Chicago Tribune, Thursday, August 16, 1990 Section 4 3

The Press Box Mavericks sign Nuggets' English

DALLAS-Alex English, the leading scorer in Denver history and eighth highest in National Basketball Association history, signed a \$1.5 million contract Wednesday with the Dallas Mavericks, who hope the 14-year veteran can give them some offensive firepower off the bench.

English signed a one-year deal with an option year. He will be joining former Denver teammate Fat Lever, obtained in a trade two months ago.

The 36-year-old English will back up Rodney McCray, an offseason acquisition from Sacramento, at small forward.

"I'll do whatever it takes to win an NBA [championship] ring," English said. "I feel like this is the year I'll get one."

English played in 80 games for the Nuggets last season and averaged 17.9 points and 3.6 rebounds despite diminished play-

ing time. He has 24,850 points in 14 seasons.

Denver coach Doug Moe wasn't unhappy to say goodbye to English.

"Last year, I think his skills went downhill," Moe said. "That was pretty obvious."

English's minutes dropped from 36 a game in 1989-90 to 27.6 and his 17.9 points a game marked the first time in 10 years he had averaged below 22 points.

"I take very good care of myself and I'm in good shape," English said. "It was disappointing how Moe limited my time. I had played hard for him all these years.

Dallas coach Richie Adubato said the Mays will be able to run more.

"We can play more of an uptempo game with our acquisitions," he said.

