

The Inside Story

New trial requested for convicted agents

By John Gorman

Defense attorneys for convicted sports agents **Lloyd Bloom** and **Norby Walters** asked for a new trial Thursday because they say the testimony of mobster **Michael Franzese** may have misled the jury during the agents' trial earlier this year.

Attorneys Dan Webb, representing **Bloom**, and Tyrone Fahner, representing **Walters**, noted that **Franzese**, a captain with the Colombo organized crime family in New York City, testified that he was only getting 28 days knocked off his 10-year sentence in return for testifying for the government. **Franzese** was serving a sentence for racketeering imposed in 1985.

The attorneys state in their motion that **Franzese** was released from prison within 90 days of the conviction of **Bloom** and **Walters** in April after serving a little more than four years in prison.

"The evidence concerning **Franzese's** release goes to the very heart of the credibility of the government's key witness and impacts upon the integrity of the proceedings in which the defendants were

tried," said the defense attorneys, who argued that the government gave the "false impression" to the jury that **Franzese's** release was not imminent.

When U.S. District Court Judge George Marovich asked Assistant U.S. Attorney Howard Pearl to explain why **Franzese** was released, the prosecutor told the judge he knew the circumstances leading to the release but preferred to respond privately to the judge. Marovich said he would allow that, and he gave Pearl three weeks to respond.

Any inference that **Franzese** may have lied to the jury "is absolutely and unequivocally not true," said U.S. Attorney Anton Valukas.

Franzese had testified that he and his father were longtime business partners with **Walters** and had given him \$50,000 in start-up money in 1985 to found his sports-agent business in return for 25 percent of the profits.

Bloom and **Walters** are free on bond pending the appeal of their conviction for seducing college football players with cash to sign them before their eligibility expired.

Odds & INS

By Mike Conklin

Bad news Bears: On the eve of the season-opener, the Bears haven't exactly gotten ringing endorsements from two of their greatest alumni. First, **Walter Payton** said early this week he didn't think they would repeat as Central Division champs. Now, **Gale Sayers** has added a second. Said Sayers: "Without question, the Bears have some problems. I think Minnesota will win the division." Sayers said he also thought **Jim McMahon** wore out his welcome in Chicago but that "the players knew he was ready to play whenever he was on the field." Of **Mike Tomczak**, he said: "He's gotten as good as he'll get. He won't lead them to the Super Bowl." ... Sayers made his assessments at former Chicago Park District Supt. **Ed Kelly's** annual 47th Ward Sports Night. Said Kelly: "Gale's a great friend, but I've got to say we've got politicians here tonight with better moves." Among the guests were Illinois Attorney Gen. **Neil Hartigan**, running for governor, and Cook County Board President **George Dunne**, running for re-election.

Media massage: What's bigger Sunday, Bears vs. Cincinnati or **Bill Walsh's** debut for NBC? You have to wonder, when you hear **Walsh** will hold a post-game press conference in Soldier Field to discuss his own performance. (What was the turning point for you, **Bill**? Suffer any injuries, **Bill**? Will you announce 'em one game at a time, **Bill**?) The ex-49er coach and **Dick Enberg** have shadowed the Bears for two preseason games to practice their routines. In addition, **Walsh** has huddled with Bears coach **Mike Ditka** on three different occasions, totaling 1½ hours, and close to 20 Bears have been interviewed to prepare for his opener.

Now, of course, this question begs to be asked: How does he get ready for next week's game?

Close shave: Should you mix business with football? Several Patriot sources are saying **Doug Flutie** survived a cut this year because of his connections with owner **Victor Kiam**, who has had the quarterback ap



Sayers Dawson Palmer

pear in his Remington razor advertisements. **Kiam** apparently sees it as bad PR to release "Bambi." Furthermore, **Flutie** is an associate of **Fran Murray**, who owns 49 percent of the team. Compromise: Coach **Raymond Berry** will have **Doug** double as a punt returner.

