

Odds & INS

By Linda Kay & Mike Conklin

Bo Schembechler was not thrilled about having to miss spring practice to join Michigan's basketball team in Atlanta after Bill Frieder skipped. Now, the athletic director has to be less enthusiastic about upcoming travel plans. Schembechler is supposed to be in Chicago this week to testify at the trial of Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom. Former Wolverine football star Garland Rivers, who testified last week, acknowledged signing with the agents and taking money before his eligibility expired. At first, Rivers said, he had the agents wire money to him on campus. Then, he became nervous about that arrangement and had the money sent to a gas station 10 miles from Ann Arbor.

Something blue, new

Interim coach Steve Fisher won't be left in the cold if Michigan goes far in the NCAAs and he doesn't get the Wolverine job. We hear the former Rich East coach is a lock for the vacancy at Western Michigan, where he was an assistant before joining Frieder. There's also a chance the Downstate native could be Bob Donewald's replacement at Illinois State. ISU is Fisher's alma mater.

In the stretch

The sound of hammers and saws is growing louder at Arlington Park, where the real race is to get construction done in time for the June 28 opening day. So far, we've heard of only one deadline that won't be met. The swimming pool to be built for the jockeys has been delayed until after the meeting. Gee, and it didn't even have to be 10 feet deep for the little guys.

Wearing many hats

Willie Gault, who opens a high-fashion boutique in Chicago this week, has more than ties, shirts and pants on his mind. He's trying to assemble a dream bobsled team for the 1992 Winter Games and has asked Herschel Walker, Edwin Moses and Renaldo Nehemiah to be his teammates. Gault says the athletes have responded favorably and adds that Sam Graddy, who plays for the Broncos, has also expressed interest. Gault tells *The Olympian* magazine: "I want to try to break that stereotypical belief that all blacks are supposed to play basketball and football and not compete in the Winter Olympics."

Campus soap opera

Sept. 23 figured to be a big day in California for Big 10 football fans with Ohio State at Southern Cal, Michigan at UCLA, and Wisconsin at Cal. But Ohio State is threatening to cancel. It says the contract calls for a Sept. 24, 1990, return game in Buckeye Stadium, but USC is balking because it has scheduled Oregon that day. The situation gets more complicated. ABC wants to change this year's Sept. 23 game to Sept. 9, which the Trojans are against. USC says it'll still be suffering jet-lag from playing Illinois the week before in Moscow. Of course, that's if the last-minute snags surrounding the Glasnost Bowl (are you still with us?) are ironed out in time. In the meantime, OSU has delayed mailing

its season-ticket applications—and that sounds like the smartest move of all.

Special efforts

Here are 13 names you aren't likely to read anywhere else. Scheduled to represent the Chicago Park District in the Special Olympics Winter Games at Lake Tahoe April 1-8 are: Robert Gangard, Maurice Hayes and Joe Mortell of Blackhawk Park; Steven Aguinaga and Angel Perez of El Valor; Christopher Allen of Independence Park; John Lee of LaFollette Park; Ned Montalto and Michelle Willis of Marquette Park and Christine Puckett, Karin Brown, Thomas Strack and Patrick Murphy of Mt. Greenwood Park. They'll meet the press Tuesday morning at Ditka's. Go get 'em, gang.

Learning the lingo

A conversation peppered with baseballese can be difficult for the uninitiated. Bring on the *Dickson Baseball Dictionary*, a primer that not only defines 5,000 baseball terms, but traces their origin. We checked the listings under Chicago and found that: A Chicago Shirley is synonymous with a Baseball Annie; Chicagoed is the term applied to a team that has been shut out; and a Chicago slide is a hook slide invented by Mike "King" Kelly when he played for the Chicago White Stockings in the 1880s.

Seeing the light

What does Rey Dempsey, former head football coach at Southern Illinois and Memphis State, have in common with Watergate figure Jeb Magruder? Dempsey just became an assistant pastor at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Columbus, Ohio, where Magruder has been an assistant pastor at First Community Church.

News, notes and nonsense

Olympic figure skater Brian Boitano is named athlete of the year by the Italian American Sports Hall of Fame at a black-tie dinner April 14 at The Carlisle in Lombard. Sox rookie Robin Ventura (who was sent to the minors Sunday) will be named college athlete of the year at the same time, while former Wheeling High School track star Dana Miroballi takes the honor in the prep category. . . . To usher in Opening Day on April 3, the Kansas City Royals are working with local businessmen and government types on a celebration that's intended to shut the city down. Local celebs are being recruited to sell a special Opening Day edition of the *Kansas City Times* on the streetcorners, and live bands will be positioned downtown to entertain the revelers. . . . Recent Chicago Area Runners Association honorees include: Cindy James and Jeff Jacobs, runners of the year; Joan Osborne and Craig Dean, master runners of the year; and Marietta Martins and Mike Barrett, most improved runners of the year.

And finally, Dick Versace has been making so many deals in his new job as Indiana Pacers coach that General Manager Donnie Walsh finally told him: "Dixie, let's save your plays for next season and just see if these guys can play."

To our readers

Starting Tuesday, March 21, the Odds & Ins column will move to the last right-hand page of the sports section, where it will appear Tuesday through Friday as part of a new feature page called *The Inside Story*. The column will also be on the last right-hand page on Mondays.

BRIEFS

■ Steffi Graf rallied to beat Chris Evert 4-6, 6-2, 6-3 Sunday to win the Virginia Slims of Florida in Boca Raton. It was Graf's 22d straight victory in 1989 and enabled her to win her fourth tournament. "It's disappointing," Evert said. "I had a point for 4-4 in the third set. I realized she was very beatable today. The last few games, probably age was a factor. I didn't feel tired, but maybe I lost a step or two. Graf was unhappy with the way she played. 'I'm satisfied with winning,' she said, 'but not with the way I was playing. I didn't have the range on the court.'"

