## Love takes 2-shot lead after 3 rounds of Nestle

From Chicago Tribune wires

Highs and lows haven't done it for Davis Love III, so he'll be looking for the middle ground in Sunday's final round of the Nestle Invitational golf tournament in Orlando.

"A few times I've had the lead and didn't play well. Other times, I've been out of range and played great," Love said Saturday after converting an eagle-birdie start into a two-shot lead through three rounds.

"I look forward to the challenge, to see if I can play well with the lead," added Love, who led throughout on a warm, windy day after hitting a 3-wood second shot to within 10 feet of the pin for an eagle on the first

His 3-2 start paved the way to a round of 66 and a 205 total, eight under par on Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill Club course.

Love's only previous Tour victory was a come-from-behind effort in the 1987 Heritage Clas-

Tom Kite is in second after a bogey-free 67 for a 207 total. Larry Rinker and Loren Roberts

#### Roundup

Nestle Invitational, Ch. 5, 3 Results in Scoreboard

are at 208.

Arizona Classic-Bobby Nichols' 5-under-par 67 wasn't much when compared to his 62 on Friday. Still, his two-round total of 129 gave him the lead in the Senior PGA Tour event in Phoenix. Bruce Crampton, who started the day five strokes back, shot an 8under 64 to move within two strokes of Nichols at 131. Bob Boldt shot a 10-under 62 to tie Nichols' course and tournament record of 10 under par and was three strokes back at 132, tied with Gene Littler, who shot a 65.

Baleares Open—Two magnificent chip shots on the last two holes enabled Ove Sellberg of Sweden to take a one-stroke lead after three rounds at the Santa Ponsa Golf Club in Palma de Majorca, Balearic Islands. Sellberg's 69 gave him an 8-under 208 to lead former U.S. Public Links champion Bill Malley of Hayward, Calif., by a single shot.



Third-round leader Davis Love III waves to the gallery at the Nestle Invitational in Orlando.

Sky Court—Hiromi Kobayashi of Japan shot 71 to grab a share of the lead with American Holly Heatley after the second round in Miyazaki, Japan. Kobayashi and Heatley are at even-par 144.

#### OUTDOORS

## Chicagoan fighting to save wetlands

The river of public opinion finally is flowing for

Charlie Potter. He is the Chicago-based waterfowl advocate who

single-handedly blew the whistle on an insanely destructive U.S. Army Corps of Engineers drainage project in the beautiful Mississippi Delta.

What is amazing is that thousands of Mississippians paid attention to this outlander's informed warnings. One by one, they lined up to block the Corps' plan to destroy the largest remaining wetlands in their state.

Potter's latest advocate very well may be Mississippi Gov. Roy Mabus himself, if you can imagine a Deep South governor facing down the Corps of Engineers in country where drainage has been an industry by itself.

But first a little background: Potter had fallen in love with the duck hunting in Mississippi when he discovered a 50-year-old Corps plan to drain 82,000 acres of bottomland hardwood forests in the Yazoo River basin, including 52,000 acres of wintering migratory waterfowl habitat.

These \$1.3 billion projects—the most costly drainage in U.S. history—had the potential to wipe out an area in which 40 percent of Mississippi's ducks spend

the winter. The benefits were marginal, and clearly of a pork barrel nature. The project would not end flooding in the area and would have little impact upon any floodprone cities in the basin. Mostly, woodlands would be converted to high-intensity cropland in an area in

which many farms currently are facing foreclosure. That was two years ago, and Potter got cracking. He found that virtually none of the landowners in the state's richest remaining fish and wildlife area knew what the Corps was doing to their best remaining recreation land. He also found a lot of people, including farmers, who didn't want to swap good lands