Stacking Cards: What are **Andre Dawson's** thoughts on the rivalry between the Cubs and Cardinals, who open their biggest series of the season Friday in Wrigley Field? In the team's Vine Line publication, **Andre** writes: "I think it is a rivalry between the fans. I don't look at the Cardinals' series as being a rivalry. When we play the Mets, that's a big rivalry. Our series with Montreal has grown to the point where it's a rivalry. St. Louis has been a rivalry of this organization probably because the two cities are so close. It's a sell-out most of the time, and the rivalry in my opinion is between the fans."

Bull market: Season-ticket sales have been completed for the Bulls, and single-game tickets will go on sale at 10 a.m. Sept. 30 at the Stadium and through Ticketron. You'd better hustle, though. Bulls Marketing Vice President **Steve Schanwald** says there may not be many more than 1,000 tickets available per game after the club deducts season tickets, groups, comps and other demands. The club recently cut off season sales at 13,000. Said **Schanwald**: "We had 95 percent renewal this year, and that's the highest ever."

Priorities: Northwestern's **Mike Baum**, an 11th-round draft choice, didn't last long in the Seattle Seahawk picture, but the big lineman from Park Ridge went straight to a starring role in a commercial. He's the football player who'll be featured in a TV spot for Pro Football Weekly that begins airing this weekend on Channel 5. It'll be shown later on ESPN. Said **Baum**: "I think it helped that I stay in shape, which is something I always plan to do. They wanted someone with a flat stomach." The former Wildcat, an Academic All-American, has figured out that his best move at this point—a Hollywood career withstanding—is to pursue several job offers he cultivated after graduating last December. Smart move.

News, notes and nonsense: The Chicago District Golf Association has snared **Arnold Palmer** as the featured speaker for its 75th anniversary dinner Oct. 10 at Drury Lane in Oak Brook. ... Purdue has switched to black helmets this season for the first time since the 1960s, which surely will be a big factor in improving on last year's 4-7 record. ... Question: How can you tell when Blackhawk camp opens? Answer: When you see gap-toothed, wide-eyed youngsters hanging out in front of the Bismarck Hotel, where the players start the first few weeks. You'll begin seeing them Friday—and that's when you know cooler weather is around the corner. ... Considering the excellent year she's having, LPGA star **Betsy King** might be a good choice for the Women's Sports Foundation's Pro Athlete of the Year award to be announced Oct. 3. **King** is one of seven finalists. ... **Frank Shorter** is the latest to be elected to the Indianapolis-based National Track and Field Hall of Fame.

And finally: Here's hoping **Mike Ditka** stays in good humor after he sees the cover of Sunday's Tribune special pro football section. The coach is portrayed as Frankenstein. The illustration is sure to make a few bulletin boards.

SPORTS OF SORTS

LPGA is hoping to hook Chicago-area tourney site

SPRINGFIELD—The Ladies Professional Golf Association is actively pursuing the creation of a Chicago-area tournament that could be held as early as next summer if sponsorship and course arrangements can be worked out.

LPGA Commissioner **William A. Blue** said the tour is looking at four suburban sites within 30 miles of Chicago to field a tournament carrying a purse of at least \$400,000.

Blue said the push to find a Chicago tournament site was prompted earlier this year when a planned Aug. 18-20 \$350,000 charity tournament at Sand Creek Country Club in Chesterton, Ind., southeast of Chicago, fell apart.

"We've been working since the early part of April, when we knew that Sand Creek was not going to be a go, to make sure the Tour was represented in greater Chicago," said **Blue**. "We just feel there's too much interest in women's golf in the Chicago area for us not to be represented."

The Sand Creek tournament had been given Chicago-area exclusivity from a competing women's event by the LPGA. But the exclusivity right was voided when the tournament was called off, and **Blue** said preliminary talks have been held with potential sponsors in the Chicago area.

"There are a lot of people who have indicated an interest as long as we could get a major title [sponsor], and we're working on that very hard," said **Blue**, who added a Chicago-area tournament would likely be scheduled for late July or early August.

"We would like to do one in 1990, but if that doesn't work out, we would be shooting for '91," said **Blue**. "Obviously, when you say 1990, you're looking smack in the face of the [men's U.S.] Open at Medinah, but that doesn't bother us. It becomes synergistic in terms of golf."

