



The King of women's golf
Betsy King, the LPGA's dominant player in 1989, heads elite field for 1990 opener in Jamaica □ F7



Coming Sunday: Recruiting '90
An in-depth look at top college football recruits, plus team-by-team reports from across the South

Sports

SECTION F

THE ATLANTA CONSTITUTION

★ FRIDAY, JANUARY 19, 1990

Clemson lists Ross as possible coach



Mark Bradley

Ford became too big, too fast, in too small of a town

Legend holds that Frank Howard — whose official Clemson University title is simply "legend" — once escorted Bob Hope on a tour of beautiful downtown Clemson. They drove for a minute, whereupon Hope said: "Hey, Frank, when do we get to town?"

And Howard said: "Want me to back up so you can see it again?"

There are lots of cute and curious things about Clemson, S.C., and its football Tigers. The stadium is known as Death Valley. The team enters the valley by busing from the stadium's west side to the east and running down the end zone hill. As they run, the Tigers touch Howard's Rock, a hunk of stone found in Death Valley, Calif., by Clemson grad S.C. Jones and presented to the legend. (Word is that Howard, having no clue what to do with a rock shaped like E.T.'s alien noggin, turned to a subordinate and growled: "Do something with this damn thing." So the dutiful subordinate put the thing on a pedestal and made it an icon.)

NCAA has long wondered about Clemson

Clemson itself is a pretty little place with orange Tiger paws — an innovation traceable to Hootie Ingram, who's known most recently for running off Bill Curry to hire Gene Stallings — painted on the roads and green grass and leafy trees and rolling fields most everywhere else. If Clemson is long on anything, it's space. There aren't many buildings. Aren't many folks, either.

Take away the university and Clemson becomes Winder. The 1980 census measured Clemson's non-student population at 8,118. By comparison, bustling Auburn, Ala., is thrice the size of Clemson, and Auburn even has an honest-to-goodness enclosed mall. Clemson has some gas stations, a few restaurants and a motel or two. That's about it.

OK, I know what you're saying: Here's a big-timer from Hotlanta looking down his metropolitan nose at a puny burg. Hey, I lived my first 18 years in Maysville, Ky., which give or take a spotlight is the same size as Clemson. I like small towns. Indeed, my first impression upon visiting Clemson was that it was heartening to see a small-town school play such big-time football.

Then the old skeptic kicked in, and I thought: Just how is it that a small-town school can play such big-time football?

I'm sure I wasn't the first to ask. The NCAA has wondered for more than a decade. Rival schools point to Clemson as a den of iniquity, the thinking being that few top-shelf prospects would want to spend four years in a two-horse town if all they were getting was tuition, books, room and board. When a school gets (and keeps getting) more and better athletes than logic insists that it should, warning bells clang.

All have protested their innocence

Today the bells in Clemson toll for Danny Ford, the coach who won an improbable national championship at the age of 33 but who resigned Thursday at the school's urging. Clemson has been hit with another full-blown NCAA investigation, its second of the decade, and stands to get hammered again. It's thought that Ford's leaving may stave off the death penalty, much as jettisoning Eddie Sutton did for Kentucky, same as Florida prays dumping Galen Hall and Norm Sloan will do for it.

Naturally, Ford left protesting his innocence. All coaches who quit under NCAA fire take to the highest mountain top to proclaim their rectitude. (The exception is Galen Hall, more a victim of circumstance than a scoundrel.) Sutton and Sloan and Barry Switzer and Charley Pell swore that their programs' many sins weren't the doing of the men in charge.

Doubtless Danny Ford will be saying as much for the rest of his life. But the simple fact that he's gone indicates otherwise. For all Ford's winning, Clemson's elders ultimately came to feel that the football program was about to devour the entire school, sacrificing academics and honor on the altar of football, and that under Ford there could be no true cleanup.

Asked to comment, Georgia Tech basketball coach Bobby Cremins said: "Clemson football is too big. Danny Ford got too big." Get too big in too small a place and you dwarf your surroundings. Come the inevitable scrutiny, you're left with nowhere to hide.

School will face NCAA minus Ford

By Tony Barnhart
College editor

Georgia Tech football coach Bobby Ross is one of several candidates under consideration to replace Danny Ford, who was forced to resign as Clemson's coach, sources said Thursday.