Denver group eyes NL franchise

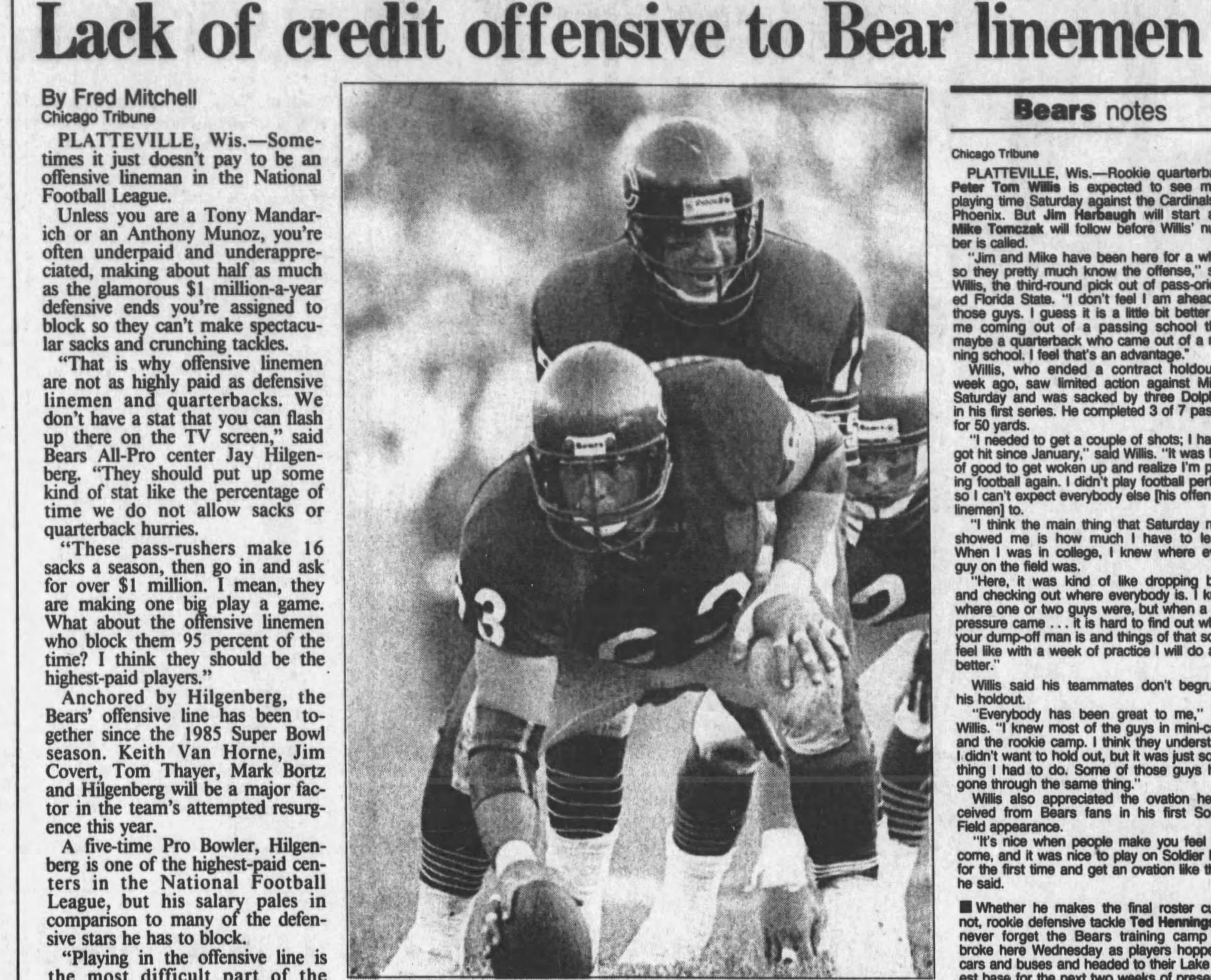
By Fred Mitchell Chicago Tribune

PLATTEVILLE, Wis.-Sometimes it just doesn't pay to be an offensive lineman in the National Football League.

Unless you are a Tony Mandarich or an Anthony Munoz, you're often underpaid and underappre-ciated, making about half as much as the glamorous \$1 million-a-year defensive ends you're assigned to block so they can't make spectacular sacks and crunching tackles.

"That is why offensive linemen are not as highly paid as defensive linemen and quarterbacks. We don't have a stat that you can flash up there on the TV screen," said Bears All-Pro center Jay Hilgenberg. "They should put up some kind of stat like the percentage of time we do not allow sacks or quarterback hurries.

"These pass-rushers make 16 sacks a season, then go in and ask for over \$1 million. I mean, they are making one big play a game. What about the offensive linemen who block them 95 percent of the time? I think they should be the highest-paid players." Anchored by Hilgenberg, the Bears' offensive line has been together since the 1985 Super Bowl season. Keith Van Horne, Jim Covert, Tom Thayer, Mark Bortz and Hilgenberg will be a major factor in the team's attempted resurgence this year. A five-time Pro Bowler, Hilgenberg is one of the highest-paid centers in the National Football League, but his salary pales in comparison to many of the defensive stars he has to block. "Playing in the offensive line is the most difficult part of the game," he said. "Dick Stanfel [offensive line coach] tells us before games, 'You go out and win this game and the praise is going to go other places. If you lose, it is going to come at you."" But the self-effacing Stanfel, a Hall of Fame candidate who was a five-time All-Pro guard with the Detroit Lions in the 1950s, also says: "Offensive linemen get their name in print, and they get paid good money. They should be happy they are playing. I think the most I ever made was \$18,500."



PRO FOOTBALL

Bears notes

Chicago Tribune

PLATTEVILLE, Wis.—Rookie quarterback Peter Tom Willis is expected to see more playing time Saturday against the Cardinals in Phoenix. But Jim Harbaugh will start and Mike Tomczak will follow before Willis' number is called.

"Jim and Mike have been here for a while, so they pretty much know the offense," said Willis, the third-round pick out of pass-orient-ed Florida State. "I don't feel I am ahead of those guys. I guess it is a little bit better for me coming out of a passing school than maybe a guarterback who came out of a running school. I feel that's an advantage."

Willis, who ended a contract holdout a week ago, saw limited action against Miami Saturday and was sacked by three Dolphins in his first series. He completed 3 of 7 passes for 50 yards.

"I needed to get a couple of shots; I hadn't got hit since January," said Willis. "It was kind of good to get woken up and realize I'm playing football again. I didn't play football perfect, so I can't expect everybody else [his offensive linemen] to.

"I think the main thing that Saturday night showed me is how much I have to learn. When I was in college, I knew where every guy on the field was.

"Here, it was kind of like dropping back and checking out where everybody is. I knew where one or two guys were, but when a little pressure came ... it is hard to find out where your dump-off man is and things of that sort. I

DENVER-Television mag-Magness, Vail resort owner is ready, awaiting only the ap-George Gillett and the Rocky Mountain News are part of a group seeking to own a major league baseball team in Denver, the News reported Wednesday.

