The Inside Story

Odds&

By Linda Kay & Mike Conklin

Baseball basics: "Major League," the flick about the Cleveland Indians that was filmed in Milwaukee's County Stadium, also has a strong Chicago connection. Rick LeFevour, one of Hollywood's top stunt organizers, taught the non-baseball types (like L.A. Law's Corbin Bernsen) how to hit, field, throw and, in one case, stage a fight in the locker room. Maybe Rick, a former Oak Park-River Forest High School athlete, should get a job coaching one of our city's baseball

Delay of game: Question: What's the holdup for Northwestern football fans waiting for season-ticket applications? Answer: A decision still hasn't been made on whether the Wildcats will be playing Ohio State in Vancouver for the 1989 opener. It may be decided by the end of the week. ... Here's hoping NU doesn't dally on naming a replacement for women's tennis coach Sandy Stap Clifton, who's quitting as one of NU's most successful coaches with a 214-73 record and two Big 10 titles. We understand there were bruised feelings with Clifton's decision. There's plenty of talent left for the replacement.



Bernsen





A new leaf: Those gathered at agent Steve Zucker's home for Sunday's draft noticed a new, improved version of Jim McMahon. Credit a running program designed by the Bears and continual workouts with rehabilitation specialist Bob Gajda. "He'll come into camp in the best shape ever," Zucker vows. "He's working hard. If there's a quarterback who's better, that's one thing. But he's sure there is not."

Picky, picky: The Bears' draft gets a seal of approval from Playboy Magazine. Four players selected by the team-Donnell Woolford, Markus Paul, John Roper and Anthony Phillips—were picked as preseason All-Americas by the magazine. On the other hand, Playboy named Texas A&M's Jackie Sherrill as its coach of the year. He ended the season by leaving the school under pressure.

Y'all come down: Southern charm will be dispensed in large doses as Atlanta undertakes an 18month campaign to get the Olympics in 1996. Doug Gatlin, a top deputy for Mayor Andrew Young, has been charged with coordinating Atlanta's effort to sell the city to the International Olympic Committee, which makes its choice next fall. The competition is formidable. It comes from Athens, Toronto, Melbourne, Manchester (England) and Belgrade (Yugoslavia).

Favorite Son: The sun doesn't set on the NBA's Eastern Conference playoffs for St. Joseph High School baseball coach John Hornacek. Hornacek keeps an eye on Phoenix, which had the second-best record in the West. "They've got a good chance to beat the Lakers if they get that far," he says. Believe him. His pipeline is son Jeff, a Phoenix starter at guard. The former La Grange prep is a survivor. He was a walk-on at Iowa State and, after many didn't think he could cut it as a pro, went through four coaches in three years with the Suns. He started 73 of 78 games. "He's our most consistent player," a Phoenix official says.

Pass the torch: At the most important diving competition of the year, a most familiar face will be missing. Greg Louganis won't enter the World Diving Cup next week in Indianapolis. The U.S. champion, who has won 47 titles, retired after the Games in Seoul. But watch out for 15-year-old Xiong Ni of China. He almost beat Louganis in the last round of the men's platform finals in Seoul. Xiong took a silver medal, losing to Louganis by just 1.14 points.

News, notes and nonsense: Former Blackhawk Rick Vaive scored two goals and one assist in Buffalo's five playoff games. . . . Talk-show host Arsenio Hall has made an antidrug public service spot that so impressed the NBA, it'll be aired continually during the playoffs. CBS and TBS, which are carrying the playoff games, have donated \$3 million in air time for the spots. . . . Northern Illinois University presented sports information director Mike Korcek with the school's Outstanding Service Award for work above and beyond the call of duty. One of four honorees chosen by a panel of university professionals, Korcek joined the NIU staff in 1973. . . . Shabbona Park recently defeated defending champion Portage Park to win the Chicago Park District indoor swimming title. . . . Participants in the fourth annual Subaru Fastest Man contest, which features some of the NFL's speediest players, are: Dallas' Herschel Walker, San Diego's Anthony Miller, Indianapolis' Clarence Verdin, Washington's Darrell Green, Green Bay's Phillip Epps, Raiders Tim Brown and Sam Graddy and the Rams' Ron Brown. The winner gets \$25,000. ... Bragging rights and \$1,600 in prize money are at stake at the Greater Chicago Team Tennis Challenge hosted by the Wilmette Park District the weekend of May 18. . . . Paranoid? Who's paranoid? The University of Iowa is distributing a slick, six-page special edition of its regular "Hawk Talk" newsletter to counter what the school perceives as negative publicity from the Norby Walters-Lloyd Bloom trial.

