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FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 1989

SPORTS FINAL

25 CENTS

Tearful Wright Vows to Preserve 'Good Name,' Wife's Honor

Rep. Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) calls speaker's actions 'irrational.' Page 19A.

By Scott Shepard

WASHINGTON — House Speaker Jim Wright (D-Texas), tearfully vowing to defend his reputation and the honor of his wife, presented a point-by-point rebuttal Thursday to ethics complaints about his personal financial dealings.

Mr. Wright, the nation's highest-ranking Democrat, delivered his emotional, half-hour defense to a crowd of reporters, photographers and television cameras near the House chamber.

The 12-member House ethics committee — six Democrats and six Republicans — continued working in private on a final report on the \$1.5 million investigation Rep. Newt Gingrich (R-Ga.) initiated 10 months

A public announcement of the commit-

tee's conclusions is not expected until next week, but news reports Thursday said the committee had voted to charge Mr. Wright with violating House rules by accepting improper gifts from Fort Worth real estate developer George Mallick and by evading congressional limits on outside income through sales of his book.

In his counteroffensive Thursday, Mr. Wright acknowledged the news accounts but contended there is a difference between lodging charges and having proof of

a violation. "The committee did not say there was proof that I have violated any of the rules," he said.

Flanked by dozens of House Democratic leaders and fellow Texans who applauded his arrival in the crowded Rayburn Room, named after legendary House Speaker Sam Rayburn of Texas, Mr. Wright denied any wrongdoing and vowed to defend his reputation

"For my good name, which is the legacy I intend to leave my children and my grandchildren, I will fight to the last ounce of conviction and energy that I possess," he declared. "I am confident that in the 34 years I've served in the Congress I have not violated any of those basic rules nor any commonly accepted standard of ethical conduct."

Mr. Wright grew more combative as he reviewed the allegations, but he had to choke back tears while responding to the

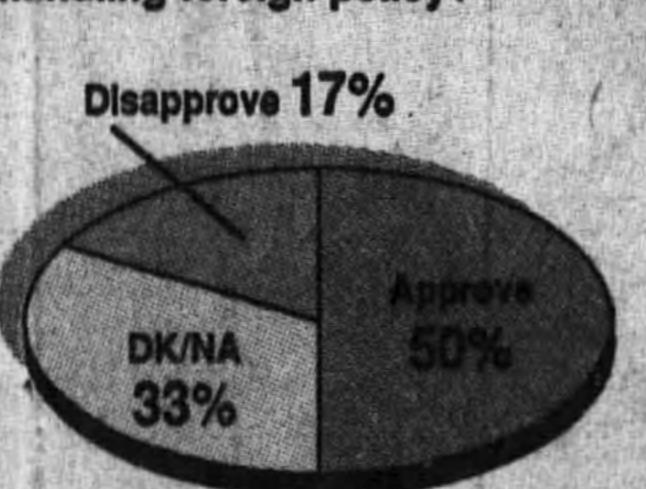
WRIGHT Continued on 18A

THE SOUTHERN POLL

How Southerners Rate President Bush

Foreign Policy

Do you approve or disapprove of the way George Bush is handling foreign policy?



Disapprove 22%

Do you approve or disapprove

of the way George Bush is

Economy

CINDY JONES · HULFACHOR/Staff

3 Months Into Term, South Still Likes Bush

But Fewer Believe He Has Solutions To Deficit, Pollution, School Woes

Sen. Sam Nunn is still not wellknown to most in South. Page 10A.

By Tom Baxter
Staff Writer

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President Bush remains popular among Southerners as he approaches the end of his third month in office, but 'I'he Atlanta Journal-Constitution's latest Southern Poll indicates that confidence in his ability to solve the country's problems is waning.

percent approval rating, but fewer respondents than in a similar Southern Poll conducted in January believe he can do anything about problems such as the budget deficit, education and the environment. Without any high-profile initiatives like the tax- and budget-cutting proposals Ronald Reagan advanced in the early months of his presidency, Mr. Bush may be

suffering from the perception that his administration is adrift.

Mr. Bush's approval rating is not as high as the 68 percent Mr. Reagan scored among Southerners in a 1981 New York Times-CBS News Poll taken at about the same time in his presidency, but that poll came shortly after Mr. Reagan survived an assassination attempt. Mr. Bush's present approval rating compares well with the 53 percent in the January Atlanta Journal-Constitution Southern Poll who said they had a favorable opinion of Mr. Bush when he took office.

Forty-six percent of Southerners said they approve of the way Mr. Bush is handling the economy, compared with 58 percent for Mr. Reagan in the 1981 poll. On foreign policy, 50 percent approve of the job Mr. Bush is doing, while 57 approved of what Mr. Reagan was doing in 1981.

MOST Continued on 10A

Drug-Related Slayings on Rise

City Allegedly Downplaying Case Totals

By Adam Gelb And Sandra McIntosh Staff Writers

Atlanta police homicide detectives have been told to downplay the involvement of drugs in murders to conceal the extent of the city's drug problems, according to several of the detectives.

Police officials deny that they are undercounting drug-related deaths, but seven homicide investigators say many slayings that are apparently linked to drugs — or even obviously linked — now are listed as "motive unknown."

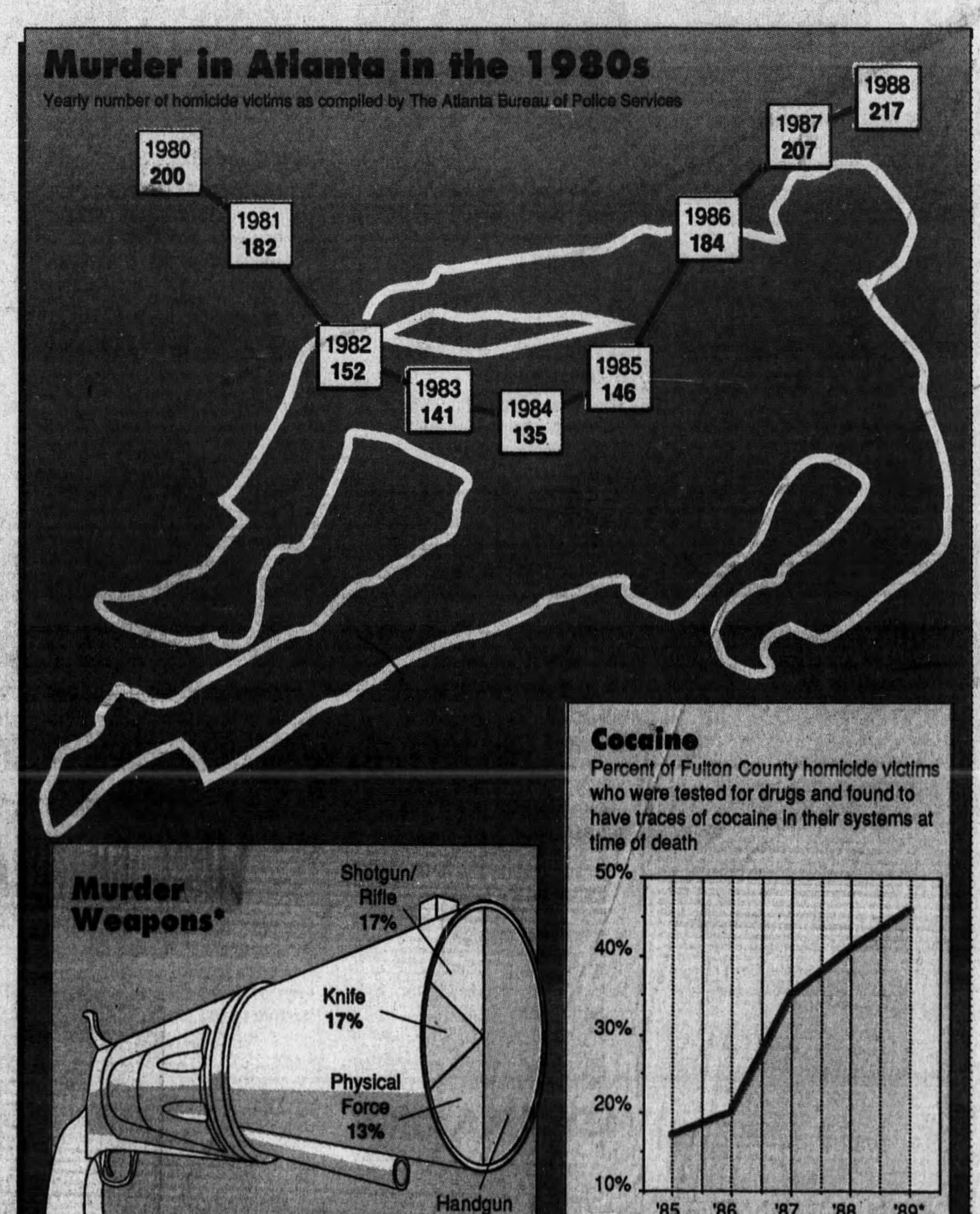
This year through Thursday, seven of Atlanta's 73 killings, or 10 percent, were classified as drug-related. Evidence suggests that at least a dozen more should have been, and some detectives and crime experts say 40 to 60 percent of the city's murders are actually connected in some way to drugs. For example:

On Thursday an 18-year-old southeast Atlanta man — described by a witness as a neighborhood crack dealer who often carried as much as \$1,000 in cash — was shot in what the investigator in the case believes was a drug robbery. The police bureau's public affairs office lists the cause as unknown.

