Ex-Iowa Star Mitchell Admits to NCAA Violations During Testimony

By Chris Mortensen Staff Writer

CHICAGO — As indicted sports agent Norby Walters nodded his head, former University of Iowa defensive back Devon Mitchell testified Thursday that he occasionally borrowed a car from a school booster in his sophomore and junior years, a violation of NCAA rules.

Mitchell also implicated former teammate Ronnie Harmon as having a similar arrangement with another booster. Harmon, who testified earlier this week, may be asked to return to the witness stand, defense lawyers said.

Mitchell's testimony came on the fourth day of the federal trial here in which Walters and former business associate Lloyo Bloom have been charged with racketee ing, mail fraud, wire fraud and extortion based primarily on their dealings with college athletes.

Mitchell, now a defensive back for the Detroit Lions, testified that he felt he did nothing wrong when he borrowed the car, or when he accepted \$2,000 in cash and monthly payments from Walters prior to his senior season at Iowa in 1985.

"I didn't feel like I was cheating," Mitchell said. "In my opinion, I was just

borrowing against my future earnings [when he took money from Walters]."

During a court recess, Walters broke his week-long public silence, saying, "This kid, Mitchell, he's telling the truth. He's a nice kid. An honest kid."

Mitchell verified that he borrowed a car from Iowa booster Mark Eggleston for two

"I met him at a bar," testified Mitchell. "Are you saying it's wrong to borrow a car to go to a store?"

Big Ten Conference attorney Byron Gregory, told of Mitchell's testimony, said the player would have been in violation of NCAA and conference rules by accepting a car from a booster for personal use.

Defense attorney Dan Webb tried to question Mitchell about Harmon's relationship with another booster named "Mr. Stevens." Webb was cut off during repeated objections by Assistant U.S. Attorney Howard Pearl and eventually discontinued his questions, but not before Mitchell nodded his head when asked if Harmon also borrowed a car from "Mr. Stevens."

Also testifying Thursday was former Purdue defensive back Rod Woodson, now with the Pittsburgh Steelers, who said he received a \$4,000 bonus to sign a postdated contract with Walters several months be-

fore his senior season in 1986.

The defense counsel attacked Woodson's credibility. Woodson, who was a criminal justice major, has been arrested three times in the past three years on theft charges. Woodson also admitted he has failed to repay money Walters loaned him, approximately \$21,000, though he signed a \$1.9 million contract with the Steelers in

Robert Perryman, a running back for the New England Patriots, ended the day on the witness stand. He testified that he received \$2,500 from Walters and Bloom prior to his senior season at the University of Michigan in 1987.

Roberts Thaws Big Chill With 66 at Bay Hill

By Tom McCollister Staff Writer

ORLANDO, Fla. - Ski caps, mittens, turtle-necks and long johns were the uniform of the day Thursday at the Bay Hill Club, and coffee outsold beer 10 to one.

The first round of the Nestle Invitational was an Iditarod on spikes as the field of 114 hurried over the 7,103-yard course in no danger of being penalized for slow play.

A north wind, gusting to 22 mph, sent the wind-chill factor dipping to 25 degrees at midday, about the time a shivering Loren Roberts turned in the day's best round, a 5under-par 66. That was one better than Nick Price and two up on Tom Kite, Tom Purtzer and Ted Schulz.

"Join the Tour and follow the sun," quipped Bob Murphy, who came in at 77, unwrapped a towel from around his neck and peeled off a windbreaker, two sweaters and a long-sleeve, turtle-neck shirt.

As Ed McMahon might ask Johnny Carson, "'How co-o-o-old was it?"

It was so cold that before 9 a.m. the pro shop sold out all of its 300 ski caps, which in balmier times were reduced to \$5.95, for

