

Sports

Section 4 N *

Tuesday, February 12, 1991



Bob Verdi
In the wake
of the news

Sandberg, Cubs: A rich difference

Chicago Tribune
PALM SPRINGS, Calif.—Ryne Sandberg appears anxious to play a little golf and as ready as ever to play a lot of baseball for the Cubs again.

But he admits to feeling certain anxieties. "Yeah," the all-world second baseman says, "I'm a little frustrated."

Sandberg read that Roger Clemens, the Boston Red Sox ace right-hander, signed a four-year contract extension worth \$21.5 million. His salary will average out to \$5,380,250 through 1995, and nobody in baseball will earn more.

Jose Canseco of Oakland has a \$23.5 million five-year contract that will reward him with \$5.1 million in 1995, slightly above what Darryl Strawberry will earn that same season from the Los Angeles Dodgers. There are a number of other players in the \$3 million-plus-per-annum fraternity, including Andre Dawson of the Cubs and Tim Lincecum of the White Sox.



Sandberg

Sandberg, who is as modest as his accomplishments are loud, believes he should be mentioned on the same page or same paragraph as the aforementioned luminaries. At present, however, he is not even in the same book. He has two years left with the Cubs for a total of about \$4.3 million. He knows he's worth infinitely more and

has been told so. By the Cubs.
"On a trip out this way last year, they told me they wanted to make an adjustment in my contract," Sandberg says. "They came to me. They suggested we start talking, which was fine, because I want to finish my career with the Cubs. If I can."

That story is verified by way of Chicago. "I talked to Ryne in San Diego," Cubs president and chief operating officer Don Greenstein says. "He wants to be a Cub forever. We want him to be a Cub forever. There aren't many players we'd do this for, not many players we'd want to extend so early into an existing contract."

"But it's a matter of trust. Players like Ryne would play hard, play every day, whether they were making a \$1 million a game or 25 cents. When we signed him to the last contract, he became the highest-paid second baseman in the major leagues by \$500,000. Which was fine. He's earned it. Now his salary is below that of players in his class, and that's why we're talking."

If it all sounds like a very smooth arrangement, it isn't. Sandberg and his agent, Jim Turner, are making neither threats nor promises, but they have some problems. So does Greenstein.

"Right now, yes," he says. "We're pretty far apart."

The Cubs do not believe in renegotiating an existing contract, only lengthening what is there. Sandberg and Turner concur. On that much, the two sides agree. But the recent Cub offer—three more years at a total of \$12 million—has been dismissed by Turner as insufficient. Granted, that would mean an annual average of \$4 million for Sandberg from 1993 through 1995. But by then, Turner contends, such a sum would be obsolete for Sandberg. If, indeed, it isn't now.

"Example," Turner says. "Before agreeing to a trade to the White Sox, Raines signed with them for three years at \$10.5 million. With Montreal, he was just about where Ryne is now, \$4.2 million for the next two years. In effect then, the White Sox extended Raines at \$6.3 million for one year. A record."

Numbers like that probably shock the Cubs, who have two years to worry about Sandberg, where the national economy is headed, where the national pastime's economy is headed. What happens when the next network TV contract is signed? What if baseball's Basic Agreement is reopened because of financial strife? Whoa, says Turner. Under any dire circumstances, a superstar such as Sandberg will reap a superstar salary.

"So there is nothing the Cubs can do in the next two years," Turner says, "that they See Verdi, pg. 5

Golf in the gulf no day at beach

By Storer H. Rowley
Chicago Tribune

IN CENTRAL SAUDI ARABIA—It's not exactly the Bob Hope Classic, but there's lots of hope and plenty of desert on a makeshift golf course carved out of the Saudi sand by U.S. airmen.

The nine-hole Desert Fox National, a 1,000-yard moonscape of a course, was the brainchild of a diehard duffer, Lt. Col. Mike Townsend, an Air Force F-16 fighter-bomber pilot who flew missions over Iraq and occupied Kuwait.

"We would like for Bob Hope to come play with us," said Townsend, 40, of Columbia, S.C., who laid out the course last week just outside the front

gate of the largest U.S. air base in Saudi Arabia.

