Comics

Weather



Section



The game is the only thing

onnie Harmon and Devon Mitchell offered jarring testimony this week in the Norby Walters-Lloyd Bloom trial. They had shabby grade-point averages. They loaded up on lightweight courses. They got 'A's

for playing football, considered an "extracurricular activity" by their alma mater, the University of Iowa.

Harmon said he received a 'B' in a course he never attended. "My priority was playing football," Mitchell said.

Shocking. Stunning. Yawn. Some pundits are bellowing over the hypocrisy in our nation's universities. Thousands of kids who lack the desire or brain matter to attain an education float on a free ride through college for the purpose of making touchdowns or jump shots.

College athletics, we're told, is fraud-ridden. Some coaches, athletic directors and even school presidents are phonies.

Perhaps. But major-college sports is a multimillion-dollar industry. When something is as potentially lucrative as college sports, you're going to get sleazoids. You'll get corruption. You'll get illegal activities.

Hey, that's life. The fact is almost all of us love big-time college sports in their current forms. They have become monstrous forces in American show business. Bowl games are multimillion-dollar bonanzas. The NCAA basketball tourney makes millions for member schools. Television revenues keep soaring.

None of these things would have happened had we, the fans, not given our wholehearted stamp of approval.

University athletic departments didn't just wake up one morning and figure out how to grab more money than beyond their wildest dreams. Television executives didn't just jump up and discover viewers worship college football and basketball.

The media gets ripped on one side for being too negative when it dares report what is disclosed at events like the Bloom-Walters trial. And it gets savaged by others who claim it feeds the beast by giving so much publicity to the young athletic stars of our universities. There may be a little truth in both cases.

But fans have made college athletics the cesspool it is, and things will never change. We love it too much. We love the caliber of competition, which can be provided only if all corners of the nation — and the world — are scoured to find the needed talent.

That means a large number of young people who aren't particularly interested in economics, sociology or literature have to be purchased — recruited, that is to fill stadiums and appeal to television audiences.

But is that really important to us, the fans? Of course not.

Give us the running back who gains 1,000 yards or the power forward who can average 20 points. If they go to class, fine. If they graduate, swell. If they've been in school four years and still can't read or write proficiently, it's a shame. But it's nothing we feel compelled to know.

When have fans sat in a break room at work and discussed who should be on an academic allconference team? Never.

It would be nice if Harmon and Mitchell had loved school with a passion, and became men of learning in the time outside their 40 or 50 hours a week devoted to football. But they didn't. Who realistically expected they would? Besides, it didn't matter then,

nor does it now. You have to laugh when Harmon is portrayed as a hustler for

taking money from an agent while he was a junior in college. Like so many young people before him and after, Harmon

was used by the college athletics system. He merely did some using of his own. Fair is fair, and it doesn't matter anyway. We need more and more

games, league tourneys to pick champions after three-month regular-seasons, games that start at 9 p.m. or later to accommodate television.

These are strange times, and our top priority is being entertained. The ends, apparently, justify the means.

'Clones feel at home, drop OSU

By Al Hall Gazette sportswriter

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Was this really a road game for Iowa State?

The Cyclones looked right at home in Kemper Arena Friday, dispatching Oklahoma State, 88-69, in the opening round of the Phillips 66 Big 8 Tournament.

With four players scoring 20 or more points, Friday's win was easier than even ISU optimists might have predicted.

With an estimated 5,000 enthusiastic Cyclone fans in the crowd of 15,552, and the ISU pep band welcoming Coach Johnny Orr onto the floor with the theme song from the Tonight show, Iowa State must have felt like it never left Ames.

The Cyclones certainly played as if it was a home game.

points and punctuated the victory with a reverse dunk with six seconds left. He also had a career-high 14 rebounds.

Sam Mack led the Cyclones with 22

Point guard Terry Woods added a careerhigh 20 points, as did all-Big 8 center Victor Alexander and forward Mark Baugh.

"This is the kind of effort we've had for the last month," Orr said after his team earned a date with regular-season champion Oklahoma by winning for the sixth time in seven games. "We've turned into a good

Oklahoma struggled to beat Colorado, 95-87, in two overtimes in Friday's second game. The Cyclones (17-10) meet 27-4 Oklahoma today at 1:10 p.m. (KCRG TV-Channel 9).

