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**** SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 1989

Lueddeke's Sentence Shows U.S. Plays Hardball With Agents

□ An Analysis

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By Chris Mortensen Staff Writer

CHICAGO — Philadelphia Eagles wide receiver Cris Carter, hearing Monday he would not be going to jail for taking payments from sports agents in college, bowed his head, clutched the podium as the judge exited the courtroom and cried. He paid a \$15,000 fine and went home.

Four days later, in the same building, sports agent David Lueddeke sat stunned as another federal judge handed him a 26-month prison sentence without parole. In the back of the courtroom, Lueddeke's white-haired father, a retired New Jersey policeman, wept softly as the judge pronounced the sentence. Two weeks ago, sports agents **Norby Walters** and Lloyd B showed similar emotion in the same courthouse, the Dirksen Federal Building in Chicago. Bloom, who had remained aloof during his and Walters's five-week trial, wept when a federal jury found the two agents guilty of racketeering, conspiracy and mail fraud. Walters was crushed. Who wouldn't be? The two men face maximum penalties of 55 years in prison and \$1.5 million in fines. They will be sentenced June 19. Tears in the sports world. Real agony. Genuine defeats. And now comes another warning to sports agents and college athletes from FBI special agent George Randolph, who headed the Walters **Bloom** investigation. 'It's one thing to be investigated, another thing to be indicted," Randolph said Friday after Lueddeke was sentenced. "But when you are convicted, the impact is there. U.S. attorneys now know they can win. There will be spinoffs from the Walters-Bloom case. Other investigations. Other prosecutions. Agents and athletes will try and devise better ways not to get caught, but they'll slip up." Already, there is one spinoff. A federal grand jury in Florida is considering fraud charges against two sports agents who dealt with University of Florida basketball players, according to U.S. Justice Department sources. Prosecutors in Florida have consulted with prosecutors in Chicago, and they waited for the Walters-Bloom conviction before proceeding. Perhaps nobody was sucked into the sports-agent maelstrom more than Lueddeke, 37, who started representing college athletes just three years ago. In October 1986, Lueddeke traveled to Columbus, Ohio, in the middle of the football season and signed three Ohio State players to representation contracts: Carter, fullback George Cooper and wide receiver/running back Vince Workman. All had eligibility remaining. Carter, then a junior, already had taken money from Walters and loom in May 1986. He could not resist a \$5,000 cashier's check from Lueddeke as well. In March 1987, according to court documents, Lueddeke panicked when he heard that Carter was linked with Walters and Bloon in an Atlanta Journal-Constitution story, and that FBI and NCAA investigations were ensuing. Lueddeke began destroying most documents that linked him to Carter and other college athletes. About 16 months passed and Lueddeke felt relatively safe. The federal grand jury was preparing to indict Walters and Bloom, who had



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The Associated Press

he had doctored the document and

lied again to the grand jury. Pearl and Randolph admitted to Judge Williams they were livid over Lueddeke's interference. Their in-

vestigation of Walters and Bloom already had been delayed and costly to the government.

"We were planning to bring the indictment [against Walters and

Bloom] no later than Aug. 1, because the certifications signed by college athletes around the country are done about Aug. 20, and we wanted to get the word out," Pearl

told the judge.

Walters and Bloom were indicted Aug. 24. So were Carter and

AGENT Continued on 33C



Sports agent David Lueddeke was sentenced Friday to 26 months in federal prison.

signed 58 athletes from 32 schools during a 21/2-year period.

Randolph, U.S. Attorney Anton Valukas and Assistant U.S. Attorney Howard Pearl of Chicago were tying up loose ends when they decided to review the alleged fraud case, which then included Ohio State as a victim and Carter the key witness. A \$5,000 deposit in Carter's bank account in October 1986 had gone unaccounted for. A cashier's check for that amount was traced to Lueddeke.