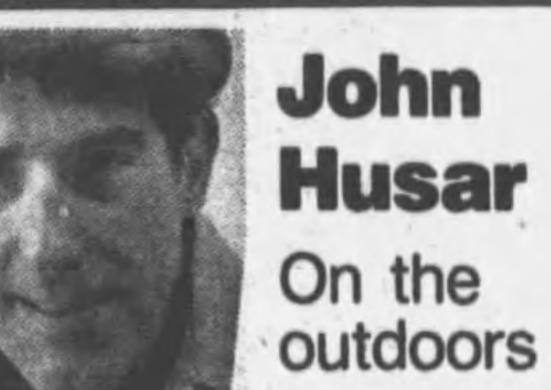
for bad just so the floodplains could be ruined. The Corps fought bitterly, asserting at public hearings and to members of the national news media—this reporter included—that the project would not be changed even though it now conflicts with the wetlands protections of national environmental policy. Because the project had been authorized by Congress in 1936—long before the term "swampbuster" was conceived—the Corps believed it had been "grandfathered" safely onto the construction agenda.

Potter and his rapidly expanding circle of friends disagreed. As the well-connected head of the North American Wildlife Foundation, he rallied an unlikely assortment of landowners, farmers and environmentalists, including hunters, fishermen and birders, to pressure state and federal authorities.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service joined the fray, faced with the degradation of a major wildlife refuge. The Mississippi Bureau of Parks and Recreation moved to protect a state park that would be

Potter marshaled evidence that the Delta bottoms were of such significant national influence that their destruction would jeopardize the \$1.5 billion North American Waterfowl Plan, designed to stop the erosion of continental duck populations.

The National Wildlife Federation jumped in, along with the Sierra Club and the Audubon Society. Even Ducks Unlimited edged from its customarily neutral



John Husar On the

position on controversial issues. Mississippi congressmen from both parties asked the Corps to slow down, and the Department of the Army said it would, as long as the Corps could plow ahead with currently authorized segments.

For the first time in history, this agriculturally drained state was saying no to the Corps of Engineers and drainage. "We have enough agriculture," Joe Coker, a farmer, told a public hearing. "We need to protect the forests that we have left."

Last year, Mabus stepped in. He appointed an 11member advisory committee to tell him what to do about the Yazoo. The committee met for five months and held 10 hearings. Its report came in the mail last week.

It declared that the Corps' Yazoo projects would cause "significant damage to nationally significant wetlands and wildlife habitats" and urged the governor to stop them until they can be redesigned for minimal environmental impacts.

It said that most project "benefits" are outdated and unjustified and that, no further construction should occur while the project is being reviewed because that could ruin potential changes. It suggested that ways besides wholesale drainage could help the plight of flood-prone urban dwellers.

The report also sharply criticized the Corps' mitigation proposal, calling it inadequate, poorly planned and lacking a guarantee of funding or even of public access. It recommended a much more extensive mitigation plan drafted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, including purchase of private prop-

"What has been done is essentially a validation of everything that we contended," Potter said last

But he's not yet planning to pop open any champagne. Mabus still must act upon his committee's report. And though every indication seems to be that he will ask the Corps to change the project, the Corps has let it be known that it will do what it pleases, no matter what any governor says. After all, the Corps says, it bows to Congress, not to governors. Mississippi then would have to sue.

Meanwhile, the Corps has been tootling that all those recent floods in the South only show how much a Yazoo project is needed. In fact, the Corps' own studies show that the full Yazoo project would not have had much of an impact at all.

This flooding comes because the poor people down there have been led to build their homes in floodplains, and floodplains always flood, even when they've been drained. The habitat just isn't quite the

#### Woods and waters

That long-awaited fall turkey season has been set for Oct. 14-22 in 17 counties. A total of 2,500 shotgun permits for either sex will be issued by the Illinois Department of Conservation on a lottery basis. The season will run concurrently with bowhunting. No blaze orange will be required. The announcement was made at the Illinois Wild Turkey Federation's convention in Quincy, where Jerry DiRienzo of Lombard was named a di-

State turkey biologist Jared Garver predicted another excellent spring hunt despite a below-normal hatch. Garver said jakes normally occupy 45 to 55 per-cent of the kill, but this year the numbers will be closer to 35 to 40 percent because of last year's drought. That's much brighter picture than in Missouri where a far greater percentage of jakes falled to survive. "Usually, 60 percent of our kill is jakes, but last fall's surveys showed the population of jakes was way down," said Missouri spokesman Joel "That means most hunters are going to be going after adults. They'll hear a lot of gobbling, but they'd better know what they're doing, because those older birds are very wary."