By Rick Pearson



AP Laserphoto

Grin and bear it

Tracy Austin shows off her casted right leg Thursday at the U.S. Open. The two-time champion broke the leg Aug. 3 in a car accident.

NEWSMAKERS

Summer Squall storms into Arlington

Summer Squall, the undefeated 2-year-old colt who is one of the early favorites for the 1990 Kentucky Derby, has taken up residence at Arlington International Racecourse.

The son of Storm Bird-Weekend Surprise, by Secretariat, is scheduled to make his next start Oct. 1 in the Grade I Arlington-Washington Futurity, expected to have a purse in excess of \$350,000.

Summer Squall is owned by Cot Campbell's Dogwood Stable and trained by Neil Howard. With Pat Day as his regular rider, Summer Squall has won all five of his races.

Neil Milbert

Guerrero and Drysdale robbed in scam

Two Houston women have been charged with drugging St. Louis Cardinals star **Pedro Guerrero** and stealing \$26,000 worth of jewelry from his hotel room, according to a report in the Houston Chronicle.

According to documents filed with the Harris County District Attorney's office, **Guerrero** was incapacitated by a drug slipped into his drink, then had a Rolex watch, a wedding band and a Rolex watch stolen. The incident occurred Aug. 27 at the Westin Galleria Hotel in Houston.

The Chronicle said **Dodgers** announcer **Don Drysdale** was victimized in a similar scam Tuesday night at the Galleria. **Drysdale** reported losing a Rolex watch and a ring. No charges have been filed in that case, but **Drysdale** said he is working with police in the investigation.

"It was the wackiest thing," **Drysdale** said. "One minute I was talking to people in the bar. Then, I don't have the slightest idea what happened."



Guerrero

No sidestepping Minnesota coach's rules

Minnesota has lost **Octavius Gould** for the season because of academic problems. **Gould**, a transfer from Florida who rushed for 326 yards last year, was eligible by university standards but not by coach **John Gutekunst's** more demanding team requirements. **Gould** has indicated he intends to stay in school and try to get back on the squad for his final season next year.

ETCETERA

A Bull market in Detroit, too?

On a clear day, you should be able to hear Chicago, as in Chicago Bulls basketball, according to a new billboard in Detroit.

The freeway billboard urges drivers to tune in to WLUP-AM (1000) this season to catch Bulls games.

"The Bulls and Pistons are one of the greatest rivalries in sports," WLUP General Manager **Larry Wert** said. "This is a way of saying we're looking forward to the rivalry this year."

Wert said WLUP broadcasts of Bulls games could be heard by Detroit listeners on clear nights.

Pistons director of broadcasting **Harry Hutt** laughed at the ad. "Apparently the Bulls can't get enough listeners in Chicago and Illinois," he said. "We don't have to go anywhere else."

Wert said he expected the billboard to stay up for about a month. **Hutt** said the Pistons won't retaliate. "I don't think we can pack in anymore listeners," he said.

SPORTS FACT

Most years in the major leagues without playing in the minors

1. Al Kaline—22 years
- (Tie) Mel Ott—22 years
3. Ted Lyons—21 years
- (Tie) Eppa Rixey—21 years
5. Ernie Banks—19 years
- (Tie) Tom Zachary—19 years
- (Tie) Frankie Frisch—19 years

Source: Who's Who In Baseball

Bits & Pieces on Chicago's teams



Walton rested: **Jerome Walton** is expected to play in Friday afternoon's game against St. Louis. Manager **Don Zimmer** gave him Thursday off because of a sore shoulder, suffered when he hit the center-field wall Wednesday night.

"He isn't hurt bad, but I saw him with an ice pack on the shoulder, and I said, 'Take the day off,'" **Zimmer** said.

Walton bruised his shoulder a month ago slamming into the outfield bricks in Wrigley Field.

Roadrunners: The Cubs' 3-4 trip was their third losing journey of the year. They still have the best road record in the majors, 40-32 for .556.

