

# Odds & INS



By Linda Kay & Mike Conklin

We hope the fans in Champaign won't be as crude as those in Evanston when Northwestern arrives on the Illinois campus Feb. 11. Longtime basketball observers told us they were appalled at the insensitivity shown by Northwestern students last week when the Wildcats met the Illini in Welsh-Ryan Arena. "I'd never been exposed to anything like that," a veteran spectator said. For example: A sign questioned whether Kenny Battle could spell "stupid." Students chanted, "That's all right, that's okay, you're gonna work for us one day." Coins, soda cups and pieces of plastic rained down on the floor. Though we don't fault coach Bill Foster, maybe he could quiet the fans by remonstrating them via microphone, as have Duke's Mike Krzyzewski and Indiana's Bob Knight in recent days.

## Magic carpet ride

So what's the most-asked question about the No. 1 basketball program in the nation? There seems to be great interest in coach Lou Henson's tonsorial splendor. We hear his daughter Leigh, a student at Illinois, recently had the following exchange:

Friend: "Leigh, can I ask you a question?"  
Leigh: "No, it's not a toupee."  
Friend: "No, no. I just wanted to know if I could get tickets for a game."

## Down under

Players at the Australian Open gathered 'round the telly for Super Bowl Monday. We're talking Melbourne time, remember. Martina Navratilova, an avid football fan, stepped in as both commentator and explainer, because many of her fellow viewers were not familiar with the great American game. Navratilova had to repeatedly explain the concept of first down: The foreign contingent could not understand why folks got so excited about a play that went only a few yards.

## Super duper game

The 36 points scored in the 1989 Super Bowl were the fewest in 14 years. Steelers (16) and Vikings (6) combined for 22 in the 1975 game.

## State of the Decade

As if California didn't have enough going for it, the Niners' Super Bowl win gives the Golden State 12 championship teams in major league professional sports in the 1980s. The Lakers have five, the Niners have three, and the Raiders and Dodgers both have two, giving California more than double the titles held by any other state. In the 1970s, Pennsylvania was the championship state with eight titles (Steelers four, Pirates two, Flyers two), while in the 1960s, Massachusetts ruled with nine championships. That might be a little misleading, because every one of those titles came from the Boston Celtics.

## Be happy

When he was traded by the Blackhawks during the holiday season, Rick Vaive said he thought he'd find the atmosphere in Buffalo a lot more relaxing. Translation: He was happy to get away from coach Mike Keenan. If Vaive gets any more relaxed, he may be arrested for sleep-skating. He's scored seven goals and four assists in the last eight games. If there's consolation in the trade, it hasn't been Adam Creighton, the player the Hawks got in return. It's this: The better Vaive plays, the more Buffalo has to pay Chicago in future considerations.

## Goodbye Columbus?

Whether you know it or not, Chicago is becoming a triathlon capital. This year the city has two major triathlons again—July 9 and Aug. 20—with a possibility for a third. Tom Cooney of the Illinois Athletic Association has applied for Chicago to be the host city in August for the national championships. Cooney said he expects to get the word soon. Chicago is dueling with Columbus, Ohio. Said Cooney: "I have to think we've got a good chance. Chicago's the third largest market in the country and Columbus is ... well, Columbus is Columbus."

## News, notes and nonsense

It could be standing-room-only when sports agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom go on trial Feb. 27 in Chicago on charges they made illegal payments to athletes. Former U.S. attorney Dan Webb, now in private practice with Winston & Strawn, is among a trio of lawyers representing Bloom. ... De Paul's Diana Vines needs only 17 points in Tuesday night's game against Notre Dame to become the first woman in school history to score more than 2,000. Vines currently is the second-leading scorer of all time at De Paul, trailing Mark Aguirre by 200 points. When she hits 2,000, Vines will also become the only Blue Demon to ever score that many points and pull down 1,000 rebounds. ... If you taped Loyola's upset of De Paul over the weekend, there's a postgame sequence worth replaying. Two Blue Demon assistant coaches, upset at the officiating, streaked across the floor after the final buzzer apparently to confront the referees—only to get trampled by hundreds of happy Rambler fans headed in the opposite direction. ... Julie Bremner of Lisle, considered the best volleyball setter ever to come out of the Chicago area, has left her freshman class at Notre Dame to join the U.S. national volleyball squad. Bremner passed a preliminary audition a few weeks ago and is now on an extended tryout of six months.

