The Associated Press

CULLOWHEE, N.C. — Western Carolina football coach Bob Waters, who has been battling Lou Gehrig's Disease, a degenerative nervous disorder for the last five years, has been removed as the head football coach by the school against his wishes.

"I am extremely disappointed that I will not be allowed to coach the 1989 football team," Waters said Wednesday night. "The decision should have been left to me, whether I could coach or not. What can be gained by my remaining as head coach for the 1989 season far outweighs what we will lose."

The school's sports-information director said Waters will be reassigned to other duties in the athletic department. SID Steve White said, "I understand that he will remain on for another couple of weeks as head-football coach, then he'll officially be reassigned. He's not being fired. He's being reassigned to other duties. ... He either accepted it or was told that this was what's going to be. Whether or not he accepts it, I don't think he has any choice."

Waters has been the head coach at Western Carolina for 20 years.

"There's been a steady deterioriation," White said of Waters's physical condition. "He's now bound to his wheelchair and ... is on a portable respirator. He has to have someone with him all the time. He has no use of his arms and legs."

Waters's 2-9 season last year was the worst in his tenure. His career record there is 116-94-6.

#### W. Carolina Ousts Ill Waters as Coach | Abbott Named Angels' Fifth Starter

The Associated Press

PALM SPRINGS, Calif. — Jim Abbott, who was born without a right hand, was officially named the California Angels' fifth starter Wednesday.

The former University of Michigan star and Olympian likely will make his first big-league start April 8 against the Seattle Mariners at Anaheim Stadium.

"I'm real excited. Real thrilled. This is a pretty big moment," Abbott said. "I didn't really expect it, but I wanted it real bad.

"I've worked real hard for it, and I feel I deserve to be in this position. I hope nobody thinks I got an unfair shake. I really believe I deserve to be where I am now."

The 21-year-old Abbott made his first exhibition start Wednesday, throwing four innings in a 6-5 loss to the San Diego Padres.

Abbott faced 18 men in four innings, allowing six hits and two runs, walking one and striking out three, but didn't figure in the decision.

Abbott, the 1987 Sullivan Award winner as the country's outstanding amateur athlete, was selected by the Angels in the first round of last June's free agent draft.

"It has been a great learning experience," he said. "I feel I've battled myself into this position. This is a real high, although I know it won't hit home until that first game."

#### Louganis: Blackmail Threatened

Diver Says Housemate Said He'd Tell Secrets

From Wire Reports

LOS ANGELES — Olympic diving gold medalist Greg Louganis charged that his housemate and former business manager threatened to reveal intimate information about him to the news media unless Louganis rehired him or paid him off.

In court papers seeking a temporary restraining order against R. James Babbitt, whom Louganis fired March 13 after six years as his manager, the diver claimed Babbitt told him, "I made you and I can destroy you. I can make things and your life ugly."

Louganis, 29, claimed in the documents that Babbitt had demanded that he either rehire him on terms dictated by Babbitt or pay him 50 percent of present and future earnings "and deed over my home to him."

"I fear for my life," wrote Louganis, who won gold medals for springboard and platform diving at last summer's Olympics in Seoul. "I believe that Babbitt is unstable and capable of violent acts of aggression."

Superior Court Judge Dzintra Janavs on Tuesday ordered Babbitt to stay at least 500 feet away from Louganis, 29, unless there is mutual consent. However, he allowed him to withdraw \$5,000 in living expenses from their joint



The Associated Press

Gold medalist Greg Louganis has accused his former manager of threatening him.

account in addition to continuing to live at the Malibu home the two have shared for four years.

In another development concerning Louganis, the executive director of U.S. Diving, which governs the sport nationally, said the diver is in no danger of losing his Olympic medals because of information disclosed in a legal battle with another former manager.

Louganis's amateur status had been called into question during a contract dispute with Leonard Grant, who represented him before Babbitt. It has been alleged that Louganis accepted money directly from several companies for endorsing their products, rather than going through the Swim

### Attorneys Say Walters Didn't Break Law

By Chris Mortensen Staff Writer

CHICAGO — Sports agent Norb Walters was advised legally that he would become a "pariah" for signing college athletes in violation of NCAA rules but that he was not breaking any laws, three lawyers from a prominent New York law firm testified Wednesday.