On March 29, Wayne Algene Cordy, 28, a "known drug dealer," was gunned down in a parking lot in southeast Atlanta by three men with semi-automatic weapons. No motive is listed.

In another case in early February, Vickie Ann Miller, 29, was fatally wounded in the crossfire of a shootout when she stopped her car at an intersection. Police say they believe the shootout was over drugs,

DRUG-RELATED Continued on 21A



RON CODDINGTON/Staff

A Lesson in Frustration

MIT-Bound Teen Can't Get Diploma

By David Pendered
Staff Writer

Ivana Markovic could attend MIT, Vanderbilt, Duke, Emory or Georgia Tech, but she can't get a diploma from the Gwinnett County school system.

The Georgia school board Thursday voted 7-2 not to change or waive a state policy requiring all credits counting toward graduation to be earned in high school. Ivana, 16, took two high school-level courses in middle school, earning an A in both.

She learned last fall that the two courses would not count toward graduation, and she appealed the decision.

"The funny thing is that I have all the academic courses required for high school

graduation," said Ivana, a junior at Parkview High School. "I need just two electives to earn my diploma."

college, however, and she has decided to enroll in MIT in the fall without it.

Ivana was supported only by board members John M. Taylor of LaGrange and

Ivana doesn't need the diploma to go to

members John M. Taylor of LaGrange and Albert J. Abrams of Macon.

"I felt that her request had merit," Mr.

Taylor said. "She seems to be an outstanding young lady with excellent academic credentials."

School board members who voted

against Ivana's request — including Gwin-

nett's representative — gave two fundamen-STATE Continued on 20A



BILLY DOWNS/Staff

Figures for first quarter 1989

Ivana Markovic will attend MIT even though the state won't approve her high school diploma.

INSIDE TODAY

Cult Suspect
Forced to Dig Up
Mexico Grave 14A

Braves' Lilliquist
Stops Padres
In His Debut

Mostly Cloudy, with chance of rain and a high in the upper 60s. Details, Page 8D.

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Signing of Collegiates Sparked Federal Probe

Sports Agents

Found Guilty

As Racketeers

Source: Fulton County Medical Examiner's Office

College athletic officials praise landmark decision. Page 1E.

By Chris Mortensen
Staff Writer.

Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom were found guilty Thursday by a federal jury on five of seven criminal counts covering racketeering, mail fraud and extortion.

Walters, 58, and Bloom, 30, became the first sports agents ever convicted by a federal jury primarily for dealing with athletes who had remaining college eligibility. Walters also was found guilty of extortion for attempting to interrupt the musical tour by the Jackson Five in

The sports-related charges came after Walters and Bloom signed athletes before their college eligibility had expired, postdating and concealing those contracts and threatening to harm the athletes for reneging on the contracts or refusing to repay "loans."

SPORTS Continued on 24A

Tech Scientists Retract Fusion Claim, Must Repeat Experiment

By Robert Lee Hotz
Staff Writer

Georgia Tech researchers, calling their confirmation of a controversial cold fusion experiment earlier this week "reckless," said Thursday that they discovered instrument problems that raise "serious questions" about their findings.

The researchers retracted the results that they had announced Monday at a press conference, and said they would have to run the experiment again. In the excitement to be among

the first to confirm an important scientific breakthrough, the researchers said they made the announcement without first running a control experiment to confirm their work.

"I have really been in agony," said Dr. James
A. Mahaffey, a senior research scientist who
leads the Tech research group. "The announcement was reckless. It was impetuous. It was foolish to announce without running the control ex-

periment first.

"The problem is that this is like a race. You don't want to be left in the dust with data you

have had for months," he said. "This is a hot topic in science. We were in retrospect foolish, but we were afraid we would be left in the dust.

"People want so badly for this to be true," he said. "I've never known a scientist with a soul so dead that they didn't want this to be true."

The Tech researchers reported Monday that

The Tech researchers reported Monday that they had attained controlled room-temperature nuclear fusion in their laboratory — confirming a controversial report last month by chemists in

TECH Continued on 20A

Sports Agents Convicted of Defrauding Universities

From Page 1A

"This is a message that federal criminal laws apply across the board to the collegiate atmosphere, to universities, which can be subject to the fraud, and also to agents who do business with these athletes and universities, and I think that's very important," said a jubilant U.S. Attorney Anton Valukas.

Sentencing is tentatively set for late May. Walters and Bloom face maximum penalties of 55 years in prison, \$1.5 million in fines and forfeiture of assets received by their companies, Norby Walters Associates and World Sports and Entertainment Inc.

Mr. Valukas estimated the forfeiture figures at \$200,000 for Bloom and \$500,000 for Walters. A hearing will be held this afternoon on the forfeiture. The eight-woman, fourman jury was instructed by U.S. District Judge George M. Marovich to withhold comment until today.

Walters was grim-faced but composed after the verdict was read. Bloom fought back tears in the courtroom and broke down crying as he left the courthouse.

"We'll take 'em in the next round," Walters said as attorneys for both agents announced they will appeal.

After six days and nearly 40 hours of jury deliberation, Walters and Bloom together were convicted of racketeering, racketeering conspiracy, conspiracy and two counts of mail fraud.

Under the racketeering charge, Bloom also was found guilty on two acts of extortion and of defrauding Kansas City Chiefs running back Paul Palmer of \$145,000.

The extortion charges were based on threats Bloom made to former University of Texas player Everett Gay and former University of Kentucky player Maurice Douglass.

Bloom threatened to have someone break the legs of Mr. Douglass, now a defensive back with the Chicago Bears. Bloom also threatened Mr. Gay with physical harm. Both players had reneged on contractual agreements they signed with the

Both agents were acquitted on an extortion act, involving former University of Pittsburgh football star Tony Woods, in which they allegedly threatened to expose his dealings to the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

A federal grand jury that indicted Walters and Bloom on Aug. 24 linked both agents to organized crime "captain" Michael Franzese, an unindicted co-conspirator who testified for the government under immunity. Franzese testified that he provided money to the agency as a silent partner and was assigned to settle disputes between the agents and their clients.

"This case was initiated because we saw two people involved in mail fraud and extortion using money from organized crime to conduct those acts," Mr. Valukas said.

The organized crime element should not be underestimated, according to FBI agent George Randolph, who led the investigation starting in March 1987.

"We thwarted the mob from getting a foothold in the NFL," Mr. Randolph said. "This thing was headed for a bigger picture. The Colombo crime family that backed these guys is very big on gambling."

Walters and Bloom dealt with 58 college football and basketball players from 32 colleges from 1985 to 1987. The agents' activities and threats were first exposed by an Atlanta Journal-Constitution story March 12, 1987.

Four days later, the unsolved beating of rival sports agent Kathy Clements in Skokie, Ill., precipitated the federal investigation, according to the FBI and prosecutors.

"I don't think it's a coincidence," said Chicago sports agent Steve Zucker, who was Ms. Clements's associate at the time of the beating. "We had taken some of [Walters's and Bloom's] clients, and it was pretty obvious that Kathy was cooperating with The Atlanta Constitution's investigation. It's scary what happened."

The agents were convicted of defrauding two Big Ten Conference schools, Michigan and Purdue, because they signed three football players prior to the athletes' senior

seasons. "Universities that operate with integrity now know where to turn when somebody tampers with their institution," said Valukas. "We've received numerous inquiries from state legislators. There is a deterrent factor that should not be

ignored." FBI agent George Randolph pointed out that 44 athletes entered a pretrial diversion program in which they were required to make restitution to their college for scholarship money, perform community service and report to a U.S. proba-

tion officer for one year. One former Ohio State football star, Cris Carter of the Philadelphia Eagles, pleaded guilty to mail fraud and obstruction of justice. His sentencing date has been set for April

"All I can say to athletes who

get mixed up with this is the next time somebody knocks on your door, it may not be a sports agent it may be an FBI agent," Mr. Randolph said.

The jury acquitted Walters and Bloom of defrauding two other Big Ten schools, Iowa and Michigan

The defense raised the issue of whether Iowa had covered up the academic deficiencies of football players Ronnie Harmon and Devon Mitchell. Also, the defense argued

that Michigan State should have dismissed football player Mark Ingram because he had been involved in three theft arrests, including a felony conviction while in school.

Mr. Valukas, who called the sixweek trial a "war for both sides," praised defense attorneys representing the agents.

"Genuine issues raised con-Mr. Valukas said. "But this case exposed here."

also showed that a university in good standing like Michigan and Purdue can demand integrity from athletes and people who deal with those athletes."

Dan Webb, Mr. Valukas's predecessor as U.S. attorney in Chicago and Bloom's attorney during the trial, lashed out at college athletics.

"Out of all the schools Lloyd cerns about college sports that has and Norby dealt with, only two were to be addressed by somebody other defrauded," Mr. Webb said. "The than jury and the U.S. attorney," sordid tale of college athletics was

The jury passed on a verdict involving two schools outside the Big Ten, Temple and Notre Dame. Both colleges were named as mail fraud victims under the racketeering charges, but Judge Marovich had instructed it was only necessary to find two separate criminal acts to "pattern determine a racketeering."

