Sanders has left mark on NFL
Barry Sanders didn't just open
the door. He kicked it down. the door. He kicked of nown,
The golden rule of not secting
underclassmen in the National ootball shattered. From now on, a freeshman, sophomore or junior will be to make millions of dollars. Who needs a coliege degr
got a pro contract?
All hail, Barry Sanders, upholder When Sanders, a college junior, is picked Sunday, a precedent will
be set. His selection means the dratt is now open to everyone, not
ust seniors or players just senior
The Oklahoma State running back obviously decided he needs several million dollars more than a
second Heisman Trophy. When the eague approved him for the draft, hey did it under the thin veeil of However, Oklahoma State coach Pat Jones countered with the real
reason. "The NFL is letting him in be-
cause of the Constitution," Jones
said. In other words, the league knew Sanders out of the draf let Sanders in, hoping other underBut they will. With. the door wide experience what college basketball has been going through for years. when the Bulls picked him and Isiah Thomas and Magic Johnson
pursued higher education for only two years before turning pro. underclassmen come out every
year," said football agent Steve Zucker. "It'll be just like basketHerschel Walker tried to test the
NFL after he won the Heisman Trophy as a junior in 1983. He ap-
plied for the draft, though he submitted a list of teams he wanted to join. The NFL denied the request,
and Walker bolted to the rival

On College Football Ed Sherman
United States Football League.
Sanders isn't as picky, and Sanders isn't as picky, and with
the current climate the league had
no choice but to no chorrent climate the le legue hat
tion. What this meant his application. What this means for college
football remains to be seen, though football remains to be seen, though vived nicely despite losing some of
its top stars early. Obviously, the college coaches are
upset that the NFL didn't put upset that the NFL didn't put up
more of a fight. Both parties have more of a fight. Both parties have
enjoyed the setup for decades. The NFL uses the colleges as a free farm
system. In return, the legue system. In return, the league doesn
draft any players until they've comdrat any players until
pleted their eligibility.
Thanks to Sanders, that ar "I have no qualms with Barry Sanders," said Arkanssas with Baach Ken
Hatfield. "How Sanders," said Arkansas coach Ke
Hatfield. "However, we've always
had the feeling that the NFL would had the feeling that the NFL would
take the case to court if it ever go
this far this far. Now, aurt of a a sudten,
they've backed off. We all feel a little Hatfield thinks the pros 'should
pay a price if they grab a college underclassmen. "There's no doubt we're in the to be the best he he can be in education and football," Hatfield said. ." haven't noticed the NFL giving any
money back to the college when money back to the colleges when isn't up. They should, give something back to the schools.
The bigget issue, monerclasher, it's, whether college
underclassmen are ready underclassmen are ready for the
Illinois coach John Mackovic has experience from both sides, having
served as head coach for the Kansas City Chiefs. He's not even sure player is sufficiently prepared for the
pros after playing four years of pros after playing four years of co
lege ball. "In my opinion, a football player
doesn't fully mature mentally and

## Spring brings a fresh crop

 of backup QBs to Illini campBy Linda Young CHAMPAIGN-Nobody wants Jeff Kinney to quarterback the
University of Illinois in 1989 least of all Jeff Kinney thing bad has happened someJeff George, and th starter point, is unthinkable in the lllini
camp. But. if for any reason George
ever Kinney, a redshirt freshman from Wheaton North, wants to be the Kinney mad No. 2 spot here his case for the ing time with both the first unit, the Blues, and the reserve Whites pring-game victory Kinney hit 3 of 5 passes for 53 Elbert Turner. Meanwhile, Jaso Verduzco, also a redshirt fresh man, had a miserable afternoon throwing four interceptions, in cluding one that strong safety
Quintin Parker returned 35 yards
for a Blue touchdown.
A healthy George, of course, A healthy George, of course, unior capped spring drills by drillincluding a 65 passerd tor 295 yards, Mike Bellamy. George, a second-
team all-Big 10 pick last year, team all-Big 10 pick last year,
picked up right where he left off
last fall, finding Steven Williams with a 33 -yard strike that led to the Blues' first touchdown and a
5 -yard completion to freshman Godfrey Danchimah that set up the second of Doug Higgins' two
field goals. "I really wanted to have a good day just to show the coaches I
could do the job," said Kinney could do the job," said Kinney, Said coach John Mackovic: days during the spring but he's shown that he's moving along and the plays that we'd like our quar-
that terbacks to make. I was pleased with several of the things he did
with the ball. He showed some with the ball. He sho
poise under pressure."

