Mobster Testifies Walters Paid Him to 'Settle Disputes' With Clients

By Chris Mortensen

Staff Writer

CHICAGO — Agent Norby Walters paid high-ranking mobster Michael Franzese to "settle disputes" with various entertainment clients and later was allowed to use Franzese's reputation in a similar fashion with college athletes, Franzese testified in federal court here Tuesday.

Franzese, who described himself as a "captain" in the "New York Colombo organized crime family," testified that he

and his family had a longstanding business and personal association with

His testimony came in the trial of Walters and associate Lloyd Bloom on charges of racketeering, extortion, mail fraud and wire fraud related to their dealings with more than 50 college athletes.

Franzese, 37, testified that Walters had paid his father, John "Sonny" Franzese, also a captain in the Colombo family, beginning 30 years ago for similar "ser-

vices." Walters would use Franzese's father to intimidate music-club owners and clients, Franzese testified.

"He's lying through his teeth," Walters zese confirmed in his testimony. later said in the courtroom during a break in the proceedings. "He's a liar, a proven

Franzese testified that he became a federal informant in November 1986 on several organized crime cases. Describing activities unrelated to Walters, he has told the FBI that he attended a meeting of

"the five heads of the [crime] families" in New York in which retaliation against federal prosecutors was discussed, Fran-

Franzese testified Tuesday under immunity and got a recommendation from prosecutors for a one-year reduction of the 10-year sentence he is currently serving for racketeering.

FBI agent George Randolph said Franzese is the highest-ranking organized crime member to ever testify for the government in a federal trial.

"Norby told me [in 1984] that he was going into sports, that he was going to pursue mostly black athletes and try and represent them in professional contracts and endorsements," Franzese testified. "He told me he was now associated with a fellow by the name of Lloyd Bloom."

A few months later, in early 1985, Franzese said Walters asked him to invest

MOBSTER Continued on 9D



Mark Bradley

Second Annual Chance For Fans to Face Reality

Sorry. Can't resist. The following letter ran in our "Soundoff" section two weeks back. Maybe some of you saw it. I only memorized it, word for word, comma for comma. I reprint it, admittedly with some glee, for your approval:

Mark Bradley isn't facing reality when he says the SEC will get four bids to the NCAA tournament. The selection committee uses computer rankings, which are always similar to USA Today's ratings. Recently, Vanderbilt was No. 43, LSU 51, Alabama 58, Florida 60, Georgia 61 and Tennessee 66.

Automatic bids to champions of small conferences will result in at least 14 teams with ratings of 64-plus making the field. So at-large teams need to finish the year ranked in the 40s or better to get a bid. For these reasons, the SEC will only send two teams. - Gary Conklin, Marietta

Ahem.

Whipping out my abacus, I count not four but five SEC teams in the NCAA. Was I surprised? Nah. There had been only two upsets of note in conference tournaments — Rutgers winning the Atlantic 10, Xavier. the Midwestern Collegiate — and four teams from the Big Ten and Big East (Wisconsin, Ohio State, Connecticut and St. John's) had died at the end. Bradley's Rule of Rules: The 64 teams must come from somewhere, and the SEC, even in a lesser year, is as good a place as any. Without tournament upsets to gum up the works, the committee this year had an unusually free hand with its at-larges. As for power ratings — they're merely a guide, not the sole determinant. Besides, the committee has always taken into account how competitive the SEC is, how "those teams down there just cut each other up," and rewarded them accordingly.

Don't Be Surprised When SEC Teams Win

And, if history has taught us anything, it's not to discount any SEC team that gets in. Vandy beat Pitt last year. Florida beat Purdue two years ago. Auburn beat Kansas in '85, Vegas and St. John's in '86. LSU came within a basket of making consecutive Final Fours. Alabama whipped Illinois in '85 and should've beaten North Carolina in '82, the Heels' championship year.

So don't be surprised when well-coached Alabama fells uncoached, uncoachable Michigan Sunday in The Omni, or when the great Chris Jackson scores 44 on Indiana and Dale Brown, failing in his stated desire to "wrestle Bobby Knight naked," settles for whipping Knight's Hoosiers in Tucson. Yes, it's that time again: Time to leave myself open for yet another torrent of wiseguy letters and pick the Final Four.

Last year I staged a little contest. I liked it so much I'm doing it again. You folks send me a completed draw sheet. Not just the names of your Final Four teams, please, but the full-blown bracket. Send it to me at the Journal-Constitution, P.O. Box 4689, Atlanta, Ga. 30302. Last time about 300 seers responded, and nobody got all four right. The tiebreaker will be the same as last year — picking the most regional finalists correctly - and I'm adding another one. Pick the number of points Princeton will score against Georgetown, assuming that Princeton scores at all.