And finally, the rich just keep getting richer: Notre Dame now can claim the top college quarterback in Tony Rice as well as the top pro quarterback in alum Joe Montana.

# Yes, a Super Bowl that didn't choke under pressure

Finally, a Super Bowl that had it all—the good, the bad, the ugly. Drama, comedy and ratings. As NBC broadcaster Dick Enberg said at the conclusion of Sunday's telecast, "A super game for the Super Bowl."

And the overnight Nielsen ratings of 17 U.S. cities indicate viewers were happy with the results. The game drew a 42.7 rating with a 65 share, according to NBC, a 3 percent increase over last year's Super Bowl, which had a 41.9, the lowest-rated Super Bowl since 1974.

In Chicago, the game had a 47.3 rating with a 71 share, remarkable in that the weather was so delightful.

A national rating point represents 904,000 TV households; a local rating point, 31,000 households. A share is the percentage of sets on at the time. About 115 million watched last year's Super Bowl between the Washington Redskins and the Denver Broncos on ABC.

The highest-rated Super Bowl was the 1982 game between Cincinnati and San Francisco at 49.1. The most-watched game was the 1986 Bears-New England game. An estimated 127 million watched that Super Bowl.

"NBC estimated that 120 million would watch some portion of [Sunday's] broadcast," said NBC spokesman John Prentz in New York. "It's difficult to make a statement until we see the national numbers [later in the week], but we're encouraged by overnights and that there was a 3 percent increase over last year's overnights."

"This game could approach either of those Super Bowls XX and XXI" in total viewers, Prentz said. Cincinnati wasn't represented in the overnights.

The good: Enberg and Merlin Olsen,



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On TV/radio sports

the top-notch NBC crew, proved once again that two in a booth is enough. Olsen's analysis more than complemented Enberg's no-nonsense play-by-play. The only time Enberg got carried away enough to yell an "Oh, my!" was on the 93-yard kickoff return by Stanford Jennings that turned out to be the Cincinnati Bengals' only touchdown.

The bad: The NFL Talent Search, which, besides proving an inadequate replacement for the "Silent Minute," showed NBC found a way to make "The Gong Show" look like a PBS special. It bordered between the silly and the boring. Mike Martin, the Bengals' injured wide receiver who bested four other players to win the contest with his singing, won't make anyone forget Luther Vandross.

The suspension of Bengals running back Stanley Wilson forced NBC to drop "Son of Silent Minute." Instead, the minute was spent updating fans on the NFL ruling Wilson ineligible for the game because of what it said was a violation of the league's drug policy.

"It wasn't supposed to be a true silent minute," an NBC spokesman in Miami said. "We were thinking about just doing something different for a minute during the pregame. Bob Costas was supposed to lead some exercises for the fans sitting

at home. A sports fantasy piece by Len Berman got dropped, too, because we went longer than expected on the Wilson story."

The overnight ratings for the pregame show were 14.4 compared with 14.5 last year, not the rebound NBC executives had hoped for. Ratings for the postgame show were 33.8 compared with 25.0 last year, which would indicate the game's close finish kept viewers around.

The ugly: The slow-motion replay that showed how Bengals nose guard Tim Krumrie suffered a broken leg. Sometimes, when it comes to replays, you can have too much of a good thing. Did viewers have to watch as Krumrie's leg broke in two places?

The drama: NBC cameras catching the utter joy of San Francisco 49ers quarterback Joe Montana after teammate John Taylor scored the winning touchdown. Throwing his hands in the air and leaping to the heavens, Montana belied his age and showed the world he still has the little kid in him.