In the midst of the Persian Gulf war, the course also helps take a player's mind off the fighting for some welcome recreation, says Townsend, adding, "We've got some excellent golfers, especially the airline pilots."

"It's a par 3, so if you're a good golfer, you can hit the green with one drive from the AstroTurf," explains Chief MSgt. Jim Chumley, 50, of South Carolina's Air National Guard.

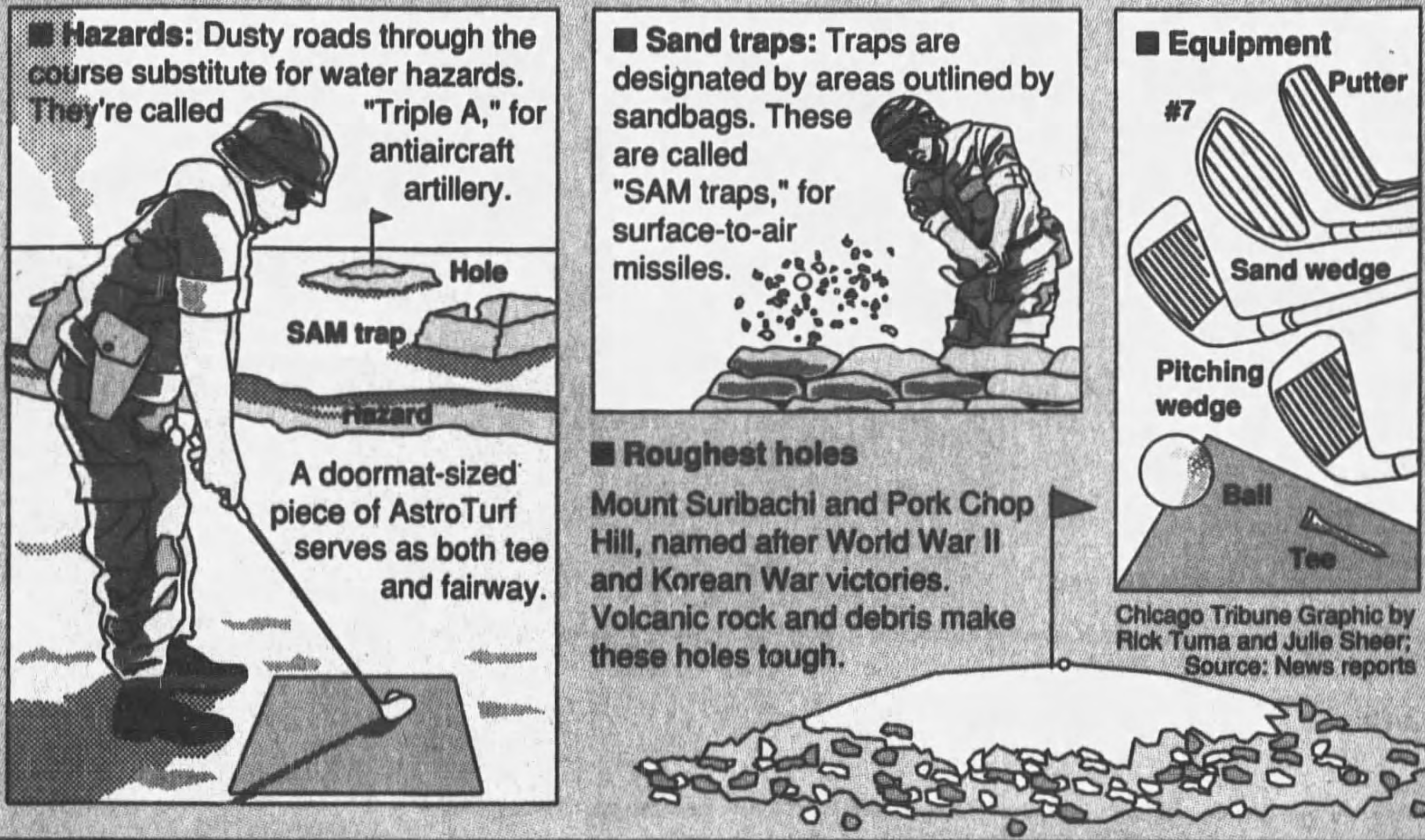
"If not, then you're in the sand trap. Wherever you hit the ball, you're in the sand trap."

