

SPORTSPEOPLE

Odds & **INS**



By Linda Kay & Mike Conklin

Michael Jordan's company gets faster and faster. He appears on the cover of the March issue of Gentleman's Quarterly dressed in a suit from his own closet. That's happened just four times in magazine history. Cary Grant, Marcello Mastroianni, Pat Riley and Joseph Kennedy were the other cover subjects who rejected new outfits to wear their own clothes. Michael's suit? It's a double-breasted glen-plaid wool that was custom-made by Bigsby & Kruthers. At a party thrown by the magazine Thursday night at the East Bank Club, the Bulls' superstar was his usual splendid, sartorial self.

Also attending was New York-based writer David Breskin, author of the insightful GQ article on Jordan. Breskin obviously likes our city's stars, considering he also wrote the famous Rolling Stone piece on Jim McMahon. Maybe it has something to do with the fact he's a New Trier grad.

Now, a word from the coach

How much clout does Jordan wield with the Bulls? Considerable, says Doug Collins, who told an audience at Ditka's: "Michael has the kind of relationship with [owner] Jerry Reinsdorf that Magic Johnson has with the ownership of the Lakers and Larry Bird has with the Celtics. That doesn't mean they do what he says, but they listen."

Collins is eager for the June draft. The Bulls have two first-round choices, one a possible lottery pick. On his shopping list: Louisville's Pervis Ellison, Duke's Danny Ferry, Syracuse's Sherman Douglas, Arizona's Sean Elliott, Oklahoma's Mookie Blaylock and Michigan's Glen Rice. "We need a big scorer, and we need a big body when Horace Grant gets into foul trouble," says Collins. He laughingly suggested William "the Refrigerator" Perry might be the man for the job. Collins watches the Bears play basketball at Deerfield's Multiplex. "The amazing thing," he said, "is all the big men are finesse players, and all the little guys want to beat someone up."

Fallout

Steve Garvey has been bounced from the board of directors of the University of San Diego, a prestigious Catholic college near Jack Murphy Stadium. The diocese and the school both issued terse statements confirming Garvey's "resignation." Neither said if the former Padre was asked to sever ties. The resignation did come just after Garvey met with Bishop Leo Maher last weekend in Palm Springs. By the way, Laura Rebeka Mendenhall filed a paternity suit and a breach of promise action against Garvey, her former fiance, in Atlanta Thursday.

Staying loose

The Harlem Globetrotters, always a breath of fresh air, open a two-game stand Friday at the Horizon. "We're like Christmas," said Trotter Clyde Austin, in his eighth season. "We bring sports to the level of kids by making it fun." The effervescent Austin remains undaunted even by rumors about alma mater North Carolina State, where he played for Norm Sloan. "They've got some problems, but not like people think. That stuff with a book was just a matter of someone with a grudge. I know Jim Valvano. He's got a lot of class."

Crowded field

De Paul, Loyola and Northern Illinois are on the bubble for at-large spots to the NCAA women's tournament. This year, there are more berths with the field expanded to 48 from 40. Question: Does NIU have an edge? The selection group includes alum Patty Viverito, boss of the Gateway Conference, and Suzie Jones, former Huskie official now at George Washington. Says Viverito: "We stay objective. Actually, we rely heavily on the computer, just like the men."

Blackout?

Lake Forest has to be one of the last communities in America without cable TV. It's finally coming this year, but now there's a chance U.S. Cable of Lake County, which won the contract, won't carry SportsVision and its broadcasts of the Bulls, Blackhawks and White Sox. "At this point, there is no deal of any kind," said SV vice president Jim Corneo. Furthermore, we're told there's a precedent of U.S. Cable not including SV in Chicagoland packages. With the North Shore burg populated with sportscasters such as ex-Bull John Mengelt and ex-Hawk Dale Tallon, plus assorted Bears, this could get thorny.

