# New Zealand commandeers America's Cup with legal broadside

From Chicago Tribune wires

SAN DIEGO—The America's Cup that Dennis Conner and crew won on the water was lost in a New York court Tuesday when the most cherished prize in yachting was awarded to New Zealand.

In the first disqualification in the Cup's 138-year history, a state judge ruled that Conners and the San Diego Yacht Club flouted the rules in the two-race sweep over New Zealand last September by sailing a catamaran while the New Zealanders used a traditional monohulled craft.

"San Diego violated the spirit of the Deed of Gift," the New York State Supreme Court Justice Carmen Ciparick said, adding she was left with no alternative but to award the Cup to New Zealand.

"Obviously, we're more than a little surprised," said Tom Mitchell, a spokesman for the America's Cup Organizing Committee. "We are holding out the possibility of an appeal. But we can't comment until we see the decision."

The ruling was the latest in a series of courtroom triumphs for New Zealand yachtsman Michael Fay, who challenged the Conner's victory through the New York court because the deed of gift is registered in the state.

"We have always been strong in our belief about what the Cup meant, and I think the Cup has come through," Fay told Radio New Zealand.

Fay said he expected the next America's Cup would be sailed in 1991. He said New Zealand's Mer-



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-New Zealand's Michael Fay



cury Bay Yacht Club, as defender, would soon hold talks with the Royal Perth Yacht Club, chosen as the "challenger of record" by the challenging teams.

"I think the challengers want at this stage to race in 1991, so we will have to race the final in April of that year," he said.

The loss of the Cup could be a billion-dollar blow to San Diego. The city stood to reap up to \$1.2 billion from a full-fledged Cup regatta in 1991 or 1992. The best-ofthree race series last September was held off San Diego.

Pending possible appeals, the San Diego club was ordered to forfeit

sport's oldest trophy to Fay's club, and the next America's Cup regatta will be held in Auckland, New Zealand.

The judge said San Diego "paid lip service to the Cup as a competitive event" by choosing the catamaran defender. Sailing observers agreed going into the race series that Conner's 60-foot twin-hulled flier had an enormous advantage in speed and maneuverability over Fay's sloop.

"We were always strong in our belief in what the Cup meant and I think the Cup has come through," said Fay, who understandably was ecstatic over the ruling.

The mood was different in San Diego.

"Michael Fay has always used the judges because he couldn't win on lia.

the water," said county Supervisor Brian Bilbray, head of San Diego America's Cup Task Force. "Sailors

in the water, not attorneys in court, should decide where the Cup goes." Ciparick acknowledged in her ruling that forfeiture of the Cup was a

"drastic remedy" because of the

Cup's economic significance. "Nonetheless, the parties neither seek or suggest any alternative relief upon the disqualification of a competitor, nor is any alternative relief feasible under the circumstances," she concluded.

The San Diego club became trustee of the Cup in February 1987 after Conner sailed the club's 12meter, Stars & Stripes, to victory over Australian defender Kookaburra III in waters off Fremantle, Austra-

#### COLLEGES

# Kerr recalls with a gulp

Johnny Kerr, the Bulls broadcaster and the team's first coach, was a member of the last University of Illinois Final Four team 37 years ago. Mostly, he has some scary memories of the experience.

"It was the first time they officially called it the Final Four," says Kerr, then a sophomore out of Tilden High School. "But it was almost the Final Two. Our airplane almost hit the tower coming into Seattle.

"There was a coaches' convention or something like that out there the same time, and [De Paul's] Ray Meyer and Johnny Dee, from Notre Dame, were on the plane along with us and the St. John's team we were playing in the first

"It was about a 12-hour ride in one of those prop jobs. We were coming down out of the clouds, and all of a sudden everything goes flying, and they tell us it's too foggy to land, and we went on to Portland and flew in the next day.

"But people who saw the plane coming in told us later that we just missed hitting the control tower."

And it wasn't that much fun in Seattle for the Big 10 champs (only the conference champs went in those days). "I recall we lost by two to St. John's, and I don't remember it," says Kerr, "but my teammate, Irv Bemoras, who

is bringing members of our team out to

Seattle for a reunion this weekend, said

our coach, Harry Combes, put his hand through a locker when we lost. "They had a consolation game in those days, and we beat Santa Clara for

third [Kansas filled out the quartet].