"I wouldn't come to the conclusion that all of the 26 other schools had something wrong with their programs," Mr. Valukas said. "I didn't want this trial to last beyond my second or third term here as U.S. attorney. We basically brought in the Big Ten schools under our

Mr. Valukas admitted his office operated under a "novel and untest-

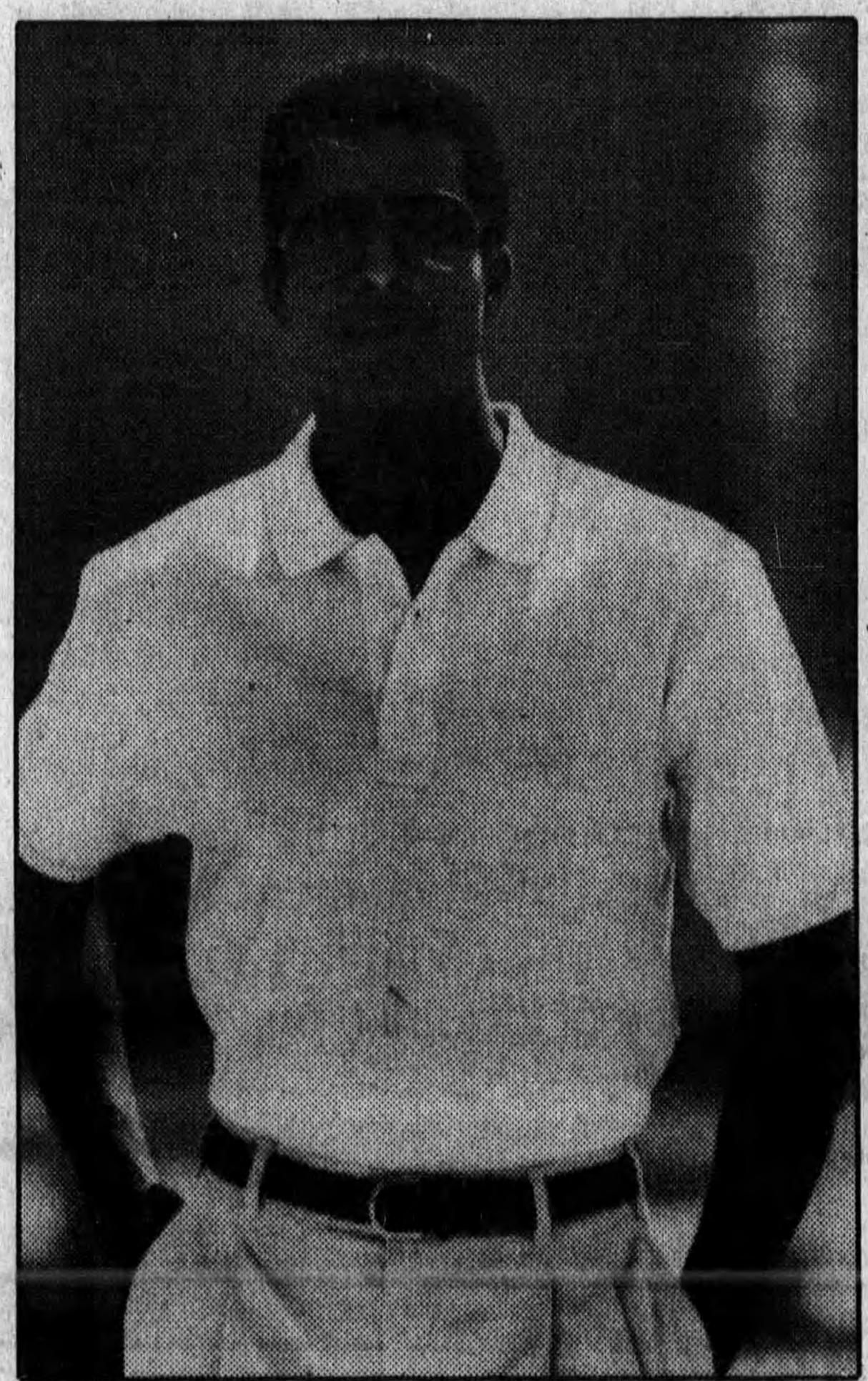
jurisdiction."

ed theory" that universities were defrauded of scholarship money and their rights to allocate scholarships. The government charged that Walters and Bloom induced athletes to fraudulently sign scholarship certification papers to remain athletically eligible.

Howard Pearl, the Assistant U.S. Attorney who led the grand jury investigation, disagreed somewhat with his boss.

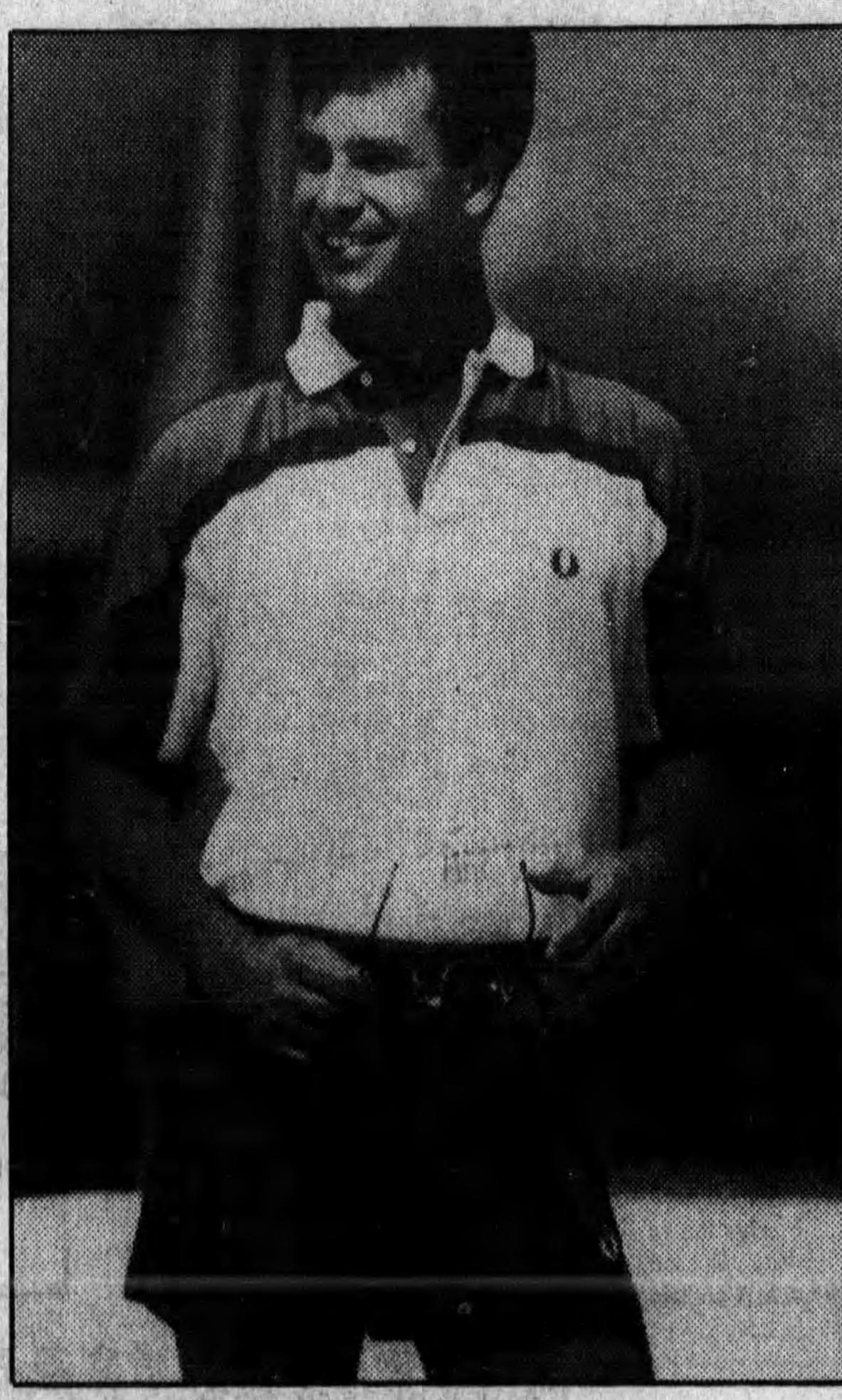
"I never thought it was a novel theory," said Pearl. "It's a simple fraud when somebody signs false documents to obtain money."