Magness, of Tele-Communications Inc., and Schneider, of United Cable Television Corp., plan to join the Rocky Mountain News, KDVR-TV, Adolph Coors Co. and former major league players Doug DeCinces and Reggie Jackson, the News reported.

The paper quoted sources as saying the group is planning on making a formal commitment to bid next month for one of two National League expansion franchises.

Doug Danforth, chairman of the National League expansion

committee, said he has been nates Gene Schneider and Bob notified that the Denver group proval of a stadium tax that was passed Tuesday by area voters.

> Magness and Schneider said they are trying to work out a memorandum of understanding that the team would not be used to create a "superstation."

William Fletcher, chairman of the board of the newspaper, said he has had discussions with baseball interests about joining the group.

Gov. Roy Romer scheduled a meeting Wednesday to discuss the group's formation.

"I have had people approach me who said, 'I am interested,' but you never know how much until you get the various parties in one room and they say, 'Hey, I'm in for this much,'" said Romer.

Joke's on minor league pranksters

SOUTH BEND, Ind.-Five minor league baseball players whose prank exposed a rival team's infield to a soaking rain have been hung out to dry.

The players for the Wausau Timbers were suspended and fined by the Midwest League for sneaking into the South Bend White Sox's stadium and pulling back the infield tarpaulin. League President George Spelius said the players were Jim Dedrick, Jim Roso, Brad Hildreth, John Boothby and Kip Yaughn.

evening, they may have decided to go to a movie instead of the stadium," Spelius said.

The Baltimore Orioles, the parent organization of the Class A Wausau team, released Boothby, a pitcher with a 3-1 record and a 6.75 earned-run average in 25 games, said Doug Melvin, the Orioles player personnel director.

Stanfel feels the Bears' offensive line can still perform effectively, if healthy. Right now, Covert is sidelined with a knee problem.

"I don't know how long that knee is going to last. He has tendinitis," said Stanfel, who will start veteran John Wojciechowski at left tackle in Covert's place at Phoenix

Tribune photo by Phil Greer Playing in the offensive line is no snap for Bears center Jay Hilgenberg, who argues that it's "the most difficult part of the game."

can help us. I'm kind of disappointed in them because they haven't come up to the top like I wanted. But we still have time."

Battling for backup jobs are veteran guard-tackle Kurt Becker, second-year tackle Chris Dyko, Wojciechowski and three rookiescenter Bill Anderson, tackle Roman Matusz and guard Alan Koch. "I think we'll keep seven or eight," said Stanfel.

The biggest change in the play of offensive linemen over the past decade or so has been the increased use of hands, says Stanfel.

"I wish I could have used my hands when I played. Nowadays they use more of their hands than their shoulder. They should put

Hilgenberg, whose father, two brothers and a nephew were also standout centers at Iowa, has noticed other changes.

"Nowadays an offensive lineman has to be a lot more diverse," he said. "It used to be you just faced one defense, a 4-3, and the center was uncovered. Now I have to go out there on first down and face the nose guard. When we are throwing the ball, I have to face the passrusher."

With the Bears' increased emphasis on the passing game in the first two preseason games, the running game has suffered somewhat.

"There is no excuse," said Stanfel. "In the running game, everyone has to contribute-the blocking back, tight end and running back. It is not just the line, it is everybody."

feel like with a week of practice I will do a lot

Willis said his teammates don't begrudge his holdout.

"Everybody has been great to me," said Willis. "I knew most of the guys in mini-camp and the rookie camp. I think they understand. I didn't want to hold out, but it was just something I had to do. Some of those guys have gone through the same thing."

Willis also appreciated the ovation he received from Bears fans in his first Soldier Field appearance.

"It's nice when people make you feel wel-come, and it was nice to play on Soldier Field for the first time and get an ovation like that," he said.

Whether he makes the final roster cut or not, rookie defensive tackle Ted Hennings will never forget the Bears training camp that broke here Wednesday as players hopped in cars and buses and headed to their Lake Forest base for the next two weeks of preseason practices.

"Tuesday, I got into seven fights. They weren't all my fault, though," said the 6-foot-3-inch, 265-pound Hennings, a rookie free agent from Northern Illinois.