"I was named to the all-tournament



Tribune photo by Bob Langer

Not many were paying attention when Johnny Kerr and the Fighting Illini played the 1952 Final Four.

team, but I didn't even find out until about four years ago. That's how big it was. No big media and interviews. We just played and went home."

But the 1952 season was exciting, Kerr recalls. His Illinois team was ranked No. 1 at one time.

"There are some parallels between our team and this year's team," he says. 'We were all from Illinois, we had mostly underclassman and we probably averaged out the same height."

But that's where the similarities end. "The only thing we could dunk," says

Sam Smith

### Michigan finds coach with roots

By Stephen Wade Special to The Tribune

HERRIN, Ill.—This is where Steve Fisher, Michigan's interim basketball coach, grew up and where his family still lives.

"Basketball is still king here, it's still really the only sport in southern Illinois," said John Fisher, 46, Steve's oldest brother.

Louise Fisher, the coach's 74year-old mother, said, "You could either raise a garden in the backyard or raise kids."

George "Howard" Fisher, 78, and his wife chose to raise kids, kids who played basketball.

"My dad built the best basketball court in the neighborhood," said John Fisher, a professor of chemistry at nearby Rend Lake

There was only one rule on the Fisher court. "If they were going to play out there, they had to let Steve play, too," said his father.

So Steve Fisher grew up like lots of kid brothers: playing with the older boys. And he was better than most of them. By the time he got to Herrin High he already had played on "state tournament" teams in the fifth through eighth

As a senior in 1963, Steve came back from a midseason knee injury to lead Herrin to a sectional championship, its last. Then came a controversial 53-52 loss in the supersectional to Metropolis.

"When Steve went off to college, think he knew he was going to



Interim coach Steve Fisher joins Michigan day over Virginia at Lexington, Ky. The win fans in cheering the Wolverines' victory Saturput Michigan in the NCAA Final Four.

be a coach," said his mother, who has two other children besides John and Steve, 44. Maria, a sister, is 34. George Anthony, 32, works for the city of Herrin.

After high school, Steve Fisher was the floor leader at Illinois State for four years, then the kid brother began the long march to Michigan.

There were stops at Rich East

High (141-70 in eight seasons) and three seasons as an assistant at Western Michigan. Next, it was on to Michigan in 1982 to assist Bill Frieder. That's when the satellite dish went up in Herrin at the Fisher's address. Watching Michigan games there has become a family tradition.

Although John is a graduate of

rest of his family, he will be rooting against the Illini when they face Michigan on Saturday in an NCAA semifinal.

John and his wife, Joyce, the only members of the family to see Michigan's four NCAA tournament victories in person, will be in Seattle for the Final Four. "My dad doesn't want us to break the

#### NCAA notes

From Chicago Tribune wires

De Paul will play host to Ohio State at the Horizon in an opening-round game of the 1989-90 preseason NIT. Nevada-Las Vegas and North Carolina State will also participate in the tournament, formally known as the Big Apple NIT. The tournament will run Nov. 15-24, with the semifinals and final at Madison Square Garden. Loyola-Marymount, Texas-El Paso and Louisiana State are the other 1988-89 NCAA tourney teams entered in the tournament.

Creighton basketball coach Tony Barone has been interviewed for the vacant Marquette job, the Milwaukee Sentinel reported Tuesday. The news-paper said Barone, believed to be the first candidate formally interviewed, met Monday with members of the Marquette board.

Marquette Athletic Director BIII Cords declined to confirm or deny the interview was taking place. Bob Dukiet was fired as Warriors

coach March 15.

Clem Haskins, who coached Minnesota into the Sweet 16 of the NCAA Tournament, has received permission from Athletic Director Rick Bay to discuss the coaching vacancy at Washington. Basketball coach Gary Williams

has asked Ohio State for an extension of his contract, in part to quiet speculation that he may coach elsewhere, according to the Dayton Daily

Williams, whose Buckeyes finished their season with a 19-15 record following a 83-80 overtime loss to St. John's in the National Invitation Tournament, just completed the third year of a five-year contract.

