AARC HANSEN



The dark side of tournament

Having been a veritable booster for the NCAA basketball tournament lately — an honest, well-intentioned booster — I'm starting to feel a little guilty.

In the interest of balanced commentary, here's the other side of the story, or 10 things not to like about the 1989 tournament:

1) Bo Schembechler's grumping about missing spring football practice to follow Michigan up the path to the Final Four.

In four tournament games, the Wolverine basketball team has gen-

U.S. Olympians are allowed trust funds. Why not the collegians?

erated as many thrills as a decade of Wolverine Rose Bowl appearances.

As for spring football, if it serves any purpose, it's to cure cabin fever. After storing up a winter's worth of kinetic energy, most big-time college football players need a legal outlet for their pent-up aggression. To the rescue comes spring football.

The Michigan players should be able to swap concussions just fine without their head coach.

2) Michigan's fiscal austerity. The Wolverines were too cheap to send their pep band to Atlanta for the first two rounds of the tournament so they hired Georgia Tech's band.

Had Schembechler not raised football ticket prices \$2, his athletic department might have faced a deficit for the school year. But with an extra million and a quarter from tickets and the million-dollar tournament windfall — not to mention the thousands saved by leaving the band behind — Michigan will finish in the black.

3) The news that Michigan's band | before starting his pro career." will be in Seattle playing "Hail to the Victors" — again and again.

4) The early carping about Bill Frieder for deserting the Wolverines on the eve of the tournament.

In Ann Arbor they made Frieder feel so unwanted he went looking for another job. Then when Frieder accepted Arizona State's offer, they called him a traitor.

It brings to mind a pithy Woody Allen restaurant review: The food was terrible ... and such small por-

Funny how nobody's carping now. 5) All these complaints about Michigan.

6) The Syracuse mascot, cheerleaders and Metrodome ushers who conspired to keep the paying customers behind them from seeing the Midwest Regional Final.

The Syracuse mascot is a big, fat orange who was in danger of having the pulp beaten out of him. When the Syracuse Orange, wide as a parallel parking space, wasn't blocking everyone's vision, the Syracuse cheerleaders were bouncing up and down directly in front of the fans.

Forced to stand, the fans were then told to sit by the Metrodome seating police in their red coats.

"We can't see over the cheerleaders," one Illinois fan explained, with protruding neck veins.

"Well, tell them to sit down," one redcoat answered.

"You tell them," the Illinois fan returned. "You're the guy in the funny coat."

Asked to please sit down, one particularly bouncy cheerleader said: "We're trying to do our job."

Can't knock their work ethic. 7) People who accuse coaches of not being able to win The Big One, especially coaches who have won everything but the national championship.

Jim Boeheim of Syracuse, a reputed member of the Can't Coach Club, was in the title game two years ago. What's more, his team was defeated by a last-second shot.

No coach who has been to the Final Four can be so accused. The same goes for a lot of coaches who haven't. 8) Boeheim's hostility in dealing Indiana with the subject.

He'd come across better in largegroup media settings by laughing it NIT off like Lou Henson, the likeable Illinois coach.

9) The money-money-money generated by the tournament - none of which goes directly to the entertainer-athletes.

U.S. Olympians are allowed trust funds. Why not the same provision for the collegians? Why not set aside a portion of the pot for them, to be

tapped after graduation? 10) By 10 p.m. Monday it'll all be

over.

Big Ten's top player will go pro

Indiana's Edwards passes on last 2 years of college

By STAN SUTTON

© 1989 Gannett News Service BLOOMINGTON, IND. — Indiana University basketball player Jay Ed-

wards, the Big Ten Player of the Year, announced Wednesday that he would bypass his last two college seasons and turn professional. The move startled Indiana fans,

who were looking forward to the 6foot 4-inch Edwards being the kingpin of the Hoosiers for two more seasons.

The news was also startling for Edwards' mother, Rosemary, of Marion, Ind., who early Wednesday said her son was "considering" turning pro but added that she "really didn't know what he would do."

Informed two hours later that the university had announced his intentions to declare for the National Basketball Association's hardship draft, Rosemary Edwards declined comment except to say, "I wanted him to stay in school."

Steve Downing, Indiana's associate athletic director, made the announcement on behalf of Edwards, who Indiana officials said was not available for comment.

"Jay told me yesterday that he is going to the NBA and applying for hardship," Downing said, in a statement released by the university. "He felt he had nothing more to accomplish at Indiana. He said with his Player of the Year honor in the Big Ten, he would never be any hotter than he is right now."

Edwards led Indiana in scoring with an average of 20 points a game.