Iowa State's victory virtually assured it

of an NCAA tournament berth. The Cyclones tied Oklahoma State for fourth in the Big 8. The Cowboys, however, must wait and see what happens when the pairings are announced on Sunday.

"We have to leave that up to the committee," Oklahoma State Coach Leonard Hamilton said. "When you don't really know the exact criteria that they're going to use, it's hard for me to speculate."

What Hamilton was sure of was how well Iowa State executed against his team.

"I thought we got beat by a team that played extremely well," Hamilton said. "They did a much better job of executing in the halfcourt game. They were very patient."

A 10-0 spurt midway through the first half had Oklahoma State looking good.

Corey Williams' breakaway gave the Cowboys a 25- 15 lead with 9:52 left in the first

But Iowa State responded with its own 15-0 spurt. Baugh had eight points during the run and Woods capped it with a threepointer as the Cyclones pulled into a 30-25 lead with 6:05 left. ISU led, 43-36, at the

Oklahoma State kept it close, though, and with 15½ minutes left, it was a 50point deadlock.

But Iowa State took over at this point, sprinting away with a 15-4 run and never

looking back. "I thought their triangle and two (de-

fense) gave us some problems," Hamilton said. "It caused us to stand around. They

Please turn to 2B: ISU



Gazette photo by John McIvor

Durant's Kristie Langbehn is fouled by Cedar Rapids Regis' Leslie Pink in the final four minutes of their girls' state five-player semifinal Friday in Des Moines. Regis lost its first game of the season, 53-46, and was eliminated from the tourney.

Durant stops Regis in semis

By Bob Hilton Gazette sportswriter

DES MOINES — On an unseasonably summery Friday afternoon in downtown Des Moines, six girls from the country staged a sensational heist celebrated by thousands.

The Wildcats of Durant, representing by far the smallest school in the field, literally swiped a 53-46 decision from previously-perfect Cedar Rapids Regis in the semifinal round of the Iowa girls' 5-on-5 basketball

tournament at Veterans Auditorium.

Muscatine fans who had joined their Durant neighbors in cheering on the Wildcats were then joined by their Durant neighbors in rooting the unbeaten Muskies to a 77-62 triumph over Dubuque Senior in Friday's second 5-on-5 semifinal.

So at 6:30 tonight, 17thranked Eastern Iowa Hawkeye Conference runner-up Durant (22-2) and top-ranked Muscatine (24-0) will cap their first state

tourney appearances in a showdown for the 5-on-5 champion-

Second-ranked Regis (24-1) and Dubuque Senior (16-8) meet for third place at noon.

Durant is "about 15 minutes from Muscatine, if you drive slow," laconically noted cherubic Durant Coach John F. Ibeling, "so the girls know each other and have played with and against each other some."

Its all-senior lineup produced • Please turn to 2B: Regis

Season a Heat for Knight, IU

By Jim Ecker Gazette sportswriter

IOWA CITY - Forget the scowl. Forget the intimidation. Forget the temper tantrums.

Indiana Coach Bob Knight is a happy guy today as he brings his Hoosiers — the Big Ten champion Hoosiers — into Carver-Hawkeye Arena to face Iowa.

Tipoff is scheduled for 12:05 p.m. (KGAN-Channel 2).

This was supposed to be a down year for Indiana, at least by normal standards at IU. And after a 3-4 start in non-conference play, some people dismissed the Hoosiers as Big Ten contenders.

Big mistake. Never count Bob Knight and his team out of anything.