News, notes and nonsense

NBC's "Today Show" veers from its usual course Monday morning. Instead of naming an athlete of the week, it names an athletic family. Chris and Susan Mills of Northfield will be interviewed live from their home, with taped segments on children Phoebe (gymnast), Jesse (figure skater), Nathaniel and Hilary (speedskaters) and fledgling speedskaters Lucas and Whitaker. ... Unprecedented: For the first time, four Big 10 tennis teams are among the top 25 in the nation. Michigan is 6th, Indiana 11th, Minnesota 18th and Northwestern 25th. ... The GTE Academic All-America men's basketball team is out, and the real winner may be Mercer Island High School near Seattle. That's because Northwestern's Brian Schwabe and Duke's Quin Snyder, teammates at Mercer Island, have been named to the squad. ... The Society to Prevent Blindness holds its second annual national sports awards banquet Friday at the Hyatt Regency. Connie Payton is national spokesperson.

And finally: The manuscript for Lou Holtz's book on Notre Dame's championship season has been turned in, and we're told it's twice the length needed. Just think how long it could have been if the developments of the last few weeks were included.

Johnson coach tells of rigged race

By Howard Witt
Chicago Tribune

TORONTO—Champion Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson was not content merely to cheat by using banned anabolic steroids in international competition, his coach testified Thursday. He also ran in a race intentionally set up for him to win.

And Johnson, once he discovered the wonders of steroid use, was not too eager to let his Canadian teammates in on the action. His coach said he "felt that the circle of people with this sort of knowledge was getting too large, and he didn't like it."

Those were two of the revelations provided by the coach, Charles Francis, in the third day of his testimony before the Canadian commission probing illegal drug use in amateur sport.

By the time Francis disclosed that Johnson had trained with illegal steroids to prepare for the 1987 World Track Championships in Rome—where Johnson achieved a world record in the 100-meter dash—it was almost an anticlimax.

On Wednesday, Francis testified that Johnson, 27, had been using banned

muscle-enhancing substances since 1981. When the inquiry resumes on Monday, Francis is expected to tell what he knows about Johnson's drug use at the 1988 Summer Olympics.

Johnson was stripped of his gold medal in the 100 meters when evidence of a banned steroid, stanozolol, was discovered in his post-race urine test. Johnson has denied ever "knowingly" taking any banned substances.

Francis testified Thursday that he and Johnson's agent, Larry Heidebrecht, arranged for Johnson to compete in a fixed race in Japan in May, 1988, several months after Johnson pulled a hamstring in his leg.

"There was a race available in Japan where we were permitted to control the field," Francis said. He added that Heidebrecht "ran the names past me... I wanted to be sure the field would be as soft as we could reasonably get away with."

As it turned out, Johnson re-injured his leg in that race and did not finish. The new injury provoked a brief split between Johnson and Francis as the two disagreed over the proper course of treatment leading up to the Olympics.

