

sports



Fallout from agents' trial

he sports agents business has been tainted by the much-publicized trial of sports agents Norby Walters and loyd Bloom, and A.J. "Jack" Mills objects.

Stories before, during and after the Chicago fraud trial revealed a string of improper payments, hreats and questionable conduct by the men who ran World Sports Entertainment.

Mills contends Walters and loom were the exceptions in the sports agents world, much like Ronnie Harmon and Devon Mitchell were the exceptions on the University of Iowa football team by taking money before their eligibility had expired.

"I don't think Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom represented the majority of people working in this profession," said Mills, who has represented professional athletes for 22 years. "There always seem to be a few people who spoil a business.

"A business gets tainted and all of the sudden it becomes general opinion that this is a dishonest and scrupulous profession. It's

MILLS FEELS the Walters-Bloom trial represented somewhat of a victory for sports agents, and probably a temporary setback for college athletics.

"I think it pointed out that there are laws out there to prosecute the abuses in the system," he said. "I don't feel anybody thought the laws existed. But they found a way to make the federal laws fit.

"Colleges came out of it looking bad, though. Even though college athletics were not on trial, they came out looking bad. I'm

not proud of that." Mills, 51, is a Colorado attorney who represents primarily professional football players. Among his clients are former Iowa players Chuck Long, quarterback with the Detroit Lions, and Mike Haight, lineman with

the New York Jets. His only two clients outside of football are Jay Humphries of the NBA Milwaukee Bucks and professional golfer Hale Irwin. Both starred at the University of

Colorado. Again, Mills will have a vested interest in the National Football League draft, which is Sunday and Monday. Among his clients who are expected to be drafted are Colorado punter Keith English, Oklahoma center Bob Latham and Iowa defensive lineman Dave Haight.

THE MAJORITY of his colleagues land clients based on their reputation, Mills said, not on the size of their bankroll. But with probably 1,000 agents clamoring to land prospective professionals, the competition becomes

intense. "Extremely competitive," Mills said. "It's full-blown recruiting of family members, the players, the player's wife if there is one. I don't mind doing that, if it's on the level. But some players are looking for something I'm not

going to give them. "It's difficult to choose an agent. Say you have 10 agents you're talking to, all sound pretty good and all have impressive credentials. How do you distinguish who is the best one? A lot of times it's something tangible,

like money or a car." Mills said "little personal things" somethings make the distinction. A "little thing" that helped him sign Long was that Mills' wife and Long's mother

knew each other. "I refer players to clients I've had," he said. "I go on my track record and referrals. But if you don't have the track record and don't want to pay the dues, you might be tempted to do something else."

Sometimes, Mills claims, it is the player who introduces the possibility of an improper induce-

"As a rule, I don't blame some of these kids for taking money," ones are from poor families, kids who have pressure to provide for themselves and the family. It's not unusual for kids to ask for

something. "I don't think that's right, but I can see how things happen."

MAJOR-LEAGUE BASEBALL

contract at \$7.9 million

INNEAPOLIS (AP) — Frank Viola, the 1988 American League Cy Young Award winner, agreed to a \$7.9 million deal with the Minnesota Twins Wednesday after more than two weeks of acrimonious negotiations.

The deal is essentially the same as the one that made the Los Angeles Dodgers' Orel Hershiser the game's highest-paid player. It's also the same contract that

Viola loses to Tigers, page 2C

General Manager Andy MacPhail had offered Viola on April 3.

Viola's agent, Craig Fenech of Sparta, N.J., and MacPhail both said an agreement was reached hours before the left-hander started Wednesday night's game against the Detroit Tigers at the Metrodome.

Viola has not signed the three-year contract, which will give him \$3.5 million as a renegotiation of this year's \$1.55 million salary, \$1.6 million in 1990 and \$2.8 million in 1991.

Viola, who originally asked for \$8.1 million over three years, rejected that offer.

In rejecting MacPhail's offer, Viola had turned many Twins fans against him by issuing a statement saying that his "days of performing for them are numbered."

He reconsidered and decided to accept the offer last week, but MacPhail, angered by the "havoc and turmoil" caused by the public negotiations, took the offer off the