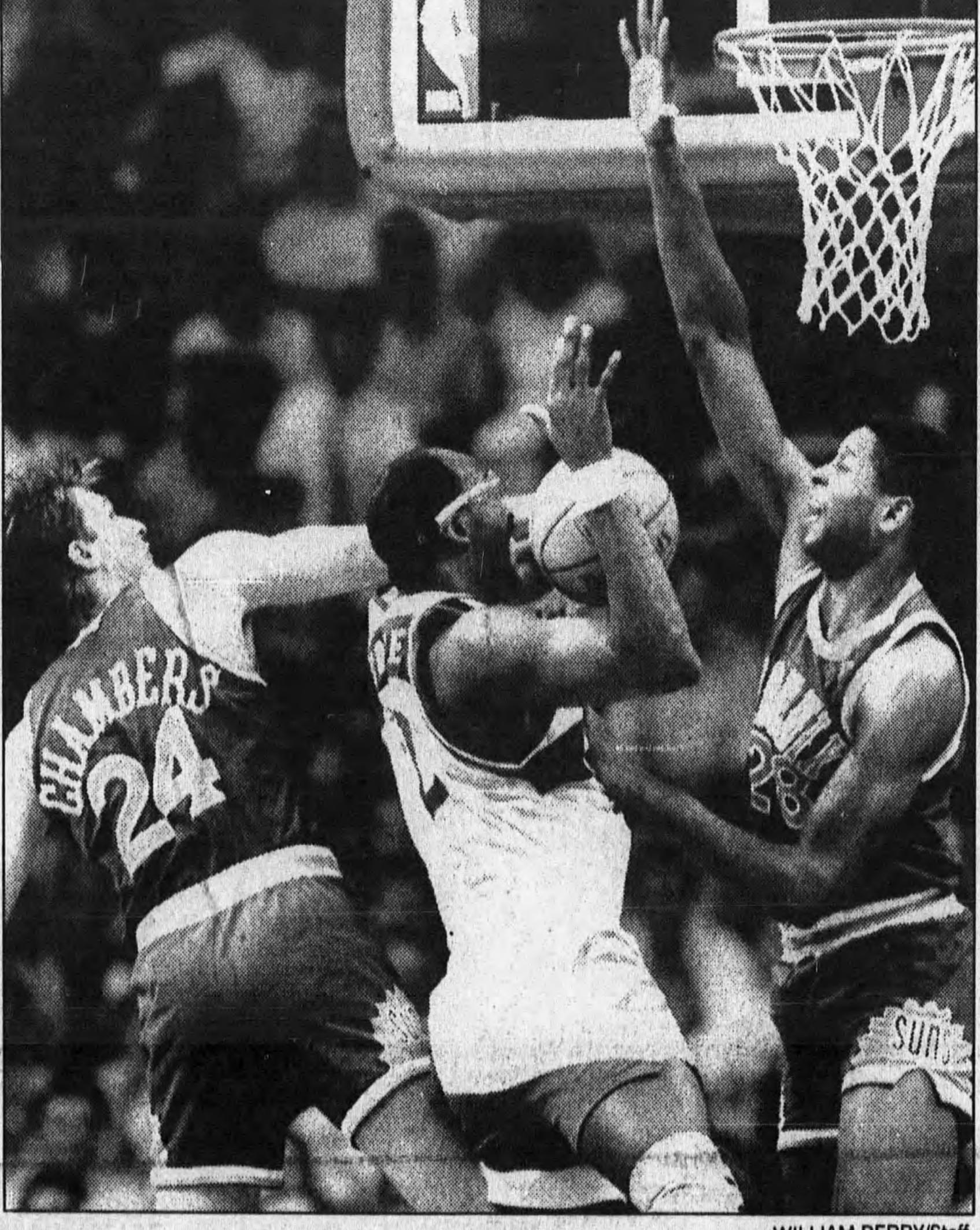
Grand Prize: 'Cheap Shot Gazette' Cap

Please include your name, address and phone number. I want to interview the winner. Besides the lasting glory of seeing his/her name in print, the winner will also get a ballcap, and not just an ordinary ballcap. This is a collector's item, long out of print. It's a lovely blue hat manufactured by Kentucky Wildcat supporters identifying the Lexington Herald-Leader, my alma mater, as "The Cheap Shot Gazette." It bears the inscription: "We print for profit." I've got two. I'm willing to part with one.