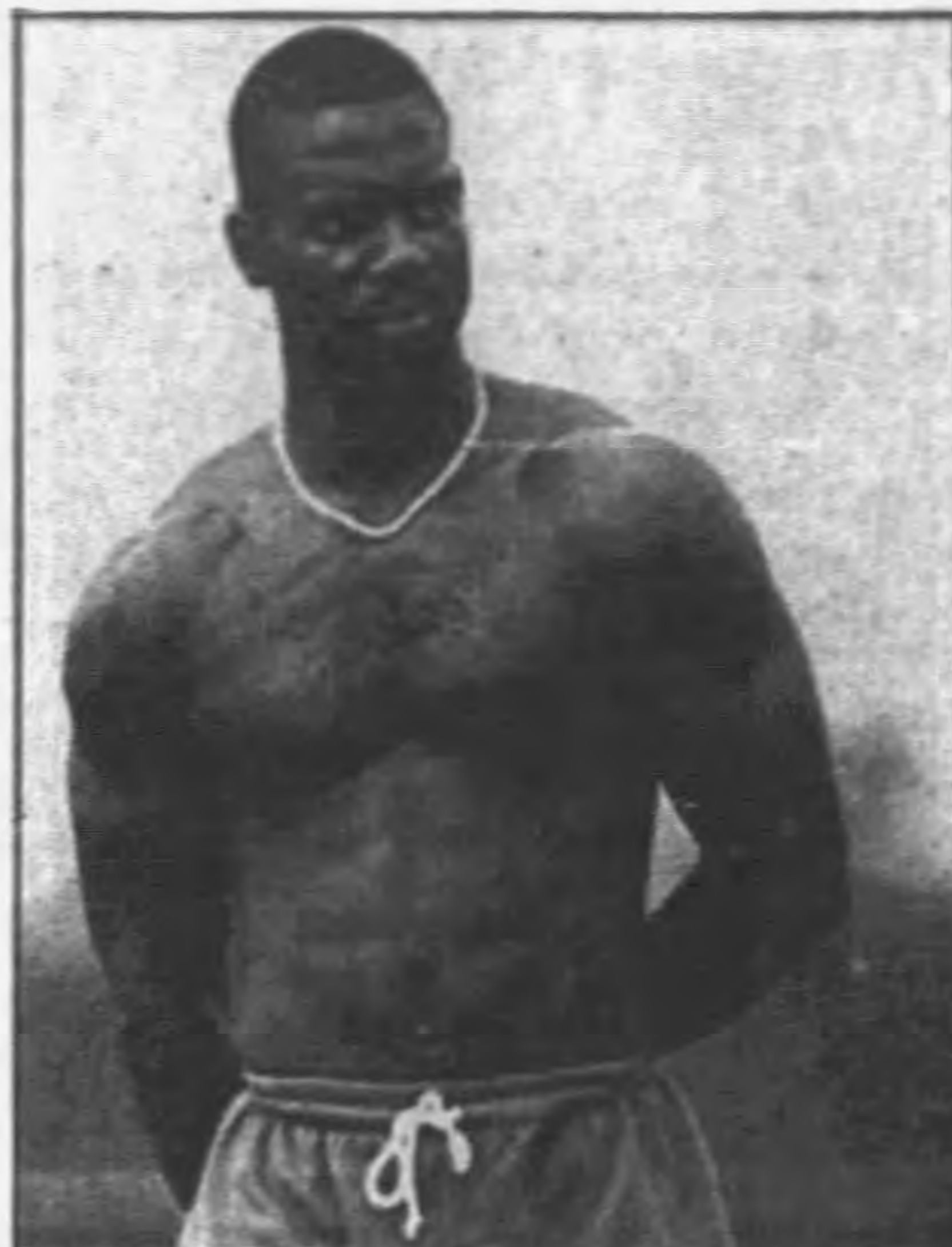
Francis, who admitted that he personally injected Johnson with steroids during regular training sessions, testified that he thought the new injury should have been treated by massage therapy.

But Johnson went instead to the Caribbean island of St. Kitt's to be treated by the Canadian team physician, Dr. George Mario "Jamie" Astaphan. That's where Johnson received a series of steroid injections, Francis said.

Asked about the appropriateness of that treatment by the judge heading the inquiry, Francis replied dryly: "Obviously, that was one of the reasons they were invented, to speed up the healing process."

