

Aboard the USS lowa in this 1984 photo, a sailor flanks the breech of one of its big 16 inch guns (left). Cylindrical bags containing 110

Continued from page 1

session with congressional leaders at the White House. "It's a great trag-'edy and a matter of terrible sadness," added Bush, a Navy pilot in World War II who had spoken at the celebration of the ship's last refurbishing in 1984. He said he wanted to "express my regrets, especially to the families."

The Iowa rendezvoused at midafternoon with the nearby aircraft carrier USS Coral Sea, which carries three doctors and has full medical facilities, Baumann said. Helicopters from the Coral Sea brought medical equipment to the Iowa and transferred some injured sailors to the carrier.

The Iowa was to arrive Thursday at Roosevelt Roads, a Navy base in Puerto Rico, said Cmdr. Robert Franzmann of the Atlantic Fleet. The 46-year-old ship, one of the four largest in the fleet, is based at

Norfolk.

Navy officials were notifying relatives personally of the deaths, Baumann said. Several family members gathered at a gymnasium in Norfolk to await word.

"The longer we hear nothing, the better it is," said Sandy Tate of Charleston, W. Va., a relative of crew member Jonathan Tate.

The explosion occurred during a gunnery exercise about 330 miles northeast of Puerto Rico, Burnett

The training exercise to improve fleet readiness began last Thursday and involved 19,000 people aboard 29 U.S. ships, three allied ships and shore-based aircraft, Baumann said.

A gun turret is normally occupied by 27 people, but can hold 60 or 70 people, Baumann said, but, he said, "We don't know how many people were in there at the time."

Mark Newton, a former Marine who spent a week as a guest on the owa in 1987 and now is curator of the permanently docked USS Massachusetts in Fall River, Mass., ex-



rare but deadly.

deckhands.

74 deaths.

Based on information drawn from

• April 24, 1988, the non-nuclear

submarine USS Bonefish was rocked

by explosions which killed three crew

May 26, 1981, an EA-6B

Prowler electronic warfare jet

crashed while landing on the deck of

the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz off

Jacksonville, Fla., killing the plane's

three crew members and 11

• Jan. 17, 1977, a 56-foot launch

returning sailors from shore leave in

and the USS Trenton was hit by a

Oct. 1, 1972, during the Viet-

nam War, there was an explosion in

heavy cruiser USS Newport News

during shore support operations, kill-

ing 20 crew members. The cruiser

carried eight-inch guns, smaller than

• June 2, 1969, the destroyer USS

Frank E. Evans collided with the

Australian aircraft carrier Melbourne

in the South China Sea. There were

Jan. 14, 1969, fire raged through

the 16-inch guns aboard the Iowa.

Spanish freighter, killing 49 sailors.

members off the coast of Florida.

Navy archives and public records,

these were among the major Navy

disasters in this century:

pounds of powder (right) are rammed in behind the shell prior to firing. The breech is sealed to prevent leakage of powder gases.

plained how a shell is loaded.

After the shell is placed in the gun, a door is opened to the gun room from the powder hoist room below, he said. Cylindrical powder bags, containing about 110 pounds of powder, are then rammed in behind the shell. The breech is sealed to prevent the leakage of powder

Newton said there were "at least five" stages in the firing process when the explosion could have occurred but would not speculate fur-

A similar explosion occurred in the center gun turret aboard the heavy cruiser USS Newport News during the Vietnam War in October, 1972, killing 20 of the crew and injuring 36. The worst peacetime U.S. naval accident oc-

curred in 1963, when 129 died in the sinking of the submarine Thresher.

The Iowa and its sister ships, the New Jersey, the Missouri and the Wisconsin, are the largest battleships ever built except for two Japanese ships of the World War II era, the Yamato and the Musashi.

The Iowa was built during World War II, mothballed until the Korean War, and mothballed again. It was modernized and reactivated in 1984, for \$409 million, and returned home last year after escorting Kuwaiti tankers in the Persian

The Navy provided the following phone number for people living outside Virginia who are seeking information about relatives on board: 800-368-3202 or 800-523-2975.

the flight deck of the aircraft carrier WASHINGTON (AP)—Explosions such as the one in a gun turret Enterprise, killing 27.

U.S. naval tragedies:

Death in war, peace

aboard the battleship USS Iowa Wednesday near Puerto Rico are May 21, 1968, the nuclear submarine USS Scorpion sank in the Atlantic with 99 aboard.