"Well, a couple of them I started. Neal Anderson and I exchanged some words. I probably shouldn't have shoved him after I tackled him. Jay Hilgenberg and I were wrestling around on the ground for a while.

"A lot of the stuff I do on the field, I don't think about it, I just do it. I would say I got in a fight at least 15 times during this camp."

Most of Hennings' fights were with rookie free-agent guard Alan Koch from Rice. Each wears No. 69, one in blue, the other in white.

"We had fun watching the films of the fights we had. We are planning a battle royal next week," said Hennings. "I'm sort of on the edge every once in a while."

Tackle Jim Covert (tendinitis in his knee), receiver Tom Waddle (ankle), fullback Bryan Bero (pulled hamstring) and linebacker Ron Cox (recovering from knee surgery) are not expected to play Saturday.

Game against the Los Angeles Raiders. But that may be wishful thinking.

"The injury was more severe than first thought," said Cox earlier in the week. "I twisted my ligaments and my cartilage, too. I just have to progress now." **Fred Mitchell**

"I'm sure if these young men could turn back the hours of that

The others were suspended for the rest of the season, which ends Aug. 28, Spelius said. The suspension continues through postseason Instructional League play and the first 10 days of the 1991 season.

Briefs

Pro basketball:Los Angeles Assistant General Manager Mitch Kupchak said the Lakers placed 11-year veteran Michael Cooper on waivers Wednesday at Cooper's request. If he clears claims by another NBA team, Cooper would be free to sign a multiyear deal with the Italian League II Messaggero of Milan.

The Cleveland Cavaliers have renounced the rights to free-agent center Tree Rollins. The move means the Cavs do not intend to offer a contract to Rollins.

Colleges: Missouri guard Travis Ford said turmoil in the basketball program and possible NCAA sanctions have prompted him to leave school. Ford, who set freshmen records at the school for steals and assists last season, said he has no plans yet to play elsewhere.

Hockey: The National Hockey League will cancel this season's entire exhibition schedule with the Soviet Union if the Soviets won't confirm by Friday their participation in a three-team visit to North America. Ten cities applied for the next two NHL expansion franchises Wednesday. Eight American cities-Milwaukee, Seattle, San Diego, Phoenix, Houston, Miami, Tampa and St. Petersburg, Fla. and two Canadian entries-Hamilton and Ottawa, Ontario-each submitted applications and the \$100,000 filing fee, only \$65,000 of which is refundable. Left wing Don Maloney signed a one-year contract with the New York Islanders. . . . The St. Louis signed right wing Paul MacLean and left wing Dave Lowry to multiyear deals. Tennis: Defending champion John McEnroe used pinpoint passing shots to beat Grant Connell 6-4, 6-4 in the U.S. Hardcourts Championship in Indianapolis. In other second-round matches, fourth-seeded Jay Berger beat Darren Cahill 6-1, 0-6, 7-5, and No. 3 Aaron Krickstein beat 17-year-old qualifier Marcus Ondruska 6-1, 6-1.

6-4 in the second round of the Volvo International in New Haven, Conn., and 19-year-old Todd Woodbridge, ranked No. 135, beat Michael Chang 6-3, 1-6, 6-3. ... No. 2 seed Monica Seles trounced Audra Keller 6-2, 6-2 victory in the third round of the Virginia Slims of Los Angeles tournament in Manhattan Beach, Calif.

Bowling: Pete Weber won 19 of 24 match games to capture the No. 1 seed at the LaMode Classic in Green Bay, Wis. Rounding out the field in Thursday's stepladder finals are Dave Ferraro, Ron Williams, Dave Husted and Bill Hall.

Track: Merlene Ottey of Jamaica became the second-fastest woman to run the 200 meters, winning in 21.66 seconds at the Weltklasse Grand Prix meet in Zurich. Her time was just .32 from Florence Joyner-Griffith's world mark. Ottey also won the 100 in 10.93. Fairgrounds in Springfield. The In the \$110,000 Review Golf: Mike Mortell of Oak open a one-stroke lead over in the Illinois State Amateur

Horse racing: Mantese destroyed the stake record in winning the \$74,000 Little Pat Review Stake for 2-year-old pacers in 1:53 ⁴/s at the Illinois State previous stake record was 1:55 3/s. Greyhound Stake, Dickerson became the fastest 2-year-old trotting colt in America this season with a winning time of 1:58 ¹/s. Park fired a 2-under-par 69 to Jonathon Sielsky of Northbrook Championship in Rockford. Tom Studer, the first-round leader with a 68, ballooned to an 80. Mortell was at 139 heading into Thursday's 36-hole finale.