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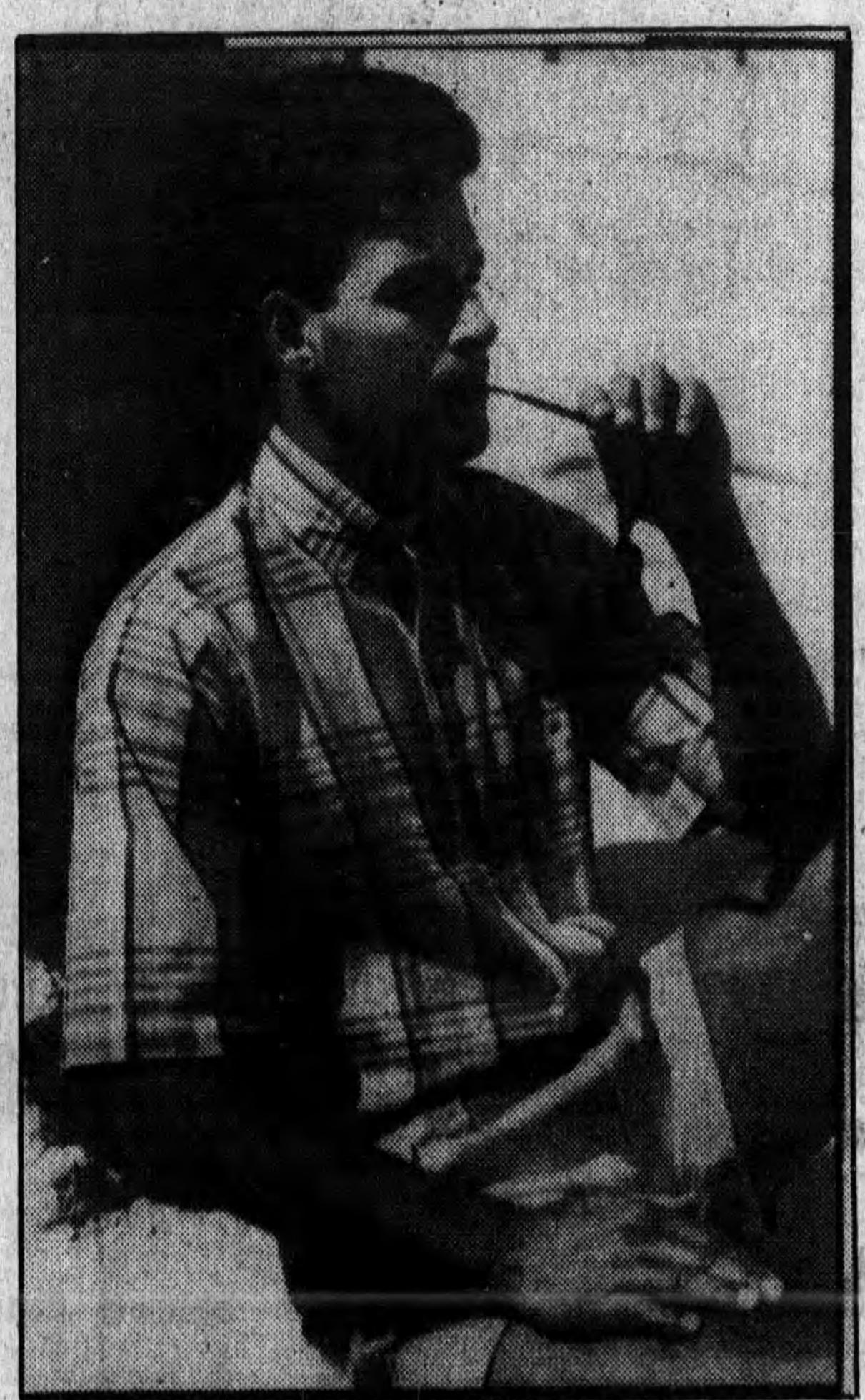
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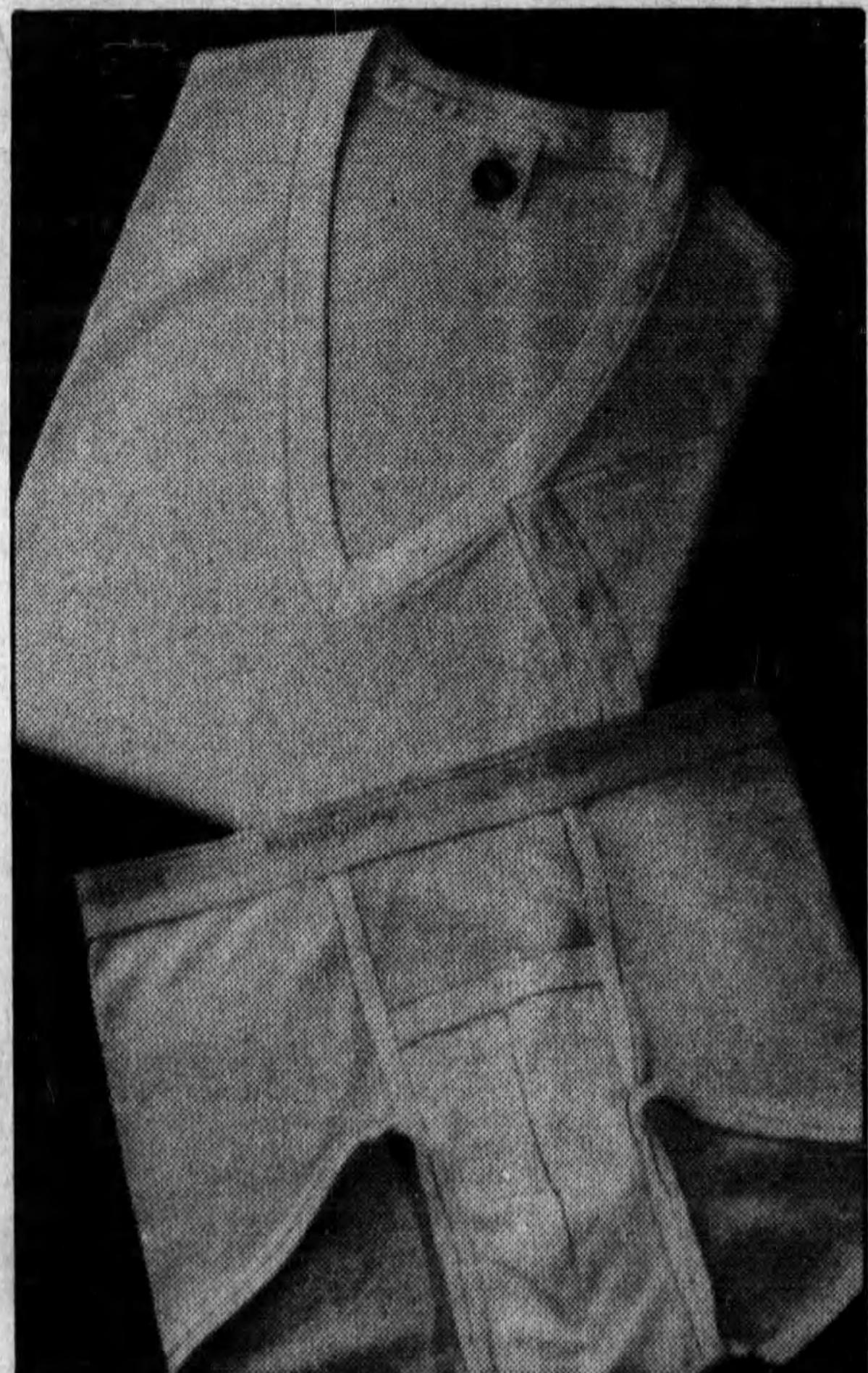
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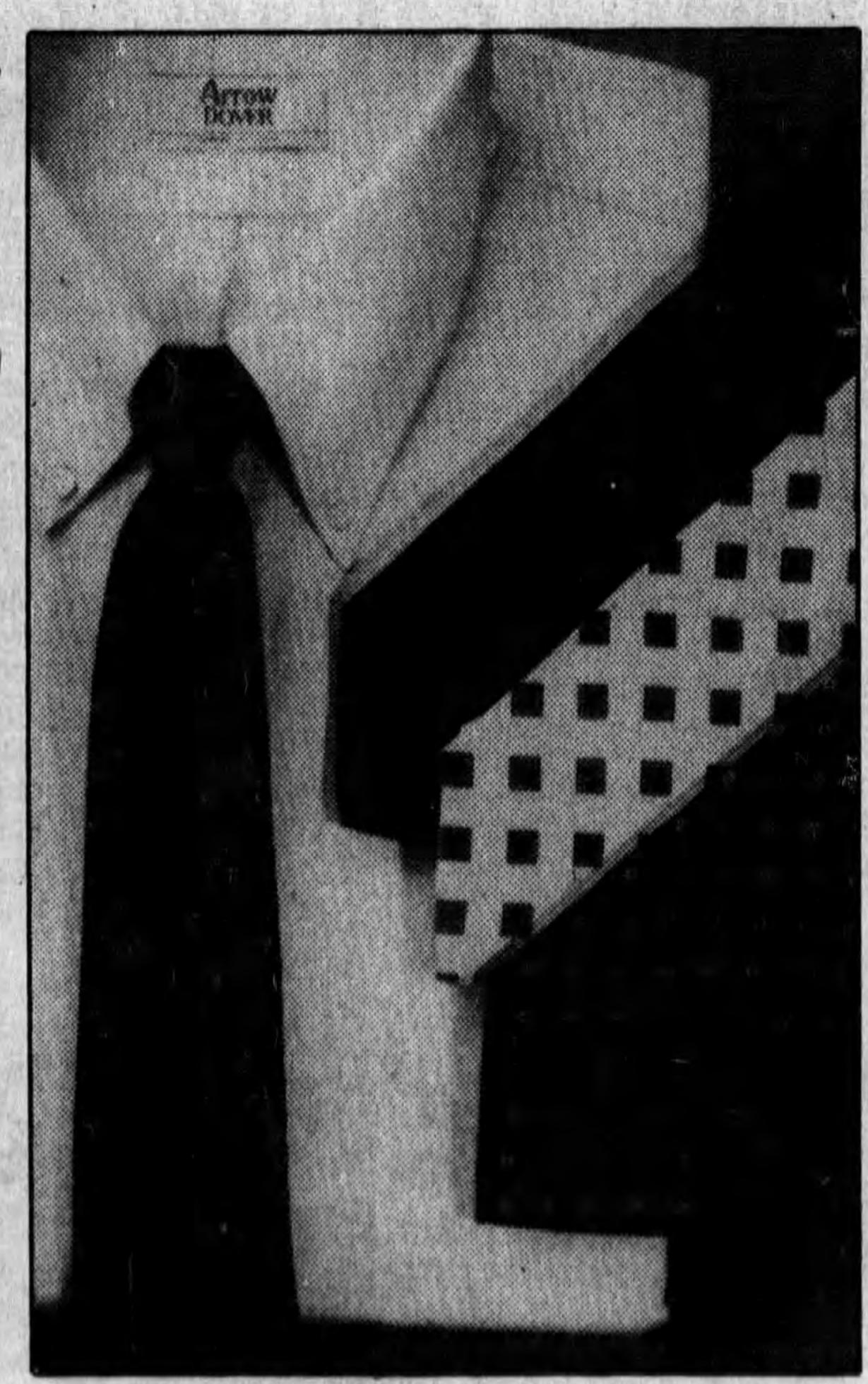
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AREA