Carter, who had agreed to enter a pretrial diversion program in which he would avoid prosecution, was questioned about the money. Carter denied that it came from Lueddeke, not only before the FBI and prosecutors, but in front of the federal grand jury on July 14, 1988.

Lueddeke two days earlier also had lied to the grand jury about his association with Carter.

Lueddeke testified Friday at his sentencing hearing that on July 20 he received a telephone call at his office in Sherman Oaks, Calif., from **Randolph and Pearl.**

"Mr. Pearl told me I perjured myself, that I would be prosecuted and that I would go to jail," Lueddeke told U.S. District Judge Ann Williams. "He told me I had to get

back out there, and to 'look at the four walls around you 'because you're not going to see them any more.'"

Lueddeke told the court his panic was so intense that he never consulted an attorney before jumping on a plane for Chicago. That plane ride was a bumpy one. Lueddeke took a portable typewriter with him and decided to type in a "clause" on the contract Carter signed.

On the contract Lueddeke submitted to the grand jury, here is what the agent typed: "Chris Carter (on 10-26-86) acknowledges that he has violated NCAA rules and jeopardized college eligibility by previously accepting money from sports agents and hereby releases David Lueddeke of any and all liability and/or damages resulting from said transaction."

By then, Carter had blown his pretrial diversion agreement. He was told by prosecutors he was now facing charges of conspiracy, mail fraud, wire fraud, perjury and obstruction of justice. The consequences could have ended his NFL career.

Carter told Valukas, Pearl and Randolph that he did not sign a contract that contained the "liability" clause. Cooper verified Carter's account. Within a week, Lueddeke confessed through an attorney that

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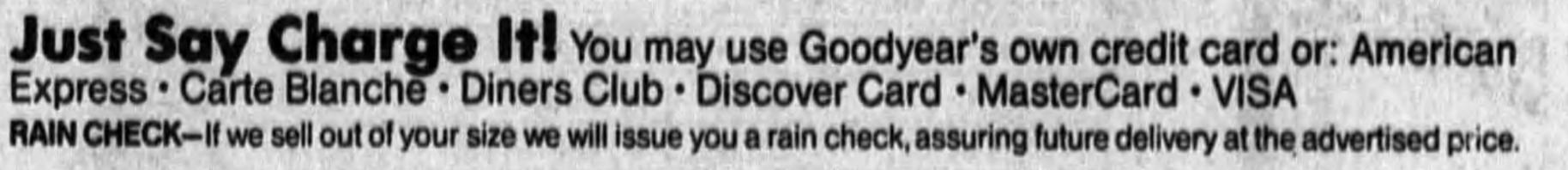
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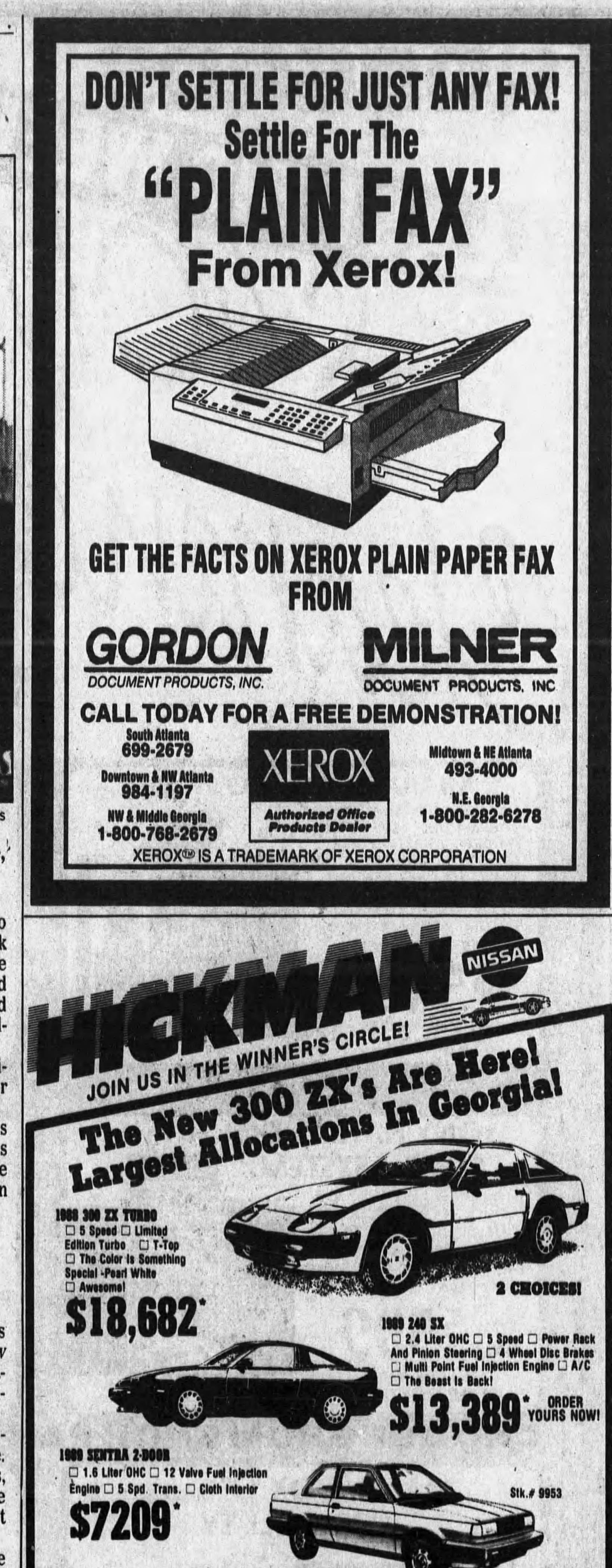
The Atlanta Imurnal AND CONSTITUTION + SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 1989 **Elliott Expected to Benefit From Radial**

