# Walters Injured in Elevator Mishap; Trial Delayed a Day

By Chris Mortensen Staff Writer

CHICAGO — Former sports agent Norl Walters suffered a freak minor injury Monday in a courthouse elevator, delaying his trial, while stories of improper payments at SMU and a drug-dazed player at Texas surfaced in related motion arguments.

Walters, 58, injured his right arm in a fall that was caused when an unidentified clerk rammed a metal cart into him in an elevator. The incident occurred about 20 minutes prior to the resumption of the racketeering and fraud trial Monday morning of Walters and former associate Lloyd Bloom.

Walters was taken to nearby Northwestern Memorial Hospital, where he was treated and released in the afternoon. Walters said he suffered a "bad sprain" of his elbow and received a tetanus shot for cuts on his leg.

Presiding U.S. District Judge George Marovich delayed the trial until this morning and sent the eight-woman, four-man jury home.

Out of the jury's presence, Marovich heard arguments from attorneys concerning the line of questioning that will be allowed when former SMU wide receiver Ron Morris and former Texas running back Edwin Simmons take the witness stand this week to testify of alleged threats made by Bloom.

Marovich limited the scope in which Bloom's attorney, Dan Webb, may inquire into Morris's receipt of payments that led to the NCAA imposing its "death penalty" on the SMU football program in 1987.

Morris, a Chicago Bears wide receiver,

and SMU are not part of the fraud charges, but Morris did enter into a pretrial diversion program in which he agreed to testify to avoid prosecution for receiving money from the agents.

Webb intends to argue that Morris has filed "false statements" by concealing the fact he received "\$400 monthly payments and a sports car from SMU representatives from the time he left high school."

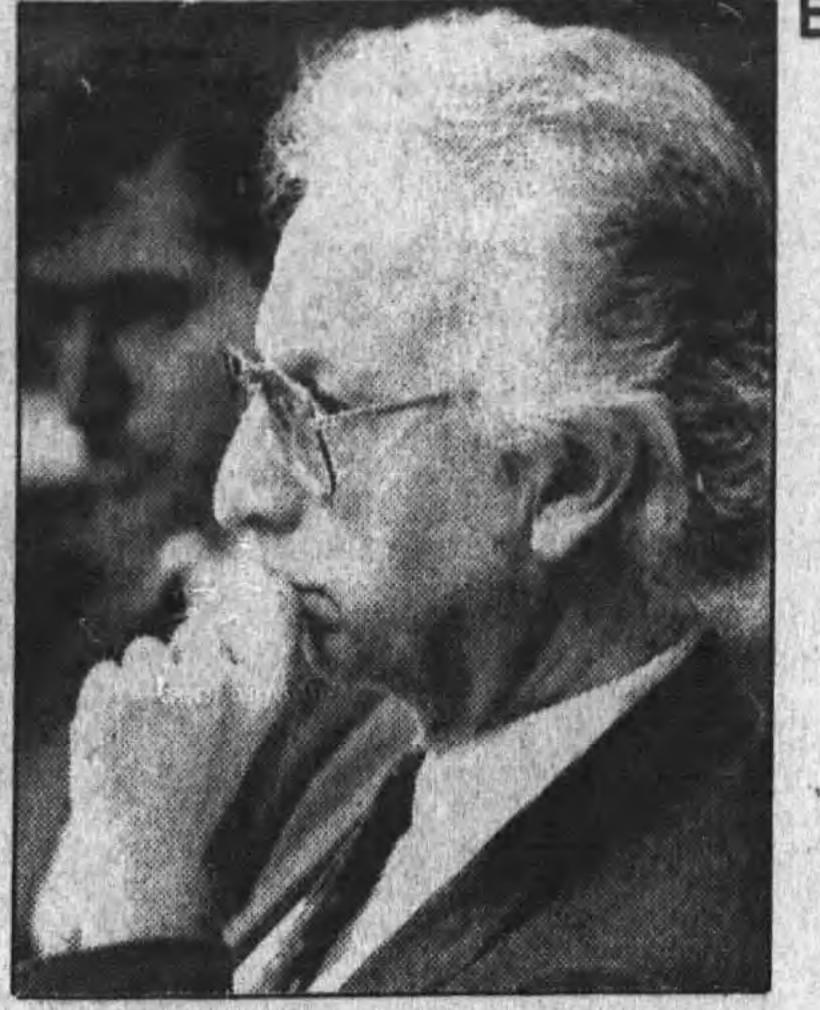
Marovich ruled that Webb can inquire about Morris's credibility in receiving the payments but not about the identities of those who paid him.