But enough with rules and regulations. Here's my Final Four: Louisville, North Carolina, Georgetown and Arizona, with the Hoyas to win it all. Upsets? Besides my SEC specials, I like Southwest Missouri State over Seton Hall (dee-fense, dee-fense), Memphis State over UNLV (guards over big guys) and Middle Tennessee over Florida State (a reprise of the Blue Raiders' '82 upset, also in Nashville, of Kentucky).

Only Duke can trouble Georgetown in the East. Arizona should sail through the West, especially with Indiana gone. I don't so much like North Carolina in the Southeast as I dislike Oklahoma. Last year's Sooners were one of the best teams I've ever seen, and they couldn't win it; this team isn't nearly as good. The game of the tournament will be Louisville-Illinois in the Midwest semis, with Louisville winning because it has the one great player (Pervis Ellison) the Illini lack. Georgia Tech will beat Texas and lose to Missouri; the Jackets won't be able to guard Doug Smith.

Then again, maybe none of the above will happen. Remember, I'm not so hot at facing reality. I figured four SEC teams would make it. Five did. Silly me.



WILLIAM BERRY/Staff

Tom Chambers fouls Hawks center Moses Malone, who was doubleteamed by the Suns' Andrew Lang (right). Malone shot 17-for-20 from the free-throw line and finished with 29 points.

Road-Burned Suns Nip Hawks 114-112

Phoenix's Chambers Scores 38; Wilkins Has 12-for-32 Night

By Jeffrey Denberg Staff Writer

Bad things are happening to the Atlanta Hawks. They admit they have them-

Tuesday night at The Omni, they failed to control a tired team coming to the end of a 10-day road trip and the results were ominous, a 114-112 loss to the Phoenix Suns sealed when Dominique Wilkins's desperate three-point try was wide right at the buzzer.

"Typical," Wilkins said. "It was how shot all fourth quarter. I couldn't buy one." He was 0-for-7 in the last period, 5for-17 in the second half.

By winning, the Suns got even for their six-game trip and for a 118-116 overtime loss the Hawks inflicted upon them at the end of their own cross-country trek

last month. Now, the Hawks are 37-25 and must go west for three games, starting Thursday in Sacramento. They have hardly used a favorable schedule to their advantage, dropping to fifth place, percentage points behind Chicago, in the Central Division.

"We had so many opportunities we didn't cash in," Doc Rivers said, sadly. "We had so many fast breaks when we came away with nothing."

The Hawks were beaten for the fifth time in seven games, losing their third among the last four at home. Through half of March, they've beaten only Charlotte and Miami.

They could not control Suns forwards Tom Chambers (38 points) and Eddie Johnson (23). They could not contain the brilliant young point guard Kevin Johnson, who finished with 17 points and 14 assists. Rivers was on the bench after fouling out against him at :37.