Since the whole course is sand, the actual traps are outlined by sandbags. Only here they're

See Golf, pg. 2

Gulf golf at Desert Fox National

U.S. airmen in the Persian Gulf have taken to entertaining themselves with games of "gulf golf," a modified version of regular golf, accommodating rough terrain. The 1,000-yard course is a 9-hole par 3, played on the biggest sand trap in the world.



Hinsdale Central's Heidi Michaelis (51) and Becky South (51) scramble for a loose ball with Rich South's Evi Lagousakos during Rich's 50-36 victory Monday. Prep tournament coverage, Page 4.

Maine West rally tops N. Trier Evanston races past Maine S. to Niles West final

By John Leptich

After hearing about its rivalry with New Trier and being reminded of the last time the two teams met at Niles West, Maine West coached Derril Kipp had his players well-prepared for Monday's sectional semifinal against the Trevians. And it backfired in the first quarter.

"We were really ready," said Kipp. "We were up. Maybe too much. But I figured we'd come back."

That the Warriors were prepared for. After an early eight-point deficit, Maine West defeated New Trier 54-47.

In Thursday's sectional final, the Warriors will face Evanston (23-5), which beat Maine South 61-53 by overcoming a height disadvantage with blazing speed and scoring balance.

Shania Pompey, the fastest player on the court, led Evanston with 19 points. Penny Armstrong

added 14, Megan Hanrahan and Schenita Stewart 10 apiece. Margaret Zimmerman led Maine South (21-8) with 11.

The opening semi was the first meeting of the schools at Niles West since a fabled sectional clash in 1989, when New Trier snapped Maine West's record 65-game winning streak and prevented the then-defending Class AA champions from returning to Champaign.

"We really practiced hard for this game," said Maine West junior Kerry Wegrzyn, a spectator at the 1989 contest.

"The pressure of what happened two years ago and being in the same gym was there, even though it's two different teams. We just wanted this game badly."

New Trier (16-13) led until the third quarter. Then Maine West (24-6) tied the score three times before taking a 37-35 lead with 2:52 left in the period. New Trier

fought back for a tie at 41 going into the fourth quarter.

After the teams traded the lead twice more, Maine West went ahead for good 45-43 on Sue Song's basket with 5:11 left.

That triggered an eight-point streak to a 51-43 lead. The closest the Trevians could get was 51-47 with 1:34 to go.

Wegrzyn, playing an outstanding inside game, led all scorers with 24 points. Song had 20, coming through in the clutch for 11 in the second half.

Jennifer Wright scored 16 for New Trier and Anne Nahrwald 12.

"Even when we were down, we just kept going out there with intensity," said Wegrzyn. "Sue and Jenny [Argianas] really did their jobs, which helped me a lot. We played well inside and outside. This was really a good team See Maine W., pg. 4

Big 10 grades show a few schools failing

NU comes in 1st, Minnesota last

By Ed Sherman

It's not going to be business as usual any more. Not for schools like Minnesota, and other athletic programs in the Big 10 and across the country.

Graduation rates for schools are going public. Suddenly, it matters that a star tailback not only rushes for 1,000 yards, but that he also runs towards a degree.

For some, the news won't be good.

Minnesota Athletic Director Rick Bay always has been known as an upfront sort. While he did his best to come up with reasons, ultimately there's no getting around the facts. Minnesota graduates only 35.9 percent of its athletes, the worst in the Big 10. Ohio State (52.9 percent) and Indiana (53.8) were the next-lowest.

"With graduation rates being a matter of the public record, athletes need to do better," Bay said. "We have some work to do."

Minnesota isn't alone.

Should anyone be startled in this age of athletic enlightenment that a major power such as Ohio State has graduated only 5 of 23 football players who were part of their 1984-85 freshman class? Or that the Purdue football team had only 11 of 27 players get

Indiana questions the evaluation process of its graduation rate. Page 2.

their degree from the same class?

Lou Henson's Illinois basketball team saw only 1 of 4 players graduate from the 1984-85 class, with only 28.5 percent of his players receiving their degrees over a five-year period beginning with the 1980 freshmen class. Combine the basketball programs from Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota, and it reveals only 4 of 19 players from the 1984-85 class have graduated.