Vote of confidence: **Zimmer** said he hasn't forgotten **Steve Wilson**, whom he yanked four batters into a start last Friday in Atlanta.

"He's all right," **Zimmer** said. "He's started four games and we've won three of them. He just had trouble the last time. I'm not worried about **Wilson**. He's gotten guys out all year."

Wilson has pitched twice since his early exit Friday. He gave up a hit to the only batter he faced Sunday and shut out the Phillies for 1½ mopup innings in Wednesday's blowout loss.

A first-time feeling: **Doug Dascenzo** said, with a completely straight face, that he wasn't looking to hit a home run when he drove a **Ken Howell** pitch over the right-field wall in the third inning.

"Whenever I try to hit one, I pop up or something," he said. "The ball came off the bat hard. It felt good."

Dascenzo needs to relish the feeling for a while. In 2,229 minor-league at-bats, he had hit 22 homers. Thursday's blast was his first in 189 major-league at-bats.

Historic victory: The Cubs won their 78th game Thursday, passing their 1988 win total with three weeks to go in the season. This is only the second time in the decade that they've won more than 77 games, the first time since 1984.

Andrew Bagnato



Bye, bye, Blue Jays: In losing six in a row to Toronto in little more than a week, the White Sox—batting .273 as a team on the year—hit .210 and scored just nine runs. They were outscored 6-0.

Asked to compare the Blue Jays with the Baltimore Orioles, who lost two out of three last weekend in Comiskey Park, Sox manager **Jeff Torborg** left no doubt.

"This club right here is really hot, and they're doing everything right," he said of the Jays. "The Baltimore club looked like they were struggling a little bit."

Sosa on Alvarez: Outfielder **Sammy Sosa** and left-hander **Wilson Alvarez** came to the Sox from the Texas organization together. But **Sosa** has faced **Alvarez**, in Mazatlan, Mexico, in last winter's Caribbean World Series. He was 1 for 3 against him with a line single, strikeout and groundout. "He can throw," said **Sosa**, who played for a team from the Dominican Republic. "He can pitch." **Alvarez**, from Venezuela, threw a two-hitter Tuesday night to clinch a division title for Double-A Birmingham.

Torborg on Karko: **Torborg**, a former catcher, can be forgiven if he gets overexcited about players who wear all that gear for a living. But he's sincerely delighted at the progress he has seen in **Ron Karkovics**. "Karko's really starting to blossom as a player," **Torborg** said. "Not only as a hitter, which is starting to be so obvious, but he's calling a good game. He's got a good feel for it now."

Hold those Tigers: The Sox move to Detroit this weekend for three games at Tiger Stadium. The Tigers have won six straight—including a sweep over contending Kansas City—their longest streak in two years. **Greg Hibbard** (4-6) will open the series for the Sox against **Jeff Robinson** (4-4).

Alan Solomon



Farmer out: The Bulls wanted free agent **Jim Farmer** but lost their chance to get him when he signed last week with the Minnesota Timberwolves. The Bulls had taken **Farmer** to California for summer-league play and even offered him a contract—though it was apparently short on guarantees.

"**Farmer** got guaranteed money in Minnesota," said Bulls General Manager **Jerry Krause**. "I think he was interested in playing time, and he thought he would get some playing time up there—which he will."

The Bulls have reached agreements with at least five players they took to the summer league. The names will be revealed when the Bulls see their signatures at the bottom of their contracts.

Draft dodgers? The Bulls still haven't signed their two top draft picks, **Stacey King** and **B.J. Armstrong**. Negotiations are moving along with **Armstrong** ... and moving along more slowly with **King**.

"But that's natural," explains **Krause**, the man who has to sign them, "because more players in the Armstrong area [No. 18] of the draft have signed. Nobody above **King** [No. 6] has signed."