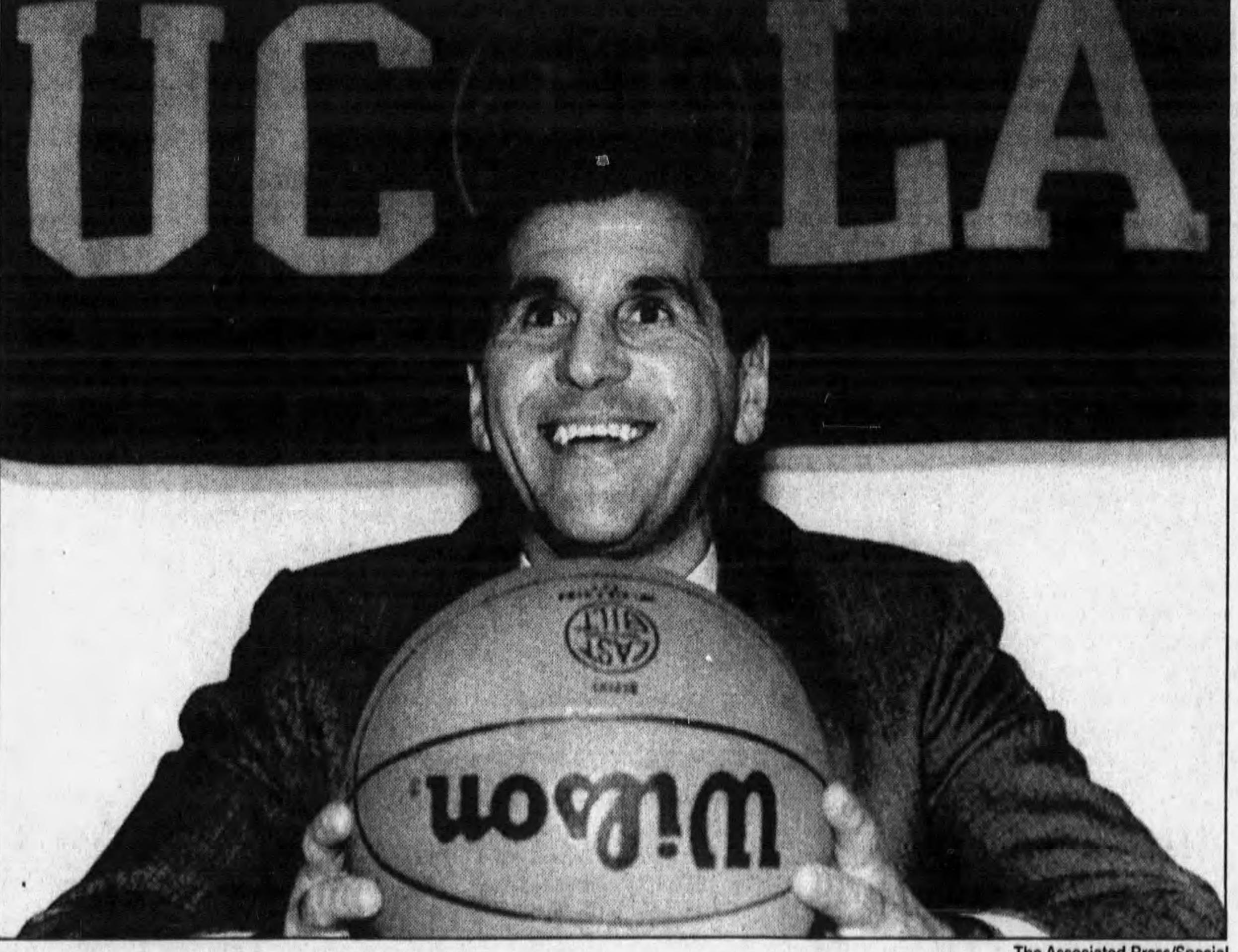
Those three Suns scored the last 17 Phoenix points, including the five by Chambers which turned the game. He pumped in his third three-pointer of the night and converted two free throws to turn a 105-101 deficit into a 106-105 lead with 3:52 remaining.

It was not the first time the Hawks had given back a small lead, nor the last. They nudged ahead twice more before the Suns killed them off with a free throw by Chambers, two by Eddie Johnson and another by Kevin Johnson.

HAWKS Continued on 4D

Tech, Georgia

NGAA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT



The Associated Press/Special

Southeast

Regional

■ Where: The Omni.

■ When: Friday and Sunday.

Friday: Michigan (24-7) vs.

Xavier, Ohio, (21-11), 12:07

p.m.; Alabama (23-7) vs.

South Alabama (22-8) 2:37

p.m.; North Carolina (27-7) vs.

Southern (20-10), 7:07 p.m.;

UCLA (20-9) vs. lowa State

- Sunday: Game times TBA.

Tickets: A limited number of

tickets are available at \$60 for

both sessions from SEATS

outlets. Call 577-9600.

(17-11), 9:37 p.m.

TV: To be determined.

Jim Harrick left Pepperdine last year to become coach at UCLA, the sixth since John Wooden retired.

Down at the Dynasty

UCLA Continues to Win, But the Wizard's Touch In NCAA Left Long Ago

> By Matt Winkeljohn Staff Writer

The UCLA team that comes to Atlanta this week for just its third NCAA Tournament appearance in eight years is far removed from the Bruins squads that built the greatest college basketball dynasty ever.

Rarely since the days of coach John

Wooden have the Bruins approached the glories to which the Wizard of Westwood carried them. The indelible mark he left on the school in the shadow of Hollywood is highlighted by 10

NCAA titles in his last 12 seasons there. Times have not exactly been bad. UCLA has amassed a 301-113 record since Wooden retired after the 1974-75

"They won six PAC-10 titles in the first 12 years of my retirement. How many teams around the country can say that?" asks Wooden.

UCLA Continued on 9D

COMING THURSDAY: A FOUR-PAGE NCAA PREVIEW

Tie — in '87 SAT Average By David Davidson College Editor

The average Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) score for football and basketball players admitted in fall 1987 was identical at the University of Georgia and Georgia Tech, according to documents the schools have filed with the NCAA. At both schools, the average score of recruits was 845.

The SAT scores of football and basketball players who were freshmen during the 1987-88 academic year are listed on the schools' 1988-89 NCAA academic reporting form, which includes no names. This is the first time in the three years the document has been required that Tech and Georgia were on exactly equal footing regarding SAT scores of signees.

TECH Continued on 7D

Experts View Take-All Fight As Just a Joke

By Bud Shaw Staff Writer

Ferdie Pacheco was standing in the ring conducting interviews Saturday night in Las Vegas after Evander Holyfield stopped Michael Dokes on a 10th-round technical knockout.