The number-crunching will begin in earnest next January when the NCAA publicly discloses the graduation rates for every member school as a consumer guide to recruits. Proponents of the legislation, which was triggered by threats from Congress, hope to expose, and perhaps even embarrass, institutions which aren't living up to their mission: educating student-athletes.

"A healthy dose of reality could get people to operate in a different way," said Big 10 Commissioner Jim Delany. "If something can't stand the scrutiny of being publicized, then people will

See Report card, pg. 2

Graduation rates for Big 10 football and men's basketball players

For freshman class of 1984-85 and incoming transfers for that year, in percentages

School	Football	Basketball
Illinois	61%	25%
Indiana	52	63
Iowa	57	33
Michigan	59	0*
Michigan State	44	50
Minnesota	24	40
Northwestern	81	100
Ohio State	21	40
Purdue	39	60
Wisconsin	67	25
NCAA Div. I	38	33

*0 of 2 graduated

Chicago Tribune Graphic; Sources: Big 10 schools, NCAA report (May 1990)

INSIDE

Creighton, Hawks ailing

More bad news for the Hawks, losers of five of their last six games: Adam Creighton may miss Thursday night's game with a sprained hand. Page 5.

Shriver begins comeback

Pam Shriver, playing in her first American tournament since shoulder surgery last summer, wins easily at the Virginia Slims of Chicago. Page 4.

Skating a 'whole new sport'

Championship figure skating now increases the emphasis on artistry instead of just focusing on technique. Page 8.

Tradition of Daytona keeps fans coming back

By Robert Markus
Chicago Tribune

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla.—The first time he came down for Speed Weeks, Geoff Bodine was a small boy of 10 or 11. He remembers looking through the chain-link fence at the brightly-painted cars "waiting for them to start one up and hear that rumble. That was a magic time for me.

"I think that magic is still here. People are still hanging on those fences, looking through them like I used to do. ... but I've grown out of it."

Bodine, who drives Junior

Johnson's Budweiser car on the Winston Cup trail, is no longer a spectator; he is part of the spectacle, one that draws race fans from all over the country for three weeks every February.

By the time the Daytona 500 has been run Sunday, a half-million people will have paid their way into the Daytona International Speedway to celebrate America's fascination with the automobile.

The "500," of course, is the main event. Although the massive grandstand holds but 94,000, an estimated 140,000 will be inside the grounds when

the green flag falls Sunday on the Super Bowl of stock-car racing.

For nearly three weeks before that, however, race fans will have flocked to this mecca of speed. Some of them will have sat all through the night for the 24 Hours of Daytona that inaugurates Speed Weeks on the first weekend of February.

Others will have attended the daily practice sessions and qualifying for the Daytona 500. About 55,000 were here Sunday for the Busch Clash and ARCA 200. More than that will be here Thursday for the twin 125-mile

qualifying races that set the field for the "500."

The International Race of Champions, a series that matches drivers from every major American venue in identically prepared Dodge Daytonas, will draw its share of aficionados Friday, and on Saturday the stands will be nearly full for the Goodys 300, a Busch Grand National race that will feature many of the same drivers (in slightly less-powerful cars) who will contend for the big prize on Sunday.

In baseball terms Grand National racing is the equivalent of

Triple-A ball, but for race fans it doesn't matter. Take 40 cars with juiced-up engines, give them that deep-throated rumble, the screech of tires, the heart-stopping clash of metal on metal, and they're happy.

It's not all about speed, of course, although that's most of it. It is an annual migration for some that is as regularly timed as the phases of the moon. "When it came time for us to come down to Daytona," remembers Bodine, "people in our small town would say, 'The Bodines are leaving today' and