Ross, who has a three-year record of 12-21 at Tech but recently completed a 7-4 season, was a longshot candidate last month for the Wisconsin vacancy that has since been filled. He said then, "I'm happy at Georgia Tech."

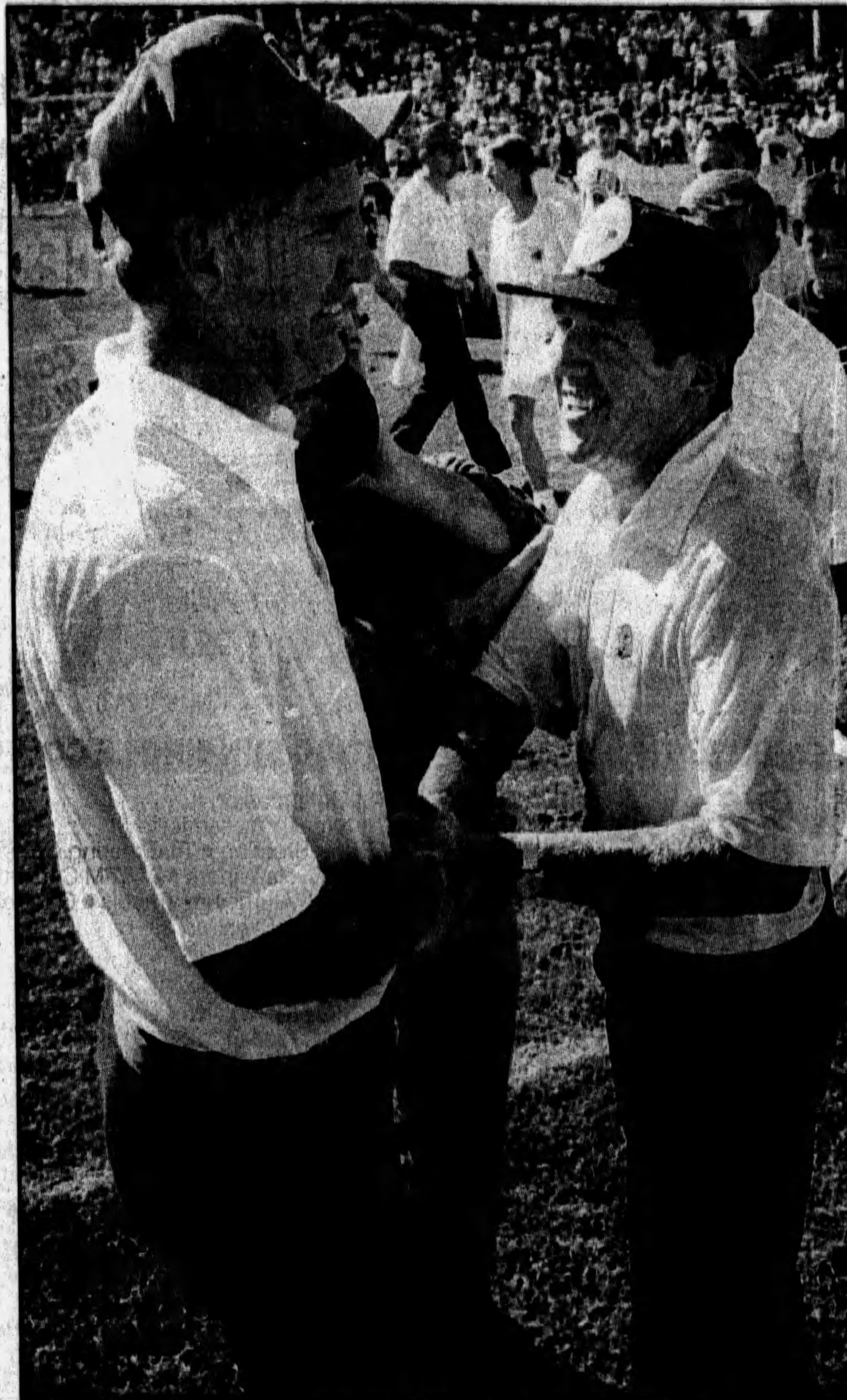
Ross was on a recruiting trip Thursday in North Carolina and could not be reached.