■ Seventh-seeded Miloslav Mecir withstood 14 aces in the first two sets and rallied to beat No. 12 Yannick Noah 3-6, 2-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-3 in the finals of the Champions Cup in Indian Wells, Calif. It was Mecir's first title since August, 1987.

■ John Ngugi of Kenya won the men's title at the World Cross Country Championships in Stavanger, Norway, becoming the first runner to win four consecutive titles. Ngugi, the Olympic 5,000-meter champion, covered 12 kilometers in 39 minutes 42 seconds. Tim Hutchings of Britain was 28 seconds behind. American Ed Eyestone was 30th in 41:31. Defending champion Kenya won the team title, with Britain-Northern Ireland second. Annette Sergent of France won the women's 6K race, finishing seven seconds ahead of Nadezhda Stepanova of the Soviet Union. Sergent's time was 22:27. The Soviets retained the team championship, two points ahead of France.

■ Japan's Hiromi Taniguchi won his second Tokyo International Marathon with a time of 2:09:34. . . . American Doug Kurtis won the Spanish Marathon in Barcelona with a time of 2:15:41.

■ Ingrid Kristiansen of Norway broke the women's half-marathon record with a clocking of 1:08:32 in the Greater New Bedford (Mass.) Half-Marathon.

The previous mark for the 13.1-mile event was 1:08:34, set by Joan Benoit Samuelson of the United States in 1984.

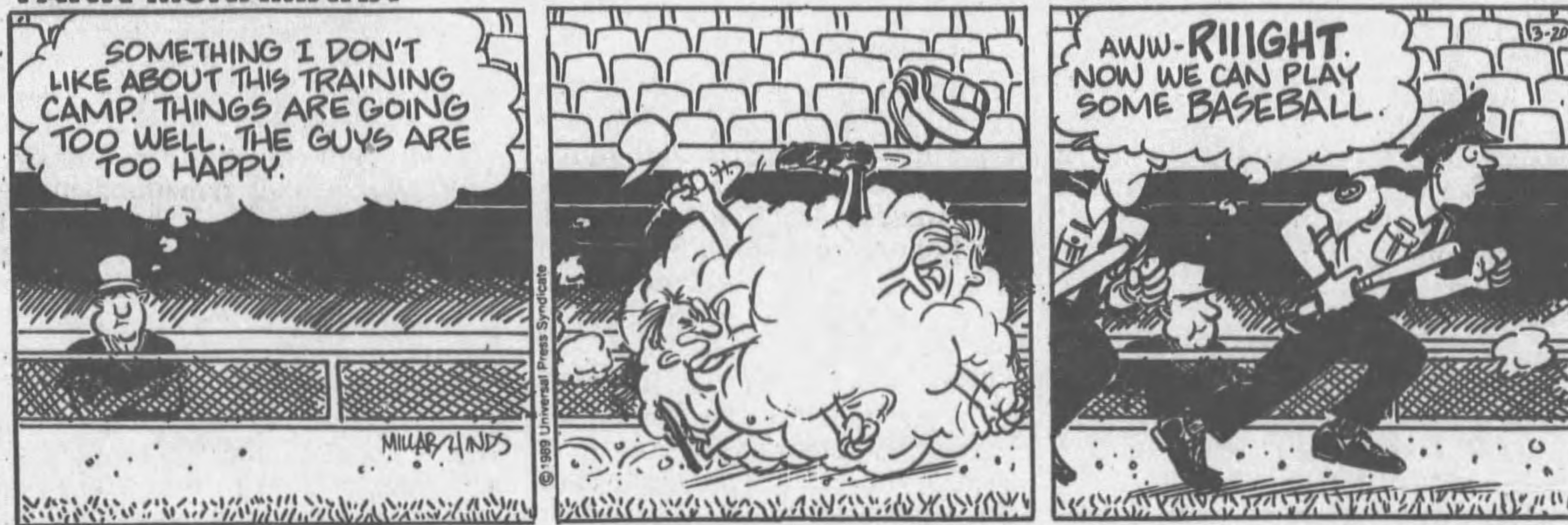
■ Tommy Moe won his second medal of the U.S. Alpine Ski Championships in Crested Butte, Colo., taking the men's super giant slalom in 1:31.65, just 69-hundredths of a second faster than Kyle Rasmussen. Moe was third in Thursday's giant slalom. Bill Johnson, the 1984 Olympic downhill gold medalist who has battled knee and back injuries, was sixth in 1:33.00. Johnson, 28, is scheduled to undergo back surgery at the end of the season, but hopes to resume racing next season. Kristin Krone won the women's super giant slalom in 1:39.03, 44-hundredths ahead of Hilary Lindh. It was Krone's first national title. The race had to be restarted after the first three competitors flew off a jump and lost control. Gates were reset in that troublesome area. Krone said the course was "so bumpy I need to be Midasized."

■ Beth Madsen, 25, and Mike Brown, 26, announced their retirements from the U.S. Ski Team, joining Pam Fletcher in leaving the squad. Fletcher, 26, the nation's top downhiller the last three years, announced her retirement from racing a week ago.

■ American speedskater Eric Flaim won the overall 1,500-meter World Cup even though he finished sixth in that distance during the final races in Heerenveen, Netherlands. The 500-meter cup went to East German Uwe Jens Mai. The 10,000-meter competition was won by Dutchman Gerard Kemkers. Flaim shared the cup with Austrian Michael Hadschieff.

■ Mark Romaine made 30 shots as Providence (21-16-2) beat Northern Michigan (26-17-2) 2-0 in Marquette, Mich., to advance to the second round of the NCAA Division I hockey tournament.

TANK McNAMARA



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