The comedy: The 3-D halftime show. It was, in a word, awful. Just another Orange Bowl unspectacular with a few special effects thrown in. "NFL Live!" host Bob Costas said it best after donning his special glasses to introduce what would be the longest nine minutes in Super Bowl history: "This is the single proudest moment of my life." His tongue was planted firmly in his cheek.

The glitch: Enberg and Olsen misidentifying the snapper for kicks on the 49ers. Initially, they blamed reserve center Chuck Thomas for a bad snap that cost San Francisco three points in the second quarter. It wasn't until the fourth quarter that they realized it was veteran

Randy Cross.

After the game, Enberg and Olsen explained that most of the season, Thomas had been centering in kicking situations. A 49er official in the booth before the game didn't indicate any change for Sunday's game. And when coach Bill Walsh was seen yelling at Thomas (who lined up at guard on the flubbed field-goal try), the announcers went along with Thomas.

It wasn't until the second half that another spotter pointed out the error of their ways. And, being the classy act they are, both Enberg and Olsen apologized for the mistake.

Another small mistake was pointing out that Krumrie wanted to stay in the locker room after his injury, but no mention of the whereabouts of San Francisco left tackle Steve Wallace, who suffered a broken ankle earlier. Wallace, it turned out, stayed in the 49er locker room.

Other Super Sunday notes:

It was hard to tell the NBC promos for "Nightingales" from Old Style Dry commercials. It also was impossible to tell what the series is about. ... Bud edged Bud Light 27-24 in Bud Bowl I amid much "candemonium" and many "brew-ha-ha's." ... Those slick graphics used by NBC were to play off the Art Deco architecture of Miami. ... The Dana Carvey-Jon Lovitz American Express commercial was funny once. By the fourth time, yawning set in. ... And the best part of watching the Super Bowl pregame show was turning down the sound for the conclusion of the Georgia Tech-Illinois basketball game on WLS-TV [Channel 7]. Gotta take a TO, Dickie, baby; gotta take a timeout now.

# Losing is bittersweet for the Bengals

Chicago Tribune

MIAMI—Rarely have so many happy men been so miserable, or so many sad men felt so good, as the Cincinnati Bengals after the Super Bowl.

"This has been the greatest experience of my football life," Boomer Esiason was saying after the game. "It's been a great five weeks. But it's no consolation."

When you play games for a living, there is never a consolation for losing. But the manner of this loss, if not a consolation, was a complication.

It was not that the losers did not know whether to laugh or cry—you lose, you cry, and there is nothing funny about losing the lead with 34 seconds to play—but that this strange, almost unwanted, pleasure kept intruding through their gloom.

"Man, that was one whale of a game," head coach Sam Wyche said after it ended, as enthusiastically as if he had been the winner. But then, because he was not, he added, "That's why this hurts so much."

For a change, then, a Super Bowl game served to illustrate one of life's great truths—that people are not merely complex (which is simple) but contradictory, that it is possible to hold at the same time two diametrically opposed emotions.

Had only they been blown out, as so many had predicted, the Bengals would have felt worse, but at least they would have known just how they felt.

Happy, in its sadness, is the football team that goes into the fourth quarter trailing by two touchdowns and a field goal. For then it is fighting for only one of two outcomes—a miracle or self-respect—and both the strategy and the attitude are the same for either ending: You play your game with as much heart as you can summon, and after 15 minutes of playing time you have either your miracle or, more likely, your honor.

But when the fourth quarter began Sunday, the Bengals were not behind at all. Improbably, they led by a touchdown thanks to an improbable 93-yard kickoff return by Stanford Jennings, who may have been feeling even more pumped up than his teammates, thanks to the arrival in the world just one day earlier of Kelsey Amanda Jennings, his first child.

Owing to the press of business, the father could not be present at the birth, in Cincinnati,

## On the Super Bowl

Jon Margolis

which is not likely to pose a lasting trauma for Kelsey Amanda. How many babies have helped inspire a Super Bowl touchdown?