SECTION E

THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION

FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 1989

College Officials Applaud Guilty Verdict for Walters, Bloom

□ Walters, Bloom Guilty of Racketeering, Page 1A By Tony Barnhart Staff Writer

College athletic officials said Thursday that the guilty verdict in the Norby Walters case was a landmark decision that will put a chill on agents who attempt to sign athletes before their eligibility expires.

One agent, however, said colleges are being hypocritical in their enthusiasm over the verdict because they are exploiting athletes worse than any agent ever

Walters and Lloyd Bloom were found guilty of rack-

eteering, conspiracy and mail fraud in defrauding universities by using cash to lure college athletes to sign improper contracts, thus compromising their eligibility. Each man faces as much as 55 years in prison and more than \$1 milion in fines.

"Obviously this will be a decision that sends echoes out to all the agents," said Steve Sloan, the Alabama athletics director. "This has to have a settling effect on the relationship between college athletes and agents."

Alabama lost \$253,000 in NCAA Tournament money when it was learned that Walters had been involved with Crimson Tide basketball players Derrick McKey

and Terry Coner during the 1986-87 season. Walters was indicted by an Alabama grand jury but charges were dropped when he agreed to pay a \$203,500 settlement to the University. Walters is still making payments.

"The only thing we found that affected Mr. Walters was the possibility of spending some time in the Tuscaloosa County jail," said Sloan. "We found he reacted very strong to that."

But Ralph Cindrich, an agent in Pittsburgh, said

AGENTS Continued on 9E

The Walters-Bloom Case

Key dates leading to Thursday's conviction of sports agents - Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom:

■ March 12, 1987: It was reported that Walters and Bloom had paid many college athletes and had allegedly threatened some with physical harm if they fired the agents.

March 26, 1987: The U.S. Attorney's office in Chicago and the FBI began investigations of the agents.

Aug. 24, 1988: A federal grand jury indicted Walters and Bloom on racketeering, fraud and conspiracy charges.

Hawks Take 3rd, Hold Off Celtics



Mark Bradley

Koncak Turning It Around At Right Time for Hawks

Whatever Jon Koncak's flaws, his hearing isn't among them. Truth to tell, he hears everything. Not long ago, his eardrums were about to melt down from the audible heat. According to courtside critics with industrial-strength vocal cords, Koncak was a bum, a stiff, a klutz and a goldbrick, not to mention the worst No. 1 draftee in the history of man. Koncak heard it all, and hearing hurt. But that was then. These days, Koncak hears something rather different.

Applause.

More than a smattering. Laced with the occasional, "Way to go, Jon!" Being a new-wave kind of guy, Koncak prefers these sweet sounds to the old derogatory din. "It's nice," he said. "Shoot yeah." Does he find it curious that some of the same patrons who'd decided in February that he couldn't play a lick now credit him for turning the Atlanta Hawks' season? "Not really. Fans just want you to do well, the team to do well." Funny thing, too. Largely because he is, it is.

Getting in Michael Jordan's Way

Koncak has started the last 11 games. The Hawks have won nine. There are other factors, sure, but the transformation of Jon Koncak from middling backup center to starting power forward serves as this team's line of demarcation. With Koncak as a sub, the Hawks were underachievers. With him starting, they're good and getting better. If nothing else, Koncak enables the Hawks to guard people again.

You saw it Sunday against Chicago, when thrice the great Michael Jordan was forced to abort solo flights because Koncak stepped into his glide path. You saw it again Thursday, when the Hawks induced Boston to miss 14 of its first 21 shots, forcing the green people to hoist all manner of ungainly jumpers just to beat the 24-second buzzer. The Hawks led by nine after a quarter, by 27 at the half. The frazzled Celtics made 16 first-half turnovers, 11 of them Hawks steals. The Hawks would win 132-118, winning because of their rolling start, a start forged by defense. Yes.

For four months these Hawks couldn't stop anybody when it mattered. They'd added offense in Moses Malone and Reggie Theus, but they'd excised a chunk of what made this team good in the first place. Without Tree Rollins, the defense had no anchor. A Hawk would lunge for a steal, miss and watch as his man blew past for a layup. Good as Moses is, he's no shot-blocker, and without the injured Kevin Willis, the Hawks had nobody to challenge shooters. They have now. They have Koncak. And the difference in the Hawks is startling.

Doesn't Need to Score, Just Do Grunt Work

Once passive, the out-front guys are dauntless on D, knowing there'll be somebody underneath to erase mistakes. They overplay more, trap more, dare more. Where once they let teams feed the post without opposition, the Hawks contest every pass, every shot. The two games before he became a starter, the Hawks yielded 111 and 110 points. They've

allowed 110 or more in regulation only twice since. If Koncak doesn't score a point, it matters not. Offense the Hawks already had. They needed somebody to do the grunt work, to clog the lane and pound the glass and not worry where his next shot's coming from. Said Koncak: "There's no question. that on the starting unit, I'm the fifth option out of five. But that just opens things up for everybody else. Since I've been in there, Moses's points are up." Indeed, Moses has averaged 22.3 points over the last six game, above from his seasonal norm of 20.4. Many of his baskets now come on the break, a break triggered by steals and long rebounds off forced shots. Koncak: "Moses knows he doesn't have to be the last guy back on the defensive end."

BRADLEY Continued on SE

Celtics Leave Battered, Page 8E By Jeffrey Denberg

By winning their fifth straight game, the Atlanta Hawks seized sole possession of third place in the Central Division Thursday night. They had to put Boston away twice to do it.

The Hawks built a 27-point lead at halftime, survived a sizzling third quarter by the Celtics and drew away again for a 132-118 romp.

The victory gave the Hawks the season series 3-1, their first series win over the Celtics since moving to Atlanta in 1968. It also put them a half-game up on Milwaukee as the teams continue to battle for the home-court advantage in the first round of the playoffs. Apparently, they will meet for the second straight year. Chicago lost its fourth straight to fall 21/2 games behind the Hawks and two behind the Bucks.

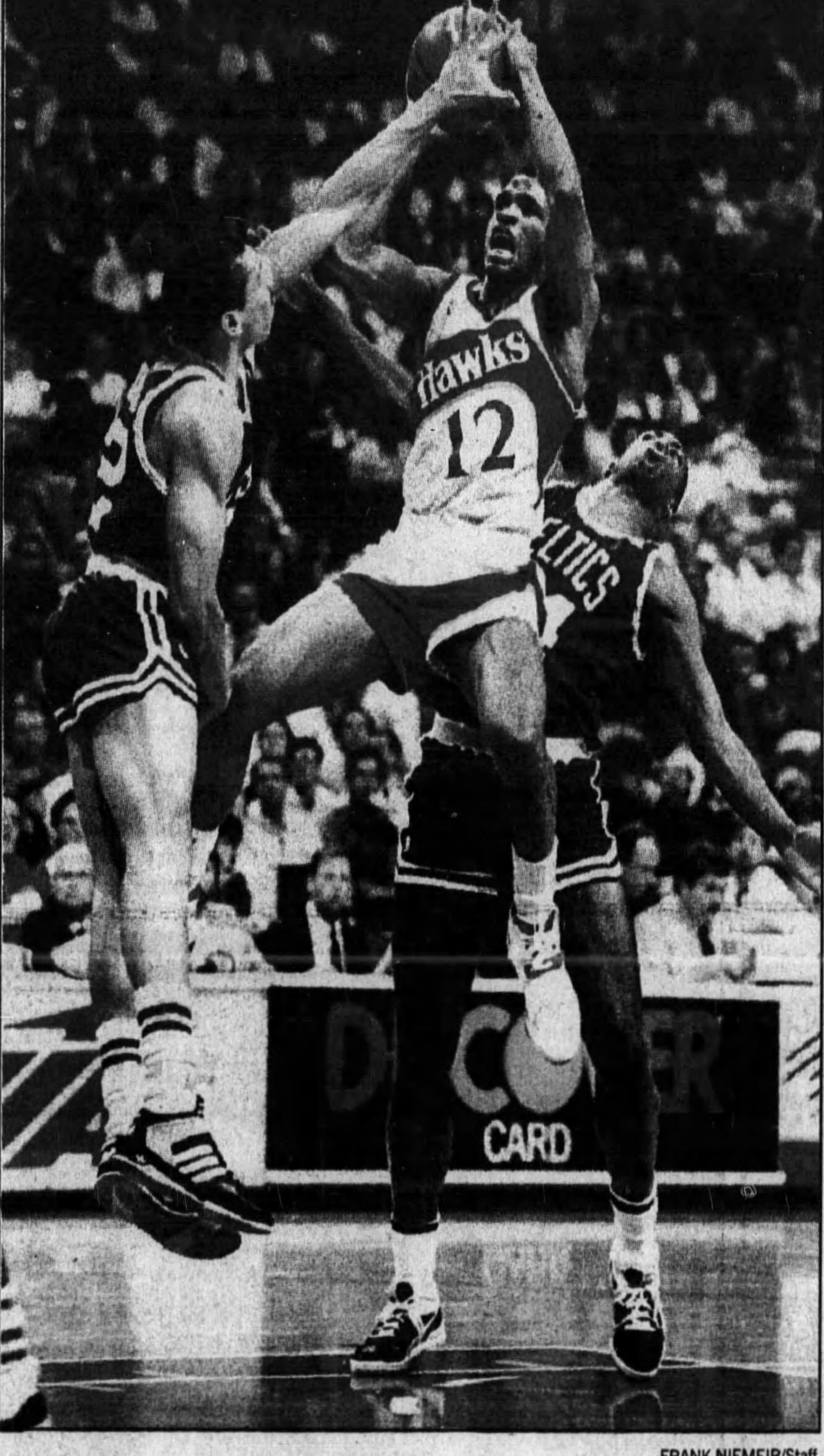
"We played so well in the first half [67-40 lead, .570 shooting, 16 Celtics turn-