A potentially devastating disease has been found in wild coho and chinook salmon at two Washington state fish hatcheries on Puget Sound. Both strains were carrying viral hemhorragic septicemia, which previously had been found only in Europe, according to Illinois fish pathologist Rod Horner. The disease differs from most other fish ailments in that

it kills mature trout rather than infants. "It's a very significant finding, and should give pause to those who urge us to precipitously import stocks of West Coast fish," Horner said. "This is certainly something that we want to avoid." Horner added that the stocks at both hatcheries were killed, the hatcheries decontaminated and adjacent streams treated with chlorine.

Horner also said the Great Lakes Fisheries Commission is considering a proposal that would prevent ships from foreign ports from depositing exotic species in inland waters. Many "imports" flourish in the Great Lakes because ships dump ballast tanks containing organisms that occur in foreign waters. "This could be easily solved by forcing ships to change their ballast from fresh water to salt water while at sea," Horner said. He added that salt water organisms would not be able to survive if released in fresh

This 'n' that: Forget ice fishing on the Cook County forest preserve lakes. They turned to slush last Friday. . . . Ray Han-sen does the clinic honors at Sunday's grand opening of revamped Riverside Sports on III. Hwy. 25 at Geneva dam.

.. Water level remains 1 to 2 feet below normal on the St. Joseph River, with fishing spotty at best. That's unusual for this time of year, when mid-February thaws normally raise the level. Ron Both of B&J Sports in St. Joseph, Mich., compares conditions to last year's drought and calls them "worse than last summer."

Chicagoans Carl Malz, Spence

Petros and former Tribune outdoors writer Tom McNally have been inducted into the National Fishing Hall of Fame's Hall of Legendary Anglers. They joined Paul Johnson of Berkeley, Ron Weber of Normark, Linda England of Bass 'r Gals, former tourney angler Bobby Murray and West Coast salmon restorer Keith Herrell as this year's honorees. Enshrined with top honors were Kenneth D. Carlander of Iowa State, a leading fisheries educator; William Shakespeare Jr. of Kalamazoo, Mich., inventor and manufacturer; and the late Robert J. Kemp, Texas fisheries chief who pioneered successful spawning and rearing of catfish.

Sonars, radios and Loran direction finders just won't seem enough to the well-equipped salmon and trout angler in Wisconsin's portion of Lake Michigan. By this May, no boat will be complete without the latest fishing tool: a fax machine. A University of Wisconsin Sea Grant project will deliver the latest weather satellite maps directly to boaters, showing where cold water meets warm. That, of course, is where steelhead swim. "The change in temperatures and water coming up from lower depths tends to concentrate bait fish and insects, which in turn attracts the trout," explained the Sea Grant's Allen Miller. The satellite information goes to a receiver in Wallops Island, Va., then is bounced to Wisconsin by

John Husar

## NFL mulls European spring league

The concept of a National Minor Football League is at least 15 years old, according to NFL files that predate the vision of entrepreneur Dave Dixon, unofficial father of new football leagues.

The latest idea being kicked around by Commissioner Pete Rozelle and owners committees on finance and long-range planning is to put a springtime minor league in Europe, where NFL interest is growing and NFL Properties therefore could sell more than pennants and

Television is interested in such entertainment, and so are scouts who could add Paris to trips that rarely include places more exotic than Itta Bena, Miss., home of Jerry Rice and Mississippi Valley State.