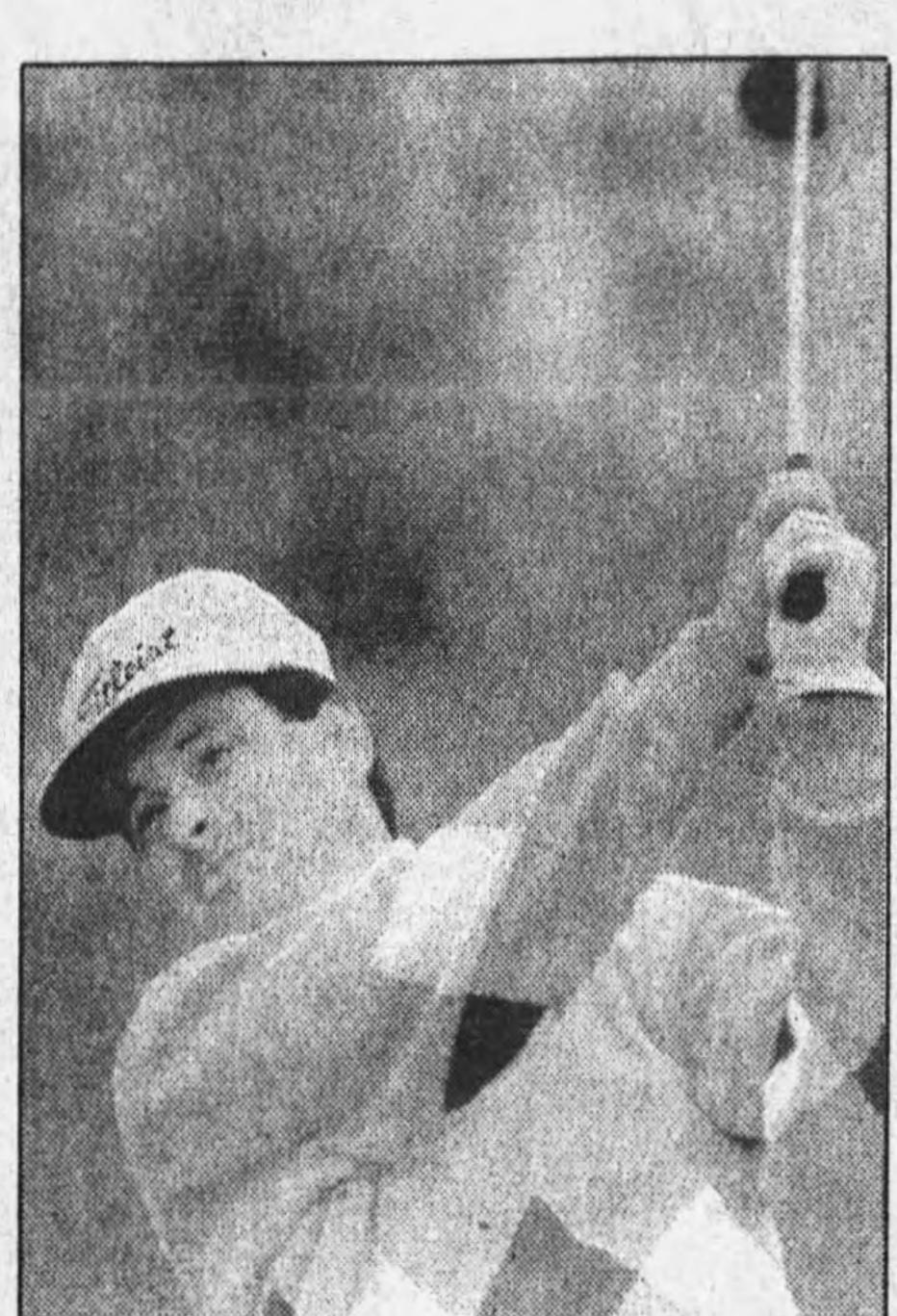
It was so cold that Jerry Pate looked for his golf glove several minutes on the sixth tee before realizing he had it on.

It was so cold that before teeing off Murphy jokingly tried to persuade Bobby Wadkins to play two balls and turn in a score for him.

It was so cold that not until 15 minutes after his round did Raymond Floyd's fingers thaw enough for him to untie his

It was so cold that Fuzzy Zoeller, who always whistles while he works, couldn't.

It was so cold that only 14 players broke



Loren Roberts bundles up while shooting 5-under 66 in Bay Hill golf.

par of 71 and seven couldn't break 80, including tournament host Arnold Palmer.

As cold as it was, however, balmy was the word used by 1980 champion Dave Eichelberger in comparison to the final round here that year, when no player broke par

and 35 of them shot 80 or higher. 'It was much worse that year," said Eichelberger, who shot 78 Thursday: "I've never been that cold and miserable on a golf course. It was almost impossible to

If Roberts is an unfamiliar name to top the leaderboard, it's because he's never finished higher than third in his seven years and four times has lost his PGA Tour card. He is, however, six-for-six in cuts made this year and tied for 10th in the AT&T at Pebble Beach.

"I've had lower scores but no better rounds than this one," said Roberts, who had five birdies and a bogey.