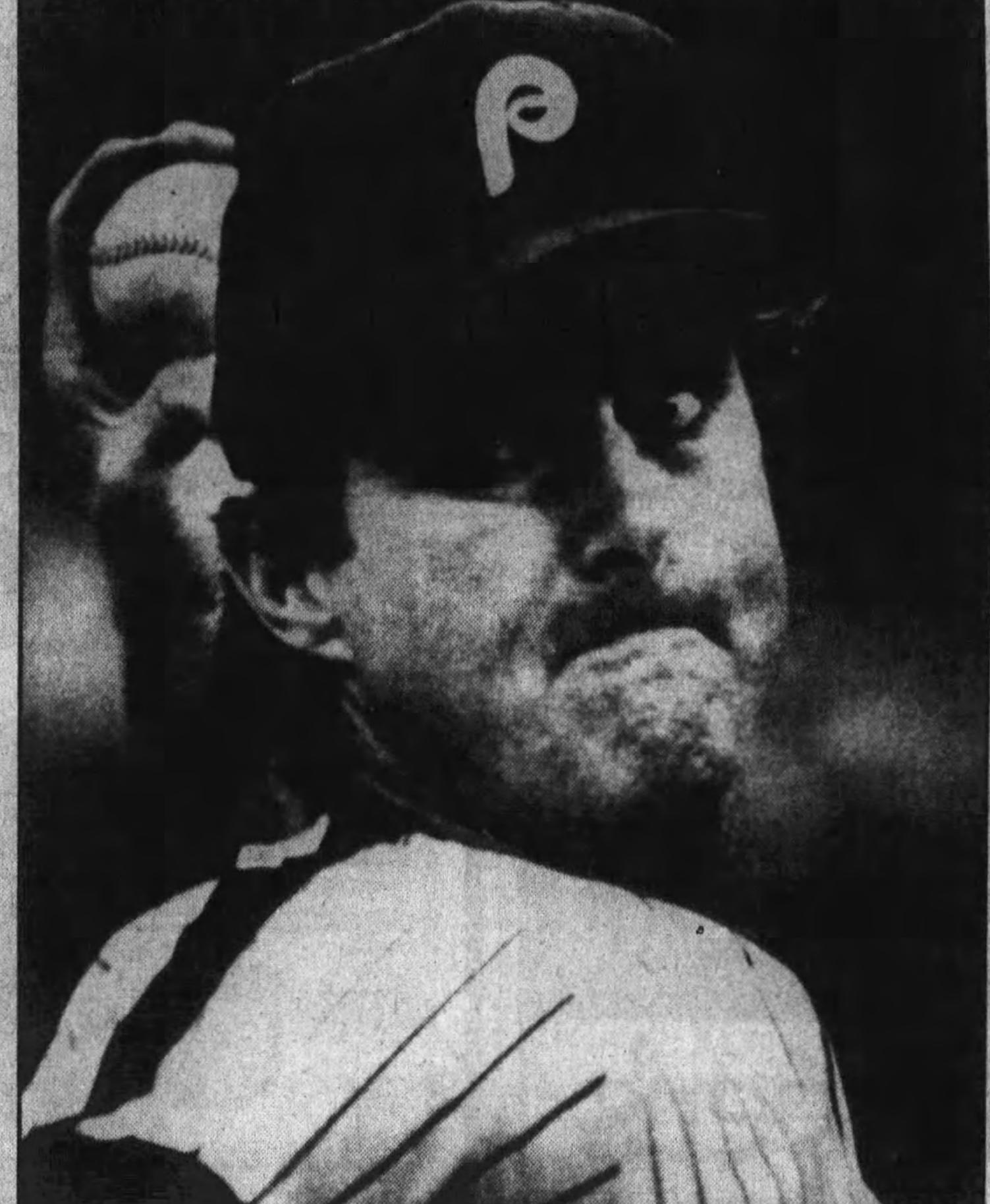
MacPhail said Monday that he was

Please turn to 4C: Viola



AP photo

OUT AT HOME: Toronto Blue Jay Jesse Barfield is about to be tagged out at home Wednesday as Yankee catcher Don Slaught awaits the throw. The Yankees swept Toronto with a 4-2 victory. Roundups, page 2C.



AP photo

Steve Carlton, show in action during the 1982 season in which he won the National League Cy Young Award the fourth time, announced Wednesday he is quitting the game.

Carlton ends 3-year struggle to stay on pitching mound

HILADELPHIA (AP) — Steve Carlton gave up a three-year struggle to remain in the game he loved, telling the baseball world Wednesday he is through pitching after repeated comeback attempts.

The 44-year-old "Lefty" wouldn't use the word "retirement" in the announcement that came almost a year since his last release.

Even this spring, Carlton — coming off September surgery to remove eight chips from his pitching shoulder — still was trying to show major league teams that he had the same fire that earned him four Cy Young awards.

"My arm hasn't rehabilitated the way I had hoped," Carlton said in a brief statement issued by the Philadelphia Phillies, for whom he recorded 241 of his 329 career wins.

"I'm still experiencing some pain and I've decided I no longer would be active as a player." The Phillies said they would retire his uniform

number, 32, in a July 29 ceremony. Club President Bill Giles said Carlton is "not officially retiring, according to him, but we're going to honor him anyway."

Giles said that if someone wanted Carlton, he might try another comeback.

"But he feels it's not going to happen, at least in the major leagues, although you never know when somebody's going to call," said Giles.

He said Carlton apparently "still has a glimmer of hope that Japan might be interested."

