Chicago Tribune, Tuesday, March 26, 1991 Section 4 3

The Press Box

Lott agrees to 2-year deal with Raiders

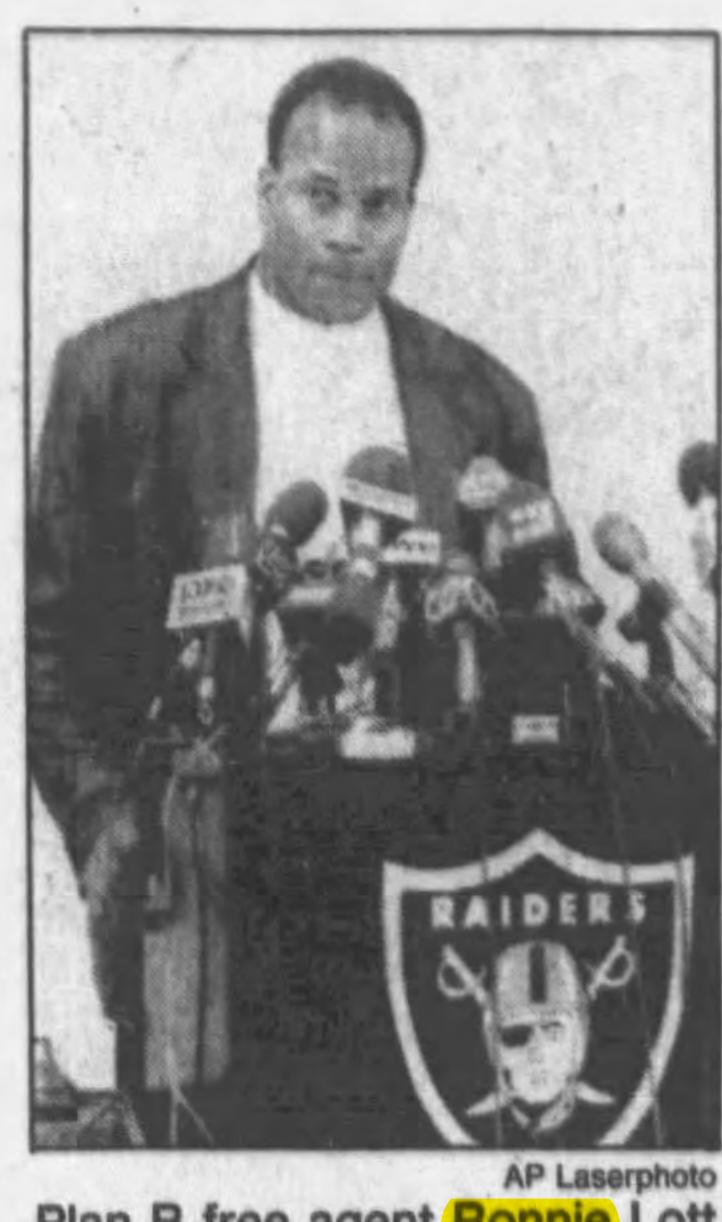
EL SEGUNDO, Calif.-Ronnie Lott, left unprotected by the San Francisco 49ers despite being an All-Pro last season, has signed a two-year contract with the Los Angeles Raiders as a Plan B free agent.

Lott said Monday the contract isn't guaranteed and he'll move from free safety to strong safety with the Raiders.

Originally drafted as a cornerback by the 49ers in 1981, Lott switched to free safety in 1985.

"I've always been committed to winning," Lott said. "If that means playing strong safety, it that means playing cornerback, if that means bringing water to my head coach, that's what I'm going to do."

Lott, 31, has been one of the National Football League's premiere defensive players for the past 10 years and was a starter on four Super Bowl championship teams with the 49ers. Lott was sidelined late last season when he strained both final year with the 49ers and knees, and it was feared he had damaged ligaments. But he returned to the lineup during the playoffs and he was one of the



Plan B free agent R onnie Lott discusses his switch to the Los Angeles Raiders.

dominant defensive players for the NFC in his ninth Pro Bowl, where he showed no effects of the knee injuries.