July 29, 1967, fire ravaged the aircraft carrier USS Forrestal off the

coast of Vietnam, 134 died. Oct. 26, 1966, the aircraft carrier USS Oriskany caught fire in the Gulf of Tonkin off Vietnam, with 43

• April 10, 1963, the submarine USS Thresher sank in the Atlantic,

killing 129. Dec. 19, 1960, the aircraft carrier USS Constellation caught fire at her berth in New York City. There

were 50 fatalities. May 26, 1954, the aircraft carrier USS Bennington exploded and burned near Quonset Point, R.I.,

Barcelona, Spain, to the USS Guam killing 107. Oct. 16, 1953, at Charleston Naval Yard in Boston, the aircraft carrier Leyte caught fire, killing 36. • April 26, 1952, the destroyer the center gun of turret No. 2 of the

USS Hobson collided with the aircraft carrier USS Wasp in the Atlantic and sank, killing 175 sailors. • April 21, 1952, a powder blast

occurred in a gun turret aboard the cruiser USS St. Paul during the Korean War, 30 died.

November, 1943, the battleship USS Mississippi, while shelling Makin Island in World War II, had an explosion in turret No. 2. Fortythree sailors died.

Crew families share anxious wait for news

By David Chernicky -and Mathew Paust Newport News Daily Press

"NORFOLK, Va.—Eileen Billingsley's hands shook and her face showed anxiety as she rushed from the Family Service Center near the Norfolk Naval Station Wednesday afternoon to join other families gathering at the base's gymnasium. Billingsley's husband, Melvin, is a 26-year-old seaman stationed

aboard the battleship USS Iowa. "His general quarters station is one of the 16 inch gun mounts," Billingsley, 25, said. The Iowa has three such gun turrets, one of which exploded and caught fire Wednes-

"I heard the special news flash on the television," she said. "It was Peter Jennings, and he was announcing that there was an explosion on the Iowa and at least 15 people were killed." Later reports upped

the casualties to 47. Billingsley immediately began calling the Navy hoping to learn more. Officials in Norfolk and Washington could tell her no more than she knew. She even called the naval hospital in Puerto Rico to try to get the names of the dead. "They told me they can't release any information," she said.

When she telephoned the Family

Service Center in Norfolk, the Navy told her to come by for a map directing her to the gymnasium, where spouses and children of crew members were gathering.

The mood there was somber, but tears were few. "Everyone was just anxious to know what's going on, and we wanted the information as soon as possible."

Located at the gymnasium to assist the families are Red Cross workers, Navy chaplains, social workers and counselors, said Master Chief Billy Kinder, a spokesman for

the naval station. "If you're a mother and you're alone, you want to be with some-

But Wednesday night, Billingsley waited in her apartment by the

She met her husband in Oklahoma City, where they both waited tables. Six months ago, the couple's baby girl was born.

Tuesday will be their second wedding anniversary. The couple planned to celebrate it upon Melvin's return. The Iowa was scheduled to be back at Norfolk on April

"We were just going to spend a few quiet days here with the baby," Billingsley said. "We haven't spend much time together since he's been in the Navy."

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Winners' Circle

Daily Lottery Apr. 19, 1989

9438

did believe him. The Tribune regrets the error.

• A Business correction is on page 2 of section 3.

Corrections and clarifications

● A Chicagoland/Du Page correction is on page 2 of section 2.

• A story in the April 14 Tribune about the conviction of sports agents

Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom reported incorrectly that the jury apparent-

ly did not believe the testimony of witness Michael Franzese. By its guilty verdict on counts involving Franzese's testimony, the jury indicated that it

April 22 Lotto Jackpot: \$6 million Cash 5 Pick 4 Apr. 19, 1989 | Apr. 19, 1989

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Michigan Lottery

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Verdi In the wake of the news

World again safe for college sport

We should all rest easily at that glorious news about Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom, those two talent scouts convicted of heinous acts against America's squeaky clean intercollegiate athletic system.