Ken Sanders, Holyfield's manager, stepped to the microphone and told Pacheco's Showtime audience about his idea to challenge Mike Tyson, winner-take-all.

"It was all I could do to suppress laughter," Pacheco said Tuesday. "It sounded like a used-car deal. It's like, 'Come in, buy a Cadillac and we'll throw in a Rolls Royce, three days and four nights in Disneyland and a Caribbean cruise.' It's the biggest joke in the world."

Boxing promoters, broadcasters and TAKE-ALL Continued on 7D

Mobster Testifies of Long Connection With Walters

From Page 1D

\$50,000 in the sports agency for a 25 percent share of the business.

"And I would continue to perform services along the same line that I had been performing for him," Franzese testified. "He [Walters) said I should get a return on my money within a year."

Franzese testified that his prior "services" for Walters included incidents this decade in which Franzese met with managers of music entertainers Dionne Warwick, the Jackson Five and the New Edition to convince them that Walters should be obtained or retained as a booking agent. According to Franzese, the meetings resulted in Walters remaining in business with Warwick and the New Edition.

During his testimony, Franzese made a positive identification of Bloom, who has maintained that he has never met Franzese. Bloom's attorney, Dan Webb, several times has made motions to separate B from the Walters trial.

Franzese testified that he met Bloom once, during a brief meeting in July or August 1985 at Walters office. Franzese said that "if [Bloom] was Norby's partner, he had the same authority as Mr. Walters did" to invoke Franzese' reputation.

At the meeting with Bloom, Franzese said, he brought along his father-in-law and brother-in-law, Fred and Dino Garcia. He said Bloom left the room after introductions.

During this meeting, entertainment business was discussed, and Dino Garcia "gave Norby a bag of money, \$50,000 in cash, from me ... in a brown paper bag," Franzes

"Because of the problems I was having [with federal investigations], I never carried that amount of cash on me. But it was my money ... for my participation in the sports agency business."

During his testimony, Franzese described how he settled disputes between Walters and music-club owners who did not wish to do busi-

ness with Walters. "Norby represented many groups who played in Long Island, Manhattan and New Jersey," Franzese testified. "Many of the club owners [with whom] Norby would try to book acts did not want to be associated with him. Since most of those owners were associated with other organized crime families, I

would come in and settle disputes." Walters asked Franzese to meet with managers of Warwick, the Jackson Five and the New Edition from 1980 to 1984, Franzese testified.

'I had Norby lay the groundwork, explain who I was, introduce me and then leave the room," said Franzese. "I wanted him to lay the groundwork so I wouldn't have to make an outward threat ... but my talks with those people were very

One meeting was between Franzese and Joe Grant, Warwick's

"Mr. Grant explained he was dissatisifed with Norby [as Warwick's booking agent], and at some point I asked Norby to leave the room," Franzese testified. "I told Mr. Grant I would appreciate it if he would continue with Norby for at least six more months. To my knowledge, he did."

In 1984, Franzese testified, Walters called him and complained that the group New Edition had failed to "get their act together on a \$20,000 loan in which Norby was to receive 25 percent interest."

"The managers, I don't recall who they were, wanted to renege on the deal," testified Franzese "Norby set up a meeting in New York. I told them that the \$20,000 was actually my money, that I was actually his partner, and I expected them to live up to the deal and the \$20,000 loan. They did."

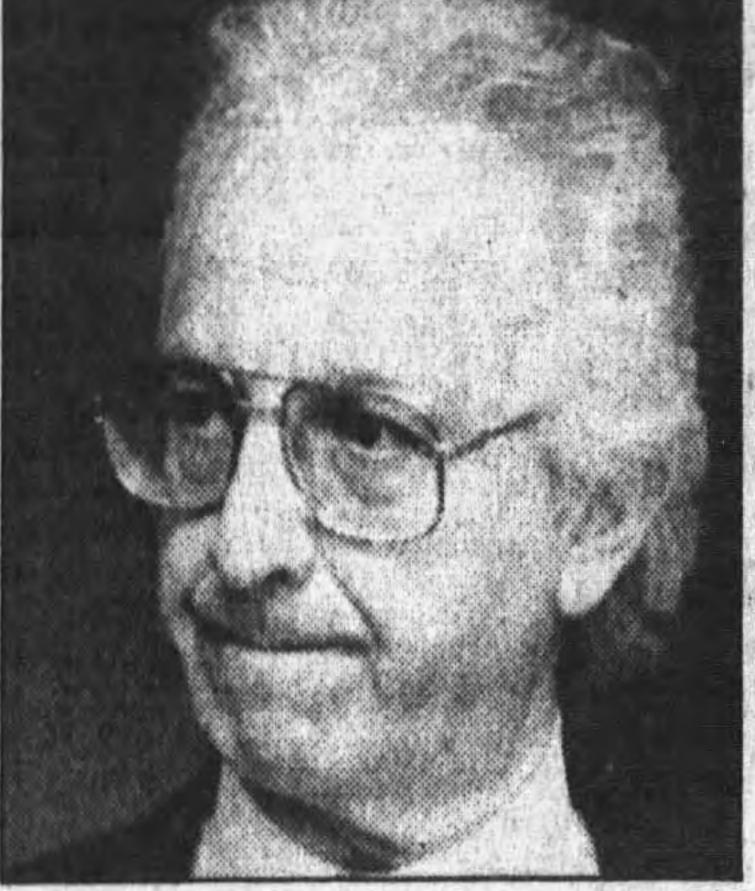
Under cross examination, which was completed late Tuesday afternoon, Franzese said he lied when he met with Department of Justice officials under oath in April 1986. During that meeting, he did not reveal his association with Walters.