Final Four not enough for Duke this time

COLLEGES

By Melissa Isaacson Chicago Tribune

PONTIAC, Mich.-Evidently, things were getting far too serious for Duke Coach Mike Krzyzewski.

First there was the routine tension present before any NCAA regional final.

Then there was the fact that as he spoke, one of his players was back at the hotel, too sick to his stomach to come out of his room.

And finally, apparently pushing Krzyzewski over the top, was having to answer one too many questions requiring him to further lionize a program that had so many motivational team gettogethers this season, it was beginning to sound a lot like a Billy Graham revival.

Something had to be done.

Unfortunately for junior forward Brian Davis, he just happened to be the pigeon.

Davis was responding to an innocent enough inquiry last Saturday: So tell us Brian, how hard was it to recover from your team's lopsided defeat to UNLV in last year's NCAA championship game? Davis: "For me, it was the toughest loss that I ever had in sports. It was the first time I ever cried after a game." Krzyzewski, interrupting: "It was the first time I ever cried during a game. I'm sitting there with nine minutes to go trying to find a hole in the floor." Davis: "I think it was positive. Hopefully, we won't lose like that again."



Coach Mike Krzyzewski cuts down the net after Duke's victory over St. John's Sunday.

Coach K: "You better not, I'll kill you."

Davis: "And I think we learned a

Coach K: "Yeah, we learned to lose by 30 points. . . . Look, we didn't learn anything from UNLV. It wasn't a growth experience. There was no team meeting. And it won't be on our new tape series:

But as a possible rematch drew closer, the normally dry-witted coach had to figure a little comic relief couldn't hurt.

Sure enough, with Duke's victory Sunday over St. John's in the Midwest Regional Final, the Blue Devils advanced to their fourth consecutive Final Four and a national semifinal Saturday against none other than the Runnin' Rebels.

And with the odds once again clearly stacked against a program whose only knock is that it has not claimed a national title after four Final Fours in the last five years, the Blue Devils are in need of a little humor.

"They are human," sophomore guard Thomas Hill said testily of the almighty Rebs. "They haven't had a loss this year, but they have

"We have high expectations," he said. "Obviously, our goal is to win the national championship. We're not satisfied just making the Final Four. That's not good enough. Duke always makes the Final Four."

proved all around from last season, but he would go only so far in predicting Duke's fate.

"They're better than last year both offensively and defensively," he said. "But UNLV? That's another story."

Indeed, it will be difficult for the Blue Devils (30-7), as it has been for 34 other teams that have fallen to the Rebels this season.

"We're going to do some things against Vegas," Krzyzewski said. "I don't know what they are right now, but hopefully we'll come closer than 30 points. We hope we'll be able to give them some kind of a game.

Hurley said he is optimistic this time around. "This time," he said, "we have a week to get ready for them. We have a week to establish a game plan. We're more confident. We have a better attitude. When they went on their run last year, we were beaten, exhausted. It seemed like such a long season.

"I can't see that happening this time

Moments after Sunday's victory, the Blue Devils were already frothing just a bit. "This talk just gets me really intense," Hill said. "It gets me fired up. Last year was very embarrassing and no one on this team wants to lose, so we'll fight tooth and nail to win." Concluded Hurley, following along with the general theme: "Our total goal was to get to the Final Four. But a lot of guys have been there so many times we're not going to settle for just going."

"The knees are feeling fine," he said. "I've been able to play a little basketball in addition to rehab work."

Lott earned \$800,000 in his was scheduled to make \$1 million in 1991. It's believed he'll earn slightly more than \$1 million per year with the Raiders.

NL expansion costs downplayed

BUFFALO, N.Y.-Buffalo's chance to obtain a National League team hasn't been hurt by the prospective owner's concern over the cost of a franchise, the chairman of the league's expansion committee said Monday.

Douglas Danforth, owner of the Pittsburgh Pirates, said Robert E. Rich Jr.'s recent statements have been echoed throughout baseball.

"It's not just the Riches who were saying that," Danforth said after he and three other members of the committee visited the city, one of six finalists for an expansion team in 1993. "There are a lot of people that are concerned because salaries have jumped about 35 percent between 1990 and 1991. Here-

tofore, it was 8, 9, 10, 12 percent [annually]."