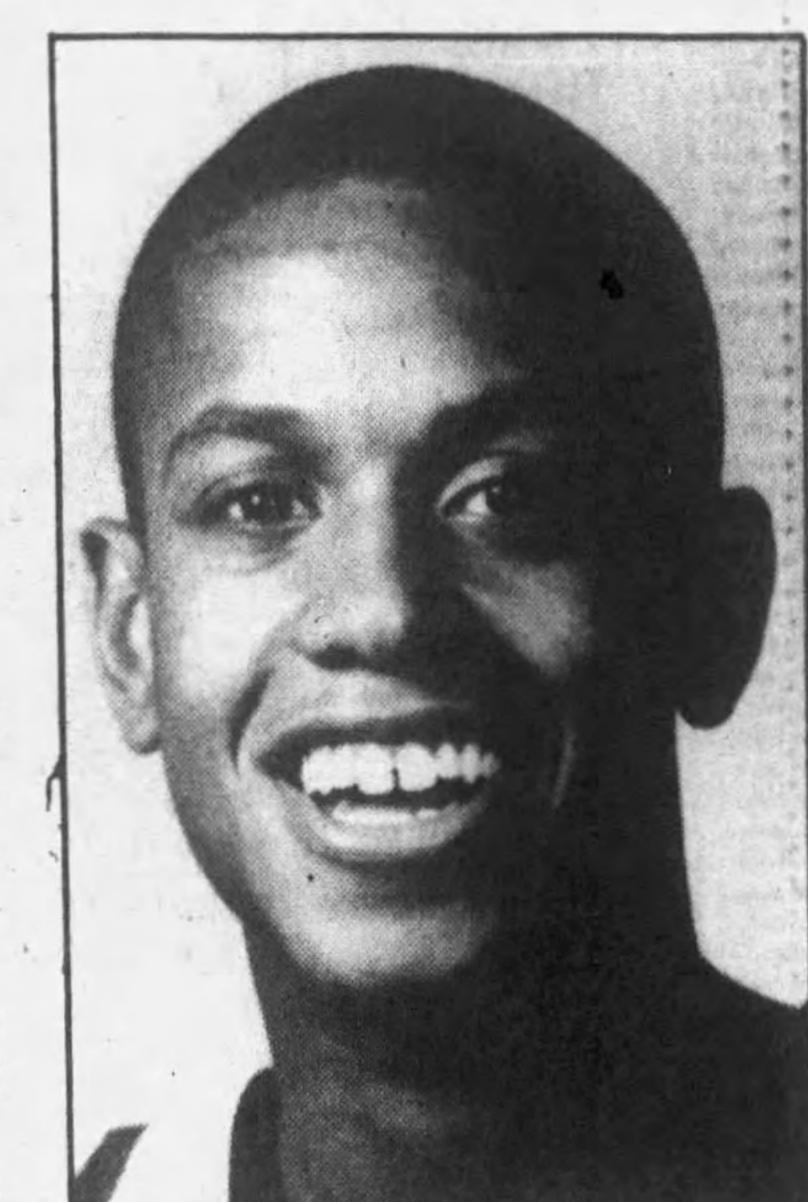
Knight is very happy with his

"They came back to just give us all - everyone associated with Indiana basketball — one of the greatest treats I've ever seen a group of people give anyone," he

That's quite a statement from a man who has won three NCAA championships and nine Big Ten titles during his 18 years at Indiana.

The sixth-ranked Hoosiers are 25-6 overall and 15-2 in the Big Ten after beating Wisconsin Thursday night to wrap up the title. And lest anyone think they'll take it easy today, forget it. Knight teams never take it easy.

Besides, the Hoosiers are shooting for a No. 1 seed in the Midwest region of the NCAA tournament and a first-round as-



B.J. Armstrong Will probably start

signment to the Hoosier Dome in: Indianapolis. Iowa Coach Tom Davis doubts

the Hoosiers will let down today. "They're just such a consistent ballclub," he said. "I don't thinkyou'll see them let up at all. I. think they're going to come out and play their normal game.

"They have all year, so I don't. see any reason for them to change."

Iowa needs a victory to avoidtaking a four-game losing streak. into the NCAA tournament. The Hawkeyes have been pummeled by Illinois, 118-94, and Michigan, 119-96, in their last games.

• Please turn to 3B: Hawks

Silver Bullets surge past Wichita Falls

By Mike Koolbeck Gazette sportswriter

The Cedar Rapids Silver Bullets do not have the quality depth they had just one week ago, but they also don't have that sinking feeling that comes with 10 losses in 11 games.

The Silver Bullets notched their fourth straight CBA win Friday night, spurting past the Wichita Falls Texans, 110-102, before 3,312 fans at the Five Seasons Center.

Donald Royal jammed home 28 points, eight of which came during a 15-7 Cedar Rapids spurt which pushed the Silver Bullets' lead to 104-95 with 2:51 to play.