Finally: Bob Bender may come under closer scrutiny than he realizes as Illinois State's new basketball coach. The radio color commentator for Redbird games is Tom Hodgson, who was Bender's high school coach

Ousted softball coach lands on his feet

There's not a lot of job stability in softball, even for winners.

Jim Kulawiak was an immensely successful high school softball coach, amassing a 261-31 record and a state championship in 11 years at Morton West in Berwyn and then Morton in Cicero. Then he got laid off.

So now he's an immensely successful college softball coach.

Kulawiak, 34, took over the North Central College women's team in Naperville this year, and he's coached the Cardinals to a 16-2 record and a first-place 8-0 mark in the College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin with four games to go before the May 5-6 championship playoffs.

The Cardinals, 11-8 and 15-19 the last two years, also entertain hopes for an NCAA Division III tournament bid.

Are you watching, Morton?

"He demands excellence, and everyone's responded to that," says North Central pitcher Lynnea Loudenbeck, a senior from Marengo who sports a 9-1 record. "We have a lot better attitude this year."

Kulawiak introduced the team to Major

League "mechanics of hitting" videotapes and extra batting practice and has turned the Cardinals into an offensive machine. As a team, they are hitting .330, which Loudenbeck says is .100 above last year, when they were shut out five times.

The team started out with a 13-game winning streak before falling to Lake Forest in extra innings April 18, and it is outscoring opponents

by a 9-2 average.

Kulawiak says he always wanted to coach at the college level, so he feels the budget cut that cost him his teaching and coaching jobs at Morton last year was a long foul ball that blew back fair for a grand slam-"Although," he says, I was hoping it would be a decision I'd make, instead of being forced into it."

He hopes the job will turn into a full-time position with the school. But for now he has just a part-time, one-year contract, and he's learned not to rely on an impressive won-lost record.

"They could tell me tomorrow I'm gone," he

Hugh Dellios



Paolo Cane of Italy and his coach embrace Wednesday afternoon after Cane defeated

Jimmy Connors 7-6, 6-1 in the second round of the \$607,500 Monte Carlo Open.

NEWSMAKERS

Canseco lays an egg with commission

Oakland Athletics slugger Jose Canseco, arrested last week on firearms charges, has been dropped from a television commercial sponsored by the California Egg Commission.

"When we're spending the money that we are, someone like that just doesn't portray the image that we want to portray," Robert Pierre, the commission's president, said.

Canseco was arrested Friday after a pedestrian spotted a loaded handgun on the floor of his Jaguar. Canseco will be arraigned Thursday on a felony charge of possessing an unregistered weapon on a university campus and on a misdemeanor charge of possession of a loaded firearm in a car. "We're not condemning him until he's proven guilty," Pi-

sport." Canseco said he had not been contacted by the commission. "No one is talking to me," he said. "No one seems to want to know my side of it."

erre said. "But baseball is supposed to be a family-oriented

NBC's show leaves 'the Greek' puzzled

Jimmy "the Greek" Snyder is puzzled.

Fifteen months ago, CBS fired Snyder after he told a Washington television station that blacks were bred to be better athletes than whites. Tuesday night, NBC showed a one-hour special that cited studies indicating that blacks have a natural advantage in some sports.

"I got fired for saying that, and now they're doing specials on it," Snyder said Wednesday. "You figure it out."

NBC's "Black Athletes-Fact and Snyder Fiction" didn't generate as much controversy as Snyder's remarks. But the network did receive more than

300 phone calls about the program, and most were critical. Snyder said he wanted to do a similar special at CBS but was not allowed. "It's something I've been studying for 10 years," Snyder said. "I didn't make this stuff up."

Ben Johnson's doctor expected to testify

Dr. Jamie Astaphan, the personal physician of Ben Johnson, reportedly still is expected to testify at the Canadian government's inquiry into steroid use by its athletes despite earlier reports that he wouldn't.