Walters and Bloom recently were found guilty by a federal jury on five counts of racketeering and fraud in dealings with football players attending various institutions of higher learning. By signing these young and innocent lads to contracts and offering cash or gifts as inducements, Walters and Bloom thereby rendered these heavenly bodies tain-

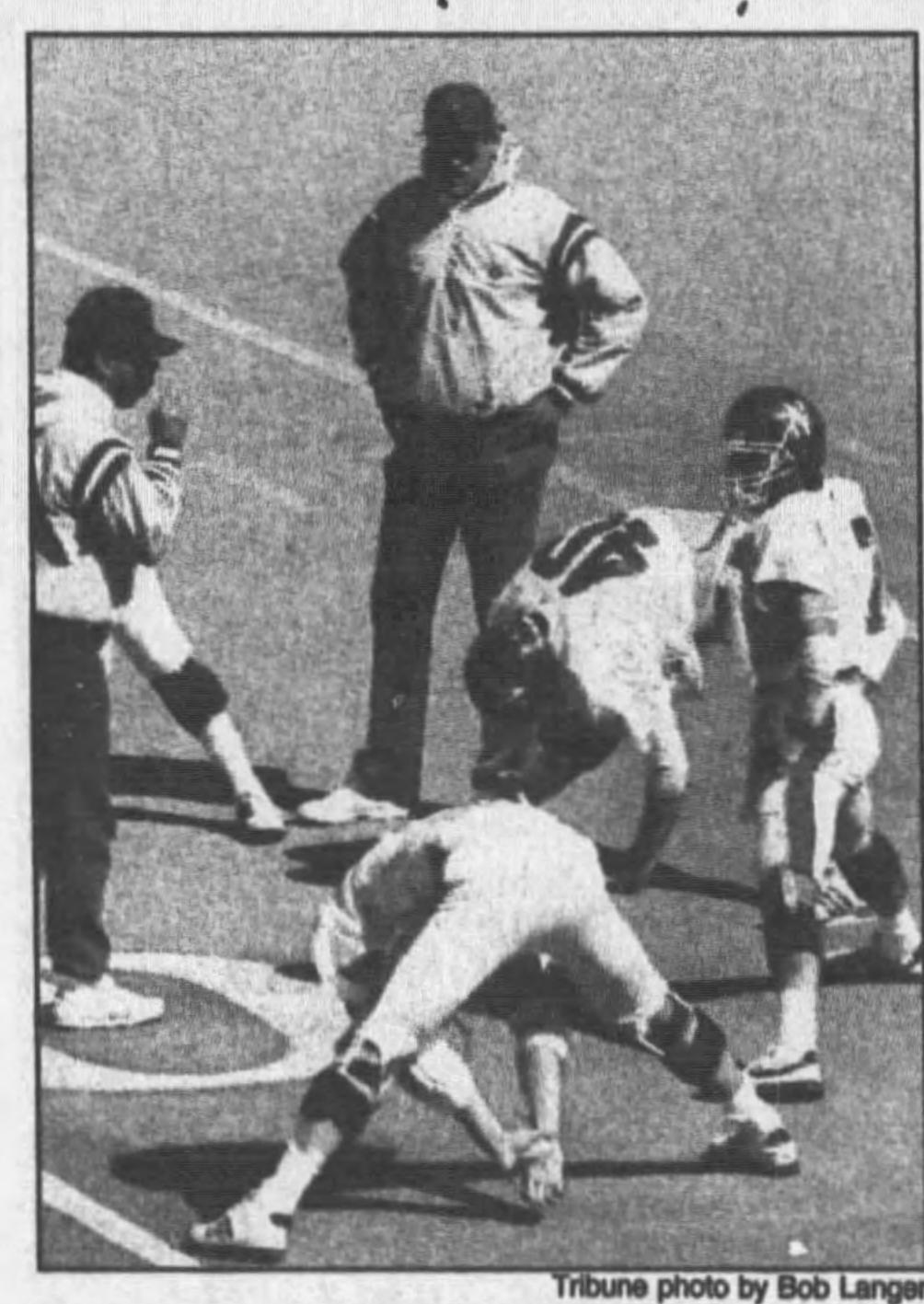
savor the total college experience, visiting even classrooms and libraries on occasion, for a prescribed period of time. And only after this monastic existence runs its course is the athlete-student permitted to choose one of these financial gurus as a guardian

For erring on the side of greed, Norby and Lloyd face serious prison terms, heavy fines. Also, they could be relieved of certain assets. Not the surrendering type, Walters assured all who would listen that he'd lost only the first round, that other rounds will follow. Which reminds us of the question once posed to an athlete-student who'd mistakenly stumbled into English 101 one morning on his way to the weight room. Asked what follows a sentence, our hero replied, "the appeal." An apocryphal story, of

course. And, of course, now that Walters and Bloom have been nailed, we should feel free to assume that our intercollegiate athletic system has been cleansed of all vermin. Under the auspices of the high and mighty NCAA, which just happened to miss this series of incidental infractions, football and basketball programs throughout the land will operate with greater integrity and strengthened morals.