The closest Wichita Falls could get was 106-102, when Lewis Jackson made two of three free throws with 20 seconds left.

A.J. Wynder, who finished with 25 points and 11 assists, dropped in four free throws in the closing seconds to seal the win. Wynder nailed all nine of his free throws

as the Silver Bullets outscored the Texans 25-15 from the charity

Derrick Taylor's 25 points paced Wichita Falls (22-31). Rob Rose, who had 35 points in the Texans' 125-122 loss to Cedar Rapids Tuesday at the Five Seasons Center, finished with 19

Barry Stevens added 21 points. and Ron Cavenall, playing on a slightly sprained ankle, had 19 points and 12 rebounds for the Silver Bullets (29-23), who earned; six standings points.

But the big man, according to Cedar Rapids Coach Gary Youmans, has been power forward Brian Martin, who stepped into the breech when Randy Allen was called up by the Sacramento Kings last week. Martin had 11 points and nine rebounds Friday.

"Brian Martin is doing a great job," said Youmans. "He's more physical than Randy was. He's a

• Please turn to 4B: Bullets

Oklahoma stumbles, sneaks by Buffaloes

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) -Even without Mookie Blaylock, second-ranked Oklahoma figured to breeze by Colorado in the Big 8 tournament.

Instead, the Sooners barely got by the last place Buffaloes.

Playing without their secondleading scorer and best defensive player, the Sooners needed two overtimes Friday to beat Colorado 95-87 in the first round of the Big Eight Tournament.

"We missed him a lot," Coach Billy Tubbs said of Blaylock, who was suspended for one game following his arrest last weekend

for public intoxication. The Buffaloes, who lost twice during the regular season to

Oklahoma by an average of 27 points, used a patient, halfcourt offense that held the Sooners to a season-low 31 points in the first

At the other end, Colorado frustrated the league's player of the year, Stacey King, with an aggressive defense that limited him to five points in the opening 20 minutes.

"These kids played their hearts out. I'm very proud of them," said Colorado coach Tom Miller,

whose team wound up 7-21. King, who wound up with 28 points, scored 10 of the Sooners' final 13 points in regulation including two free throws with 15 seconds left

Reports link Purdue's Keady to job opening at Arizona St.

PHOENIX (AP) — Gene Keady reportedly has agreed to coach the Arizona State University basketball team, but neither he nor officials at the school in suburban Tempe will confirm it.

Meanwhile, the Arizona Board of Regents canceled a scheduled conference call this morning regarding the vacancy created Feb. 4 when Steve Patterson resigned.

"It was deferred until early next week by mutual agreement," said Rick Wanninger, ASU's assistant sports information director. He declined to comment on progress in selecting a

The Arizona Republic reported today that a source said Keady had agreed to accept the position and that ASU would buy out Keady's existing contract. The source was not identified. However, the Republic also reported that

Keady denied having been offered the job, that a deal had been struck or that a decision was imminent.

After coaching the Boilermakers to an 83-53 victory over Ohio Thursday night, Keady refused to discuss a job change but acknowledged that he had spoken with ASU athletic director Charles

"I have talked to Mr. Harris this past week," Keady told the Journal and Courier of Lafayette, Ind. "I just listened and he talked. It was not for a long period of time.

"All I'm interested in is coaching this team against Northwestern and into a tournament. And that's it. I love it here, but if it would help my family, it would be something to look into. I want to go through with it in the proper way. I will tell Mr. King first and then the players."

Luther comeback falls short

By Becky Stover

Gazette sportswriter DECORAH — Top-ranked Cal State-Stanislaus spoiled a brilliant Luther comeback Friday night in a NCAA Division III national quarterfinal at a full Luther Fieldhouse.

The Lady Warriors defeated the remaining. Norse, 70-67, after Luther battled back within a point after trailing by 17 points at halftime.

Six-foot senior center Mona Henriksen poured in 18 points -11 in the second half — and senior forward Joni Ross chipped in 15 to lead the Luther charge. Henriksen and Diane Boehmke each had nine boards. Norse sophomore point Sue Zintz added

Stanislaus improves to 26-1 and advances to the semifinals. Luther wraps up its best season ever at 22-7 before an estimated crowd of

A three-point bucket by Zintz pulled the Norse within one, 66-65, with 1 minute, 45 seconds

Stanislaus point guard Allison Solis missed the front end of a one-and-one seven seconds later and Henriksen rebounded to give the Luther women a chance to take the lead.