Marovich also ruled that the defense may inquire about a car Simmons received from an "independent source, but not a relative" at Texas, which also is not named in the

fraud allegations against Walters and Bloom However, the judge said he will not allow any questions about an incident on Sept. 29, 1986, in which Simmons was discovered naked at 4:40 a.m. in the backyard of a Texas

"He told police that his mind had been [affected] with alcohol and marijuana," Webb told the court. "In the police report, he wasn't sure who he was, or where he was, or where he lived."

Webb argued unsuccessfully that the incident casts doubt on Simmons's expected testimony about a phone call he allegedly received from Bloom six weeks later. During the call, Bloom allegedly threatened to break the legs of Simmons's roommate, Texas wide receiver Everett Gay.



Norby Walters was treated and released from a hospital Monday.

## Yanks to Hire Thrift, Report Says

### Ex-Pirates GM to Be Club's Top Exec

From Wire Reports

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — The New York Daily News reported today that team owner George Steinbrenner will shake up the New BASEBALL York Yankees' front office by naming former Pittsburgh Pirates general manager Syd Thrift as his new chief executive.

Thrift, 60, fired by the Pirates after losing a power struggle with the team owners last September, is expected to be named today. The newspaper reported that Bob Quinn, currently serving as the Yankees' general manager, was informed of the decision Sunday by Steinbrenner.

Thrift gained a reputation as an aggressive trader in his three years as the Pirates' senior vice president and general manager. He made a series of major deals that transformed the Pirates from a last-place team to a pennant contender. Among them: catcher Tony Pena to the St. Louis Cardinals for outfielder Andy Van Slyke, pitcher Mike Dunne and catcher Mike LaValliere; pitcher Rick Rhoden to the Yankees for pitchers Doug Drabek and Brian Fisher; pitcher Jose De-Leon to the Chicago White Sox for third baseman Bobby Bonilla.

As Pirates, Van Slyke, Bonilla and Drabek have blossomed into stars.

Thrift did not return telephone

calls to his home in Fairfax, Va. Monday nor did Steinbrenner, who was believed to be in Tampa, Fla.

Ripken Returns to Shortstop; Orioles Send Down Juan Bell

The Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. -Cal Ripken Jr. is back at shortstop and Juan Bell is back in the minor leagues. The Baltimore Orioles' big experiment ended, for now, on Monday when Bell was sent to Class AAA Rochester.

Ripken, who had been shifted to third base to make room for the 20year-old rookie, will start the season at his regular position. Craig Worthington will open at third.

"We'd always said that it didn't have to be 1989 for this," Orioles general manager Roland Hemond said. "I still forsee a time when it will work."

Bell got ample opportunity this spring. He played 99 innings, more than anyone else on the team, all at shortstop. He made six errors and batted .278 in 14 exhibition games.

Briefly . . .

The New York Yankees obtained righthander Balvino Galvez from the Minnesota Twins on Monday for righthander Steve Shields,

formerly of the Atlanta Braves.

Shields, 30, was 5-5 with a 4.37 ERA in 39 relief appearances with the Yankees last year. His career record with the Yankees, Seattle Mariners, Kansas City Royals, and Braves is 8-7 with a 5.50 ERA in 91 games. ... The Pirates are trying to make a trade for Seattle Mariners shortstop Rey Quinones, the Seattle Post-Intelligencer reported.

#### In Monday's Games . . .

John Cerutti continued his. outstanding spring by pitching a three-hitter over five innings as Toronto beat Houston 4-0 to improve its exhibition record to 14-4.