That Bengal lead did not last long. It took San Francisco 49er quarterback Joe Montana just four plays to take his team 85 yards for a tying touchdown.

But a few minutes later, after 49er kicker Mike Cofer had missed a field-goal attempt, Bengal kicker Jim Breech didn't, hitting a 40-yarder to put his team up by three points with 3:20 to play.

And when a 49er holding penalty on the ensuing kickoff started San Francisco off on its own 8-yard line, it seemed as though all the Bengals needed to win the game was to avoid doing something wrong.

Which, later, was the whole problem. "Nobody did anything wrong," Wyche said, and he was right. Oh, there are always the what-might-have-beens. Esiason did not have a great day. Nor did star running back Ickey Woods.

Still, nobody blew it. No receiver dropped a pass in the end zone. No ballcarrier fumbled deep in his own territory. No defender got absent-minded and forgot to cover his man.

All that happened to the Bengals was that they were mastered by a couple of masterful football players. Montana, given ample protection by his line, lost neither the cool of his mind nor the accuracy of his throwing arm. And then, you can be just a touch inaccurate when you're throwing to Jerry Rice, who seems able to catch and hold any football thrown in his general direction.

Later, it will be easier for the Bengals to accept this kind of loss. A week or a month from now they will know that it was better to have played a good game and been beaten by those who played a great game than to have blundered or been outclassed.

But later comes later. Now has to be faced now, and for the Bengals now was a mass of contradictions.

"We did everything we could," said Wyche, proudly. "The pain is still there," he said, sadly. A strange kind of sadness mixed with a strange kind of pride.

Well, life is like that sometimes. Or, as Esiason said, "Football is a funny game."

## Federation says Eddie the Eagle is grounded—for now

Eddie "the Eagle" Edwards said Monday he would challenge a decision barring him from next month's world ski jump championships.

The British Ski Federation, saying that Edwards was jumping worse than ever, refused Sunday to enter him in the jumping competition at the World Nordic Ski Championships in Lahti, Finland.

John Leaning, the federation's Nordic director, said Edwards should spend more time training and less time doing commercial work for sponsors ranging from computers to cigars.

But Edwards, who is recovering from a broken collarbone suffered earlier this

month in an Austrian meet, said he would discuss the matter with the British federation when he returned from a trip to the United States.

"I do take my sport very seriously," Edwards said. "I do train and I do not want to be a failure. ... I have improved and can do much better this year."

Edwards gained the spotlight a year ago when he finished last in both the 70- and 90-meter ski jumps at the Winter Olympics in Calgary.

Early this season on the World Cup circuit, he finished higher than last for the first time, and Edwards said he was making progress when he injured himself during a

training session at Innsbruck.

Since then, Edwards has shown up regularly on British television and has used the injury in sponsor ads, including one for a computer firm that shows him with his left arm in a sling and wearing skis, and reads: "Even with only one hand free, there's no holding Eddie with an IPC."

That was just the type of time-consuming sideshow Edwards should avoid, Leaning said.

"He has been jumping worse during the past year than ever before," Leaning said. "And I think the trouble has been that Eddie has been spending so much time on commercial ventures."

## BRIEFS

■ Massimo Biasion, driving a Lancia Integrale, hung on to his lead in the Monte Carlo Rally Monday, a day marked by the deaths of two Swedish spectators. Alessandro Fiorio, also in a Lancia, ran off the road at the third kilometer (1.8-mile) point of the Chateau de Boulogne-Lyas time special, killing two and injuring three. On Sunday, Fiorio also ran off the road, injuring two spectators, but remained in the competition. One of the victims died on the spot and the other later in a hospital in Abuenas.