Wichita State coach Eddie Fogler was at Vanderbilt on Tuesday amid rumors he is a finalist for the Commodores' coaching job. Citing unnamed sources, the Nashville Banner reported that Fogler was at the top of Athletic Director Roy Kramer's list to replace C.M. Newton. Newton resigned effective April 1 to become

athletic director at Kentucky. Ball State coach Rick Majerus is among three remaining candidates to replace fired Utah coach Lynn Archi-

bald, a newspaper reported Tuesday. The Deseret News, quoting various unidentified sources, said Majerus, St. Mary's coach Lynn Nance and Southwest Missouri State coach Charlie Spoonhour are believed to be the

Bob Staak has been forced to resign as Wake Forest's basketball coach, sources said. A major factor in Staak's dismissal, sources told the Charlotte Observer, was the university's investigation of the basketball program following a letter of inquiry from the NCAA concerning possible illegal transportation for a recruit. Sources said that recruit was Anthony Tucker, a transfer from Georgetown who had to sit out this season under NCAA transfer rules.

## Myslenski

Continued from page 1

East teams in the NCAA tourney. "I think one of the reasons for that," he said, "is that they play 16 ridiculous games, killer games one after another [during the regular season]. That's what happens in the NCAA, killer games every time out. Our kids are prepared for that."

Kerr, "were doughnuts."

...

This was mid-January, and the eve of an early showdown between Illinois and Michigan. Now, 11 weeks later, there is no questioning the grit and the will of the Illini, but back then, they had not yet displayed their most admirable traits in hothouses like Indiana's Assembly Hall or Minneapolis' Metrodome.

Those displays would come later; and so here assistant coach Jimmy Collins was explaining the warm feeling he already had for the group of prep all-stars he had helped recruit. "I think this is a very confident team," he said. "I think their ego and confidence levels grew while they were in high school, and I don't think we've won less than 20 games since they've been in the program.

"But you have to be around them to feel their chemistry. There's no animosity surrounding the team. I think they had a coming together, and then in [preseason] practice, guys were high-fiving."

This was early February, and Duke was struggling. After weeks atop the national rankings, it had lost four of last five, and now it faced a matinee engagement at Notre Dame.

Its coach, Mike Krzyzewski, learned his basketball on Chicago's near West Side, and then played for and apprenticed under Bob Knight at Army. Those experiences not only helped make him a brilliant strategist, but a realist as well, and so it was not surprising to now hear him say, "I always felt we would lose games. I knew we'd get our butt beat a few times."

He had pulled up a chair after his team's shoot-around, and here set out to explain its recent failures. He would do that, and more. He would, it turned out, also explain just how Duke made it to the Final Four for the third time in four years.

The key here was defense, a style that is called Duke Defense and gives the Blue Devils their identity. "This has been an unusual year for us," Krzyzewski began. "We were ranked No. 1 a couple of months. I knew we weren't that. But if your players are winning, and ranked No. 1, and people are telling them how good they are, and then I tell them they're not working as hard as they have to, it's, 'Oh. There goes coach saying that again.' "It's like you're living on Michigan

Avenue, and you tell your kids to make sure they turn off the lights while you're getting into your Mercedes. There's no necessity there, so you're going to have a hard time getting them to listen. There's no necessity until you're living at Madison and Damen. That's where we're at, and that's not bad. This game is decided in March, and hopefully we'll get our message across by

He did just that.

This was early March, and Michigan was on a roll. Bill Frieder, its coach then, has flitted off to Arizona State, but already in place were the offensive philosophies that have helped propel the Wolverines to Seattle. There is a simplified offense,

an offense that can be easily managed by point guard Rumeal Robinson. There is the role of Terry Mills, the giant center who now sets more picks then ever before. And-most importantly—their is a greater reliance on Glen Rice, the wondrous forward who exploded for 36, 34 and 32 points in his last three tour-

It was Rice, too, who issued the warning back a month ago. He thought first of Michigan's last-second, mid-February loss at Indiana, and then declared: "Since nen, this team has been on a mission. We're a team that's determined to win, and go into the tournament with aggressiveness. Our determination is to complete our mission."