"I wish Jay the very best and hope that his decision works out well for him," Indiana Coach Bob Knight said in a statement.

Edwards could have taken until May 13 to declare for the NBA's June 27 draft, which allows nonseniors to be selected. Donnie Walsh, general manager of

the NBA's Indiana Pacers, questioned Edwards' decision. "I don't think he should come out. He's not ready," Walsh said. "I think

he should graduate from college Edwards averaged 15.6 points as a freshman but raised it to 22.7 over his final 13 games. He led the Big Ten in

three-point shooting accuracy, at 57

Abbott earns

starting job

with Angels

PALM SPRINGS, CALIF. — A new

"This is a pretty big moment," said

"I wanted it badly, I worked hard

Abbott, who pitched the U.S. Olym-

Abbott, 21, who was born without a

right hand. "It's just such a thrill. I

and I had a good spring. Now I want

to do anything to help the team win."

pic team to the gold medal in Seoul

and was the Angels' first draft pick

last summer, will make his major-

league debut April 8 against Seattle.

He will pitch in one more exhibition

game Sunday, when California plays

The promotion of Abbott moves

"There are three things he has go-

last year's No. 5 starter, Dan Petry,

to long relief. Petry has been ham-

pered this spring with a stiff shoulder.

ing for him," said Manager Doug

Rader, a booster of Abbott since

spring training began. "He has tre-

mendous talent, great maturity and

[pitching coach] Marcel Lachemann."

its triple-A Edmonton team.

didn't expect this quite this soon.

era has begun for the California An-

gels. And maybe baseball as well.

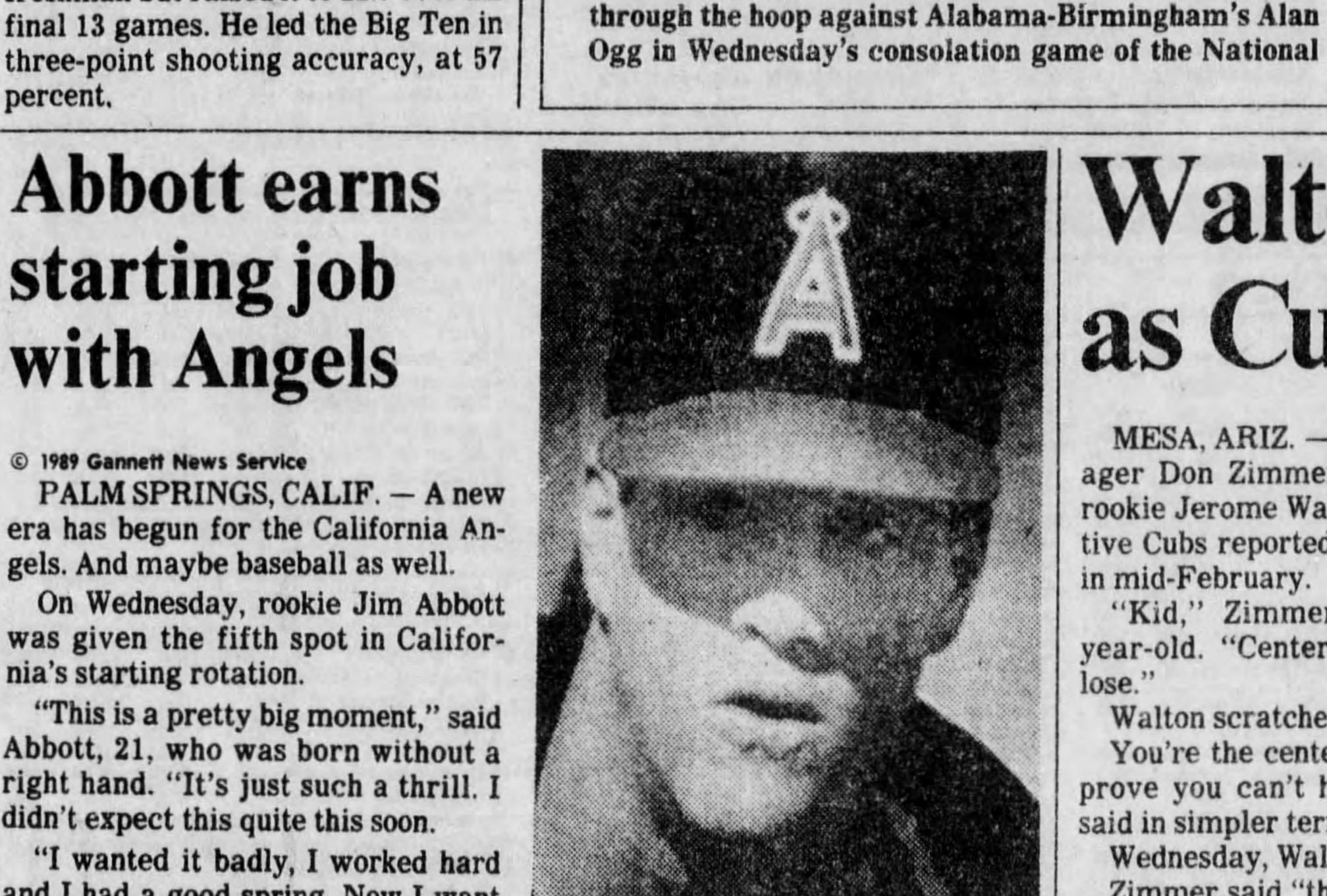
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nia's starting rotation.