661'm still experiencing some pain, and I've decided I no longer would be active as a player. "

Steve Cariton

National League spokeswoman Katy Feeney said Carlton remains technically a free agent, because he was released by his last club, the Minnesota Twins. She said he would not go on a voluntary retired list since he belongs to no club. Giles said he thinks Carlton really is finished. pitching this time.

"In fact I tried to talk him into retiring two or three years ago," Giles said. "But he thought he could still pitch."

He did keep pitching after the Phillies released: him in June 1986, playing with four more teams before his last release, April 28, 1988, by the-Twins. Minnesota let him go after he compiled a 16.76 ERA in four games.

But the Carlton many will remember had a 22

Please turn to 4C: Carlton

Towering blast by Hatcher all Hawks need in rout of UNI

By Bob Denney

WATERLOO - A brief message to absentee Iowa Coach Duane Banks Wednesday afternoon: Your Hawkeyes' batteries appear recharged. With Chris Hatcher smashing a

towering three-run home run in the first inning, Iowa rolled to an 11-2 non-conference college baseball victory over Northern Iowa at Municipal Stadium. The 6-foot-4 Hatcher hit his

12th homer, smashing a one-out, 1-0 curve from UNI starter Steve Bair, a former Cedar Rapids Kennedy standout.

Hatcher's soaring shot carried well over the flagpole behind the 375-foot mark in center field. Hatcher capped his day with an RBI single in the seventh inning.

Iowa outhit the Panthers, 10 to eight, with shortstop Tim Costo extending his hitting streak to 11 games and back-up center fielder Tim Canney collecting threefourths of the cycle with a single, double and RBI triple.

Iowa assistant coach Tom Pehe said. "The most vulnerable troff filled in for Banks, who was attending a baseball coaches meeting in Memphis, Tenn.

Hatcher said the win was a sign his teammates had bounced back from a double-header loss at Illinois last week.

"Those two losses really



Chris Hatcher

brought our team down," said Hatcher, a sophomore from Council Bluffs Thomas Jefferson. "This got us back in tune."

While Hatcher did his work, junior right-hander Allen Rath did his — in just four innings. He made 40 pitches, scattering three hits, striking out two, and giving up an RBI sacrifice fly by Geff Gescheidler in the third.

Rath pushed his career strikeout total to 194, eight shy of the school mark held by Bob Stepp. Petroff sat down Rath and went

to his bullpen — Corby Schroeder for one inning and letting Robert Driscol finish.

Gescheidler drove in UNI's other run, with a single off Schroeder in the fifth.

Bair (2-2), a 6-3 sophomore right-hander, made only 27 pitches in one-third inning, walking three and surrendering a tworun double to Joel Williamson. But, there was a reason for Bair's rough outing.

UNI Coach Gene Baker said Bair strained a muscle behind his right shoulder during warmups and didn't report it.

"He took it to the mound, and I didn't know about it until after Hatcher hit one 8,000 feet," said Baker, whose Panthers fell at Iowa April 5, 7-1. "I'm hoping he (Bair) can bounce back, and that it was a strain and not any kind of tear. He's a good pitcher."

Iowa (26-9) braces for back-toback double-headers with Big Ten foe Wisconsin Saturday and Sunday in Iowa City. Iowa is in second place behind Michigan.

UNI dipped to 11-25. Freshman third baseman Matt Young, a former Cedar Rapids LaSalle all-stater, made his first start in place of injured Iowa veteran Keith Noreen, nursing a bruised heel bone but expected to play this weekend.

Metro-Hawks matchup could be dandy benefit

By Bob Denney Gazette sportswriter

ill Happel, who once caught passes for Iowa's Rose Bowl football team, has turned unofficial basketball promoter.

Happel's idea for a postseason game to aid Cedar Rapids. Metro high schools has blossomed into a showdown between a team including some University of Iowa seniors and a 10-player roster of

the top Metro senior preps. Tip-off is slated for Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at Kennedy High School, with lowa stars and National Basketball Association hopefuls Roy Marble and Ed Horton tangling with the Metro standouts.

The game is sponsored by the Cedar Rapids Sports Club, of which Happel is a member.

Tickets are \$4 in advance at all Metro high schools, or \$5 at the door. "We're hoping to make this an annual event, something the player named to the All-Metro team can look

Bill Happel

forward to each year," said Happel. "In years in which there are a small number of seniors from Iowa, we'll get help from other schools."

lowa's other graduating senior, star guard B.J. Armstrong, will act as honorary coach. He is recuperating from a broken bone in his left hand.

Rounding out the collegiate squad will be 6-foot-9 former Kennedy prep All-American Al Lorenzen, who has returned home after playing professionally in France last season; Northern Iowa guard Nick Nurse; and former Iowa guard Michael Morgan.

■ Please turn to 4C: Benefit