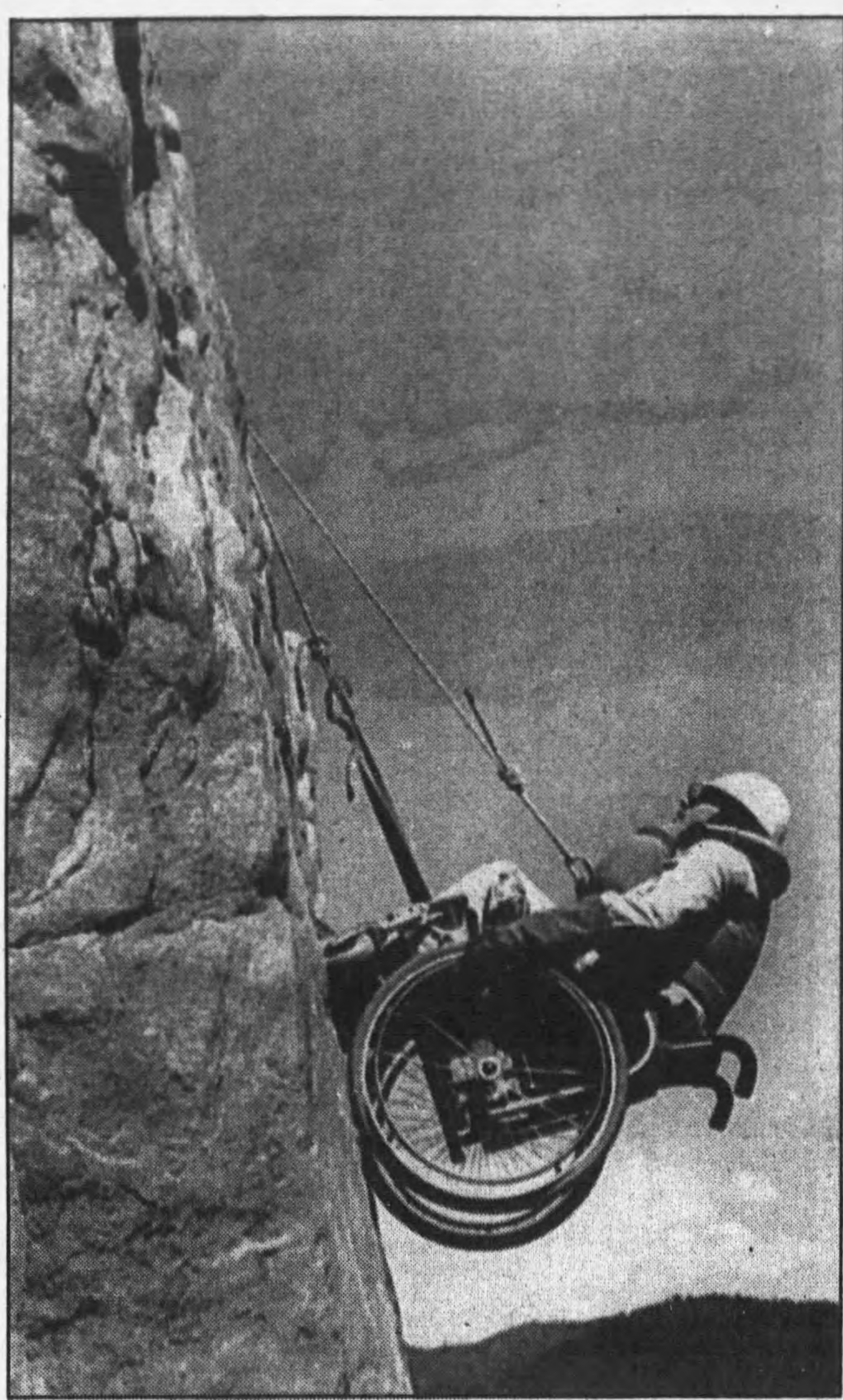
On Wednesday, Francis had explained how he had nearly disposed of any guilt over the ethics of giving his athletes steroids when he concluded that all of the world's top competitors were using them.

Thursday, Francis spent much of his testimony relating how he and Astaphan then crafted a meticulous training system that incorporated careful doses of steroids at specified intervals—a system they thought much more advanced than whatever their international com-



Ben Johnson

petitors were using. "These blocks here represent steroids," Francis said, while pointing to an elaborate flow chart picturing the training regimen. The drugs were administered, he said, "so that our athletes would be farther away from steroid use during any given competitive period than any of their other competitors—less likely to test positive."



Reuters photo

Australian Richard Alexander negotiates his wheelchair down a cliff near Canberra in an Outward Bound course designed to expand the abilities and aspirations of people who are physically disabled.