Saturday night.

"I hope some of the backup guys

their pads on their hands instead of their shoulders."



From Chicago Tribune wires

Eric Dickerson will have an injured ham-string re-examined in Indianapolis when his own doctor and the Colts agree on a date.

"We don't anticipate any dispute with the Colts," Leigh Steinberg, Dickerson's agent, said Wednesday. "We'll work with the Colts' doctors. Eric is anxious to play, and if you look at his history, he does not have a record of missing games."

Dickerson is in Houston for rehabilitation of his left hamstring, injured during the offseason. Since the injury is non-football related, it cannot be treated by team doctors or trainers.

Dickerson reported late to training camp after a stormy off-season in which he threatened to retire if the Colts did not trade him. But he failed the mandatory physical exam and went to the Tom Williams Rehabilitation and Sports Center in Houston a week ago.

"He's been training every single day," Steinberg said. "We are in communication with the Colts, and we'll eventually get all the doctors together. Ultimately, we'll follow the Colts' requests.

"At this point, no schedule has been

Dickerson, the NFL's seventh-leading rusher with 11,226 yards, has missed only one game in seven seasons because of an injury. On Tuesday, orthopedic surgeon Tom Parr said Dickerson likely would return to the Colts in three to four weeks, although he admitted the timetable could be off two weeks either way.

Tommy Kramer said he'd like to start but he'll be happy to fill a backup role as the newest quarterback for the New Orleans

"Anytime you're out there, there's no question that you want to be the starter and you want to be the one who's playing," Kramer said during a Wednesday news conference after signing a one-year, no-op-tion contract with the Saints.

By Joseph Tybor

Braxston Banks, who shared fullback duties during Notre Dame's 1988 national championship season, still is agonizing over his decision to test his chances in the National Football League draft earlier this year.

Along with 19 other football players who put aside remaining college eligiblity teams, Banks wasn't drafted at all. Now, aided by a public-interest group co-founded by Ralph Nader, he is fighting the NCAA in court to return to the Notre Dame team and a chance to impress pro scouts enough in a final college season that he might be drafted next year.

Banks is challenging two controversial NCAA rules that declare college athlete loses his amateur status if he makes himself available in a pro draft or agrees to be represented by a sports agent.

A preliminary ruling may come as early as Thursday after U.S. District Court Judge Robert L. Miller Jr. listens to legal arguments in South Bend, Ind.

Banks, through attorneys, has asked Judge Miller to declare the NCAA rules a violation of antitrust laws and to order the NCAA and Notre Dame to restore his eligibility so he can join the Irish before

was filed as a class action, seeking to represent the interests of all college athletes who contemplate entering a draft or hiring an agent.

In written arguments filed with Miller on Wednesday, NCAA attorney William C. Barnard said the NCAA rules are "valuable regulations" aimed at preserving amateurism in college athletics.

He said Banks made his decision knowingly, deliberately and without duress with the hope of reaping big economic rewards, and that just because it turned out unfavorably for him is no reason for a court to reject the NCAA rules.

Those rules are designed to draw a firm line between amateur and pro sports and to keep seamy agents like Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom away from college players. But they work a hardship on athletes, and several panels are looking into revisions. Even Dick Schultz, executive director of the NCAA, has said he wants college juniors to be free to test their market value in the NFL by going through the draft without risking the loss of eligibility.

reer and cannot get any meaningful advice before he does that.

"We recognize there are dangers with some of these agents, but by the NCAA outlawing all contact with agents, it means the agents who go into see these kids will be the least scrupulous. The rules drive the good and fair people out and bring in the dishonest."

Banks graduated this summer, but because he sat out last season with a knee injury, he has one more year of eligibility. He said in an affidavit filed with the suit that Irish coaches assured him he'd be welcome back on the team and would get a scholarship to pursue a graduate degree in business.