There are more advantages to a football minor league than even the visionaries might guess. For one thing, it would reduce the likelihood of more trials involving agents such as Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom buying college players who never wanted to be in college in the first place.

It would reduce the workload of NCAA investigators, who hardly ever have to worry about improprieties in college baseball. David Berst, chief NCAA law enforcer,

There are sports channels in Europe looking for programming. People aren't going to soccer games anymore. Our INFLI sales of merchandise are up 1,000 percent since 1985." -Minnesota Vikings GM Mike Lynn

guesses his office looks into one college baseball scandal a year compared to 40 or 50 violations for football and basketball combined.

Some nonstudent-athletes obviously would prefer a minor-league football option to college courses such as Trees and Shrubs in order to stay eligible. But so far, the NFL isn't thinking about helping

out the NCAA by giving nonstudent-athletes an alternative to college right out of high school. "I don't think we'd be interested in that approach at all," said Minnesota Vikings General Manager

Mike Lynn, one of the backers of the concept. What owners are thinking about is a 14-team league with one American Football Conference team and one National Football Conference team each responsible for stocking 10 players. The nucle-

us of 20 would be filled out to 30 or 35. "We could move the draft up [to February] and teams could send their sixth- through 12th-round picks," Lynn said.

Or, if a first-round pick such as Bears quarterback Jim Harbaugh is going to sit on the bench in Chicago, he might as well be playing in London. Vikings quarterback Wade Wilson languished on the bench for six years.

The idea also would provide "interesting possibilities, especially in minority hiring," Lynn said. "There could be black head coaches and general managers, and we could see how they operate."

Mainly, it's a chance to make money in the evolving European Common Market.

"There are sports channels in Europe looking for programming. People aren't going to soccer games anymore," Lynn said. "Our [NFL] sales of merchandise are up 1,000 percent since 1985."

One of the arguments by owners against free



Don Pierson

pro football

agency is that it would threaten competitive balance because all the free agents would gravitate to the potential gold mines of big cities and wide media exposure. In other words, the Green Bay Packers would be out of business.

So who leads the league in signing free agents during the current two-month free-agent period? The Packers. They have lured 12 players north in the dead of winter with bigger contract offers than they had before and the promise of a better chance

Eight of the 12 are from teams who were in the playoffs within the last two seasons. Guard Billy Ard started Super Bowl XXI with the New York Giants and is from New Jersey.

Fullback Michael Haddix started games with the NFC East Division champion Philadelphia Eagles, and center Blair Bush was a longtime starter with the AFC West Division champion Seattle Seahawks.

The players union is ecstatic, saying it demonstrates exactly what it has argued for years: Players want to play. Where they play is secondary. And sometimes they will move to unlikely places for any number of reasons. Still, owners aren't ready to turn Dan Marino loose.

Not many people in the NFL can envision Dallas President Tex Schramm sticking around the Cowboys long with new owner Jerry Jones in charge. Schramm is often referred to as the second most powerful man in the league behind Rozelle. Although Al Davis and any number of lawyers might validly dispute Rozelle's power, Schramm is the man who first hired Rozelle in the NFL (as the Los Angeles Rams' public relations director when Schramm was the club's general manager).

The Competition Committee is reviewing the protection of the quarterback again, and has some serious proposals, including the elimination of intentional grounding, which could virtually eliminate the sack.

Yoshio Kakazu of Oak Park has suggested a "designated quarterback blocker" similar to baseball's designated hitter. His only assignment would be bodyguard to the quarterback, and only behind the line of scrimmage. He would be distinguished by a yellow helmet and would be ineligible to touch the

Carrying a concealed weapon also might be

Former coach Wally Smith of Hemet, Calif., sent a photo of his 1939 Nogales, Ariz., high school players wearing a face mask he fashioned several years before Paul Brown got credit for inventing one for the Cleveland Browns.

Smith said he took the mask to Athletic Trainers Supply Co., in New York in 1940, but it was never manufactured.

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