The ball wound up out of bounds as Ross drove to the

Warrior freshman reserve guard Tami Roggensack made a

one of her own to make it, 68-67, at :50.

Roggensack made the front end of a one-and-one and Ross got the defensive board with a chance to

Karen Weststeyn rebounded Jill Boehmke's missed shot with 30 seconds to go. Henriksen drew her fifth foul when she was forced to foul Lisa Minturn at :21. Minturn made the front- ender and Luther's Mara Graven rebounded before Coach Jane Hildebrand called time.

Graven missed on Luther's final attempt as time ran out.

The Norse trailed, 43-26, at halftime after being outrebounded, 33-21. Stanislaus made 7 of 15 free throws before intermission.

bucket and Ross answered with 12 points. Ueberroth asks for price freeze

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — Commissioner Peter Ueberroth, in his farewell address to big league club owners Friday, asked them to freeze ticket prices for the next three years.

Major league baseball made a easy on ticket prices. \$100 million profit in 1988 and 'We've been able to jawbone

them to get back to me in the next three weeks," said Ueberroth, who leaves office March 31. "A few said it was the right thing."

New York Yankees owner George Steinbrenner said, "It wasn't decided on today and it will have to be studied."

Ueberroth said this was not the first time he asked clubs to go

signed a record \$1.06 billion TV them so they've only increased about 60 cents across the board of "It was a request and I asked all 26 clubs over a five-year period,"he said.

In the last four years under Ueberroth, baseball has shown a \$209 million profit.

"I think we ought to freeze ticket prices," Ueberroth said. "We have had incredible good luck in television negotiations and in radio.

"Let's pass that to the fans and have a voluntary situation."

Baseball starts a four-year, \$1.06 billion deal with CBS and a four-year, \$400 million cable agreement with ESPN in 1990.

"I just think they (the owners) could make a statement, I think a good one, and it's something I would like to see happen."

Cubs president blows top over rooftop rooters' club

CHICAGO (AP) - Rooftop rooters are Chicago Cub tradition, but the team and the neighborhood are up in arms over a proposed private club atop a building across from Wrigley Field that would sell seats for baseball games.

"They are clearly stealing our product," Cubs president Donald Grenesko said.

"We strenuously object to it. If they can do it, then the people next door can do it, and the people next door to them and the people next door to them," he told the Chicago Sun-Times in an interview published Friday.

Grenesko was attending a league meeting in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

But Mike Quigley, vice president of the community group that battled unsuccesfully to block night baseball at Wrigley Field, said his group will joining the team's fight this time.

"We feel the neighborhood is already past the saturation point in ability to deal with parking and traffic and liquor-related problems in association with the ballpark," said Quigley, speaking for Citizens United for Baseball in Sunshine.

"The last thing we need is 30 or 40 private clubs just adding to that," he said.

The neighborhood around Wrigley Field is a close-packed, mostly residential area on the North Side.

Cubs fans are known to relax in lawn chairs with a beer and a television set on other rooftops to watch Cubs games. But members of the planned rooftop club would have to pay for their

seats, which could compete with the Cubs' 65 new skyboxes already sold out for this season at prices ranging from \$45,000 to \$65,000.

North Side lawyer Gilbert Liss, a partner in the project, declined to comment on it Friday, but he told the Sun-Times the club would be

"They are saying that 50 people, added to the 40,000 who are already there, are going to cause an undue burden to the neighborhood," Liss said.

'Well, that's ridiculous. "Mr. Grenesko is not pleased. On the other hand. Mr. Grenesko features the rooftops in (TV) advertising for the Chicago Cubs and the happy

fans," he said. Alderman Bernard Hansen, whose 44th ward includes Wrigley Field, said Friday he intends to file an amendment to a zoning ordinance he has already introduced in the City Council to prohibit

such a club. The amendment would make it illegal for a private club to operate within 500 feet of an open-air stadium, Hansen said.