■ Rick Rhoades, head football at Southern Illinois, resigned Monday to accept the job of offensive line coordinator at Alabama. Rhoades posted a 4-7 record in his only season at Carbondale after leading Troy State (Ala.) to the NCAA Division II title in 1987. "It's an opportunity for me to do things in coaching I wanted to do with people I wanted to do them with for a long time," Rhoades said. "And Alabama is a place that's very special to me." SIU Athletic Director Jim Hart named defensive coordinator Jim Tompkins interim head coach and said more definite plans would be announced later in the week.

■ Illinois has received oral commitments from two Tribune All-State selections, first-team defensive lineman Dave Kent (6-foot-4-inches, 235 pounds) of Marmion Military Academy and second-team offensive lineman Eric Foggy (6-4, 275) of Chicago Vocational. Foggy, who chose the Illini over Indiana, follows in the tradition of CVS alumnus Dick Butkus, who went on to star at Illinois and with the Bears. ... Robert Vaughn, a 5-11, 185-pound running back from Yorkville, will attend Kansas.

■ Ruling that the NCAA and Southwest Conference are not governmental organizations, the Supreme Court let stand a lower court finding that investigation files on Southern Methodist and other SWC schools need not be turned over to news organizations.

■ Morley Drury, an All-America running back at Southern Cal in 1927 when he became the first Trojan to rush for 1,000 yards in a season, has died at the age of 85. Drury died Sunday. Called by Trojans coach Howard Jones "the greatest player I ever coached," Drury gained 1,163 yards in 1927.

■ With about 58,000 tickets already distributed, the Georgetown-LSU game Saturday in the Louisiana Superdome appears to be a cinch to break the 21-year-old single-game, regular-season attendance record for college basketball. The record single-game attendance, 52,693, was for the UCLA-Houston game at the Astrodome in 1968.

■ In response to Proposition 42, Ohio State men's basketball coach Gary Williams has donated six personal computers to the Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority for use by area high school students. The computers will be placed in the CMHA's recently opened Literacy Centers and will be programmed with sample college entrance examinations.

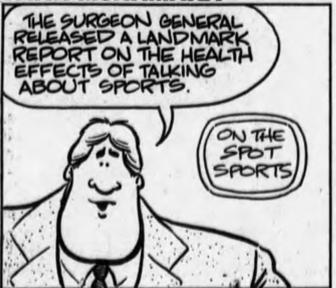
■ The Roman Catholic Church has intervened and stopped a planned marriage between tennis star Bjorn Borg and Italian singer Loredana Berté, a Borg aide said. The five-time Wimbledon singles' winner and the Italian rock star had planned to marry in Milan, Italy, on Feb. 26. Borg formerly was married in a Greek Orthodox ceremony to Romanian-born tennis player Mariana Simonescu.

■ Promoter Bob Arum wants a Jan. 31 news conference to announce a Sugar Ray Leonard-Tommy Hearns fight, but Leonard's attorney said negotiations have yet to be completed. "I know of no news conference," Mike Trainer said. "I believe if the bout does take place, there's a good shot it will be in June." Arum, who would be involved in the promotion because of his association with Hearns, has said the fight would be held June 12 if it is at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, or June 22 if it goes to Trump Plaza in Atlantic City, N.J.

■ George Case, who led the American League in stolen bases six times, died Monday in Trenton, N.J. He was 73. Case suffered from emphysema. He played from 1937 to 1945 for the Washington Senators, was traded to Cleveland in 1946, before finishing his career with the Senators. He led the AL in steals from 1939 to 1943 and again in 1946, with a career high of 61 in 1943. ... Greg Gagne, who was asking the Minnesota Twins for \$595,000 for 1989 in arbitration, signed a one-year contract for undisclosed terms. The Twins had offered Gagne, who hit .236 in 149 games last year, \$535,000. ... Toronto relief pitcher Tom Henke agreed to a one-year contract. Henke, 31, had filed for arbitration and was seeking \$1.05 million for 1989. The Jays had countered with an offer of \$900,000.

Compiled by Steve Nidetz from staff, wire reports

## TANK McNAMARA



## GIL THORP