percent.

Matt Steigenga of Michigan State slams the ball

Invitation Tournament. The Spartans lost in overtime, 78-76. St. John's won the championship game with a 73-65 victory against St. Louis. STORY: Page 4S.



Jim Abbott "This is a pretty big moment"

Lachemann calls Abbott the best rookie pitcher he's worked with.

"There's never been a question of his stuff," Lachemann said. "It was how he handled situations, what his

awareness of what's going on." This spring Abbott, a former University of Michigan star, has pitched 17 innings, allowing 24 hits and 10 earned runs for a 5.29 earned-run average.

Abbott is the 15th player to play in the majors without the benefit of minor-league experience since the amateur draft began in 1965.

Walton lands spot as Cubs center fielder

MESA, ARIZ. - Chicago Cub Manager Don Zimmer put it simply to rookie Jerome Walton when prospective Cubs reported to spring training in mid-February.

"Kid," Zimmer said to the 23year-old. "Center field is yours to

Walton scratched his head. You're the center fielder until you

prove you can't handle it, Zimmer said in simpler terms. Wednesday, Walton won. Zimmer said "the kid" will start in

center field when the Cubs open the season at home Tuesday against Philadelphia. "Everybody told me when I came

here that he was a good center fielder," Zimmer said. "I didn't know anything about him because I hadn't seen him. I was just going on hearsay, I was taking the word of our minor league people.

"But he showed me something this spring," Zimmer went on. "He showed me he can play decent center field, he has good speed and he can handle the bat. That's all I ever asked of the kid."

Walton won his opening-day assignment by hitting .277 and stealing a team-high seven bases this spring.

RANDY PETERSON



handle myself in the outfield. At first, I put a lot of pressure on myself. But | now." lately, I've been fairly laid-back about the whole thing. I was confident, but not cocky. You have to have confidence in this game."

Zimmer had more good news for his new center fielder. He said Walton would be his leadoff hitter.

"He hasn't been overmatched this spring," Zimmer said. "That's not saying he won't be at times during the season, but he has shown a certain maturity at the plate I don't usually WALTON

Please turn to Page 3S | Krzyzewski.

coaches back fired mates

Trend is 'alarming,' says one who was nearly fired

By MIKE DAVIS

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SEATTLE, WASH. - Yes, they are happy to be here.

Reaching the Final Four, achieving every goal their teams set for themselves, what's not to be happy about? But as they prepare for Saturday's

NCAA basketball tournament semifinals, the coaches of the four surviving teams also appear distressed and a little angry about the fate of some of their colleagues. The sentiments were expressed

Wednesday in a nationwide telephone conference call. While Mike Krzyzewski of Duke,

P.J. Carlesimo of Seton Hall, Lou Henson of Illinois and Steve Fisher of Michigan have been scaling the

The latest changes: Page 4S Wichita State's Eddie Fogler gets Vanderbilt job

Former Marquette Coach Rick Majerus emerges as favorite at Utah heights of college basketball the last two weekends, coaches in every corner of the country have been dropping like flies.

Don Donoher at Dayton, Don DeVoe at Tennessee. Andy Russo at Washington. Steve Patterson at Arizona State. Lynn Archibald at Utah.

Those are just some of the coaches who have either been fired or resigned under pressure in recent weeks. The trend is disturbing to many of those still employed.

"What's happening in college athletics is wrong and very alarming," Carlesimo said from his South Orange, N.J., campus. "You have a group of athletic directors and chancellors who are unwilling or not strong enough to stand up to alumni, boosters or whoever."

He knows the territory well. As recently as last season, he was threatened by the same kind of pressure that has cost many coaches their jobs this year. The student senate at Seton Hall even passed a resolution calling for his resignation.