"Every indication I have from his lawyer is that he will appear," commission counsel Bob Armstrong told the Toronto

Earlier, the Star quoted Astaphan's friend, Kimberly Jones, as saying the physician wouldn't leave his home on the Caribbean island of St. Kitts to testify because he had been offered \$300,000 to tell his story to a West German magazine. Astaphan won't confirm whether he will appear at the inquiry.

Astaphan is considered the second-most important witness after Johnson, who lost his Olympic 100-meter gold medal in Seoul after a positive steroid test.

YESTERYEAR

5 years ago: Bernard King scores 44 points to help the New York Knicks eliminate the Detroit Pistons from the National Basketball Association playoffs with a 127-123 overtime victory.

10 years ago: The University of Illinois Athletic Association Board votes 10-3 to fire Athletic Director Cecil Coleman, who had run the university's sports programs for nearly seven years.

20 years ago: The Twins' Harmon Killebrew homers off the White Sox's Gary Peters to become the 14th player in majorleague history to hit 400 home runs in his career.

SPORTS FACT

Players with most majorand minor-league home runs

- 1. Hank Aaron—786 HRs
- 2. Babe Ruth—715
- 3. Willie Mays—672
- 4. Frank Robinson—640
- 5. Harmon Killebrew—636 6. Willie McCovey—626
- 7. Reggie Jackson—603
- 8. Ted Williams—587 Source: Who's Who in Baseball

and MacMillan Baseball Encyclopedia

Soviets learn secret of baseball success

SPORTS FOLLIES

Pittsburgh Pirates bullpen coach Rich Donnelly thinks the Soviet baseball team will win a medal at the 1992 Summer Olympics.

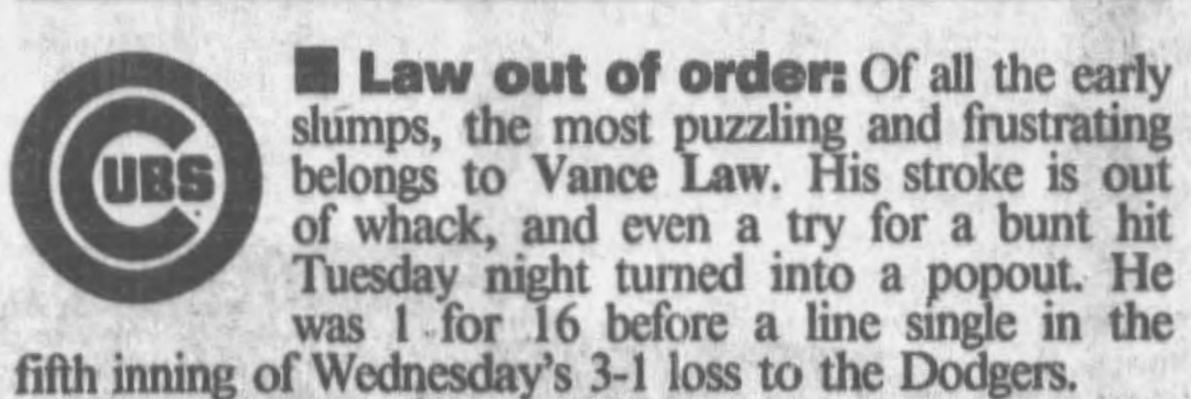
"They already have double-knit uniforms," he says. "They're halfway there."

Donnelly also said he has a friend on the team who is excited because they want to ship him to

Why would the guy be enthusi-

"He wants to play winter ball," Donnelly says.

Bits & Pieces on Chicago's teams



"Last year, he was unbelievable for this ballclub," manager Don Zimmer said. "I don't think he's seeing, the ball right now. It looks like he's pulling off of everything, and I've never seen him swing and miss at so many balls. I just don't know the answer."

Dunston working, waiting: Shawon Dunston, out of the lineup for the second day, continues to take early batting practice to work on mechanics, basically hand movement and position. "I have to show them something in B.P.," Dunston said. "Show them I'm ready to play. I'm not going to pout." Zimmer said Dunston will be back in the lineup Thursday.

Both sides now: Damon Berryhill, on rehab assignment, homered from each side of the plate Wednesday as Triple-A Iowa beat Buffalo 8-4.