Other candidates mentioned by sources are Dick Sheridan of North Carolina State, who turned down the head coaching position at Georgia a year ago, Fisher DeBerry of the Air Force Academy, Jimmy Satterfield of Furman and Clemson assistant coach Bill Oliver, who has been offered the defensive coordinator's job at Alabama.

Ford, 41, was forced to resign Thursday under the cloud of an NCAA investigation, the second in his 11-year tenure at the school, but walked away a rich man.

The settlement could come close to \$1 million. He will receive \$190,000

CLEMSON Continued on F6 ▶



Tech coach Bobby Ross (right), shown shaking hands with Danny Ford after Tech's win at Clemson in 1989, is now on Clemson's list of candidates.

Hawks' skid is becoming a nuisance

Atlanta looks to end slide against Bulls

By Jeffrey Denberg
Staff writer

The Atlanta Hawks are losing at an alarming rate.

They've lost five straight games, their deepest slump in five years. That has them two defeats shy of matching the worst skid of Mike Fratello's seven seasons as coach.

Losing occupies the Hawks. Some claim it torments them.

"I've had about all the losing I can take," said Dominique Wilkins, who has shot less than 50 percent from the field in eight of nine games.

They have taken to bickering in practice, although they make up later. They admit to being confused and look for a way out, or for someone to lead them.

Tonight at 8:10 in The Omni, the Hawks make one of their rare home appearances this month to play Chicago. Point guard Doc Rivers returns after missing six games to rest his back.

For the first time in five years, losing has become a way of life for the Hawks, who are suffering their worst slump since March 2-11, 1985, when they slipped into the first NBA lottery. The prize — Jon Koncak.

In four straight 50-plus victory seasons that followed, the Hawks did not lose more than four straight. That last happened Jan. 26-Feb. 4, 1988. They also lost four in a row from Jan. 18-23, 1987, before winning 24 of their last 28. Last season the Hawks did not lose more than three in a row.

Now, they've been beaten five straight times and by the likes of New Jersey and Sacramento. They have dropped seven straight on the road, the worst performance away from home since the 1983-84 team lost its first 10. Once 15-8, the

HAWKS Continued on F6 ▶

Hawks on the slide

Date	Opp	Score	Comment
1-07	Nets	98-93	37% shooting
1-10	Clips	115-109	Defense rests
1-13	Sonics	113-108	X-rated show
1-16	Kings	108-91	Fail to execute
1-17	Jazz	95-88	Mallman rolls

Players call for Ford's reinstatement

By Karen Rosen
Staff writer

CLEMSON, S.C. — Clemson football players called on school officials Thursday night to reinstate Danny Ford, who was forced to resign earlier in the day after 11 years as head coach.

In a news conference outside Mauldin Hall, where most players live, junior tight end Stacy Fields read a statement he called a "team decision" while about 30 players stood behind him on the porch.

"We invite the administration to meet with us to discuss the provisions for Coach Ford's reinstatement,"

Fields read. "In the event that we do not come to terms, we would wish to keep this coaching job among the assistant coaches. We want someone who has come through the battles with us and someone who knows how to win, Clemson-style."

Clemson athletics director Bobby Robinson had said earlier in the day he'd be glad to talk to the players. A meeting has been scheduled for today, but Robinson said he was unsure of the time.

"We love Coach Ford ... and we want him to have the best," said Vance Hammond, a junior defensive tackle. "But most of all we want him back. We want him back now."

Nick Lomax, vice president for student affairs, dismissed the possibility of reinstating Ford.

"That's not a consideration as far as I'm concerned," said Lomax. "Reinstatement is not even an appropriate word to use. We're talking about a resignation."

The players' statement said they do not feel they have been given a satisfactory explanation for Ford's resignation and want their futures considered.

The players would not answer questions about what planned to do if their demands are not met.

PLAYERS Continued on F6 ▶

They loiter in hotel lobbies, ride in limos, sometimes bring call girls. Pimps? No ...

Sports agents doing the Senior Bowl hustle

By Mike Fish
Staff writer

MOBILE, Ala. — The story, as told by a prominent sports agent, is an all-too-familiar tale of greed, unethical behavior and an effort to buy players.

Last month at the Blue-Gray all-star game in Montgomery, Ala., the agent claims a rival from Texas was "giving players \$2,000 and \$3,000 to sign" with him. Three or four allegedly accepted the money. None is expected to remain with the generous agent.