HAWKS Continued on 8E

Eastern Conference Race

Team 1 is the division leader with the better record: Team 2 is the other division winner. Teams 3-8 are ranked according to their regular-season winning percentage. Pct. GB

	1.1 Page 170 Test	Dauble Library	CASE OF THE PARTY	100 district results
x-Detroit	58	18	.763	_
Cleveland	55	22	.714	31/2
x-New York	49	28	.636	91/2
Atlanta	48	29	.623	101/2
Milwaukee	47	29	.618	11
Chicago	45	30	.600	121/2
Philadelphia	42	34	.553	16
Boston	39	37	.513	19
Washington	38	39	.494	201/2



FRANK NIEMEIR/Staff

Guard John Battle shoots over Celtics' Otis Birdsong (left) after getting past Ed Pinckney during the Hawks' 132-118 victory.

Lilliquist's Wait Ends In 4-1 Win

Ex-Dog Puzzles Padres In Major-League Debut

□ The Braves Report, Page 6E

By Joe Strauss Staff Writer

SAN DIEGO — He had been a fifth starter, emergency reliever and victim of a nationally televised rainout, all without throwing a single

Thursday afternoon against the San Diego Padres, Derek Lilliquist reminded the Atlanta Braves why they brought him north as the final piece to their rotation — as if they could now forget.

Showing little awe for a lineup including offensive terrors Tony Gwynn and Jack Clark, Lilliquist stifled the Padres on three hits and one run over 71/3 innings, earning credit for a 4-1 win in his major-league debut.

General manager Bobby Cox labeled the performance "outstanding." Manager Russ Nixon could only manage, "God, that was great." Lilliquist, gone from the University of Georgia for less than two years, conceded it to be a nice effort.

"I was nervous, but I wasn't scared," he said. "You can't play this game scared."

After walking two of the first four batters, Lilliquist battled through an uneasy start to retire 15 consecutive hitters between a third-inning triple by Bip Roberts and an eighth-inning home run by pinch-hitter Luis Salazar. Only once did Lilliquist allow two baserunners in an inning. He never allowed a leadoff hitter to reach against him.

"He didn't make any mistakes," said Braves catcher Bruce Benedict.

BRAVES Continued on 6E

Redskins Believe Riggs Can Revive Ailing Ground Game

By I.J. Rosenberg Staff Writer

The Washington Redskins, who finished 24th in the NFL in rushing last season and whose only veteran running back was injured at the end of the year, are diligently working to obtain Atlanta Falcons running back Gerald Riggs, sources said Thursday.

Riggs has been a major topic of discussion in Redskins' draft strategy meetings the last three days.

Meanwhile, Riggs's agent, Ralph Cindrich, spoke with Falcons director of player personnel Ken Herock Thursday, again emphasizing his player's desire to leave the club, sources added.

Riggs, who has declined to return phone calls, is the focal point of a proposed three-team trade with the Falcons, Washington and San Diego, coached by Dan Henning. He has strong connections with Atlanta and

Washington, having coached for both

The proposed deal, according to sources, would ship Riggs and possibly a second- or third-round draft choice to the Chargers for their first-round pick, eighth overall. San Diego would then send Riggs to Washington for one of two backup quarterbacks, a reserve offensive tackle and a second-round

Sources report all three teams are

eager to work out a deal.

Asked about a trade involving Riggs, Falcons coach Marion Campbell said, "I don't comment on things like that because they would be hypothetical answers. I have no comment on it."

eration Steve Ortmayer acknowledges that something is in the works.

"It's not a fabrication," he said.

However, San Diego director of op-

RIGGS Continued on 7E

College Gymnastics Growing Up Fast

Instead of Olympic-Style Pressure, Women Enjoy Working as a Team

□ Lady Dogs Coach Critical of NCAA Foes, Page 11E By Karen Rosen Staff Writer

ATHENS — Women Olympic gymnasts once turned their backs on competing in college, believing it wasn't worth the mats they tumbled on. Collegiate programs couldn't shake their reputation as outlets for the hasbeens and never-weres. The Olympics were all that mattered.

Then a handful of Olympic gymnasts chose to flip over the uneven bars for college teams - and the stigma fell off.

Georgia's Lucy Wener made the 1984 U.S. Olympic team, but was injured and could not compete. Now a senior majoring in psychology, she'll be one of the favorites in the NCAA Women's Gymnastics Championship today and Saturday in the Georgia Coliseum.

"I thought college gymnastics was for the rejects," said Wener, of Memphis. "That's totally a farce. When I got here, it was totally different. There were people do-

NCAA Championships

■ What: NCAA women's team and individual championships.

■ Where: University of Georgia Coliseum.

■ When: Team competition today, 4:30 p.m. (seeds 7-12) and 7:30 p.m. (seeds 1-6). Individual, Saturday 7:30 p.m.

Seeds: No. 1 UCLA, No. 2 Alabama, No. 3 Utah, No. 4 Nebraska, No. 5 Georgia, No. 6 Cal State-Fullerton, No. 7 Florida, No. 8 Oregon State, No. 9 Oklahoma, No. 10 Arizona State, No.

11 Arizona, No. 12 Ohio State. Tickets: \$7 for each night.

ing three double backs [flips] in their [floor] routine. Elite-level gymnasts come here. If people expect to see forward rolls on the floor, they're going to be surprised."

At the same time, college gymnasts are freed of the politics and pressure of making the national team, then competing against other countries.

"It's more fun," said Utah freshman Missy Marlowe, the only member of the fourth-place U.S. Olympic team

GYMNASTICS Continued on 11E



WILLIAM BERRY/Staff

Missy Marlowe prefers the college atmosphere.

By Tony Barnhart Staff Writer

Auburn continued to bring in new basketball talent under recently hired coach Tommy Joe Eagles on Thursday, signing junior college forward Richard Smith to a scholarship.

Smith, 6-foot-7, is the third player to commit to Auburn during the spring signing period, which began Wednesday and lasts through May 15. He played at Pratt (Kan.) Community College, averaging 11.2 points and 6.4 rebounds in leading his team to a 25-12 record and a fourth-place finish in the national junior college tournament.

Smith orginally signed with Ne-

braska out of King High School in Chicago, where he was a teammate of current Illinois star Marcus Liberty. Smith played eight games at Nebraska during the 1987-88 season before transferring to Pratt.

Auburn signed 6-8 Chuck Simms of Redan High in Stone Mountain and 6-6 Marcus Ford of Detroit on Wednesday. Roderick Joyce, a 6-4 guard from Jacksonville, Fla., signed with Auburn last November.

"Richard Smith is the blue-collar worker of this recruiting class," said Eagles. "Richard won't come in with a great deal of fanfare, but he'll get the job done."

Mississippi State was the only other SEC school to sign a player Thursday. The Bulldogs got David

Domingue, a 6-7 forward from Crowley, La. Domingue was a first-team all-state player in Louisiana, averaging 16.9 points and 10.0 points for Notre Dame High School, which finished 28-8.

In the ACC, Virginia signed 6-5 guard Chris Havlicek, son of former Boston Celtics star John Havlicek. A native of Weston, Mass., who was described by Virginia coach Terry Holland as "a late bloomer," the younger Havlicek averaged 27.0 points and 7.6 rebounds his senior season and scored 1,241 points in his career.

"Chris is a player that I think is a little bit of a late bloomer," said Virginia coach Terry Holland. "He was highly recruited but not as

highly recruited as he would be if he was playing in high school next year. He's just starting to come into his game."

Virginia also signed 6-7 Cornel Parker, an all-stater from Norfolk who can play either guard or for-

Craig Tyson, a 6-4 guard from Baltimore, signed with N.C. State. Tyson averaged 26 points and 10 rebounds per game and was selected by the Baltimore Sun as the player of the year in the metropolitan area in his final prep season.