Of course, to believe that Walters and were the first ever to attempt these tactics, you have to be capable of making wild assumptions. In fact, the two guilty parties were booking entertainers when they attempted to branch into shamateur sports. As the tale goes, Norby and Lloyd went to the 1984 Senior Bowl in search of clients See Verdi, pg. 10

INSIDE



It's head-bumping time again

Northwestern coach Francis Peay (above) presides over spring football practice in Evanston. An area roundup, Page 6.

NFL draft: Year of the junior

Two juniors are expected to be among the first 10 players selected. Back Page.

Sugar Ray laid to rest

Rev. Jesse Jackson is among those to eulogize Sugar Ray Robinson. Page 8.

Stanley Cup

Flyers 4, Penguins 2 Canadiens 3, Bruins 2

NBA

Suns 117, Heat 91 Pistons 115, Pacers 105

Hawks 100, Bucks 92 Rockets 99, Spurs 84

Roundups, Page 8

Angels 7, Sox 2 Yankees 4, Jays 2 A's 7, Mariners 5 Orioles 6, Royals 5 Red Sox 8, Indians 4 Tigers 3, Twins 2 Rangers 5, Brewers 1

Roundup, Page 5

Expos 3, Cubs 2 Pirates 7, Cardinals 5 Padres 4, Giants 3 Mets 4, Phillies 2 Braves 4, Astros 3 Dodgers 3, Reds 0 Roundup, Page 5

Hawks' Larmer burning with an intense flame

By Mike Kiley Chicago Tribune

ST. LOUIS—Brian Sutter was so charged up you finally peeked to make sure the St. Louis Blues coach wasn't somehow plugged into the wall socket near his desk after Wednesday's practice.

A 3-1 loss to the Blackhawks Tuesday night in Game 1 of the Norris Division finals left the demanding Sutter anxious for Game 2 here on Thursday night, when he expects a far different St. Louis team to show up.

"This is a game of emotion and intensity," said the Blues' coach. "That will never, ever change. If I'd have had a gun in

Goalie Greg Millen is the Blues' saving grace. Page 2. Hawks-Blues, SC, 7:35 p.m.

the third period Tuesday night, I wouldn't have been shooting

"We didn't show a 10th of what we can do. We're a team that has to work its rear end off for everything we get. We didn't work; we were simply lousy, and every guy on the team knows it."

Intensity is a buzz word tossed around in athletics as frequently as balls and pucks. But it's difficult to assess who has it and who doesn't and how a player goes

about holding onto the fickle character trait.

For instance, Hawks winger Steve Larmer was being pressured early this season by coach Mike Keenan and his staff to rid himself of his measured, understated approach to hockey and raise his intensity level.