They're simply not in the same league

Now that Bill White has become the president of the National League, there is the possibility of a sidelight to the baseball races this year.

Both White and Bobby Brown, the American League president, are avid tennis players, and they could play a series of matches in major-league cities as the season progresses.

"We've played several times," White said. "I can't get more than three or four games off him. He's tough. He's got a funny little backhand that doesn't look like much but that has a lot of power."

"Once we had a foursome with [outgoing commissioner] Peter Ueberroth and Ed Duro, and we switched around, but Bobby

never lost." Duro is baseball's chief operating officer.

Brown modestly did not contradict White's recollection of their matches. "I think the few times we played I might have edged him out," said the AL chief, who at 64 is nine years older than White. "But I'm no great player."

Brown did not jump on the idea of a series of matches. "Probably not," he said, then added, laughing, "unless he would agree that if I won, he would order his team to lay down in the All-Star Game."

The AL, still starving for All-Star victories, would obviously do anything to win.

New York Times News Service

Fang mail dims Bengal's desire to keep playing

Cincinnati city councilman/linebacker Reggie Williams is in the process of deciding whether he will play in his 14th season next fall.

"I have to make a prudent business decision," Williams said. "But it's hard not to let the emotional factor override everything. It's not the best thing to open up your mail and have someone from Cleveland telling you how glad they are that you just lost the biggest game in your life [Super Bowl XXIII]."

"If I could improve the physical product [get in better shape], that would make it easier to reach a decision."

Uecker's sense of humor survives heart attack intact

Bob Uecker says that depending on what doctors say about the stress test he took Thursday—and he's positive they will be positive—he will be back at his post this weekend, doing broadcasts of Milwaukee Brewers exhibition games.

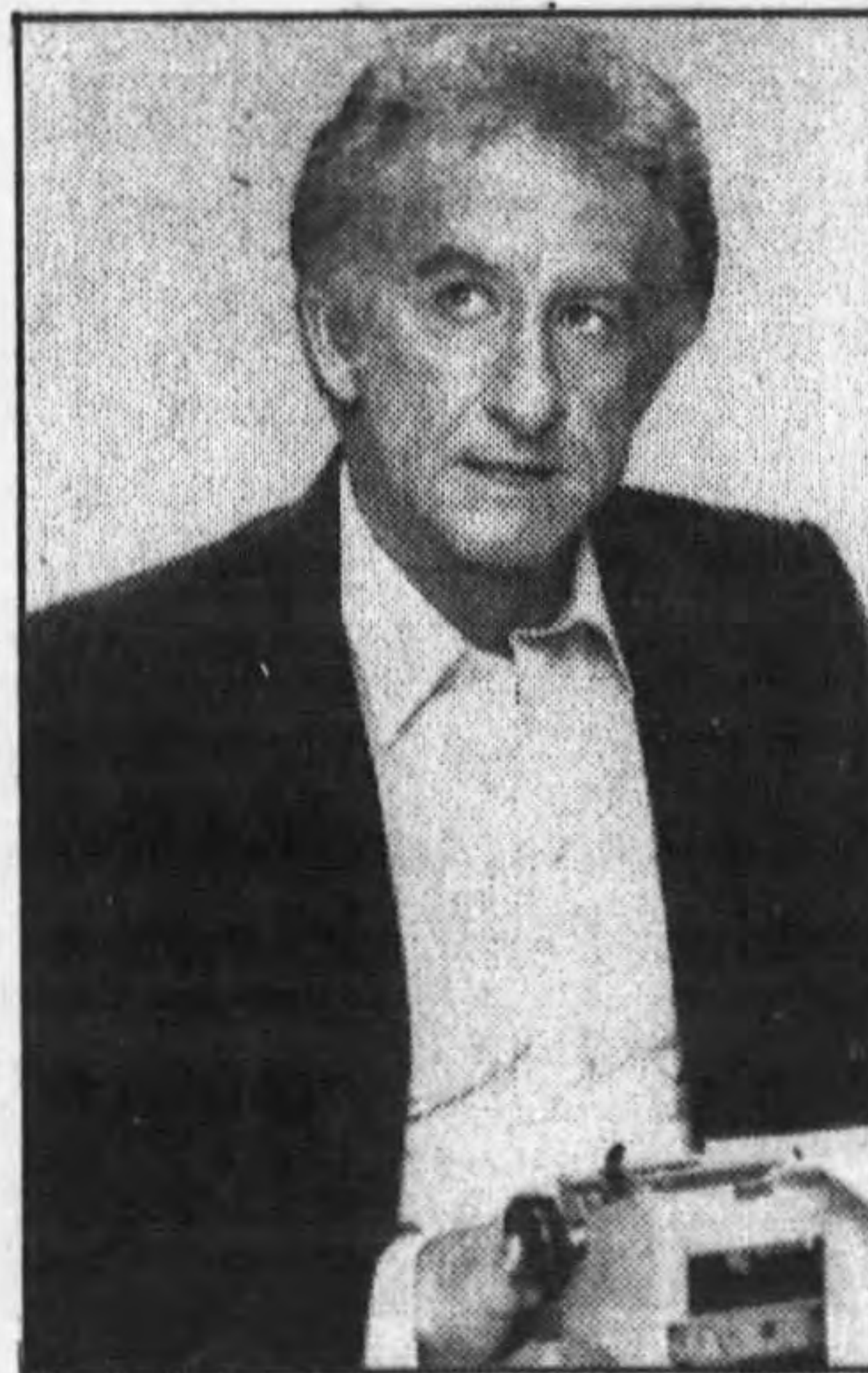
Uecker, who suffered a heart attack Feb. 14, has been recuperating for the last 10 days at his southern California home. His big activity is walking five miles a day.