000 This was last Sunday, and Kendall Gill was in the Illinois locker room. He was slouched down in a chair, an inflatable doll without any air. His legs were spread, and shaking slightly. His top lip was split, and a bit of its skin dangled in the air. His top lip was bloody, and his jersey

was mottled with his blood. That moment, that picture of Kendall Gill, captured the essence of college basketball. The college basketball that was, and the college basketball that lies just ahead.

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thing Or Other. (Why do teams never come from a conference called the Midsized North or the Tiny Corner of the Upper Mid-

Coach Mike Krzyzewski could help us all out by getting center Alaa Abdelnaby to give him some of his vowels.

Miraculous Michigan—This is the team of thicknecked orphans, abandoned on the NCAA doorstep when Bill Frieder was given 20 minutes to pack for Phoenix, which is, by the way, plenty of time. Steve Fisher has thus become the only Foster coach, other than Bill, to reach a Final Four.

It has one player, Glen Rice, who never misses a shot, or if he does, has to buy the official scorer

an eraser for his pencil. It couldn't beat Illinois when

Frieder was the coach, so if it wins, Frieder is entitled to an apology and moving exenses from Bo Schembechler.

Surprising Seton Hall—This team has an ugly mascot, a pirate with a floppy eye patch and a head made out of shag carpet, which is what Cinderella looks like this year. Its coach wears a beard, and two of its starters played in the Olympics for another country (come to think of it, so did a few of ours).

The only team among the Final Four not ranked No. 1 sometime during the season, it has unused

It will need all of them to figure out what it means to be a firsttime team but the sixth Big East school to make the Final Four in the last five years. Here's the way my math works

over Seton Hall. Duke over Illi-Call it a heavy hunch.

the University of Illinois, like the Dionne Warwick denies Walters threatened her By John Gorman

Singer Dionne Warwick testified Tuesday that sports agent Norby Walters never threatened her or her manager after they dumped Walters as her agent in 1982. In the opening day of the defense in the federal trial of Walters and Lloyd Bloom, Warwick's testimony before a packed courtroom stood in sharp contrast to

chieftain. Michael Franzese, a captain in the Colombo mob family in New York, had testified that he accompanied Walters to a meeting near the end of 1982 to serve as the muscle to dissuade Warwick's agent from dumping Walters as her booking agent.