Rich, president of the country's largest privately-held frozen food company and owner of the Triple-A Buffalo Bisons, said in December he had questions about the financial viability of a major league expansion team in Buffalo, considering the steep rise in player salaries.

The expansion committee, which made visits to three Florida cities earlier this year, visited Washington and Buffalo on Monday. A visit to Denver is scheduled for Tuesday, and Danforth said the committee will name the two new National League cities by the middle of the summer.

S. Africa nears Olympic accord

Motivational thoughts by Duke program." Davis: "Well, I think coach said

enough." It may have been the first time

Krzyzewski has laughed publicly about the nightmarish Monday evening in Denver one year ago.

The team consensus concerning last season's finale is one of embarassment. Duke players weren't hesitant to admit that last week. nor were they afraid to peek ahead a little.

"I wanted to play them again so people would finally stop asking about last year's game," said Bobby Hurley. "I just hope they won't be asking the same things next year."

St. John's coach Lou Carnesecca thinks the Blue Devils are im-

Stanford, Oklahoma advance to NIT final Sooners' 24th in row over Colorado

From Chicago Tribune wires

Stanford took the inside track to the final of the National Invitation Tournament.

Center Adam Keefe scored 24 points and forward Andrew Vlahov added 20 as Stanford used its inside power to beat Massachusetts 73-71 Monday night in New York and advance to its first NIT title game.

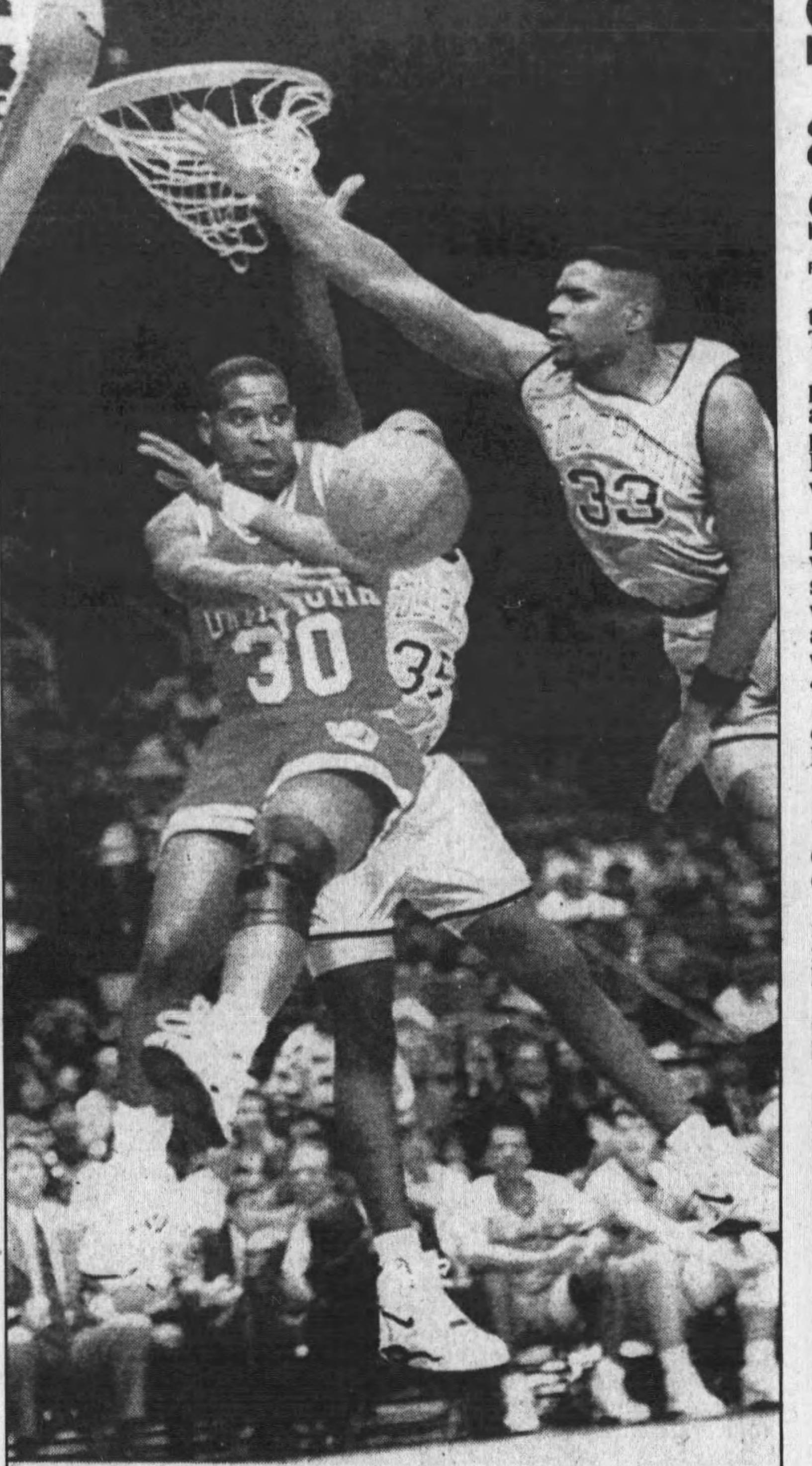
Keefe and Vlahov each had 14 points in the second half as Stanford withstood a late rally by Massachusetts, which trailed almost the entire way. Vlahov grabbed 11 rebounds and Keefe got 10 for the Cardinal, which outrebounded the Minutemen