See Daytona, pg. 2

CALENDAR

Feb.	Tues.12	Wed.13	Thur.14	Fri.15	Sat.16	Sun.17	Mon.18
780-AM			Quebec 7:35 p.m.			Detroit 1:35 p.m.	Philadelphia 12:05 p.m. TV-SC
1000-AM	Atlanta 7:30 p.m. TV-SC		New York 6:30 p.m. TV-9		New Jersey 7:30 p.m. TV-9		Cleveland 2:30 p.m. TV-5
92.7-FM			New York 6:05 p.m.			Atlanta 12:05 p.m.	
Th'bred/ Harness	Hawthorne 1 p.m. Balmoral 8 p.m.	Hawthorne 1 & 8 p.m.	Hawthorne 1 p.m. Balmoral 8 p.m.	Hawthorne 1 & 8 p.m.	Hawthorne 1 & 8 p.m.	Balmoral 1 p.m.	Hawthorne 1 & 8 p.m.
Dog racing		Dairyland 1 & 7:30 p.m.	Dairyland 7:30 p.m.	Dairyland 7:30 p.m.	Dairyland 1 & 7:30 p.m.	Dairyland 1 & 7:30 p.m.	Dairyland 7:30 p.m.

Home dates in bold SC-- Sports Channel Plus, check local cable company listing

Other local events

Virginia Slims tennis tournament at UIC Pavilion, 1140 W. Harrison St., 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Tuesday's sports on television

- Basketball**
 - Iowa at Purdue (women), 12:30 p.m. (tape). ESPN.
 - Kansas at Missouri, 6:30 p.m. ESPN.
 - Los Angeles Lakers at Phoenix Suns, 7 p.m. TNT.
 - Atlanta Hawks at BULLS, 7:30 p.m. SportsChannel.
 - Georgia at Florida, 8:30 p.m. ESPN.
 - Northern Illinois at Northwestern (women), 11 p.m. (tape). SportsChannel.
- Dog show**
 - Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show at Madison Square Garden, 7 p.m. USA.
- Hockey**
 - Colorado at Wisconsin, 2 a.m. Wednesday (tape). SportsChannel.
- Horse racing**
 - "Chicago Racing Report," with Gerry Gallitano and Phil Georgeff, 5:30 p.m. and 4:30 a.m. Wednesday (tape). SportsChannel.

Tuesday's sports on radio

- Basketball**
 - Atlanta Hawks at BULLS, 7:30 p.m. WLUP-AM 1000.
 - UIC at Wisconsin-Green Bay, 7:30 p.m. WCBR-FM 92.7, WTAS-FM 102.3.
 - Joliet West at Joliet Central, 7:30 p.m. WJOL-AM 1340.
- Horse racing**
 - "Harness Racing Wrapup," with Tony Salvaro, 1:15 a.m. WBBM-AM 780.
 - "Arlington In Waukegan Results," 6 p.m. WKRS-AM 1220.

FROM PAGE 1

Golf

Continued from page 1

called "SAM traps," for surface-to-air missiles.

Because there is no water for hazards, the dusty roads cutting through the course serve the same function. Only here they're called AAA, or "Triple A," for anti-aircraft artillery.

"Just as a golfer would have to approach a green carefully to avoid these hazards, a fighter pilot must approach a target taking into account these things," reasons Townsend.

There is also nothing green here, except for the doormat-sized piece of AstroTurf players need to pick up at Townsend's tent when they head out for the links. The mat doubles as a tee or a patch of fairway when a player makes those corresponding shots. With no greens, there are no greens fees either.

The course rules state: "Do not remove pins. SAM traps must be played with a sand wedge. AAA hazards require a drop ball with one stroke penalty. No carts. Player may improve his line to the hole to putt."

"Use caution for natural inhabitants!" it warns, presumably referring to local camels. There is nothing else

out here.

"Gentleman's game: Any reasonable rolling shot that hits the pin is good, any putt within the leather [designating the hole] is good."

The toughest holes are dubbed Mount Suribachi and Pork Chop Hill, honoring hard-won U.S. military victories of World War II and the Korean War. The small hillocks are covered with volcanic rocks and other debris.

"This is the most enjoyment I've had in months," exclaimed an officer who works on the flight line. In the first week of play, about 20 golfers tried their swing at a round, which takes about an hour.

The one with the best score—a 28, upped to a 30 when there was no one around to verify it—turned out to be, of course, the base flight surgeon.

Not surprisingly, other skilled golfers included reserve pilots whose normal jobs have them flying for commercial airlines like American, Delta and U.S. Air.

The basic clubs are a 7-iron, a pitching wedge, a sand wedge and a putter. The most frequent complaints are the need to clear the rocks from Mount Suribachi and Pork Chop Hill, Townsend says.