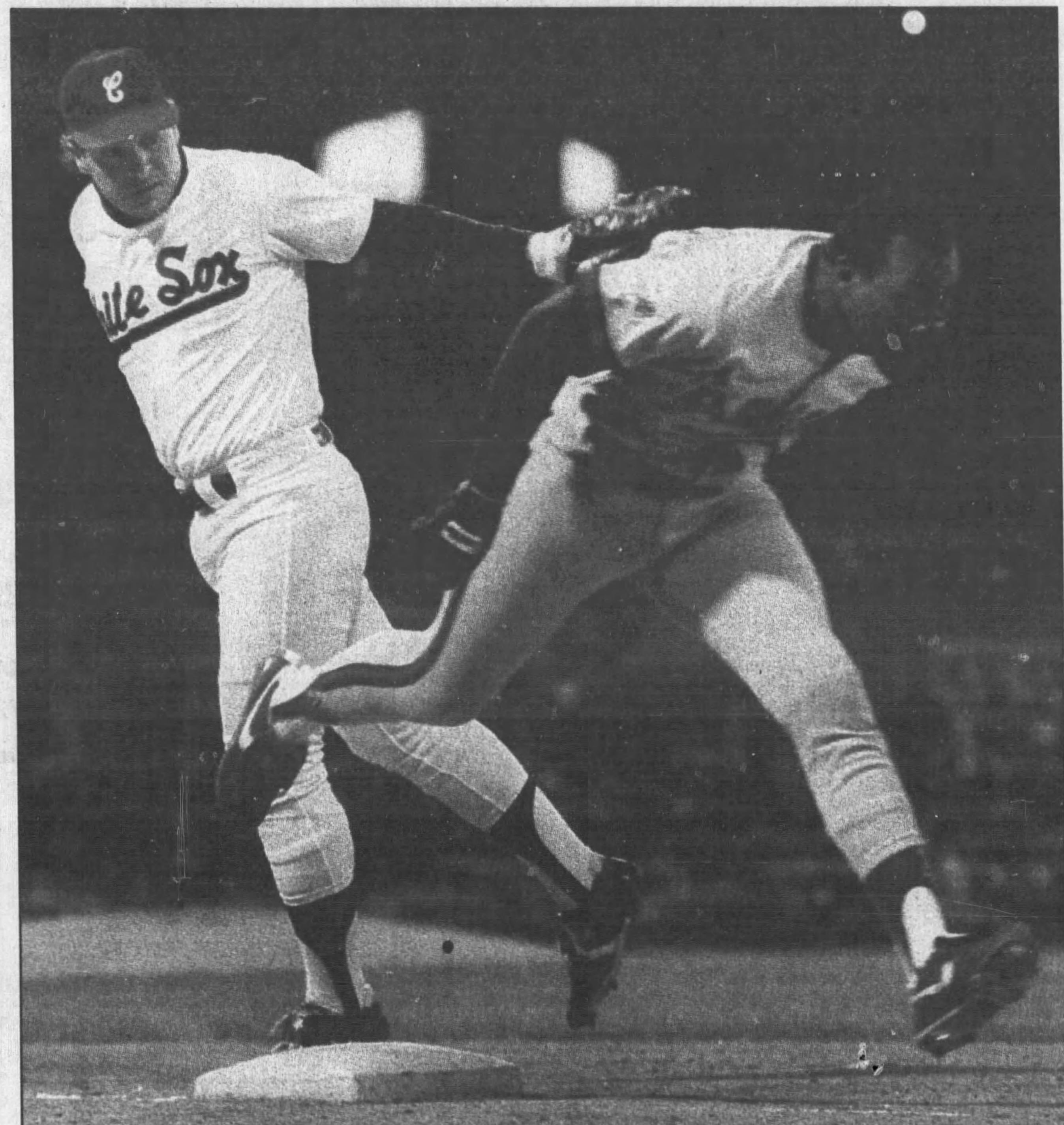
Now, Larmer is considered by his coaches as one of the National Hockey League's most underrated players. To see him play with consistency and intelligence for an 80-game schedule is to appreciate the subtle beauties of his

His teammates are aware of a



Tribune photo by Bob Langer See Hawks, pg. 2 Steve Larmer's work along the boards has been paying off.

A guy who goes to school and majors in whirlpool with an eye toward joining the NFL just isn't allowed to will his soul to an agent prematurely. A sweat-setter must sayor the total college experience, visiting



Tribune photo by Ed Wagner

Sox first baseman Billy Jo Robidoux misses California's Mark McLemore with a tag attempt Wednesday.

shows why

Last season's National Basketball Association Most Valuable Player never paused when asked who would be the recipient of the league's top award this year.

he's MVP

"I guess Magic [Johnson]," said Michael Jordan. "That's the way it looks to me."