"They're pirating the use of the Chicago

Cubs," he said. "I don't think they should take advantage of

the situation so they make it a catalyst for commercialization of that entire street," he said.

Alderman Helen Shiller, whose 46th Ward includes the three-story building on which construction of the club has begun, also opposes it, saying she doubts the project is legal.

Rawlings watching agents' trial closely

IOWA CITY (AP) — University of Iowa President Hunter Rawlings said Friday university officials are "watching very closely" the racketeering trial of Norby Walters and Walter Bloom.

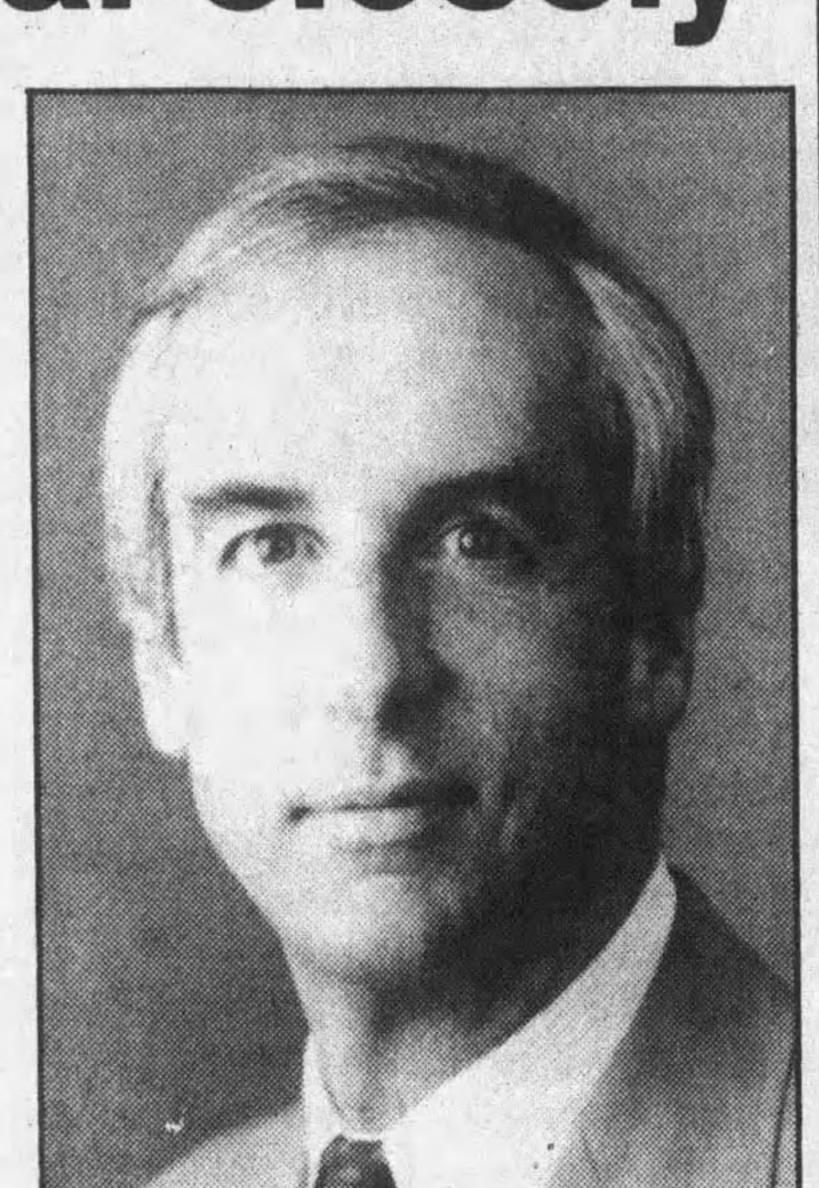
Former Iowa football standouts Ronnie Harmon, now with the Buffalo Bills, and Devon Mitchell, who plays for the Detroit Lions, have testified this week they signed illicit contracts with Bloom and Walters and lied about it to university officials.

Bloom and Walters are being tried in federal court in Chicago, charged with racketeering, mail fraud, wire fraud and extortion in what authorities contend was a scheme to defraud colleges and universities by signing athletes as clients before their college eligibility had expired.