The same cast of characters — agents and their recruiters — have been decked out in everything from European cut three-piece suits to colorful sweat suits, laboring the past week on the sidelines of the Senior Bowl. Their office is the lobby of the hotel where the players are housed. It is here that they loiter like prostitutes on a street corner, hustling college seniors who figure to soon have their pockets full of NFL dollars.

There are not-so-prominent agents and familiar football names like Pat

Dye Jr. and Ted Marchibroda Jr. There are newcomers like David Levine, 26, and Drew Rosenhouse, a Duke Law School student. All are hustling clients.

They work the house phones, calling players in their rooms. Dinner dates are arranged with potential clients. Hands are pumped and — word has it — on occasion money is exchanged.

"It's almost like going to a bar trying to meet girls," said Atlanta-based agent David Ware, who avoids the lobby scene and says he gets most of his clients through referrals. "They stand around and see somebody they like and say, 'Hi, the next five minutes is going to change your life.' Just crazy stuff."

Dye, employed by Robinson-Humphrey Sports Enterprises of Atlanta, has signed four Auburn players invited to the Senior Bowl and says he's in town partly to protect his interest.

Levine, who works in the Miami office of the law firm Shea and Gould, previously made contact with three Florida State players — Ronald Lew-



Dave Martin/Special

Eric Green (left) of Liberty University talks to sports agent David Levine of Miami.

is, Dexter Carter and LeRoy Butler — and is here hoping to close a deal.

"These are the only guys I have gone out with and given support to," Levine said. "Most of the guys here are small-time agents, guys who have no players and maybe don't have the experience to even represent a play-

er. Those guys will go up to anybody and talk to them and take them out to dinner. Whatever a player would want to do with them, they would probably do."

Butler, who most scouts project as

AGENTS Continued on Back Page ▶

ATLANTA DATA

Table with 2 columns: Category (Rainfall Thursday, Rainfall to date 1990, etc.) and Value (33, 2.19, 2.80, etc.).

METRO CONDITIONS

Table with 4 columns: City, High, Low, Prep. (College Park, Chamblee, Marietta, etc.).

LAKE LEVELS

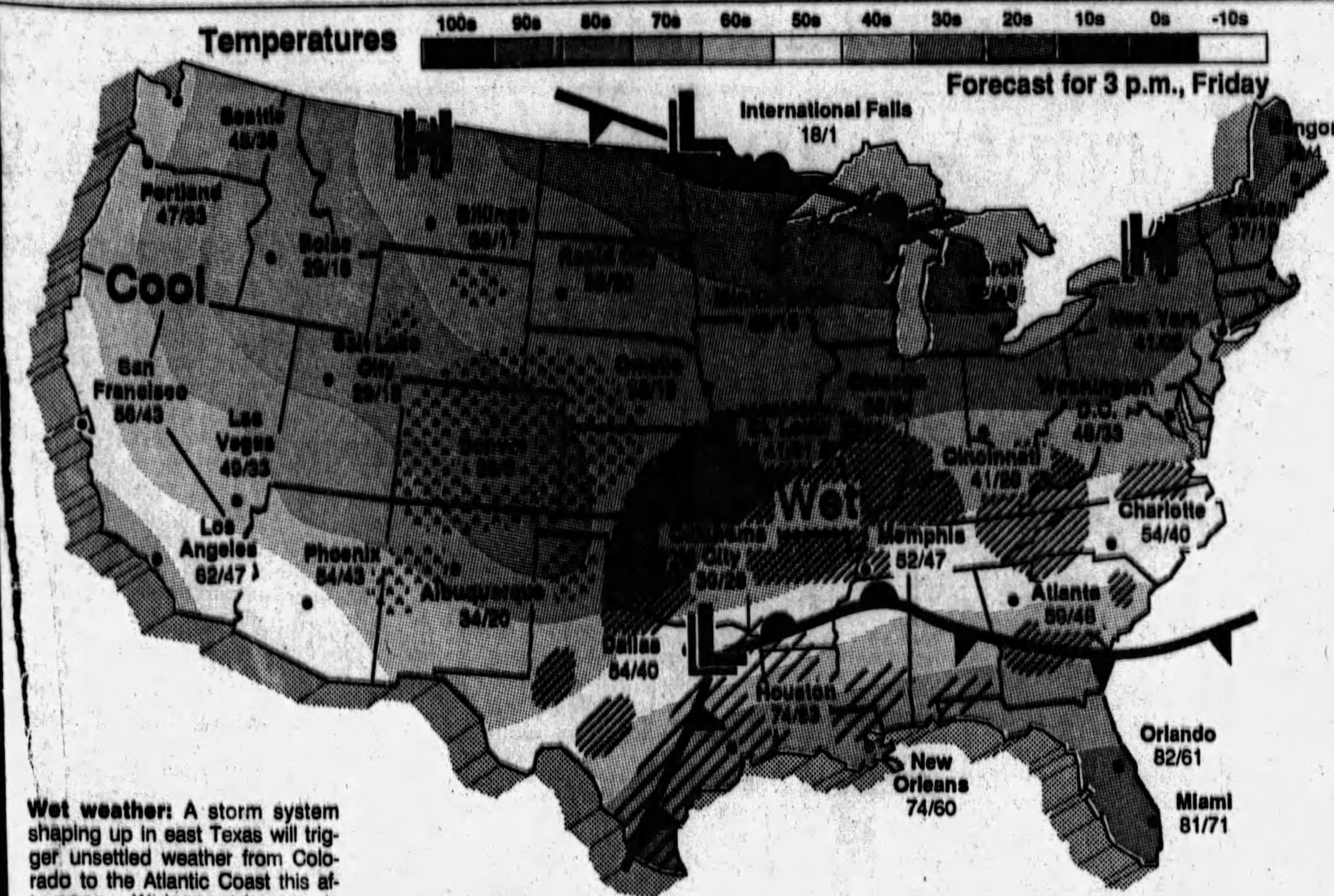
Table with 4 columns: Lake, full level, level Thur., 24-hr. chng. (Allatoona, Bartlett's Ferry, etc.).