"At that time, my membership in an organized crime family did not allow me to speak about any of my associates," testified Franzese, who said he began cooperating on the Walters-Bloom case in October

Franzese testified that, as a member of the Colombo family, he generated "several million dollars" in revenue, but he denied defense attorney Robert Gold's contention that the figure was more than \$300

Franzese testified that after he was indicted in December 1985 on 28 felony counts stemming from a multimillion dollar gasoline taxfraud scheme, he told Walters to rely on another Colombo family member, Frankie Campione.

"I told Norby if he had any in." problems in the future, he could talk with Frankie," testified



Norby Walters

evasion.

After a longstanding business relationship between Franzese's father and Walters, Franzese testified that he began to receive money directly from Walters in 1975.

"He'd pay me monthly or every other month," Franzese testified. 'It would amount to about \$250 to \$500 a week in cash. We usually met at his office or at the Stage Delicatessen in Manhattan."

Between 1970, when Franzese father entered federal prison, and 1975, Walters sent cash through the acting chief of the Colombo family, Joe Brancato, Franzese testified.

In about 1971, Franzese said, he went to Walters's Long Island home to discuss the business arrangements between Franzese's father

"Mr. Walters wanted to let me know he was meeting his obligation and to please pass along that information to my father," Franzese testified. "I did."

When Franzese's father was paroled in 1979 — the father has since re-entered federal prison for a parole violation — a meeting was called with Walters to settle a dispute over money, Franzese said.

"My father told Norby that before he went to prison in 1970 his understanding was that he was always to be a 50-50 partner with the [entertainment] agency," testified Franzese. "Norby did not believe the obligation to be 50-50. They had a discussion. At the end of a meeting, it was resolved that they were 50-50 partners."

As evidence of the Michael Franzese-Walters association, the government submitted a New York Friars Club application in which ranzese listed Walters as a

"I wanted Norby to sponsor me to become a member, but he told me it was not a good idea because he already had certain problems in the club," said Franzese. "So I put him down as a reference, and I got

The trial will continue at 3 p.m. today with Chicago Bears defensive back Maurice Douglass scheduled Franzese soon pleaded guilty to to testify.

UCLA Missed Five of Last Eight NCAAs

From Page 1D

But by UCLA standards, the program slumped, especially at the turnstiles in storied Pauley Pavilion. Six coaches have struggled to restore the magical appeal Wooden created with players including Lew Alcindor, Gail Goodrich, Sidney Wicks, Marques Johnson, Bill Walton and Keith Wilkes.

The latest coach to accept the challenge is Jim Harrick, who brings his 20-9 team to The Omni to play Iowa State Thursday night in a first-round Southeast Regional

"We just don't have the same type of players they used to have, Harrick said. "I think we'll get our share in the next 10 years. This area is a hotbed of talent. We hope to return to being one of the better teams in the country each year."

Harrick, a former assistant to UCLA head coach Gary Cunningham, left Pepperdine last April to take over for Walt Hazzard, who was booted after a peasant-like 77-47 record and only one NCAA appearance in four years.

The Bruins have also won just two conference titles since 1980 and suffered NCAA sanctions on two oc-

casions in the last seven years. If the UCLA ship wasn't sinking, it was listing badly as the team headed into this season. A holdover from last year's 16-14 team, sophomore starting guard Gerald Madkins, was hit by a car while he rode a moped. Multiple fractures to the pelvis and torn abdominal muscles ended his season before it began.

