

■ Linebacker Bernard Clark: "I think USC will win because they have so many ways of beating 'em. They have a great all-around team."

■ Linebacker Maurice Crum: "I think USC will win. They have much more talent than Notre Dame."

■ Defensive tackle Jimmie Jones: "USC should be able to take 'em. USC has a pretty tough running game, and their passing game is good, too. They looked good against UCLA, and I was impressed with [quarterback Rodney] Peete."

Among the small sample of opinions, only offensive guard Mike Sullivan offered kind words for the Irish.

"Notre Dame is a legitimate team," said Sullivan, who attended Chicago's St. Francis de Sales High School. "Anybody that goes through the season undefeated is a legitimate team."

Ernie D. back at work

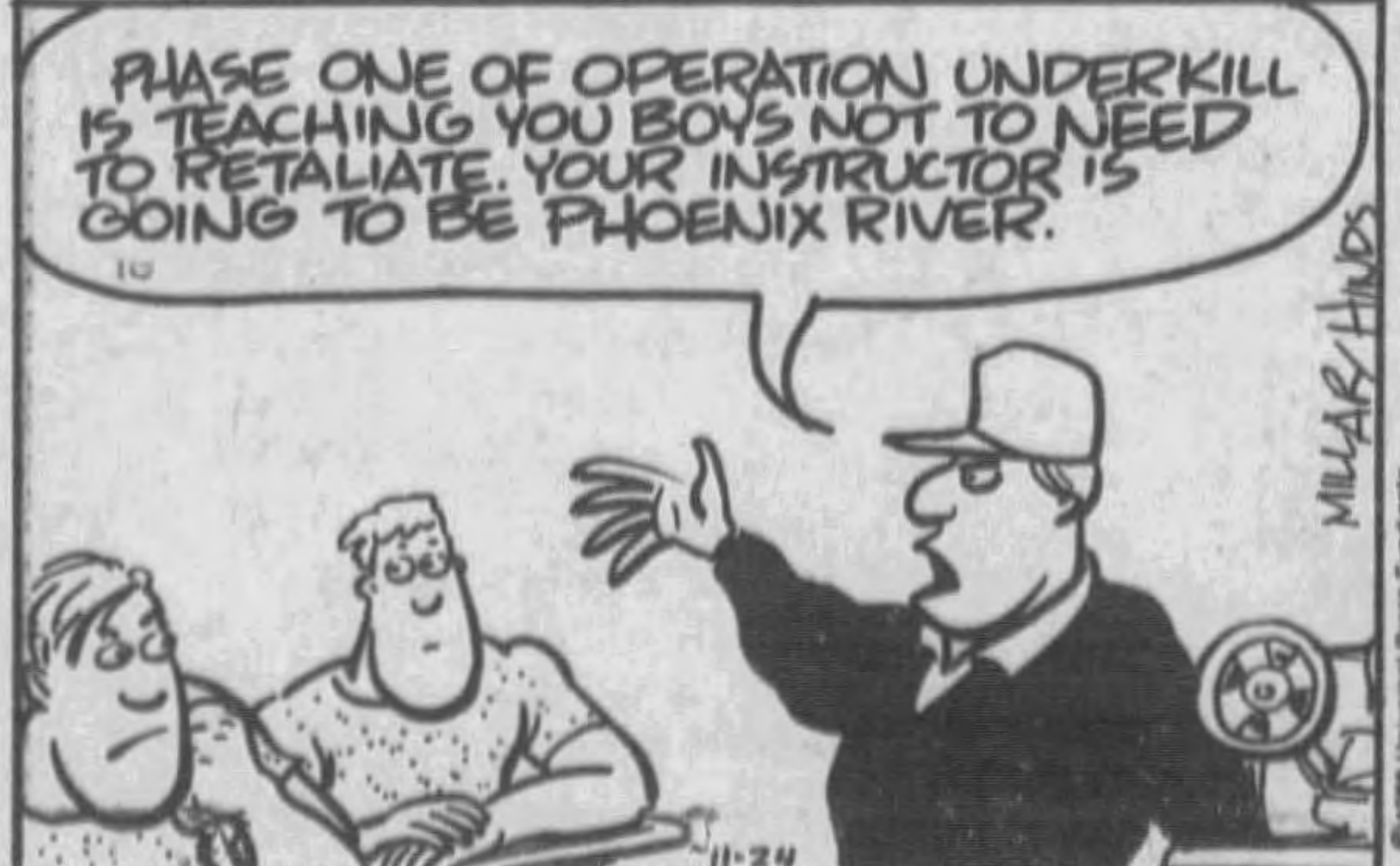
Ernie DiGregorio, the NBA's Rookie of the Year in 1974, will be back on a basketball court this season as a high school coach in his hometown.

DiGregorio, 37, will lead North Providence (R.I.) High School.

"I'll use this as a steppingstone to bigger and better things," he said.

Much bigger, it is hoped. The job pays between \$1,700 and \$1,800 a year.

TANK McNAMARA



GIL THORP