"The shots can be very difficult," he adds. "The greens are very tough. It's natural Saudi sand."

character of the race forever.

But not the appeal. Race fans still come from all over the country. Celebrities, too. President Ronald Reagan and Jordan's King Hussein are among those who have seen the Daytona 500. Novelist James Michener was once the grand marshal of the race. Hollywood types like Paul Newman and Tom Cruise are de rigueur.

In the old days, race enthusiasts could drive their own cars on the beach through the measured mile time traps and, if they reached 100 m.p.h., earn membership in The Century Club. You can still drive on the beach and many do. But top speed nowadays is 10 m.p.h.

There are some fans who spend the three weeks here and never see the beach. To travel the five-mile stretch of Volusia Boulevard from the Speedway to the beach can be excruciating even on non-race days.

Although the image of racing fans, particularly stock-car fans, is that of beer-guzzling rednecks, it is not the reality. It takes money, and lots of it, for the race fan to indulge his passion. Top ticket for the Daytona 500 is \$100, and even the unreserved grandstand seats in the third turn go for \$25.

Then there's the cost of the motels, which seems to go up every year.

Still, hotels are already taking reservations for Speed Weeks 1992 and the 1992 Daytona 500 will be sold out almost before this year's race is over.

Obviously, Speed Weeks have lost none of their magic.

Report card

Continued from page 1

question the methods." Each school currently has to file an academic reporting form to the NCAA. The latest, which was due Oct. 1, charts the graduation rates over a five-year period for recruited athletes from the 1984-85 class, along with incoming transfers.

Under the freedom of information act, the Tribune was able to acquire the forms from nine public institutions in the Big 10 and Northern Illinois. The newest member of the Big 10, Penn State, declined to disclose any information on its graduation rates even though it is a state school.

"Historically, we haven't provided that information," said Penn State spokesman Roger Williams.

As private schools, Northwestern and Notre Dame denied access to the forms, but did verbally reveal some of their figures. De Paul, also a private institution, would not discuss its graduation rates.

"Traditionally, we don't release academic information on any of our students," said De Paul Vice President Jim Doyle, who will have to release it next year.

For those schools which did this year, here are some of the more telling numbers:

■ No surprise here. Northwestern, perennially at or near the bottom of the Big 10 in football and basketball, ranks first in the conference in graduating its athletes at a 85 percent rate, more than 20 points ahead of No. 2 Illinois.

■ Big 10 football players graduated at a 51 percent rate. Men's basketball was at 47 percent. Northwestern maintains it graduated 100 percent of its basketball players, but it would not break down the figures as it did for football. Records show the Wildcats recruited three basketball players for its 1984-85 class.

■ Without football, Purdue's graduation rate goes up from 63 percent to 72 percent.

■ Women Big 10 athletes graduate at a 67 percent rate, while men are at 54 percent.

■ Notre Dame's athletes graduated at the exact same percentage as the student body—92.7 percent. The football team saw 13 of 16 players graduating, while basketball had 3 of 4, the other player getting his degree elsewhere.

■ Like Notre Dame, Northern Illinois' student-athletes also graduated at the same rate as the student body—48.3 percent. The Huskies have seen 11 of 20 football players receive their degrees, and 2 of 7 basketball players.

■ Four schools, Ohio State, Iowa, Michigan State and Minnesota, saw their student-athletes graduate at a higher rate than the rest of the student body.

The Big 10 actually fares well nationally in the graduation game. Only Minnesota was below 47.4 percent for its student-athletes, which is the average for NCAA Division I schools.

However, the Big 10 shouldn't pat itself on the back just yet. In fact, critics of the major sport programs maintain graduation rates for athletes should be higher, in some cases significantly higher than that of the student body. They discount coaches and administrators who claim that a graduation rate close to or equal with the rest of the student body is good enough.

"It's like comparing apples to alligators," said Murray Sperber, an Indiana University professor who critiqued intercollegiate athletics in his book "College Sports Inc."

Sperber and others contend student-athletes have significant advantages over the student body. The majority of students drop out of school for economic reasons, studies show. Athletes on scholarship don't have to worry about making tuition and housing payments, and consequently stay in school.

Athletes also benefit from extensive tutoring programs which generally aren't available to the student body as a whole.