But the administration backed the coach and has been rewarded with the school's Final Four appearance.

"The difference was, I had an athletic director and a chancellor strong enough to stand up to the criticism," Carlesimo said. "But a lot of coaches today aren't getting that.

"I see guys being given two or three years and then getting let go. That isn't enough. When you take a job in the spring, you've lost that recruiting year, and by the time you've got your staff together and your program established you've lost the next one, too. That's two recruiting years. And you need the next two or three years after that to really prove yourself."

Krzyzewski agreed, saying, "The really sick ones are when guys have young programs that are just about to turn the corner, then the athletic director fires them. That makes it easier for the new guy coming in. He looks good, but the team would have been good anyway."

"There are times when a change is needed - when a guy's retiring, or his kids aren't graduating, they're "I'm extremely relieved," Walton | breaking rules, or he's just not putting said. "[Zimmer] told me I'd make the | a representative team on the floor," club if I proved I could hit .260 and | the Duke coach said from Durham, N.C. "But I don't see that happening The problem, as many coaches see

it, is rooted in money. When a school can make \$1.2 million for reaching the Final Four and \$250,000 just for getting into the tournament, athletic directors tend to view that postseason payoff as a quick way to balance a strained budget. They get impatient with a coach who doesn't immediately deliver a tournament berth. "When you look at the money you

make from a Final Four, I think we have to work toward some kind of [national] revenue-sharing," said

MORNING REPORT

Basketball

120 Washington 102 Atlanta 106 Portland Chicago 106 Milwaukee 96 Miami at Utah

at L.A. Clippers Ala.-Birming. 78 Michigan St. 73 St. Louis St. John's

Hockey

Baseball

BIG EIGHT

NHL		
Detroit	4	N.Y. Rangers
N.Y Islanders	5	New Jersey
Toronto	3	Minnesota
Edmonton	at	Vancouver
Quebec	at	Chicago
Winnipeg	at	Los Angeles

Iowa State 10-8 Creighton 1-4

WALTERS, BLOOM TRIAL CONTINUES. Sports agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom were told they were not breaking laws when they signed college athletes to representation contracts before their eligibility expired, lawyers testified Wednesday. Attorneys with New York-based Shea & Gould said that when Walters and Bloom came to them for legal advice, they advised the agents that the signings violated NCAA rules, but were not criminal acts. "He asked us very clearly whether or not

what he was doing was in violation of any laws and we responded in the negative," lawyer Morton Shelton said.

FLAMES SIGN SOVIET. Sergei Priakin, a four-year veteran of the Soviet National Team, signed with the Calgary Flames Wednesday - becoming the first player to be allowed by the Soviet hockey federation to play in the NHL. Priakin, a 25-yearold right wing, has played seven seasons with the Soviet Wings of the Soviet Elite League and was a member of the Soviet team that faced the NHL in Rendez-Vous '87. Most recently, he played with the Soviet Olympic Team.

ESMITH TO STAY. The Buffalo Bills have matched the \$7.5 million contract offer star defensive end Bruce Smith received from the Denver Broncos, ensuring that Smith will continue to play for the Bills, according to a published report. The Buffalo News reported Wednesday that the Bills sent a letter Tuesday to the Broncos to notify them that Buffalo is matching the terms of Denver's five-year offer. The contract calls for Smith to receive a \$500,000 signing bonus and base salaries of \$1.2 million this year, \$1.3 million next year, \$1.4 million in 1991, \$1.5 million in 1992 and \$1.6 million in 1993, the News said, citing unidentified NFL sources.

TV Today

8 a.m. (ESN) Skiing World Freestyle Championships, aerial finals. (R) 12 p.m. (ESN) Tennis International Players Championships, first women's

1:30 p.m. (ESN) Women's Volleyball Minnesota at Portland. (R)

3 p.m. (ESN) Golf Nabisco Dinah Shore, first round.

8 p.m. (USA) Boxing IBF Featherweight Championship: Jorge Paez vs. Calvin-

8:30 p.m. (ESN) College Basketball Nike/NABC All-America Game. 11 p.m. (ESN) Tennis International Players Championships, second women's semifinal. (Tape)

2:30 a.m. (ESN) Boxing Terry Norris vs. Buster Drayton, junior middleweights. (R)

Quote of the Day

"I'm dead. I have a sore shoulder, a sore knee, I'm dead. I wouldn't exactly say I'm a spring chicken out there." - Kirk Gibson, who has battled bursitis, tendinitis and the flu and appeared in just three spring training games for the Los Angeles Dodgers.