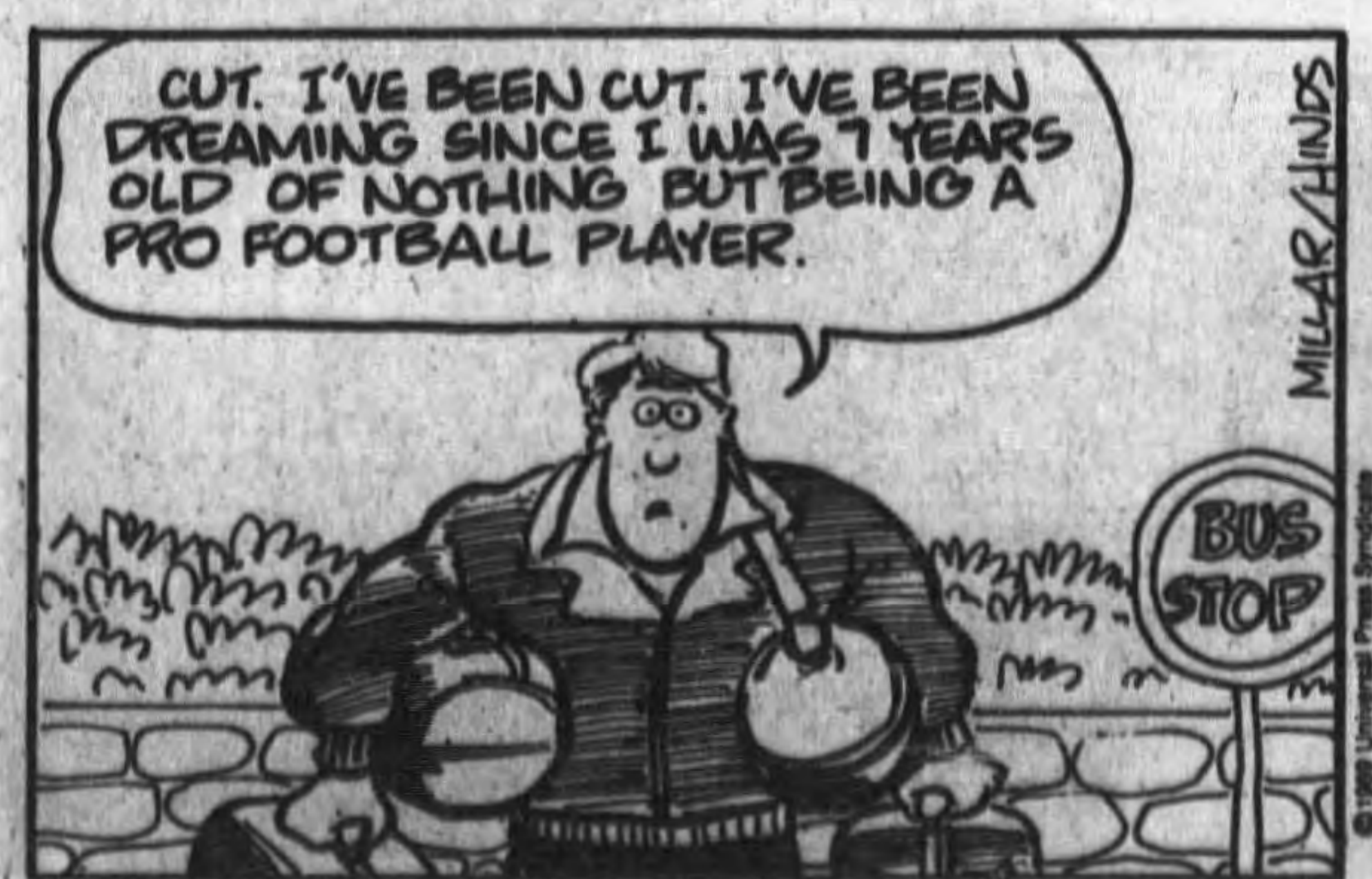
Worried yet? "We will have them both in," says **Krause**. "I don't think there will be any problem having them both in."

Quality time: Critical observers have long opined that the Bulls can't win it all until **Michael Jordan** gets more support. Is this the year?

Krause thinks it may be, saying this is the deepest Bulls team in a long while. "We have more depth, and that cuts **Michael's** time down, and hopefully will make it more quality time," he said. "We can do that now. We have the manpower to do that."

Peter Kendall

TANK McNAMARA



GIL THORP