□ Scores, Page 10F

Tommy Lasorda Managing to Live Out Dreams

VERO BEACH, Fla. — It was Tommy Lasorda Time in the Dodger manager's office. He was dialing a number that was continually busy. He was sorting out a stack of mail on his desk. Human traffic padded past his open door, and he spotted a small boy in a red exercise suit.

"T-Bone," he called out, "come see

your Uncle Tommy." The little boy came bounding in the room and jumped in his lap. He threw his head back and gurgled, "I love my Uncle Tommy. Say it." T-Bone said it, with verve.

"Tell the man your name," Lasorda "John T-Bone Shelby the Third," he

Joe Ferguson, the coach, sat down. "Joe Ferguson, I love yuh. I love yuh like

my own son." Jay Johnstone walked in and sat, taking a day away from his new broadcasting job with the Yankees to visit his old team. "And there's another one I love. Jay John-

stone, I love the guy." Orel Hershiser walked in, pantless but not modeling his new television BVDs. "Come in, Bulldog," Lasorda said, dialing the number again and cursing the endless

ringing. The Mets win a World Series, and eight guys "write" books. You may have noticed that television hasn't been saturated with Hershiser commercials since the pitcher's captivating season. "It takes a long time to do those things and get them on the air. I'm doing three besides BVDs, and I have one to do for Johnson & Johnson baby shampoo with my son.

"He's four, and he doesn't like to get his head washed. We've been practicing. I'm trying to keep him from crying, for that wouldn't be very good. I'm going to tell him that this is for his college education."

Ron Perranoski, the pitching coach, came in and reported on Fernando Valenzuela and his remodeled arm. He was hammered the other day. His earned-run aver-



age looks like an airliner's altitude. "Best thing is, he had no pain, so we just tell him to keep throwing to get his strength back."

A moment of quiet fell over the room. "Do you ever give any thought to what your life may be after managing?" was the

"I never think about not managing," Lasorda said. "My future is managing. don't understand these guys who talk about burn-out, and getting tired of doing something that ought to be fun. I'll never see the time I'll get burned out doing this. I love it!

(The statement was typical Lasorda-ese of the locker room, and the reader may feel free to make his own spicy injections for authenticity.)

"I just keep telling myself I'm the luckiest man in the world. The only thing bad about this job is that some day it has to end. That season last year will always be at the top in my memory. Who'd ever have thought that Valenzuela would win only five games and we'd still win a pennant?"

"I said to Peter O'Malley in September, 'It looks like we're going to win this thing, and if we do we can save people looking for a miracle a lot of money. They won't have to fly all the way to Lourdes, all they'll have to do to go to Dodger Stadium."

He laughed heartily. It wasn't new, but he liked the sound of it again.

"You know what I keep expecting to happen one day? I expect my mother to

If you just dropped a bundle

on a new car, this could

run wour whole day.

Passenger Room, S.A.E.

138

2.0

2.0

2.0

2.0

Note: Data from Manufacturers' 1989 publications and Society of Automotive Engineers (S.A.E.) information as of January 15,1989.

shake me and wake me up and say, 'Get up, Tommy, it's time to go to school.' I'm afraid it's a dream, like I was dreaming when I was a kid.

"I dreamed I was pitching in Yankee Stadium. Joe DiMaggio was playing center field behind me, Babe Ruth was in right and Lou Gehrig at first. The two paisanos, Crossetti and Lazzeri, were in the middle, and Red Rolfe at third base and King Kong Keller was in left field. Me pitching with that great lineup behind me, and my mother woke me up and said, 'Tommy, it's time to go to school."

Here was the son of a truck driver invited to motivate the cadets at Air Force Academy, and at West Point. "Me, the kid who washed every window in the YMCA for a \$3 membership, standing where Gen. Douglas MacArthur had stood at West

But that was only a warmup. There was the time he was in Washington for some function and he had a call from Larry Speakes, then White House press secretary. He asked him to join him to open a press conference at the White House. Then the phone rang. Donald Regan wanted to meet him. Then the President heard he was on the grounds, and he spent 30 minutes swapping stories with Ronald Reagan. The vice president glimpsed him walking down a hallway and hailed him in. Twenty more minutes with George Bush.

"Twenty minutes with the chief of staff, 30 minutes with the President, 20 minutes with George Bush, all this for this guy from Norristown, Pa. Who could be luckier? Who could get burned out doing this? When I think how far it has been from Norristown, Pa., to this, I say to myself what a lucky guy you are, Tommy

He turned to the telephone and dialed the number again. Nobody answered.

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\$1,276

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67.4

66.5

66.5

66.5

66.7

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