Banks admitted he may have made a mistake by entering the draft without playing the previous season. But once he declared for the draft, he said virtually every NFL team ran him through drills at Notre Dame and two scouting combines invited him to workouts. At a workout in Indianapolis, Banks said he wore a brace from ankle to thigh because he fearedful

COLLEGES

ND's Banks sues to lift eligibility ban

Italy's Cristiano Caratti, ranked 173rd in the world, beat defending champion Brad Gilbert 6-4,

Baseball: Jim Yanko pitched the first no-hitter in the NBC World Series since 1983 as Anchorage eliminated Clarinda, Iowa, 11-0 in Wichita, Kan.

Boxing: Former world bantamweight champion Jimmy Carruthers died after a long battle with lung cancer and Parkinson's disease. He was 61.

From Tribune staff and wire reports

practice begins Saturday. If he wins, Banks' suit could substantially increase the number of underclassmen who declare themselves for next year's draft, because it would not be a do-or-die situation as it was for Banks and his fellow athletes this year. The suit

"It seems what these kids need the most is some good advice. And yet, what the NCAA does by its rule is make it impossible for them to do anything but operate in the dark," said Alan Morrison, cofounder of the Washington-based Public Citizen Litigation Group, which has filed the suit.

"We are offended by a rule that says a player has to make up his mind about what is probably the most important decision in his ca-

of reinjuring the knee. As a result, he said, he ran a slow 4.7-second 40-yard dash and pro teams lost interest.

Banks said he received no money from pro teams except reimbursement for expenses in attending the scouting tryouts. He said the only contact he had with an agent was with Everett Glenn, a sports attorney who was also a family friend, but that he received no money from Glenn and signed no contract with him.

major colleges in fewest turnovers

(12), No. 4 in team rushing touch-

downs (40), No. 6 in team rushing

(330.8 yards a game), No. 17 in

scoring (31.3 points a game) and

No. 24 in total offense (409.3

Robinson was the top rushing

quarterback in the nation, was No.

2 in ground touchdowns (19) and

No. 3 in overall TDs and yards per

His rushing total and yards per

game (118.2) were NCAA records

for quarterbacks, and his 19 TDs

yards a game).

carry (6.5).

tied the NCAA mark.

But, he added, "If my role is assuming the back up responsibility, then that's the role I'll assume."

Kramer, a free agent released by the Minnesota Vikings, would have to wrest the starting job from John Fourcade.

Offensive tackle Ken Ruettgers has agreed to a two-year contract with the Green Bay Packers, ending a 24-day holdout and leaving the team with five players still unsigned.

Ruettgers' agent, Ed Groves, said the tackle would report Thursday and sign the contract Thursday night. Ruettgers said final details were being worked out Wednesday. Terms were not disclosed.

A prosecutor said Wednesday he will probably recommend a grand jury indict Washington Redskin Ricky Sanders for failing to give aid to an accident victim instead of the more serious attempted murder charge.

The Redskins wide receiver was charged in July with attempted murder and aggravated assault for the incident outside a Houston topless bar May 1.

Assistant District Attorney Marc Brown said in a telephone interview from Houston he plans to present Sanders' case to a grand jury Friday or early next week.

"We are considering giving the grand jury the case for attempted murder and aggravated assault with no recommendation," said Brown. "We would then consider asking for an indictment on the less serious charge of failure to stop and render

Although that charge is a third-degree felony, it carries far less serious penalties than the attempted murder and assault charges.

Robinson makes grade at Northern Illinois

By Rich Strom

Operation Bowl Bid is on at Northern Illinois.

Quarterback Stacey Robinson, the man who puts the Huskies' wrecking-ball offense in motion and who has the De Kalb campus buzzing about a possible bowl bid this year, received his summer school grades Wednesday, and the senior from Danville did well enough to regain his football eligibility.

Coach Jerry Pettibone had suspended Robinson during spring practice last April for violating

team rules regarding academic progress. Robinson, who rushed for 1,443 yards and passed for 863 more for the 9-2 Huskies last season, was forced to take a full course load during the summer, and he made the grade.

"I think this has been a valuable lesson [for Robinson]," said Pettibone. "He has learned that you have to have a proper balance between academics and athletics."

With Robinson running the offense again this fall, Pettibone can expect a well-balanced attack.

NIU finished No. 1 among