From Staff and Wire Reports Like several other top drivers, Bill Elliott has sometimes been a casualty in Winston Cup's seemingly end-AUTOS less "tire wars" between Goodyear and Hoosier. But Winston Cup spokesman Bob Kelly says "a precise driver like Bill Elliott will benefit if the [Goodyear's new] radial is for real. The radial can't be driven into the corner like the bias-ply, and that should help Elliott and (Dale) Earnhardt."

With the Winston Cup stars gathering this week in Talladega, Ala., for next Sunday's Winston 500, NASCAR has mandated an even smaller restrictor carburetor plate. Geoff Bodine was the fastest of the **Chevrolet drivers in Talladega tests** of the new Chevy Lumina just days ago, hovering around 189 mph. The Luminas wore Goodyear radials.

"Rusty Wallace (in a Pontiac) says you can't drive fast into the corners, anywhere, with the radial," said Kelly. "Rusty likes to slam and





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bang and throw a race car into a curve, and the radial's timing and 'feel' makes that almost impossible. If the radial holds up, then it's likely to benefit Elliott and Earnhardt. The radial is a hard tire, and Earnhardt in 1987, when Goodyear was making those 'bricks,' won all those races (11)."

Ellliott, the 1988 Winston Cup champion, hasn't won a race in 1989 while recovering from a broken wrist.

Only two years ago, "Talladega' was how Southerners spelled "speed." Elliott hooked up with the track in his 1987 Ford Thunderbird and won the pole for the Winston 500 with a speed of 212.809 mph. That is considered the fastest a stock car has ever traveled. Drivers at the Indianapolis 500 were going about the same speed. But after **Bobby** Allison's horrendous wreck in the 1987 Winston 500, when he almost took the car into the stands, NASCAR reduced speeds by ordering the "290" carburetor, then later went to the restrictor plate. From almost 213 mph, Winston Cup drivers are below 190 mph - slowest in 13 years at Talladega. A 189.197 mph clocking won the 1976 pole for Dave Marcis, then in a 1974 Dodge. -Bill Robinson

Sullivan Wins Second IROC **Race by Conserving His Tires**

The Associated Press

Bobby Allison (left), who is still recovering from severe injuries suffered in a Winston Cup race last June, visits with Danny Sullivan before Saturday's IROC race in Nazareth, Pa.

only other driver who did not pit for tires during the 75-lap event at Pennsylvania International Raceway.