1-2 0-2 2. Totals 24-54 20-26 73 MASSACHUSETTS (71)—Barbee 4-7 2-7 10, Herndon 4-8 3-6 11, H.Williams 7-14 4-5 18, Brown 1-3 0-0 2, McCoy 6-15 4-4 16, Tate 0-2 1-2 1, Giles 5-13 0-0 13. Totals 27-62 14-24 71.

Halftime-Stanford 35, Massachusetts 31. Three-point goals-Stanford 5-12 (Patrick 3-6, Ammann 2-6), Mass chusetts 3-13 (Giles 3-10, H.Williams 0-1, Brown 0-McCoy 0-1). Fouled out—Wingate, Barbee. Rebounds— Stanford 42 (Viahov 11), Massachusetts 31 (H.Williams 7). Assists—Stanford 19 (Viahov 8), Massachusetts 18 (Brown 10). Total fouls—Stanford 23, Massachusetts 23, A—NA. Oklahoma 88, Colorado 78—Jeff

Webster scored 24 points as Oklahoma defeated Colorado for the 24th consecutive time and advanced to the final of the NIT.

The Sooners trailed by 14 points with 13 minutes remaining, but rallied to continue a streak that started on Feb. 13, 1982. In the previous meeting between the Big Eight rivals, Colorado blew an 18-point lead to lose 69-68 at Boulder on Feb. 27. "I thought if we were in the 6-8 point range with 10 minutes left, we would win," Oklahoma coach Billy Tubbs said. "If we got close, we thought we would win, and I think Colorado thought they would lose." Colorado (18-14), making its first postseason appearance since 1969, was led by center Shaun Vandiver with 31 points. Stevie Wise had 18. "Oklahoma has a lot of tradition and pride, and a team like that isn't going to lay down," Vandiver said. "I didn't really think about the streak. I was just concerned about keeping the right direction." Kermit Holmes added 17 points for Oklahoma (20-14), but the Sooners' other three starters combined for 11 points. Center Bryan Sallier, averaging 21 points in his previous four games, did not score. **Reserves Terry Evans and Roland** Ware took up the slack with 16 and 15 points, respectively.



CAPE TOWN, South Africa-International Olympic Committee delegates said Monday South Africa President F.W. de Klerk assured them all apartheid laws would be scrapped by the end of June.

De Klerk held more than an hour of talks with the delegates, hoping to persuade them to support his nation's return to the Games. The IOC Commission on Apartheid and Olympism arrived Saturday to assess whether South Africa's 1970 suspension from the IOC and participation in the Olympic Games should be lifted.