"Now I'm just an average heart patient," Uecker explains. "So I go walking in shopping malls. You go up to a shop in a mall. They say, 'Can I help you? You say, 'No, I'm just a heart patient.'"

He is uncertain whether his diet figured in the heart attack: "I said, 'I've been eating a lot of chicken, and the doctor says, 'Now try it without the feathers.'"

Got the picture? This is not a man feeling sorry for himself. "I feel good," Uecker said. "I'm just trying not to make a big deal out of this. I'm not going to make a Sorrowful Jones thing out of it. There's a hell of a lot of people a lot worse off than I am."

Leading up to the heart attack were two days of what Uecker describes as "feeling crummy."



Bob Uecker

"It was one of those things where you probably know what's going on, but you just don't want to admit it."

On the Tuesday in question, Uecker awoke at 3 a.m., feeling ill. He took a short walk outside, felt better and went back to sleep. When he awoke again, he felt the telltale signs of numbness in his arm and tightness in his chest.

He initially decided to have a friend drive him to the hospital instead of calling for emergency medical help. "I wanted to keep it sort of quiet in the neighborhood," he says.

He was finally persuaded to get direct assistance. The paramedics arrived.

"One of the guys says: 'Hey, I know you. You're the beer guy.' The other guy says, 'Yeah, it's him.' They told me how much they like the commercials and Belvedere [Mr. Belvedere, his TV show], and then we went to the hospital."

Uecker is 54. The doctors found him to be in generally fine physical shape. There were no major blockages of arteries, no obvious, glaring signs that this heart attack should have occurred. But maybe now, the pace of the work, the lifestyle will change a bit. Maybe in the parlance of his game, he will go away from the fastball a little bit more and try the changeup.

In the week leading up to the heart attack, he was taping an episode of "Mr. Belvedere," filming a movie, co-hosting "Friday Night Videos" and appearing on "The Tonight Show."

"I'm going to be saying no to a lot of things now," he said. "I'm going to try to think about turning off a little bit. I'm going to watch myself a little bit better. I'm not saying I'm going to change my whole life, because I don't know if I can. But I am going to try to slow down a little."