## 

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## Corporation

1400 E. Higgins Roads, Elk Grove Village, IL 60007 640-9595 Ask for John Ramos
We will accop bersonal checks o Major Credit Cards
physically until he's 27 ". Mackovic
said. "When they're drafted said. "When they're drated, you're
looking at four or five years before they reach therir maturity level. Will
they be ready at 20 21? Not as they be ready at 20,21 N. Not as
ready as theyd be at 22, , 3 . There ready as theyd be at 22,23 . There
are some exceptional talents who
 dont think its in in the east interest
of the overwhelming majority of of the , overwhelming majority of
ppayers." However, don't tell that to the draft early, the coaches believe the
problem with agents will only get problem with agents will only get
worse. They envison thousad. of
Norby Walters-Lloyd Bloom clones Norby Walters-Luyd Bloom clones
trying to persuade young college
players to take the money players to take
stead of later.
Next year, what's to stop an agent from advising Pittsburght's
sensational running sensational running back Curvin
Richards, who will be only a soph omore, that he should gop pro? And does Major Harris really have anyhing more to prove
years at West Virginia?
"I would be surprised if Barry Sanders did not get some encour-
agement to
go pro," Mackovisaid. "'rd be surprised if he made
the decision arbitrarily. The agent problecmision arrabitraraily. The abig one. Now we're going to have to be more on Zucker says he won't deal with Zucker says he won't deal with
underclassmen, but he doeesn't think the same could be said for the rest of his colleagues.
"An agent will tell a kid, 'You're,
going agno in the
Zucker said. "Then all of o a sudden.

## Irish football squad goes for a test drive

By Joseph Tybor

NOTRE DAME, Ind.-Watching Notre Dame Saturday was like
viewing a fine car on the showroom viewing
floor.
You You really don't know how it will
perform until you take it on the road and test it in real conditions, but one look tells you it's loaded.
Barely three months after winning the national championship, the Irish
unveiled their 1989 edition during unveiled their 1989 edition during
the annual Blue-Gold Game and the annual Blue-Gold Game and
showed an abundance of talent-
even though it was only to themeven though it was on
selves and their fans.
selves and their fans.
Notre Dame loses only six starters Notre Dame loses only six starters
from the championship team befrom the championship team be-
cause of graduation. In addition,
Tony Brooks, the Irish's Tony Brooks, the irish's second-
leading rusher last year, withdrew
from school because of personal from school because of personal
problems and is a question mark; problems and is a question mark;
but there was no void in the backIn front of 25,694 fans on a mild In front of 25,694 fans on a mild
spring day, Rodney Culver, who, will
be a sophomore in the. fall, ran for be a sophomore in the. fall, ran for
three touchdowns to lead the Blue three touchdowns to lead the Blue
team to a $21-8$ win over the Gold. Culver, a 6 -foot, 219 -pounder who can play tailback or fullilsack, ran for
66 yards on 14 carries. Forty-three 66 yards on 14 carries. Forty-three
of those yards came on six carries of those yards came on six carries
durin an 80 -yard, 16 -play drive in the first quarter. Culver, who received offensive
player of the game honors, was
among players (most of them run-
ning backs) singled out afterwards by ning backs) singled
coach Lou Holt. He called fullback Anthony John son, who carried nine times for 47 yards for the Blue team, "the most underrated player ever," had encour-
aging words for Kenny Spears, aging words for Kenny Spears,
sophomore in the fall, who carried 10 times for 58 yards for the Blue and continued to heap praise on
Rícky Watters, who has switched from flanker to tailback this spring. "Even my wife said to me he runs humored reporters. "It's no great
sign to be able to sign to be able to see the sun or no
great feat of hearing to hunder but hearing to hear the Ricky Watters improved, that's pret There was an attempt to split the first-string talent between the squads. Quarterback Tony Rice, sure to be a Holtz's biggest challenge will be motivating the substantial talent he and to reach beyond complacency
and try to meet the expectations of "I repat championship season. "I personally believe you don't
have complacency if you wrap have complacency if you wrap up
last year, pass out the scrapbooks, "That's exactly what we're trying to do. Our players will get their championship rings toda

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