Larry Owen broke a tie with a seventh-inning sacrifice fly and Kansas City added six more runs off relievers Dennis Lamp and Tom Bolton en route to a 13-8 victory over Boston. Jim Eisenreich led Kansas City's 16-hit attack with a triple and two singles.

Bruce Hurst pitched six scoreless innings allowing four hits and striking out six to lead San Diego past Milwaukee 7-1. Sandy Alomar Jr. doubled twice and drove in three runs and Carmelo Martinez hit his fifth homer of the spring for the Padres.

■ Mike Schmidt's two doubles and Tom Herr's two-run homer helped Philadelphia beat the New York Mets 6-4.

■ Bob Walk held the White Sox to one run through six innings as the Pittsburgh beat Chicago 4-2. □ Linescores, Page 6E



The Associated Press

Home plate umpire Jerry Crawford gives a warning to Phillies pitcher Marvin Freeman (not pictured) after a brush-back pitch sent the Mets' Barry Lyons sprawling.

### Rose Reportedly Probed on Betting

From Page 1E

time, the commissioner's office said the matter was private, but several published reports said gambling was discussed.

Not until Monday did baseball acknowledge it was investigating Rose. One baseball source, who asked not to be identified, said the statement "was a prelude to what's going to happen in the next couple of days."

John M. Dowd, a trial lawyer with the Washington firm of Heron, Burchette, Ruckert & Rothwell, is leading the investigation as special counsel to the commissioner.

Dowd said Monday that he had been investigating Rose for about a month and did not know how much longer the inquiry would last.

Baseball personnel are prohibited from betting on baseball games but are allowed to make legal bets at tracks. Baseball personnel have been suspended for associating with gamblers. "Sure I go to the race tracks,"

Rose has said. "I own a couple of thoroughbreds. But I never patronize race tracks like some guys when I'm supposed to be at the baseball park, only on off-days." Rose said last year.

Rose has denied reports that he was among a group that shared winning Pick Six tickets worth \$265,669.20 at Turfway Park in Florence, Ky., Jan. 25. Arnold Metz, a friend of Rose, signed for the winning tickets, reports said.

## One-Handed Pitcher Shines for Angels

From Page 1E

It is another chapter in the remarkable Abbott saga.

"The perfect plan is to start him in AA, let him win a few games, advance him to AAA and take things from there," California general manager Mike Port said as the Anperfect plans, is spoiling our plan. amazing." Right now, our feeling is you don't rule out anything in Jim Abbott's regard.

"Right now, I can't tell you that he will not make our club. That's not to say he will, but you can't rule it out. There's something very, very special about him. Give me six Jim against 12 of what anybody else might have."

There is no emotionalism attached to the decision. The Angels, whose team ERA of 4.32 ranked 25th in the majors last season, need pitching. Abbott offers help.

In his first four exhibition appearances, Abbott had a 3.60 ERA with fewer hits allowed (8) than innings pitched (10). He also has allowed just three walks, noteworthy for a team that allowed the second- Abbott. highest number of walks in the majors last year. His first bad outing came Monday, when he gave up scout said. three earned runs and took the loss against the Cleveland Indians.

"Everybody comes to camp thinking about making the team," Abbott said. "I'll do the best I can, so maybe somebody will have to a double play. Lost outs catch up to make a decision."

Abbott's fastball, which he likes to throw inside, is hard enough to have cracked the plastic protective guard catcher Lance Parrish wears on his left thumb. Abbott's slider, which bedeviled the Cubans, could put him in the majors this summer.

According to Los Angeles Dodgers scout Mel Didier, Abbott is one of the few college pitchers to have a true tight and late-breaking slider. His pitch breaks about five inches down and in to righthanders, and "the hitter can't do anything about it," Didier said. "He's got a great one, like J.R. Richard, Ron Guidry and Terry Forster."

In his first appearance this spring, Abbott used the slider to last year's American League Most struck out former MVP Andre Dawson of the Cubs with the same pitch.

ond base and admitted "it was something." In the Cubs dugout, they marveled.