Milwaukee Journal

BRIEFS

■ The Buffalo Bills have signed free-agent tackle Cesar Rentie, who was with the Bears last season. He reportedly got a three-year deal worth \$700,000. He's the first Bear to switch teams under the National Football League's new free agency policy.

■ The new owner of the Dallas Cowboys says that if UCLA quarterback Troy Aikman asks for too much money, he will make Miami (Fla.) quarterback Steve Walsh the No. 1 pick in the draft. "If Aikman gets his price right—if he knows what an opportunity is—he'll be a Cowboy," Jerry Jones said. "He can be the Roger Staubach of the 1990s. He's got to do some cutting on his price. We're not going to pay that kid a lot of money. If not, we'll go with Walsh." Walsh is a fifth-year senior at Miami and could make himself eligible for the draft. Cowboys coach Jimmy Johnson came from Miami. ... Johnson has announced staff. David Shula will serve as assistant head coach and offensive coordinator. Hubbard Alexander will be the receivers' coach, Tony Wise is the offensive line coach, Joe Brodsky will coach running backs and Dave Wannstedt will be defensive coordinator and linebackers coach. Johnson kept Dick Nolan to coach the defensive backs, Butch Davis as defensive line coach, Dave Campo as defensive assistant and Alan Lowry as special teams coach. Neill Armstrong will be in charge of research and development for the team.

■ A friend of Washington State's Timm Rosenbach says the quarterback is considering making himself eligible for the supplemental draft in May. Tight end Doug Wells said Rosenbach's decision hinges on whether coach Dennis Erickson accepts the Miami coaching job. Erickson said he hasn't been offered the job and hasn't decided whether he would accept it.

■ The San Francisco 49ers will play the Los Angeles Rams Aug. 6 in Tokyo.

■ Jury selection is scheduled to resume Monday in the federal trial of sports agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom.

■ San Antonio Spurs coach Larry Brown, whose team is 13-42, says he wouldn't be surprised if club officials are considering ousting him at the end of the season. The San Antonio Light reported that Spurs owner B.J. "Red" McCombs and Los Angeles Clippers owner Donald Sterling have spoken about Brown's possible availability at the end of the season. Sterling refused comment and McCombs, although expressing disappointment over Brown's first season as Spurs coach, noted that Brown had a five-year, \$3.5 million contract. "I don't see any changes," he said. But Brown said his job might be on the line. "People [around the league] already have asked about it and said the owners got together about me going to L.A. I just laughed. I didn't know those things were done without the coach's consent," Brown said.

■ A Houston woman who says her child was fathered by Mark Aguirre is embroiled in a battle to get him to provide financial support. "I don't want to sound like I'm trying to take his money, but I do want him to take care of his daughter," Tina Mason said. Lesslee Ann Mason was born Feb. 25, 1988, in Houston. In court documents signed by Aguirre, the Detroit Piston acknowledged he is the father. Mason's lawyer, Hal Hudson, is trying to find out how much Aguirre is worth so a payment amount can be determined.

■ The World Indoor Track Championships begin Friday in Budapest, Hungary. The first-day finals will be the men's 60-meter hurdles and 200-meter dash and the women's 60-meter dash.

■ Brad Gilbert reached the championship of the WCT Finals with a 6-3, 6-7, 6-3, 6-3 victory over Mikael Pernfors in Dallas. ... Hana Mandlikova beat Eva Pfaff 6-4, 3-6, 6-2 and Terry Phelps beat Dinky Van Rensburg 7-5, 5-7, 6-3 in the U.S. Women's Hardcourt Championships in San Antonio.

■ Rudolf Nierlich of Austria won the World Cup men's giant slalom in Furano, Japan. His time was 2:15.98.

■ Rusty Wallace was the top qualifier for the Goodwrench 500 NASCAR race with a record lap of 148.793 miles an hour at the North Carolina Motor Speedway in Rockingham, N.C.

Compiled by Bob Fischer and Rich Lorenz from staff, wire reports

TANK McNAMARA



GIL THORP