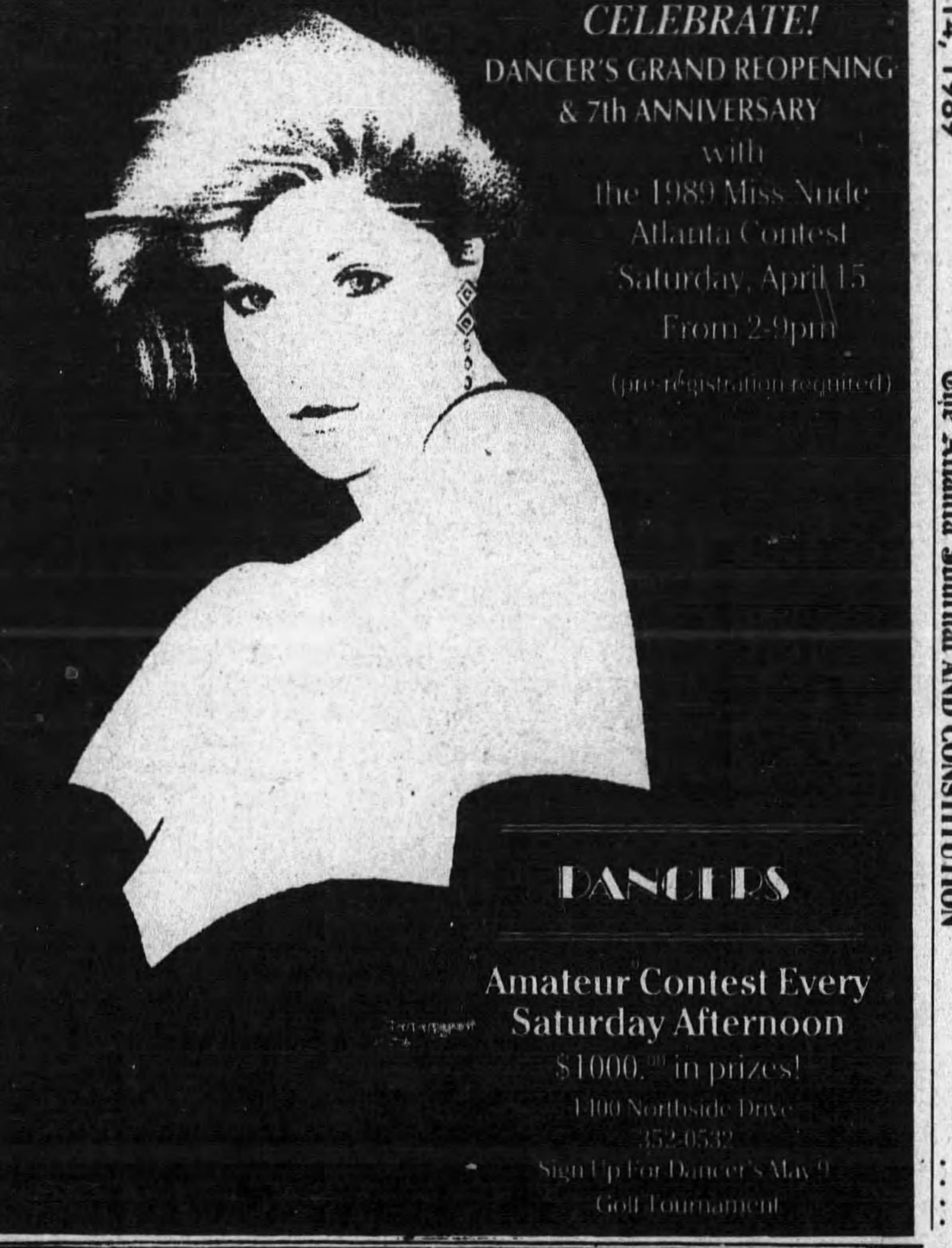
In the Metro Conference, Memphis State signed forward Montrell Nash from St. Louis, its second All-American in as many days.

Know where to run.

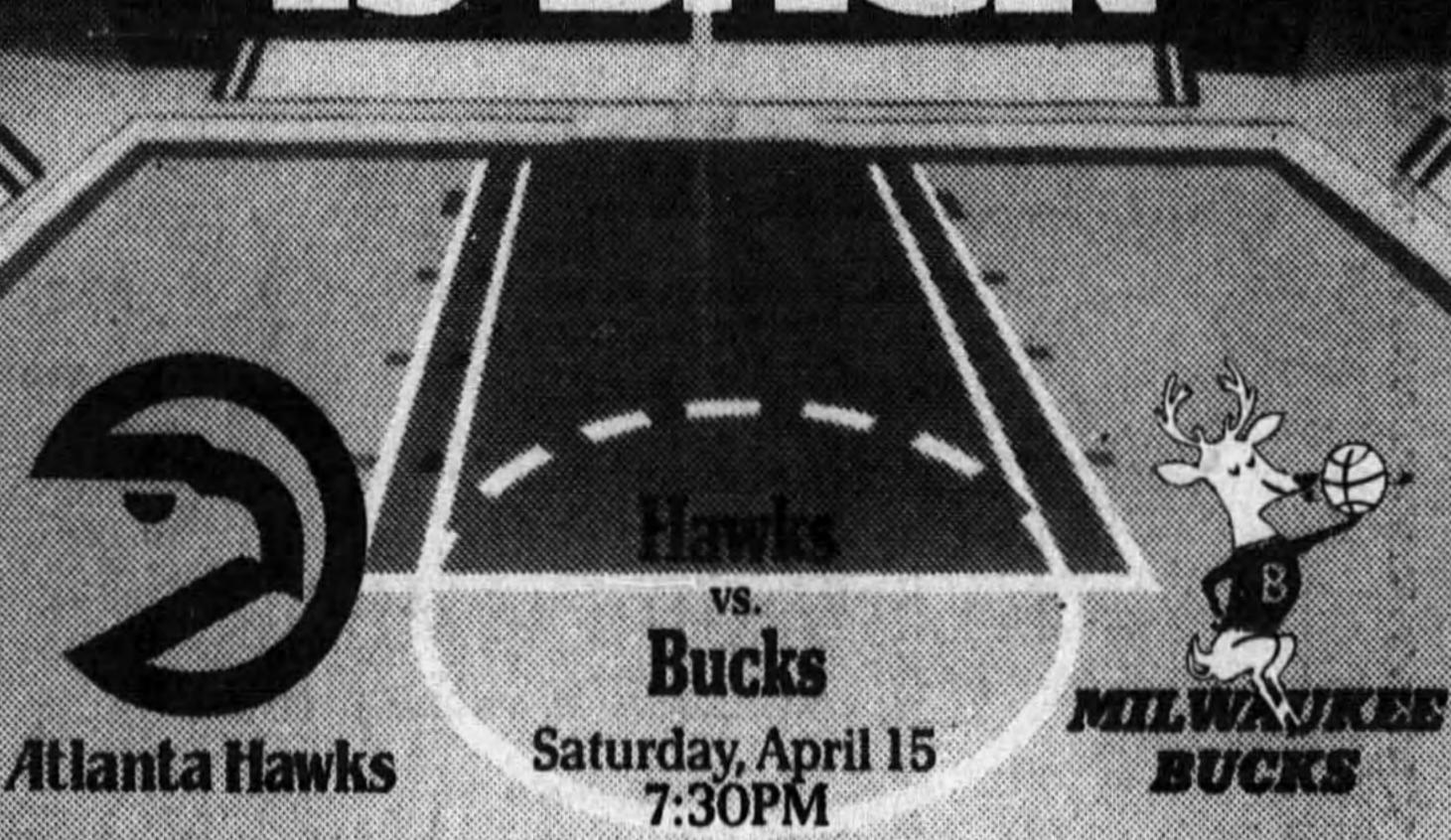
Read Colin Bessonette in Sunday's Travel Guide.



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Colleges Say Trial Ruling A Landmark

From Page 1E

that while he thinks most of the actions of Walters and Bloom to be "despicable," an important distinction needs to be made about their conduct.

"If they are being punished for strong-arm tactics or mob involvement, then they deserve everything they get," said Cindrich. "But if defrauding the universities is what it's all about, then it is a travesty of the American justice system."

Cindrich said to punish Walters and Bloom for loaning money to athletes and signing them to contract disregards the actions of the school which, he says, are guilty of the same practices.

"They (the schools) prostitute the athletes, and in many cases they have full knowledge of what's going "on," said Cindrich. "All you have to do is walk through the parking lots and see the high-priced cars and all the gold jewelry and you know what's going on."

Cindrich said he does not believe the verdict will be a major deterrent on unscrupulous agents.