"When I looked at our team on Oct. 15, I said, 'Good Lord, it's going to be a year like that," Harrick said. "He was going to be one of our best two players. But we have made the best of a situation you might not have thought we'd be in. We're try-

ing to turn a lemon into lemonade." The loss of Madkins didn't help Harrick, occupying what has been considered the most pressurized coaching job in college sports. Of all Wooden's successors, only Hazzard is believed to have left involuntarily. The rest had difficulty handling the strain and sought other work.

"In every case but one, the coach left to what appeared to be a situation with more money, a better situation," said Wooden.

A better situation than the head coaching job at UCLA? Until Wooden left, there was none.

Gene Bartow was the immediate successor. He went 52-9 in two years, but his UCLA career came to an ignominious end with a secondround loss to Idaho State in the 1977 NCAAs.

"It was an unusual experience. There was just more media attention and people watching everything that went on than I had ever seen," said Bartow, now head coach and athletic director at the University of Alabama-Birmingham.

"I had always had fun in basketball and, for whatever reasons, wasn't having fun. I was feeling the stress, the tension. When the oppor tunity (at UAB) came along, walked away. I've never regretted it, but I've never regretted going to UCLA, either. I think now I could

handle a situation like that." The wins kept coming under Cunningham, who went 50-8 in two seasons. That gave him, like Bar tow, a better winning percentage than Wooden. But he left, too.

In 1979-80, Larry Brown's team went 17-9 and finished fourth, the first UCLA squad since 1966 not to win the conference. Brown salvaged the season by riding five straight. upset wins to the NCAA final, where the Bruins lost 59-54 to Louisville, but he soon gave way to Larry Farmer and Hazzard.

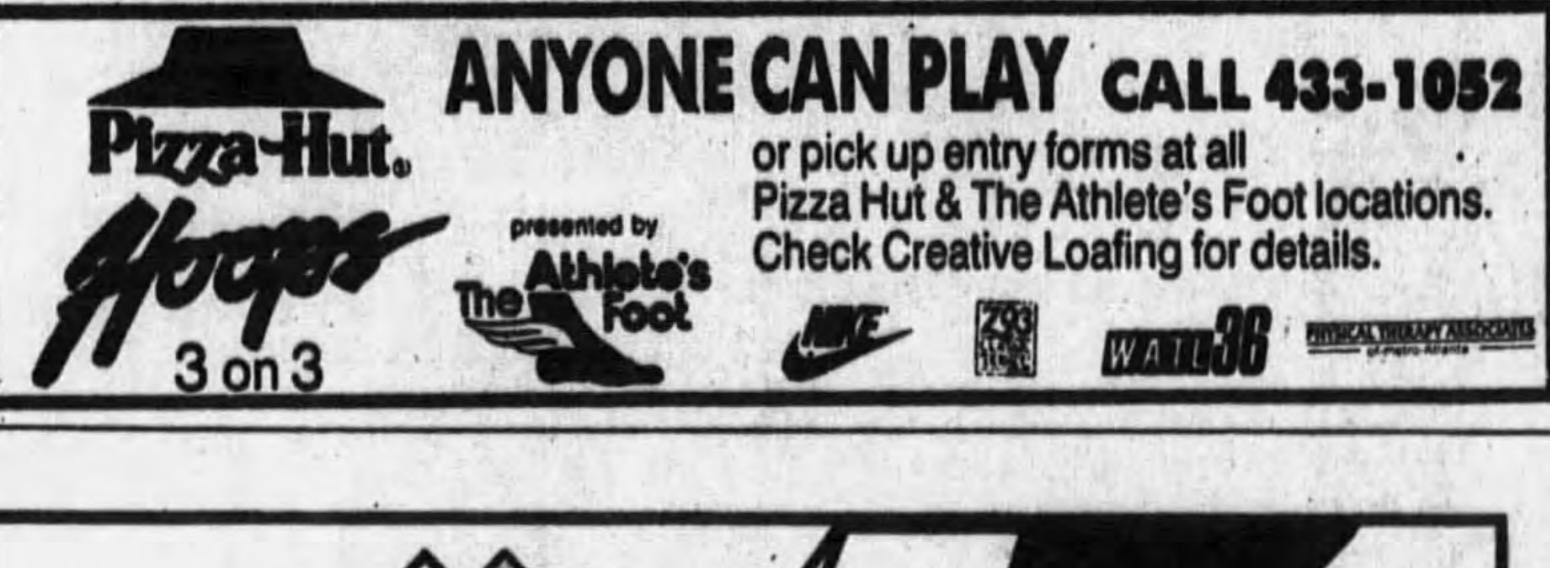
Meanwhile, average attendance went from 12,350 in Wooden's last? year to a low of 7,800 last season.