Sorry, Michael, but that's not the way it looks to me. So now

On Pro Basketball

Sam Smith

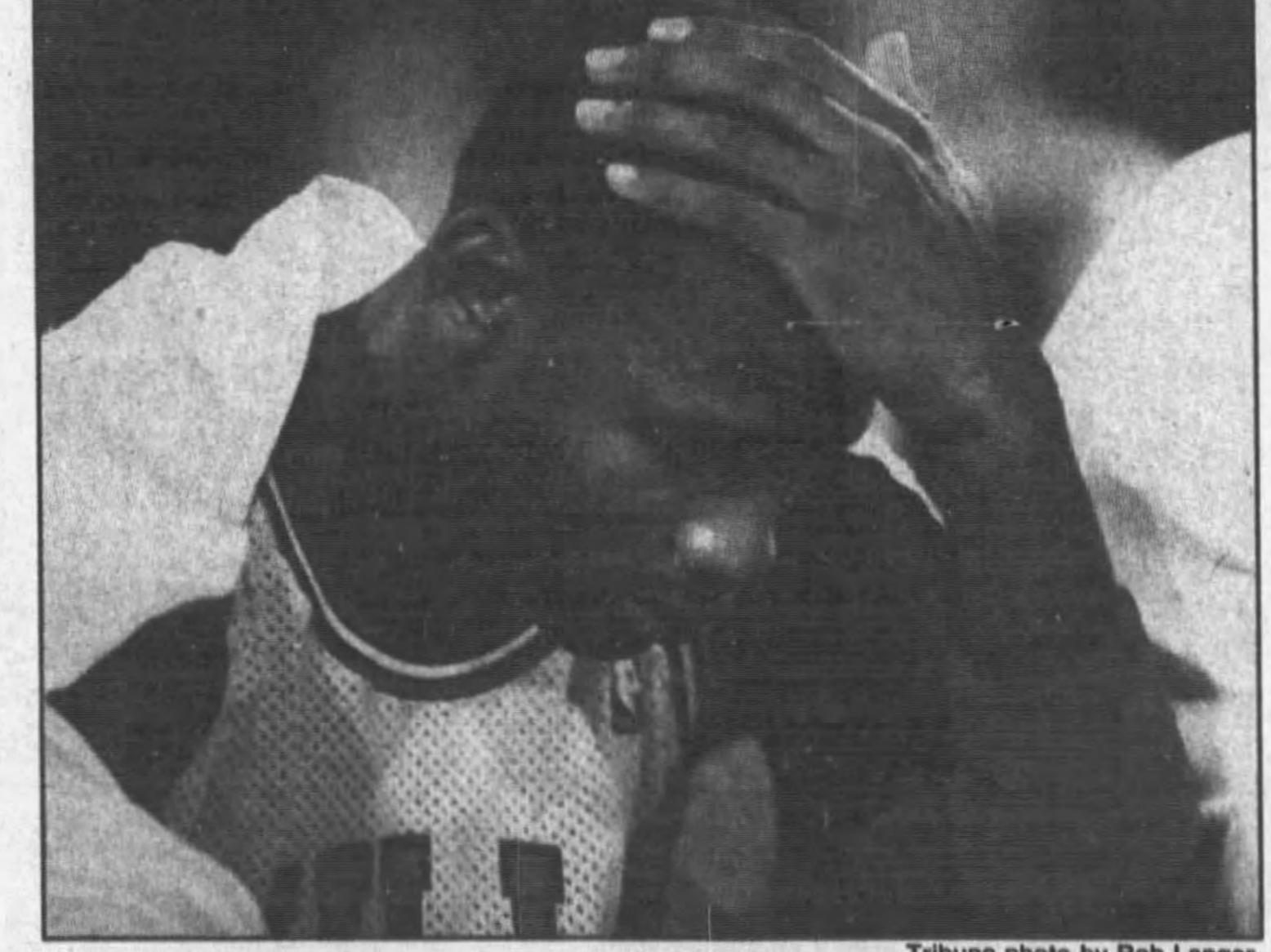
Bulls-Bullets, Ch. 32, 6:30 p.m.

Jordan only needs 42 other votes from the panel of 85 NBA writers and broadcasters to win his second straight award.

But that wasn't even this voter's opinion until just over a month

With Larry Bird injured for much of the season and the Lakers and Bulls failing to win as many games as they had last season, and so many different teams—like Phoenix, New York, Cleveland and Utah—apparently capable of winning the league title, this looked like the first wide-open race in more than a decade.

There's Karl Malone, second in the league in scoring at 29 per



Tribune photo by Bob Langer How the Bulls play without him shows Michael Jordan's value.

game and leading Utah to a division title; Patrick Ewing, finally emerging as an offensive and defensive force as the Knicks won their division; and Mark Price, the priceless little guard for the Cavaliers, who set their franchise single-season victory record weeks ago. All merit consideration, for their teams might not even be in the playoffs without them.

And that's without mentioning Charles Barkley and Akeem Ola-

But, many ask, where would the Lakers, fighting off age, lack of depth and Kareem Abdul Jabbar's farewell tour, be without Johnson? Probably not still trying to hold off the Suns for another Pacific Divi-

sion title.

And in leading the league in triple-doubles, Johnson continues to show his all-around brilliance.