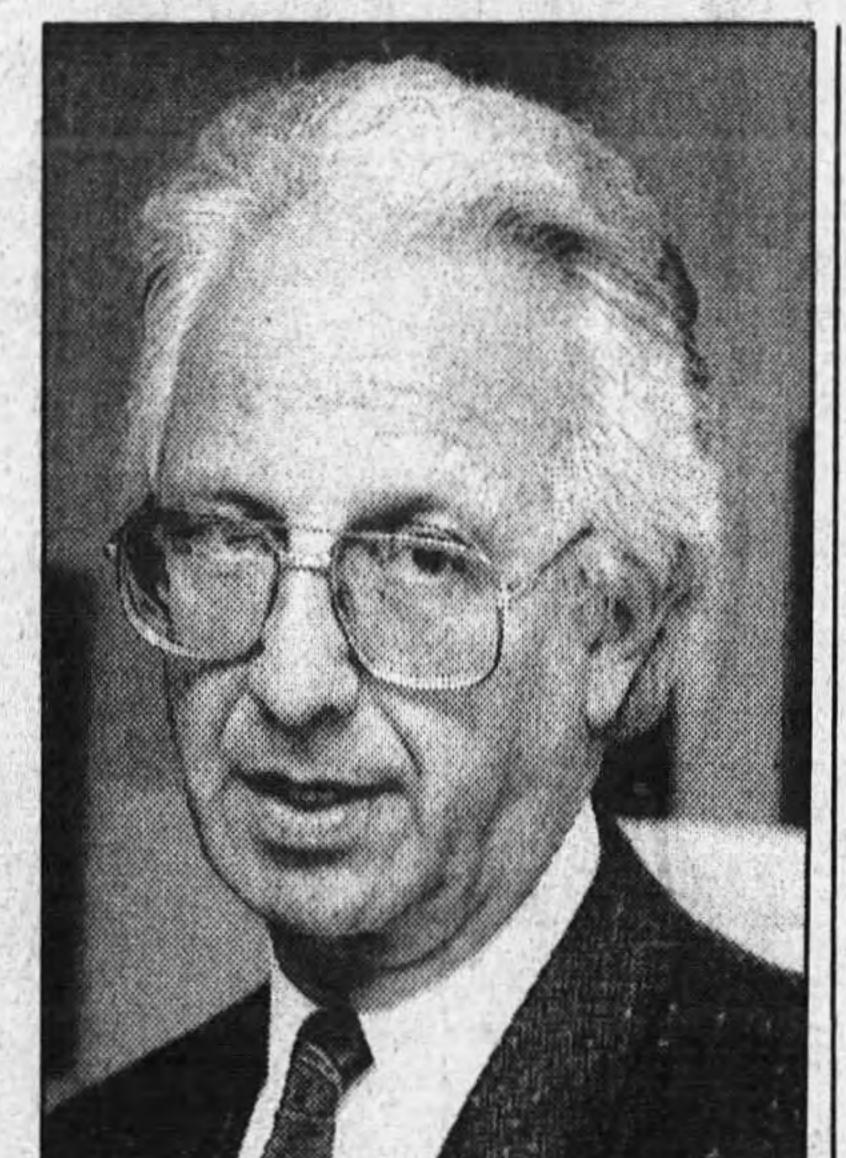
"I'm not saying the agents aren't a problem, because they are," said - Cindrich. "But they are a result and not the cause of the problem. It starts a lot earlier than when the agent gets involved, and it's going on this year as much as it ever has.'

Jack Mills, a Denver-based agent, said Thursday's decision will have a significant impact on all sports agents.

"As far as a deterrent against this type of behavior, this is more than anything we've ever had," said Mills, who is also a lawyer. "It's now more than unethical behavior; it's criminal behavior, and that's a big difference."

College coaches and administrators expressed joy at the verdict.

"It is an important message being sent that the FBI and other authorities are not going to put up



Norby Walters

with this," said Pittsburgh football coach Mike Gottfried, who lost the services of two players because of their involvement with Walters and Bloom and has been outspoken about cracking down on agents.

"Now the most important thing that can come from this trial is they move on to the other people because there are certainly a lot more people out there doing this than orby Walters."

Washington coach Don James said he believes the trial has already had a cooling effect on agents. Washington defensive end Reggie Rogers took money from Walters in 1987 and the two men later filed lawsuits against each other for breach of contract.

"From talking to our players, I think agents are already backing off," said James.

Georgia athletics director Vince Dooley said the verdict would "make agents be very, very careful. It's not going to stop it. But I think at least you have some laws that have some teeth. It will have its

Walters and Bloom gave Georgia center Keith Johnson \$5,000 to represent him in 1986. Johnson was later called to testify about the transaction before a grand jury.

"The unscrupulous agent problem is one that has never been properly addressed by the NCAA," said Dooley.

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Presley Hat Trick Helps Chicago Eliminate Wings

CHICAGO — Wayne Presley scored three times, including a record third short-handed goal, and Steve Larmer added two goals Thursday HOCKEY night, leading the Chicago Blackhawks to a playoff seriesclinching 7-1 victory over the De-

troit Red Wings. Presley scored a goal in the second period 26 seconds after Larmer had broken a 1-1 tie. He added a power-play goal at 7:29 of the third period and completed his hat trick

with	a short	-hande	ed goal a	at	11:0	05.
Detro	olt	,		1	0	0-1
Chica	ago	24	Marin San	1	3	3-7
First	Period-1,	Detroit,	Norwood	1	(Yze	erman,

Oates), 6:21 (pp). 2, Chicago, Larmer 2 (Savard, Yawney), 18:39 (pp). Second Period-3, Chicago, Larmer 3 (Savard), 7;03. 4, Chicago, Presley 3 (Creighton, Thomas), 7:29. 5, Chicago, T.Murray 2 (Brown, Thomas),

Third Period-6, Chicago, Presley 4 (Manson, Yawney), 7:29 (pp). 7, Chicago, Presley 5, 11:05 (sh). 8, Chicago, Savard 4 (Yawney, Van Dorp), Shots on goal-Detroit 7-7-5-19. Chicago 13-

10-12-35. Power-play Opportunities-Detroit 1 of 7; Chica-Goalies-Detroit, Stefan, 2-3 (23 shots-19 saves), Hanlon (0:00 third, 12-9). Chicago, Chevrier, 4-2 (19-18).

Tocchet-Led Flyers End Capitals' Season 4-3

PHILADELPHIA — Rich Tocchet's second goal of the game with 3:19 left gave the Philadelphia Flyers a 4-3 victory over the Washington Capitals and carried them into

the NHL's P	Patrick Division finals					
Washington	5		1		2-3	
Philadelphia	Meshin	122 112		-77	2-4	
First Period-1,	wasning	gton, Ha	cher	1 ((iccar-	

elli, Ridley), 7:02 (pp). Second Period-2, Philadelphia, Propp 6 (Howe, Poulin), 5:21 (sh). 3, Philadelphia, Murphy 2 (Carkner, Tocchet), 15:42 (pp). Third Period-4, Washington, Stevens 1 (Ciccarelli, Hunter), 3:28. 5, Philadelphia, Tocchet 4 (Propp, Carkner), 7:27. 6, Washington, Gustafsson 2 (Johansson, Hatcher), 13:13. 7, Philadel-

Shots on goal-Washington 17-9-8-34. Philadelphia 8-10-10-28. Power-play Opportunities—Washington 1 of 4; Philadelphia 1 of 8. Goalies-Washington, Peeters, 2-4 (28 shots-24

phia, Tocchet 5 (Bullard, Chychrun), 16:41.

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saves). Philadelphia, Hextall, 4-2 (34-31).

Gretzky Helps Kings Defeat Oilers, Force Seventh Game

EDMONTON, Alberta — Chris Kontos scored his playoff-leading seventh goal on an assist from Wayne Gretzky and former Edmonton minor-leaguer Jim Wiemer added a goal as the Los Angeles Kings beat the Oilers 4-1 to force a seventh game in the Smythe Division

semifinals.			126		
Los Angeles Edmonton			0		3-4
First Period—1, Messier) :33	Edmonton,	Gregg	1 (/	110.7	The second

Second Period-2, Los Angeles, Allison 1 (Kasper, Kennedy), 16:22. Third Period-3, Los Angeles, Weimer 1 (Taylor, Laidlaw), 4:14. 4, Los Angeles, Kontos 7 (Gretzky, McSorley), 8:19. 5, Los Angeles, Robitaille 2 (Nicholls, DeGray), 12:13. Shots on goal-Los Angeles 7-10-12-29. Ed-

monton 5-4-14-23. Power-play Opportunities-Los Angeles 0 of 1; Edmonton 0 of 2. Goalies-Los Angeles, Hrudey, 3-2 (23 shots-22 saves). Edmonton, Fuhr, 3-3 (29-25).

Canucks Hold Off Flames As 6-3 Win Ties Series

VANCOUVER, B.C. — Rich Sutter scored two goals to lead the Vancouver Canucks to a 6-3 win over the Calgary Flames in game six of their Smythe division semifinal, tying the series at 3-3.

Calgary		Set in the set	1-3
Vancouver		0 4	2-6
First Period-1, Ca	Igary, M	acInnis 1	(Otto).
15:50 (pp).			

Snepsts) 2:32 (sh). 3, Calgary, Peplinski 1 (T.Hunter, Otto), 9:29. 4, Vancouver, Sandlak 1 (Bridgman, Bozek), 17:26. 5, Vancouver, Sutter 1 (Skriko, Bradley), 19:29. 6, Vancouver, Butcher 1 (Bozek, Sandlak), 19:44.

Third Period-7, Calgary, Loob 5 (Nattress, Mullen), 5:16 (sh). 8, Vancouver, Bradley 3 (Skriko, Butcher), 14:23. 9, Vancouver, Sutter 2, 19:16

Shots on goal—Calgary 4-11-17—32. Vancouver 8-10-7-25. Power-play Opportunities—Calgary 1 of 5; Van-Goalies-Calgary, Vernon, 3-3 (24 shots-19 saves). Vancouver, McLean, 2-2 (32-29).

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