The race on the one-mile trioval, of which Sullivan is part-owner, was the first for IROC on any oval-type track shorter than 1.5 miles.

Rusty Wallace, who won the series opener in February at Daytona International Speedway, becoming the first driver in IROC history to go from last to first, finished third.

Wallace, who started last in the 12-car field on the basis of a reverse order of the first-race finish, did it again Saturday, slicing through the field to take the lead on lap 37.

But, like A.J. Foyt and Pruett, who also led the race, his tires eventually wore badly. Wallace and Foyt both pitted for fresh rubber, costing them a lap, while Pruett stayed on the track and nearly lost second place at the end as he finished with a deflating left rear tire. A number of tires were cut by sharp rocks and pebbles thrown onto the track surface when cars dipped onto the dirt while racing

Earnhardt with 27. Sullivan is fourth with 26, followed by Pruett 25, Unser 24 and Foyt 23.

The race had to be started twice, with the initial start aborted by an accident in which Petty bumped slow-moving Geoff Brabham and sent the road racer into the first-turn wall.

Brabham, who had started alongside Sullivan in the front row, had to jump into a backup car and the race was restarted with Brabham at the back of the field.

Sullivan, who finished last at Daytona, started from the pole but led only one lap before Pruett, a former IMSA GTO and SCCA Trans-Am champion, jumped on top.

Foyt, a four-time Indianapolis 500 winner, quickly caught Pruett and passed him for the lead on lap 16. The 53-year-old Texan then led the race until the charging Wallace got by on lap 37.

On lap 41, after the second of two caution periods for debris on the track, Wallace started from the lead but had a flat tire and was unable to get back up to speed, Foyt jumped back on top and held the lead until Pruett slipped past on lap

Brian McEachern of Toronto surged from the middle of the pack to the front on the first lap of the one-hour Endurance Challenge and lengthened his lead over the second place D-Jaguar driven by Bib Stillwell of Tucson, Ariz., for the win.

In qualifying races for today's finals, Lotus was the fastest qualifier in every race entered.

This morning's practice sessions are followed by finals in all classes beginning at 12:30 p.m. A vintage car show will also be featured in the afternoon.

□ Results, Page 22C

Petty on Bubble as Qualifier For This Month's The Winston

Richard Petty is in a precarious position again. If there is no new winner in the next three races, Petty is assured of a spot in The Winston on May 21 at Charlotte.

Petty missed last year's Winston, the non-points, all-star race. He was bumped by Phil Parsons, winner of the Winston 500. The race is restricted to the 19 most recent race victors.

Petty is temporarily in the race because of the retirement of Cale Yarborough and the inactive status of Tim Richmond and injured Bobby Allison. Petty's last triumph was the 1984 Firecracker 400. "We aren't there yet," said Petty, who missed three of the past four races because he failled to qualify his Pontiac. "We want in The Winston by winning between now and then. I don't mind getting in from a win five years ago, but I'd rather it be from five days ago."

· The Associated Press

NAZARETH, Pa. - Danny Sullivan conserved his tires and came up a winner in the second round of the 1989 Budweiser International Race of Champions.

The defending CART Indy-car champion earned his first IROC victory, driving one of the identically prepared IROC-Z Chevrolet Camaros across the finish line a distant 13.45 seconds ahead of road racer Scott Pruett. Pruett was the

through the turns.

Another victim of a tire problem was Al Unser Jr., the defending series champion, who finished fourth. Foyt finished fifth, the last competitor on the lead lap, followed by Terry Labonte, Dale Earnhardt, Brabham, Hurley Haywood, Rick Mears, Bill Elliott and Richard Petty. The last two both pitted twice for tires.