Lonn Trost, Morris Shelton and Michael Feldberg of the Shea and Gould law firm each testified that Walters sought advice from them on his dealings with college athletes from 1985-87.

"Mr. Walters asked me if l thought he had broken any laws, and I told him he had not," Feldberg testified. "I told him his conduct was in violation of NCAA rules, but the rules of the NCAA are not

Walters and former associate Lloyd Bloom are on trial in U.S. District Court on charges of racketeering, mail fraud, wire fraud and extortion primarily because of their business practices as sports agents.

The alleged racketeering conspiracy also focuses on Walters's practice in the entertainment field. Early Wednesday, Steven Machat, a former manager for the pop music group New Edition, testified for the defense that he was never threatened by Walters, but admitted Wal ters brought organized crime figure Michael Franzese to a meeting in

The lawyers from Shea and Gould said they advised Walters at least two years prior to the federal investigation leading to the trial that he was not breaking laws.

Trost admitted under questioning from U.S. Attorney Anton Valu-

kas that there was no conversation on the filing of false documents by athletes who wanted to stay eligible and receive their scholarships.

The government contends that universities were defrauded of the right to allocate scholarships because the agents and athletes concealed their agreements. Valukas told the jury in his opening statement that agents paying college athletes alone is not a criminal act.

Trost, Shelton and Feldberg also testified that they each tried to discourage Walters from filing a breach-of-contract lawsuit against Buffalo Bills running back Ronnie Harmon, who had taken money from Walters several months prior to his senior season in 1985.

"I told Norby, 'I still think it's a bad idea," testified Feldberg, a former New York prosecutor who is subject today to cross-examination.

"I told him a lawsuit would get a lot of bad publicity, it would hurt him in his business, and he would likely be a pariah or an outcast.

"But Norby said, 'I can't live this way. ... I have to find out if can function in this business."

All three lawyers said Walters was extremely distressed that two players, Harmon and former Tennesse wide receiver Tim McGee, had entered into a representation agreement with the agent only to drop him after they were drafted in the first round by NFL teams in

Trost, who heads the sports department at the law firm, testified that Walters first sought advice in late January 1985 after attending the Senior Bowl college all-star football game in Mobile, Ala.

Walters had asked Trost if it were possible to write a contract

that would get around NCAA rules. "I told him no," the lawyer testified.

The first major meeting between Walters and the attorneys occurred May 13, 1986 at the law firm's offices. Trost, Shelton and two other lawyers were present when Walters discussed a possible lawsuit against McGee.

"We had two separate discussions, one on the basis of a civil lawsuit and the ramifications, and another when Norby asked if he had done anything illegal," Trost testified. "We told him specifically that he had not, that he was not a member of the NCAA, that these were NCAA violations, but that it had never raised above the violation of the law."

Walters decided not to sue Mc-Gee but sued Harmon and six other athletes, including Auburn's Brent Fullwood and Clemson's Terrence Flagler.

#### Judge to Jurors: Ignore NCAA Ads

By Chris Mortensen

Staff Writer

CHICAGO — A federal judge presiding over the trial of sports agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom instructed the jury Wednesday to "ignore" or "not watch" any paid advertising the NCAA presents during the televised Final Four basketball tournament Saturday.

Defense lawyers for Bloom and Walters requested that U.S. District Judge George Marovich instruct the jury to avoid pro-NCAA advertisements.

"Go get a beer or something during the commercials," Marovich told the jury. "Ignore it or do not watch. Are we square on that?"

The NCAA ads will run Saturday during the semifinals at halftime of each game. The commercials show several former college athletes who have done well in the business world.

One of the Final Four teams is Illinois.

U.S. Attorney Anton Valukas also convinced the judge to instruct the jury to avoid this week's cover story in Time magazine entitled "The College Trap."

The story deals with the failures of colleges to properly educate athletes, and in part alludes to testimony given at the trial about the academic failures of former prominent college football players.