It worked: Phil Stephenson reported to Wrigley Field Tuesday with his mustache gone. Tuesday night, he had his first pinch hit. Why the shave? "It was getting all split ends and everything," he said.

Wallets lighter, too: Los Angeles manager Tom Lasorda is down 22 pounds since starting a diet during spring training. A relatively svelte 196, his coat size has dropped to 44 from 46, his pants size from 40 to 38 and his neck size from 17 to 16. Orel Hershiser and Kirk Gibson are each out \$10,000 in challenge bets, and Hershiser has upped the ante another \$10,000 if Lasorda gets down to 190.

Alan Solomon

Back at work: Greg Walker returned to first base Wednesday night in Boston after missing nine games in the field with a strained muscle in his left leg. "He took all his preliminary work and did

fine," manager Jeff Torborg said. "But I've seen him swing better." Walker, who hurt the leg April 11 trying to beat out a grounder in Seattle, has been able to swing and run lightly but has had trouble pushing off when he leaves the batter's box.

Team effort: Ozzie Guillen came into Wednesday's game in a 2-for-26 slump. "Just as Ozzie has struggled, the ballclub has struggled," Torborg said.

"Is it hard for me?" Guillen said, rephrasing a writer's question. "It's hard for everybody. We try."

Torborg said he has thought about juggling the lineup but admitted his options are limited with Carlton Fisk and Dan Pasqua on the disabled list. "You still have the same personnel," he said. "Sometimes you don't need a change at all. Sometimes it just comes."

Untimely: Many pocket schedules incorrectly list Saturday's game in New York as an afternoon game. The game will be at 6:30 p.m. Chicago time.

Friendly foes: Fenway Park bleacherites aren't known for their manners, but they've been perfectly hospitable to Sox center-fielder Dave Gallagher. "The people are right behind you," he said. "They're pretty friendly." Of course, he's never ventured out there wearing a navy blue hat with "NY" stitched on it.

Funeral service: A memorial service for Doris Himes, mother of Sox GM Larry Himes, is scheduled for Friday in Vallejo, Calif. She died Tuesday.

Andrew Bagnato

POWER I Save it for later: Brad Hauter, the Power's No. 3 goalie, will put off surgery on his right ankle until after Saturday's Game 5 of the American Indoor Soccer Association championship series in

Canton. He was going to have bone chips removed from the ankle this week, but an injury to regular keeper Jay McCutcheon could leave the Power with

only one healthy goalie, Mark Simpson. McCutcheon had to leave Tuesday night's 22-6 victory over the Invaders after spraining his left big toe making a save on Mike Paxos' first-quarter shootout attempt. Trainer Katie Speth said McCutcheon could play Saturday if his condition improves.

How to score, Part II: At a post-workout luncheon, player-coach Karl-Heinz Granitza told his team he'll be a guest on the Oprah Winfrey Show Thursday. He said he'll be discussing "sex in sports." This drew chuckles from his players. "Maybe now we'll finally learn something from Karl," joked one.

Joseph Knowles



North Shore Hit Squad: Ndida Opia, a senior designated hitter, set a Northwestern record for career hits, 167, : as the softball squad swept four games from Ohio State last weekend. The previous record of 165 hits was set by Lisa Koser in 1985. Sophomore third baseman Kelli Horton was voted Big

10 player of the week for ripping the Buckeyes for nine hits in 12 at-bats. Kelli had two doubles, a triple, four RBIs and a slugging average of 1.083 in the series. Guys' bats also hot: The Wildcats, 7-9 in Big

10 play, could jump into the fight for a conference. playoff berth if they sweep or win three of four at Ohio State this weekend. Senior outfielder Brian Chisdak and freshman DH Todd Venezio have paced the attack. Chisdak leads the team with a .341 average, 6 homers, 25 RBIs, 15 steals and a .574 slugging average. Venezio, an all-stater from Oak Forest, is hitting .308.

For starters: Wrestling coach Tim Cysewski started his first recruiting class off in style by signing two-time Illinois state champion Paul Andreotti of Marist and three-time Florida state champion Tad Yeager. Andreotti was 50-0 as a senior, won the 152pound state championship and was named to the Wrestling USA All-America team.

Bill Jauss and Reid Hanley

TANK MCNAMARA





GIL THORP