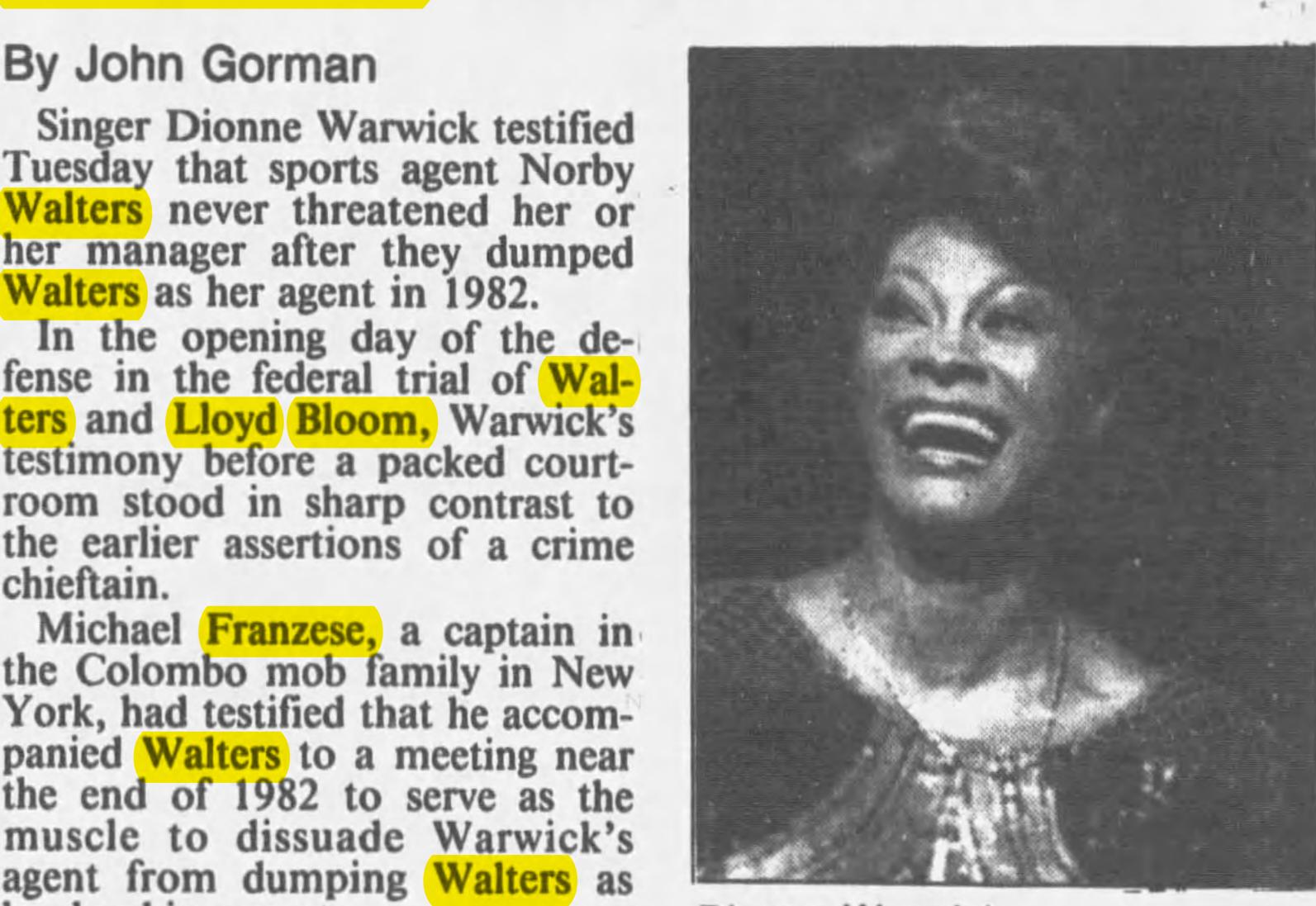
But both Warwick and her agent, Joseph Grant, testified that Walters never threatened them when the entertainer and her agent became dissatisfied with Walters' efforts to book them to profitable performances at choice

Testifying under a grant of immunity, Franzese had said that Walters sought his help when Grant canceled an oral agreement with Walters. Franzese said he told Walters to call Grant to inform the agent of Franzese's mob connections. Franzese testified that after Walters left the meeting at an arranged point, the mobster told Grant, "I would be very appreciative if he'd leave the act with Norby for six months."

Bloom, 29, and Walters, 58, are charged with defrauding several colleges by persuading athletes to sign representation agreements in violation of eligibility rules and by concealing the agreements from their schools.

They also are charged with using threats on athletes and entertainers who balked at continuing their agreements with the two. Bloom and Walters formed their partnership in 1984 after the out: Illinois over Michigan. Duke alleged threats on Warwick's

> Questioned by one of Bloom's attorneys, Ethan Levin-Epstein,



Dionne Warwick

Grant testified that he had never met Franzese and did not know the names of two men who accompanied Walters to the meeting along with Jerry Aid, Walters' partner at the time. Grant said the other two men did not participate in the meeting.

Under cross examination, U.S. Atty. Anton Valukas asked Grant if he had told FBI agent John O'Neill last June that Walters had become "agitated and annoyed" at the meeting.

"No," Grant responded. Grant admitted he had told O'Neill that Walters was ordered to leave the room, but said Aid

ordered Walters to leave. "Did you say to agent O'Neill that Aid or the other individual, whom you described as a man in his mid to late 20s with dark hair; asked Walters to leave the room?" Valukas asked, in apparent reference to the dark-haired · Franzese who would have been about 30 at the time of this

"I believe it was Jerry Aid," Grant responded. "Did you tell agent O'Neill that

this other individual said he would consider it a favor if you'd stay. with Walters?" Valukas asked.

"He didn't say that to me,"

Grant replied.