Asked by Marovich whether they had seen Time magazine this week, all jurors answered they had

"Good ... don't go looking for it, either," the judge told the eight-woman, four-man jury.

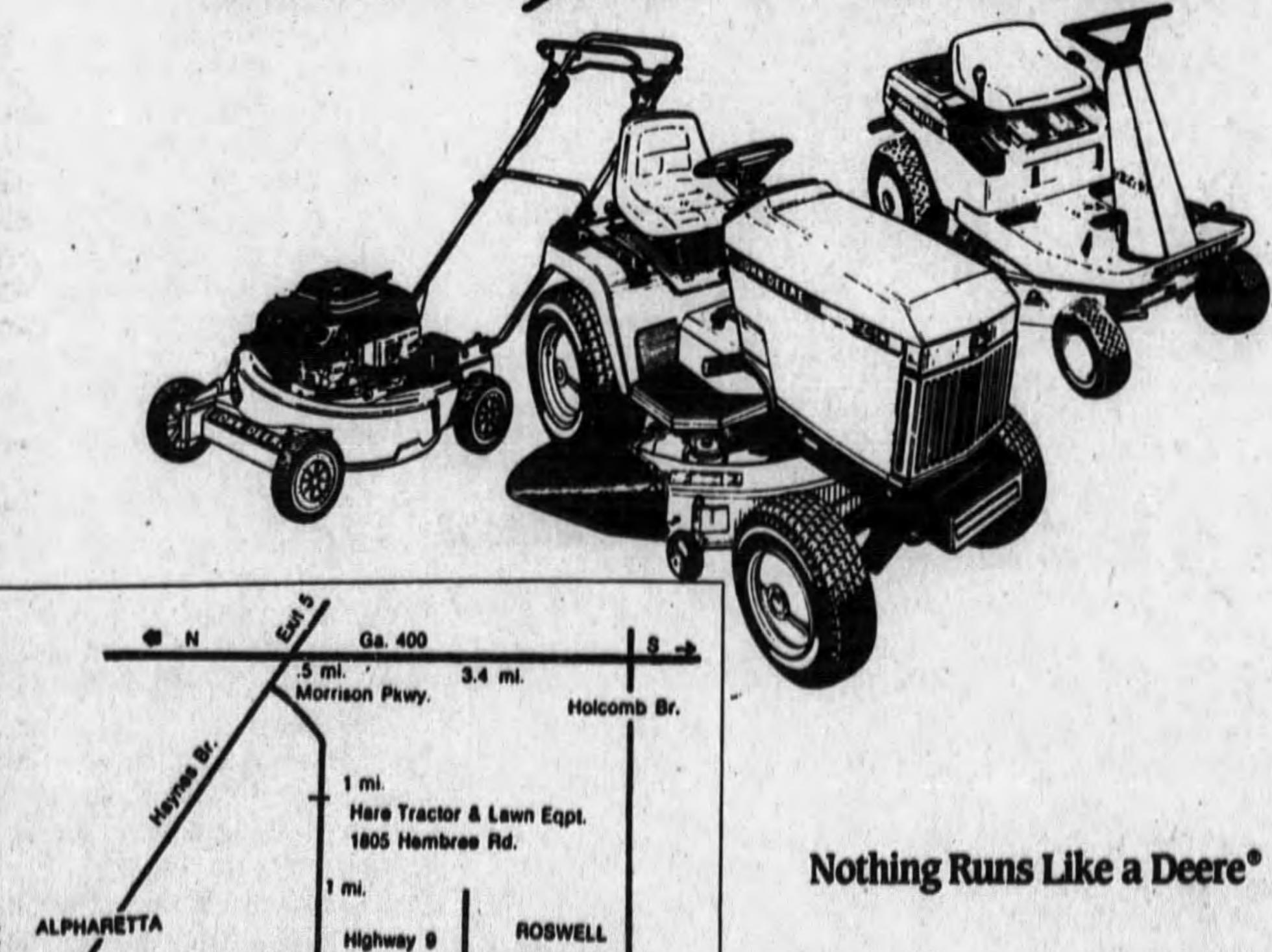
— Chris Mortensen

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