Of course, in a month, Jordan accumulated almost as many triple-doubles as Johnson did all season. And he's still leading the league in scoring, breaking into the top 10 in shooting while dunking less and moving into the top 10 in assists while still among the steals leaders. Aside from Akeem Olajuwon, he is the only player in the top 10 in four statistical categories.

But Jordan got my vote March 8 even though he didn't attempt a shot, except maybe to kick his TV while watching the Bulls go down

See Jordan, pg. 8

Bats fail in clutch; Long gets his lumps

By Andrew Bagnato

The temperature warmed up to 47 degrees Wednesday night in Comiskey Park. The White Sox remained a steady 32 degrees Fahrenheit.

The freezing Sox showed a little punch but continued to fail in the clutch in a 7-2 loss to the California Angels before 6,392 on the South Side.

"We've got to have timely hitting," said Harold Baines, succinctly summing the reason the Sox have dropped seven of nine. "If we had had a couple of two-out hits, we're in the ballgame."

Has anyone noticed that the Sox are 2-5 since Carlton Fisk joined Dan Pasqua on the disabled list? The hitters aren't the only ones to blame, though. The Sox ran up against an Angel pitching staff that

Sox-Mariners, SC, 7:30 p.m.

Sox statistics in Scoreboard Wednesday night stretched its string of scoreless innings to 29 until the Sox averted the shutout in the

"It's the same old story," said Angels manager Doug Rader, whose club has won four straight. "Good pitching and timely hitting is going to win ballgames.'

Witness the Sox, two games below .500 and a half-dozen games out of first. Look on the bright side.

Next up for the Sox are the last-place Seattle Mariners, the closest thing to chicken noodle soup for ailing baseball teams.

Then again, the next-to-last-place Sox won just one of three in Seattle last week.

One of these days, though, the Sox are going to reinvent the two-out rally. The lack of one killed what little hope they had of climbing back from a 5 0 deficit left by starter Bill Long (1-2, 6.75 ERA).

The Sox had trimmed the lead to 5-2 on Dave Gallagher's single and Ivan Calderon's sacrifice foul pop fly in the sixth and had Baines at third with one out. But rookie catcher Matt Merullo struck out, and Steve Lyons rapped an attempted drag bunt right at second baseman Mark McLemore to end the rally.

The Sox pounded out 10 hits after Angel starter Mike Witt (2-2, 4.91 ERA) retired 11 straight to start the game, but few of the hits came when i mattered. That's become frustratingly familiar for

See Sox, pg. 3

Expos keep Cubs for Montreal

By Alan Solomon Chicago Tribune

MONTREAL—It seemed a night for streaks to end. Scott Sanderson, who hadn't

walked a man for 43 innings—including 30 in spring training walked two. Phil Stephenson, who hadn't had a major-league hit in seven-plus years of pro ball, got one. Ryne Sandberg, who hadn't driven in a run in six games or hit a home run all year, did both Wednesday. Mitch Webster's hitting streak ended at 10 games.

Dennis Martinez, who hadn't had a decision in three starts, got a decision.

About the only streak that wasn't broken was the Cubs' losing one. It reached three games Wednesday night as Martinez pitched the Montreal Expos to a 3-2 victory in front of 9,014 people in Olympic Stadium.

Martinez (1-0) was practically out of baseball with shoulder and personal problems two years, signing in 1987 with a Class A Miami club stocked with last-chance veterans. Tuesday, he signed a contract extention through 1991 worth \$2.45 million. Wednesday, he showed why he's worth the

He spread eight Cub hits over eight-plus innings before yielding Cubs-Mets, Ch. 9, 6:35 p.m. Cub stats in Scoreboard

to Tim Burke in the ninth. When he did get into trouble, he got the big strikeout.

"He's a good pitcher," Cub manager Don Zimmer said. "He's got good stuff. He's got a good fastball, he's got a great curveball, he's got a changeup—the guy's a tough pitcher. He's always been a tough pitcher."

He was tough Wednesday night. The game was scoreless, and the Cubs were hitless off Martinez, until the fourth inning. With two out, Sandberg drilled a line drive on a 1-2 pitch over the wall in left-center field, and the Cubs had

It also ended a tough stretch for Sandberg, who had been having trouble coming up with important

"I'm up there swinging," Sandberg said.

The Cubs could've had more. Mark Grace, the next hitter, drew a walk, Stephenson got his hit—a line single to right—and Vance Law walked to fill the bases. But Dunston looked at a third strike,

and the inning was over. The missed opportunity was all

See Cubs, pg. 3