Wallace leads the four-race allstar series at the halfway point with 37 points, followed by fellow NAS-CAR stars Labonte with 29 and

□ Results, Page 22C

McEachern Wins Road Atlanta Endurance Challenge in Lotus Special to The Journal-Constitution

BRASELTON, Ga. - Lotus, the British carmaker whose North American headquarters is in Norcross, won the main event in the Walter Mitty Challenge at Road Atlanta.

-Bill Robinson

Agent Pays a Heavy Price for Transgressions

From Page 27C

Lueddeke.

Lueddeke's case was further damaged when the FBI learned that The Atlanta Journal-Constitution was investigating the agent's association with Workman, who had just started his senior season as co-captain of the Ohio State football team. Lueddeke had said nothing to the prosecution team about Workman, who was signed as a sophomore.

Workman got a subpoena to appear before the grand jury on Sept. 20. He testified that he had taken money from and signed a contract with Lueddeke. He also testified

that Lueddeke had advised him to keep quiet about the deal because the sports agent had destroyed documents.

Workman then admitted his dealings to Ohio State officials and the media, disgualifying himself from a promising senior season.

"Vince Workman showed more courage and responsibility in that week than David Lueddeke has shown in six months," Pearl said. Lueddeke could have been charged with mail fraud and conspiracy in addition to perjury and obstruction, said Randolph. The sports agent pleaded guilty to perju-

were intent that he serve prison time.

Lueddeke, as Carter did, asked the court for mercy. He said that he was the sole provider for his family, which includes a 22-month-old son, that his California home (worth \$700,000) would be jeopardized, and that his wife was five months pregnant.

The chill of prosecution knifed back. "I don't want to get into the lecture of family planning, but they [the Lueddekes] decided to have this child after [the indictment]," Pearl told Williams.

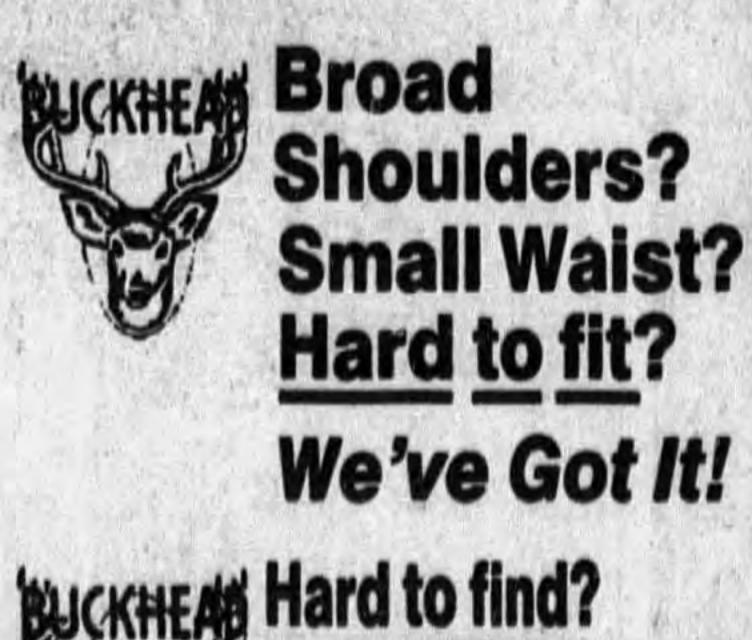
Lueddeke had hoped to get a suspended sentence. If not, he wanted to be placed in a work-release program. He even suggested house arrest.

Williams would have none of it. The judge slapped him with 26 months, which he likely will serve at a federal prison in Lompoc, Calif. Under new federal sentencing guidelines, Lueddeke will have to serve the entire 26 months.

He also was fined \$10,000 by the court. To top it off, he was barred from the sports agency business for three years after he is released from prison.