"Given the circumstances, we ought to expect athletes to do better," said University of Iowa faculty representative Sam Becker.

Iowa's student-athletes do fare better, but Becker cautions not to use a broad brush in evaluating student-athlete graduation rates.

"People should look at statistics in various ways to try to understand them," Becker said. "If you look at it in one way, it is very easy to be misled."

Larry Romanoff, academic counselor for athletes at Ohio State, hopes the public looks beyond the numbers. Academically, this was Ohio State's worst performance during his 15 years at the school.

"I'm not making excuses," said Romanoff. "We had a bunch of kids who quit and left. We had three or four kids who graduated after the five-year deadline. They got their degrees, but with the way NCAA does it, they're being listed as negatives."

At Minnesota, Bay explained that his school has an open enrollment policy. Any graduate of a Minnesota high school can enroll in the state university regardless of his academic record. Consequently, Minnesota doesn't have as tight an admissions policy as Northwestern, although it still is supposed to recruit student-athletes who have the ability to get a degree.

"You should be comparing apples

COLLEGES

Graduation rates for selected sports

For Big 10 student-athletes in freshman class of 1984-85 and incoming transfers for that year, in percentages

Men	Baseball	Golf	Gymnastics	Swimming	Tennis	Track/cross country	Wrestling
Illinois	67	60	40	75	75	83	55
Indiana	37	100	--	67	50	80	20
Iowa	70	80	100	75	100	60	40
Michigan	14	--	80	78	100	40	57
Michigan State	50	100	100	100	100	80	33
Minnesota	19	0*	50	43	25	30	--
Northwestern	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Ohio State	86	75	50	17	67	60	73
Purdue	80	100	--	88	50	67	43
Wisconsin	45	33	66	75	66	57	33

Women

School	Basketball	Golf	Gymnastics	Softball	Swimming	Tennis	Track/cross country	Volleyball
Illinois	100	50	50	--	88	100	25	83
Indiana	50	100	0**	100	80	100	40	25
Iowa	60	0*	50	50	86	67	60	50
Michigan	50	67	100	50	80	75	100	100
Michigan State	67	100	100	--	100	100	43	100
Minnesota	67	50	50	100	38	40	75	25
Northwestern	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Ohio State	40	67	100	43	82	100	60	86
Purdue	100	100	--	--	100	100	43	67
Wisconsin	50	--	67	--	75	100	50	75

*0 of 2 graduated; **0 of 1 graduated. NA--Not available. school had no freshmen in the sport in 1984-85 or does not compete in the sport.

Chicago Tribune Graphic; Source: Big 10 schools

Overall graduation rates

For Big 10 student-athletes in freshman class of 1984-85, compared to all 1984-85 freshmen, in percentages

School	All freshmen	Student-athletes
Illinois	76.2	64.6
Indiana	57.6	53.8
Iowa	55.4	61.0
Michigan	76.5	60.6
Michigan State	59.7	60.8
Minnesota	27.0	35.9
Northwestern	85.7	85.0
Ohio State	46.2	52.9
Purdue	66.7	62.8
Wisconsin	59.8	56.5
NCAA Div. I	47.2	47.4

Chicago Tribune Graphic; Sources: Big 10 schools, NCAA report (May 1990)

to apples," Delany added. "We're not asking that everyone should achieve at the same rate. The comparison should be an internal one within the school. You have to acknowledge the diversity of these schools."

The football and basketball programs, such as Henson's, contend several of their athletes don't graduate because they leave for the pros before or after their senior years. Many of those players don't return to get their degrees.

Last year, an Associated Press survey revealed of the 331 players selected in the National Football League draft, only 127 had earned their degrees. Only 26 of 54 players drafted by the National Basketball Association had graduated.

Usually, those players are listed on the NCAA form as student-athletes who left the school in good academic standing. Two of Illinois' four basketball players from the 1984-85 class are listed in that category, with one staying for his sixth year.

However, to some, the good academic standing label is nebulous at best.

"It usually means you didn't flunk out," Sperber said. "You still can be miles away from a degree."

Charles Farrell, special projects director for Northeastern (Mass.) University's Center for the Study of Sports in Society, says he'd like the NCAA to come up with a way to chart exactly where some of these athletes stand toward a degree when they leave a school. He suspects that many are "majoring in eligibility."