"He's got big-league stuff," Cubs manager Don Zimmer said. "I see a good fastball and a sharp slider. I said to myself, 'What will he do if we hit a line drive at him?' Then I gels finished the Arizona portion of thought, 'We're not going to hit a their camp. "Jim Abbott, who has line drive, and if we do he'll probaspent a lifetime spoiling people's bly catch it.' He's unbelievable,

Despite Abbott's spring success, there is disagreement on his chances of becoming an effective majorleague pitcher. Those who doubt him first praise Abbott for his courage and then mention the cold realities of his handicap.

This is the line of thinking es-Abbotts, and I'll put them up poused by several major-league executives and scouts, all of whom requested anonymity.

It is difficult to reach the major leagues under the best conditions. To have a handicap that allows hitters to pick up the ball easier and hinders fielding makes the task even more difficult for Abbott. The handicap also limits his choice of teams, because it is unlikely any club in the National League, which requires pitchers to bat, would try

"It's going to be tough on him because of the hand," a veteran

Despite Abbott's skill at slipping on a righthander's glove after his delivery, fielding may be a problem. Twice this spring, he was unable to turn a grounder up the middle into a pitcher.

He could also use at least one more pitch. Abbott's curveball is erratic, and his changeup is still developing. But fielding causes the most concern.

"I expect them to try and take advantage of it," Abbott said. "If a hitter has a weakness, I go after it. If I can't field, I don't belong here."

How important is fielding for a pitcher? Dodgers Hall of Famer Sandy Koufax was one of the worst fielders of all time. Angels starter Kirk McCaskill, a former minorleague hockey player, has a horrendous career fielding percentage of .945. The Angels believe Abbott's arm outweighs any glove problems.

Abbott already has handled his strike out Oakland's Jose Canseco, position in a more difficult situation than the major leagues present. Valuable Player. Last week, Abbott The aluminum bat used by amateurs makes the ball get to the mound much more quickly than the

Ryne Sandberg of the Cubs saw wooden bat. Abbott fielded his posithe Dawson strikeout while on sec- tion without an error against the Cubans, whose quick wrists make aluminum-bat line drives "a scary proposition," he said.

"When you stop and think about the number of times fielding comes up, it plays such a small part in the overall activity that I don't think it's something we need to be concerned with," said California manager Doug Rader, who compares Abbott to Steve Carlton. "The real bottom line to the whole scenario is he's such a special individual, and this doesn't have anything to do with what is perceived as a handicap because I don't think he has one.

"People admire him for what they see as a handicap, but it won't be long before they admire him for being the pitcher he is."

Rader's biggest concern is whether it would harm Abbott to put him in the majors now and demote him to the minors if problems arise. Rader had said that if Abbott makes the team, it likely will be as a reliever, but he backed off that statement Monday.

"I'm being convinced that if he's not starting, his ability wouldn't be best served," Rader said. "There has been no decision made on him, but he'll either be starting [with the Angels] or going elsewhere to start."

The attention has been onerous this spring because "everybody is telling me I'm different all the time," Abbott said. From the day at age 5 when he tore a prosthesis off his right arm, Abbott has tried to be like everyone else.

He does not want to become the standard-bearer for the handicapped because "that's too heavy for one person." As a child, he was not motivated by the past experiences of the only handicapped major-leaguers in history: Monty Stratton, a White Sox pitcher from 1934-38 despite an artificial leg, and Pete Gray, a one-armed outfielder with the St. Louis Browns in 1945. Abbott's idol was Nolan Ryan, the alltime strikeout leader.

"I always just thought I'd pitch in the major leagues," Abbott said. "I'm fortunate to have the chance. Lots of guys from the best programs with the best coaches and the best equipment and two hands aren't

"I have to be myself. I can't control things I can't change. I realized a long time ago I have to live like that. If I don't do well, I don't do well. But at least I tried."



In this week's Food Guide, staff writer Jean Thwaite recommends pudding for a plum ending to an elegant Easter dinner. Served hot or cold, pudding is a versatile dish that's been a part of meals for centuries. Dive into some delicious pudding recipes -in Wednesday's Journal and Thursday's Constitution.

The Atlanta Lournal THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION ARM TOURINGS.