"We are watching very closely the testimony of former studentathletes in the trial of Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom," Rawlings said in a statement. "The University will vigorously follow up on any statement or allegation regarding possible violation of NCAA or Big 10 rules or U of I policy."

Mitchell, a defensive back, testified that he obtained use of an automobile from an Iowa City athletic booster while attending school, which would be an apparent violation of NCAA rules.

Harmon, a running back, testified that Walters enticed him with \$2,500 in cash to sign a contract that would have violated NCAA guidelines. He also testified that he played football his senior year even though he was on academic



Hunter Rawlings

probation, and that he believed he was in violation of NCAA regula-

Rawlings said he has asked vice presidents Susan Phillips and David Vernon to investigate "the matter fully and to determine whether a more extensive investi-

gation is needed." "The university is involved in close monitoring of student-athletes' academic progress. If any additional changes are deemed necessary, however, we will make them," Rawlings' statement said. "As we decide which actions, if any, are warranted, we will proceed in full cooperation with the athletic department and will announce our intentions according-

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HAWKS: Face Hoosiers today

From page 1B

Davis wonders how his team will react to those drubbings as it faces its third Top 10 team in a

"I don't know," he said. "It's

going to be interesting to see, because it's a big game for us. I hope they'll be ready to go." The 15th-ranked Hawks have fallen to 21-9 overall and 9-8 in

the league. The Hoosiers have won 22 of their last 24, with both losses to Illinois, including 70-67 last Sun-

day. Among the wins is a 104-89 victory over Iowa on Jan. 30. "To do what they've done and to have lost only two games, I think is a phenomenal achieve-

ment," Davis said. Davis said Knight has done a terrific job this year.

"We knew they'd be a good ballclub, because of Coach Knight and because of the talent they did have back," he said.

The Hoosiers have found success with a three-guard lineup that features Jay Edwards, the Big Ten MVP who has a 20.4-average and a sweet, sweet jumper

Edwards, a sophomore, nipped Michigan senior Glen Rice in Player of the Year voting. But in Freshman of the Year balloting there was no contest: Indiana's Eric Anderson beat Iowa's Ray Thompson 18-1, although their production has been near-equal.

Anderson, 6-foot-9, averages 11.4 points and 6.2 rebounds. Thompson, 6-5, averages 11.5 and

But today's game will not focus on freshmen, at least not at the start. Today is the last game at Carver-Hawkeye for Roy Marble, B.J. Armstrong and Ed Horton, and the record-setting seniors will be honored.

Probable Lineups

IOWA (21-9, 9-8) INDIANA (25-6, 15-2) Ed Horton (6-8) Eric Anderson (6-9) Ray Thompson (6-5) Joe Hillman (6-2) Todd Jadlow (6-9) Les Jepsen (7-0) Roy Marble (6-6) Jay Edwards (6-4) B.J. Armstrong (6-2)

Time and Place: 12:05 p.m., Carver-Hawkeye Arena, lowa Radio: WMT, KHAK, KCRG Cedar Rapids; WHO Des TV: Big Ten Network (KGAN-Channel 2 in Cedar Rapids).

Armstrong is expected to start after missing the Michigan game with a sore leg and not starting against Illinois. Marble averages 20.3 points after scoring a careerhigh 37 at Illinois last Wednesday. Horton checks in at 18.2, Armstrong at an even 18.

Indiana starts two seniors, Todd Jadlow and Joe Hillman, with both in double figures. Jadlow has been a real pain in the anatomy to lowa the last two years. Last year he bounced an inbounds pass off Kent Hill's face, causing a big ruckus. This year he burned the Hawkeyes for a careerhigh 32 points.

Speaking of a ruckus, reports this week that Chicago prep star Deon Thomas will attend Iowa has stirred up some controversy. Bob Hambric, Thomas' coach at Simeon High School, insists Thomas has not made a commitment to any school.

The Chicago Sun-Times, which broke the news, stands by its story, which was based on information supplied by Illinois assistant coach Jimmy Collins. Thomas, the guy who should know, isn't

talking. "Yes, Deon told me he no longer is interested in Illinois and plans to go to Iowa," Collins told

the Sun-Times. Iowa coaches cannot comment because of NCAA rules.