MOON DATA

Table with 4 columns: Moon phase (New Moon, First Qtr, Full Moon, Last Qtr) and dates (Jan. 26, Feb. 2, Feb. 9, Feb. 17).

THE WORLD

Table with 4 columns: City, HI, Lo, Wthr, City, HI, Lo, Wthr (Amsterdam, Athens, Auckland, etc.).



Wet weather: A storm system shaping up in east Texas will trigger unsettled weather from Colorado to the Atlantic Coast this afternoon.

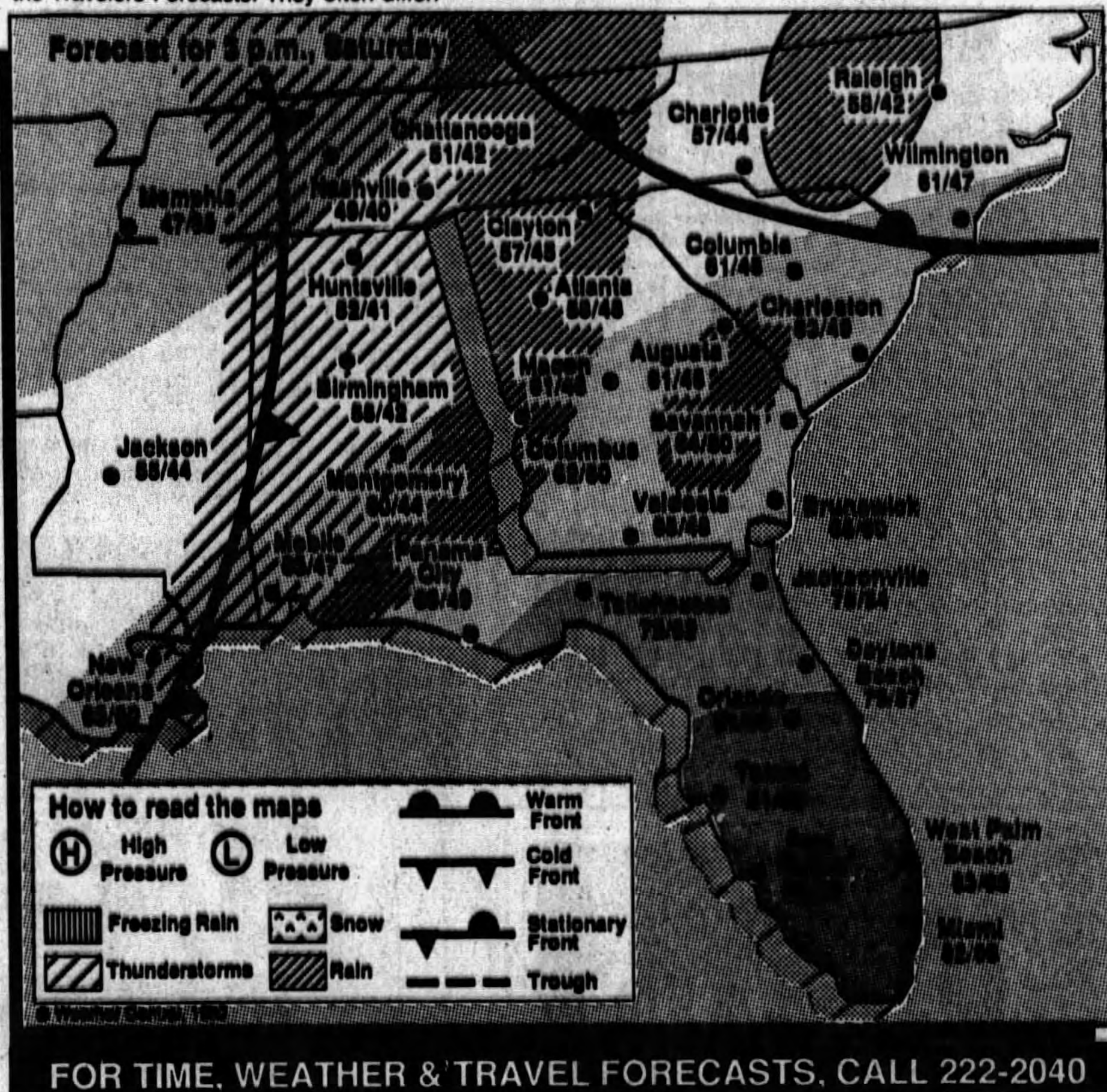
Weather Central provides the temperatures for the weather maps. The U.S. Weather Service provides the Travelers Forecasts. They often differ.

ATLANTA AREA FORECAST

Today: Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. High 59. Low in the mid-50s. Saturday: Cloudy with a chance of rain and thundershowers.

FIVE-DAY STATE FORECAST

Today: Cloudy with rain north. Partly cloudy south. Highs from the mid-50s north to the low 70s south. Saturday: Cloudy and cool with a chance of showers and thundershowers.



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TRAVELERS FORECASTS FOR U.S. CITIES

Large table with 10 columns: City, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and weather conditions for various cities like Albany, Albuquerque, Anchorage, etc.

*Forecasts for these cities are available on Atlanta Journal-Constitution's free WEATHERPHONE. Call 222-2040. Touch-tone phone is required.

TRAVEL, LEISURE INFORMATION

Table with 2 columns: Service (National Weather Service regional forecasts, Passport and visa information, etc.) and Phone Number.

Hampton: McCants will open NFL doors

By I.J. Rosenberg Staff writer

ATHENS — Georgia junior running back Rodney Hampton says he thinks the recent decision by Alabama linebacker Keith McCants to petition the NFL to enter the draft will open the door for other juniors to do so.



Georgia's Rodney Hampton says he has "no time frame" for making public his decision whether to enter the NFL draft.

point," said Georgia's No. 3 all-time leading rusher. "I don't want to rush anything." Hampton may wait until as late as April 9, when his petition to enter the draft must be in the

Agents hustle to sign players at Senior Bowl

Continued from F1

A second-round pick, has been a hot target for agents. In a two-hour period Wednesday between the end of practice and dinner, Butler said he received at least 20 calls from agents.

all of whom have admitted giving money to players. Agents Howard Misle and former Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Rodgers face charges in Texas after allegedly violating state laws by buying a fur coat and offering money to the mother of University of Houston quarterback Andre Ware, a junior and this year's Heisman Trophy recipient.

Large advertisement for PIKE NURSERIES, INC. featuring 20% off shrubs and trees, indoor plants, pruning sealers, and seeds. Includes contact information for Pike Nurseries and Pike Design Group.