The rules have changed. It's no game. Ask David longer a



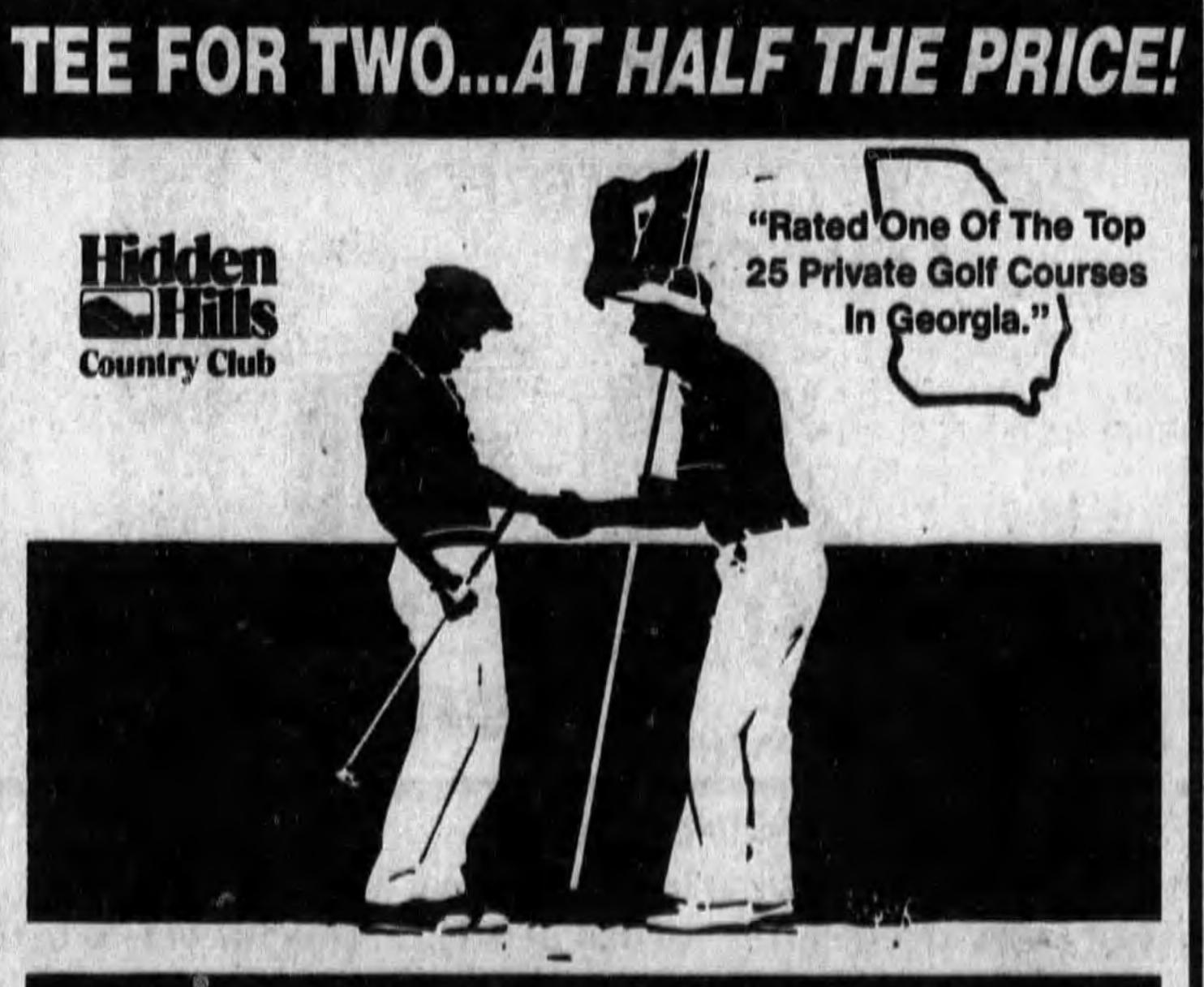


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ry and obstruction, and prosecutors Lueddeke.





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