During the trial of sports agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom, it was revealed former Iowa running back Ronnie Harmon remained eligible despite taking only one course in his major during his first three years at the school.

"We're finding athletes who are taking courses just so they'll stay eligible," Farrell said. "They're not

being moved towards a degree."

Given its graduation rate, an eligibility major apparently isn't being offered at Northwestern. What Northwestern's rate suggests, observers maintain, is that the school is doing its job in screening athletes during the admissions process, and then keeping them on course towards graduation once they are enrolled.

"Northwestern has a reputation for taking true scholarly people," Farrell said. "They are admitting people who truly desire an education. They are students first, athletes second. Other institutions place the emphasis on the athlete first."

But not for long, Farrell and others hope. When Sen. Bill Bradley (D-N.J.) first proposed legislation calling for schools to disclose their graduation rates, the intent was to make universities accountable for educating their student-athletes.

Those which don't, Bradley reasoned, should be exposed. The bill was eventually passed by Congress.

Supporters of graduation disclosure hope it'll be a huge step in reforming college sports. It's one thing to have negative rates sitting in the files.

It is quite another having them available at your local newsstand.

"That's one of the great advantages of public disclosure," said Iowa's Becker. "If an institution looks bad, the faculty won't be able to live with it. They'll want something to be done."

One faculty member, Sperber, a professor of English and American Studies at Indiana, is making sure he's heard.

"The public should know what's going on in these athletic departments," Sperber said. "Coaches can't go around saying they graduate their athletes, when they don't. The numbers will be there. It'll open some eyes."

It already has.

Indiana's numbers disputed

Indiana basketball coach Bob Knight takes great pride in his team's graduation rate. During a promotional spot for the university, he proudly states that only four players who played four years for him didn't get their degrees during his 20 seasons at the school.

However, Knight's critics claim the coach isn't looking at all the numbers. Technically, only 42 percent, or 14 of the 34 players he recruited during the 1980s, received degrees from Indiana.

Knight and the school, though, contend 14 of those 20 non-graduates played two or less years at Indiana before transferring to other schools. Ricky Calloway transferred after three years, and Dean Garrett, who didn't graduate, played two years for the Hoosiers as a junior-college transfer.

Yet on the NCAA reporting form, Garrett and the 14 other non-graduates count as a negative for the Hoosiers.

Buzz Kurpius, Indiana's Associate Athletic Director for Academic Affairs, sees flaws in how the graduation rates currently are compiled. She believes the raw NCAA graduation numbers don't take into account athletes who transfer from the school after only a year or two. Some of those athletes end up getting their degrees elsewhere. But since they didn't graduate from the institution that recruited them, it counts as a negative for that school.

"Most of the kids who left here have gone on to graduate," Kurpius said. "Yet the numbers don't show it. It puts the school in a tough situation. The NCAA has to address this issue."

The five-year time span for the survey also disturbs Kurpius. She says Keith Smart, whose last-second shot gave Indiana the 1987 national title, is only one course away from his degree. However, Smart still is pursuing a pro career and hasn't completed the course. Since Smart didn't graduate within five years, he counts as a negative for Indiana.

Ed Sherman

Admissions test scores

For Big 10 football and men's basketball players in 1989-90 freshman class

Note: To be eligible as a freshman for 1989-90, a student-athlete must score 15 on the ACT or 700 on the SAT. The highest possible scores on the tests are 36 on the ACT and 1600 on the SAT.

School	ACT			SAT		
	High score	Low score	Median	High score	Low score	Median
Illinois	30	10*	19	1180	710	840
Indiana	27	15	17	1150	700	865
Iowa	28	10	20	990	700	895
Michigan	31	13	19	1340	640	980
Michigan State	30	13	19	1130	600	820
Minnesota	31	8*	20	1210	490	800
Northwestern	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Ohio State	32	9	18.5	1250	690	860
Purdue	24	15	18	1110	560	800
Wisconsin	27	11	21	1400	610	835
NCAA	32	4	18	1520	440	890

*Athlete receiving this score qualified for admission on SAT. NA--Not available.

Chicago Tribune Graphic; Sources: Big 10 schools, NCAA report (May 1990)