Said Harrick: "His teams were just immensely well-coached and exciting to watch. He had a lot of fans, a lot of frontrunners, goodfans, with him. He had it going."

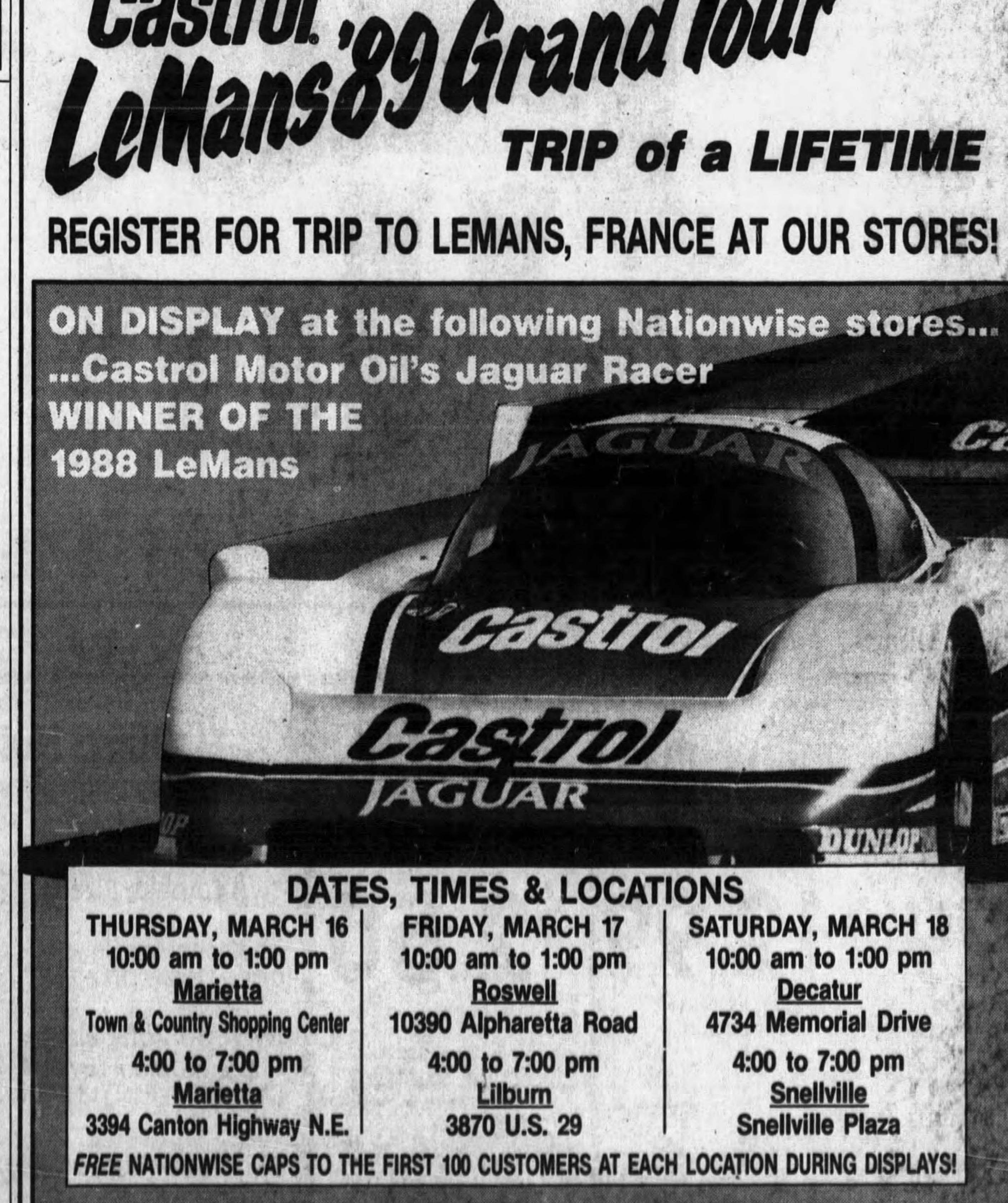
Despite the injury to Madkins, Harrick coached an unlikely cast to third-place finish in the Pac-10 behind top-rated Arizona and resurgent Stanford. Pooh Richardson is the only senior starter. The shooting guard, Derrick Martin, is a freshman and so is the leading scorer, 6-10 Don MacLean.

"The team is playing more disci--plined now that it has in years. Notas disciplined as you'd like to see, but more discipline," Wooden said. "I always said if I could keep two ofthe top L.A.-area players here, I'd. be good, not necessarily great, but good every year. I've been told you can't do that now. Of course, I was. told you couldn't do that then."









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