Both sides described the talks

as "constructive." At a news conference after the meeting, **IOC Director General Francois** Carrard said the delegates were "extremely impressed."

Carrard said de Klerk assured delegates the remaining apartheid laws would be repealed by the time Parliament adjourns at the end of June. The IOC had been expected to press for such commitment during its fiveday trip.

De Klerk opened Parliament in February by announcing he would seek the repeal of remaining apartheid laws, and it was expected this would be done in the current parliamentary session.

Former track star Truex dies

MILTON, Mass.—Max Truex, whose teammate in the 1960 Olympics once described him as "this gutsy little runner pounding at you around the track," died Sunday. He was 55.

Truex, one of America's greatest distance runners, had suffered in recent years from severe Parkinson's disease. The official cause of death was not immediately stated.

He died at home, after taking a all morning. He appeared to be in the event.

sleeping in the chair," his wife, Catherine, said Monday.

In the 1960 Olympics in Rome, Truex ran the fastest 10,000-meter race by any American in track history to that point. At USC, Truex won the NCAA cross-country championships and set the American 5,000-meter record and the NCAA two-mile record. He competed in the 1956. Olympics in Melbourne. Four years later, his time of 28:50:2 in walk. "He just seemed very tired Rome put him in the sixth place

AP Laserphoto

Oklahoma's Mike Harris delivers a pass under the arm of Colorado's House Guest in the early minutes of Oklahoma's 88-78 victory Monday night in the semifinals of the National Invitation Tournament. The Sooners face Stanford in the final.

42-31. "Our big men caused them a lot

of problems," said Stanford coach Mike Montgomery. Stanford (19-13) will play Oklaho-

ma for the NIT championship Wednesday night. Massachusetts ended its season with a 20-12 record, its most wins since 1977.

Keefe didn't score in the last nine minutes, but Vlahov filled the gap for Stanford, getting 10 points in the last 61/2 minutes.

Vlahov, normally a 59 percent free-throw shooter, made all 12 of his attempts against Massachusetts.

Massachusetts, which trailed by as many as 16 points in the first half, rallied to take a 59-58 lead with 5:28 left in the game on a pair of free throws by Harper Williams. But Stanford quickly regained the lead on a three-pointer by John Patrick and never trailed again.

Massachusetts pulled to 71-69 on a pair of free throws by Jim McCoy with 10.1 seconds left. But Vlahov was then fouled and hit two free throws with 5.7 seconds remaining to put Stanford ahead 73-69.

After Rafer Giles missed a desperation three-pointer for Massachusetts, Williams sank a rebound basket at the buzzer.

Williams led Massachusetts with 18 points, while McCoy had 16.

STANFORD (73)-Vlahov 4-8 12-12 20, Wingate 4-6 0-0 8, Keefe 10-15 4-7 24, Ammann 2-10 2-2 8, Patrick 3-10 1-1 10, Lollie 0-2 1-2 1, Garrett 0-1 0-0 0, B.Williams

OKLAHOMA (88) Holmes 8-15 1-1 17, Webster 7-10 10-10 24, Sallier 0-4 0-0 0, Harris 1-1 0-0 3, Price 1-4 5-6 8, Evans 4-7 7-8 16, French 2-3 1-2 5, Ware 4-5 7-10 15.

COLORADO (78)—Guest 2-5 1-2 5, Hunter 4-12 1-2 12, Vandiver 13-21 3-4 31, Law 1-4 2-2 4, Wise 5-23 7-10 18, Walters 2-7 0-0 4, Ali 1-1 0-0 2, Robinson 1-7 0-0 2, Markham 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 29-80 14-20 78.

Halftime-Colorado 46, Oklahoma 33. Three-point goals-Oklahoma 3-7 (Harris 1-1, Price 1-2, Evans 1-2 Webster 0-1, Ware 0-1), Colorado 6-27 (Hunter 3-8, Van-diver 2-3, Wise 1-9, Law 0-2, Robinson 0-2, Walters 0-3). Fouled out—Webster, Law. Rebounds—Oklahoma 40 (Holmes 16), Colorado 39 (Vandiver 11). Assists—Oklaho-ma 15 (Evans 6), Colorado 17 (Robinson 5). Total fouls— Oklahoma 14, Colorado 25. Technicals—Oklahoma coach Tubbs, Guest. A—8,064.

Lawyer: Walters would plead guilty to charges

Briefs

Media: WGN Radio renewed its contract with De Paul for three more seasons of Blue Demons basketball in a three-way deal that also involves PIA Radio Sports. While WGN will supply the talent-play-by-play man Chuck Swirsky and color commentator Ray Meyer-PIA will be the radio marketing/sales consultant, producer and syndicator of the games.

Kathleen Sullivan, in network limbo since Paula Zahn replaced her on "CBS This Morning," will rise again as studio co-host for NBC's "Olympics Triplecast," the NBC/Cablevision pay-per-view coverage of the 1992 Summer Olympics in Barcelona, Spain. Sullivan became a network star while covering the 1984 Winter Olympics.

Boxing: Mike Tyson and Razor Ruddock will meet in a rematch of their controversial heavyweight fight in June at the Mirage Hotel in Las Vegas, promoter Don King said. The exact date will be announced by King and Ruddock's promoter, Murad Muhammad, at a news confer-

ence Tuesday. It's expected to be either June 22, 28 or 29.

Horse racing: Balmoral Park appears to be on the brink of regaining its summer thoroughbred dates, thanks to a decision by the Third District Appellate Court in Ottawa, Ill. The court denied a motion by the Illinois Racing Board and Arlington International Racecourse to stay enforcement of last month's order by Will County Circuit Court Judge William Penn. The judge ordered the board to grant Balmoral 62 dates on a thrice-weekly basis-Sundays, Mondays and Tuesdays.

College baseball: The NCAA imposed penalties on Michigan's program for violations including illegal cash payments totaling \$82,000 from former coach Bud Middaugh to players. The disciplinary measures include prohibiting postseason play and television coverage of games until the 1992-93 seasons, and the elimination of all expense-paid recruiting visits.

From Tribune staff and wire reports

By John Gorman

Sports agent Norby Walters plans to plead guilty to federal charges that he defrauded several universities out of scholarship money if he fails to persuade a federal judge to throw out the charges, Walters' attorney has told the judge.

Walters and his partner in World Sports' Entertainment Inc., Lloyd Bloom, were convicted in 1989 of defrauding the universities by signing college athletes to pro contracts before their eligibility had expired.

Last fall, the appellate court in Chicago overturned the mail fraud and racketeering convictions of Walters and Bloom on the grounds that they had been denied a fair trial.

Last week, Walters' attorney, Tyrone Fahner, informed U.S. District Court Judge Harry Leinenweber that he had begun plea bargaining discussions with Assistant U.S. Atty. Helene Greenwald. Greenwald said she had begun discussing a "conditional plea" for Walters in which he would retain the right to appeal while pleading guilty.

Fahner said he plans to file pretrial motions with Leinenweber ar-

guing that the mail fraud part of the indictment against Walters should be dismissed because it was based on a reasoning found invalid in 1987 by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Under the mail fraud charges brought against Walters, the sports agent is accused of using the mails as part of a scheme to defraud the universities out of scholarship money that school officials would have awarded to other students if they had known that the athlete had rendered himself ineligible by signing a contract before his eligibility had expired.

The agents argued to the appellate court that the right to allocate scholarships was an "intangible right."

In its opinion in September, the three-judge appeals court panel said Walters had been denied a fair trial because jurors were not allowed to properly consider his defense that he had lacked criminal intent.

Bloom should get a new trial, the appeals court said, because his request that he be allowed to stand trial separately had been denied. The appellate court did not rule on the "intangible right" argument.

Under the 1987 Supreme Court case known as the McNally decision, the high court ruled that the deprivation of an intangible right did not constitute mail fraud. It is the intangible right argument that Fahner will make to Leinenweber, he said.

"We are not going back to trial," Fahner said. "If Judge Leinenweber rules against us, we will plead guilty and appeal his decision." Fahner declined to identify the charges to which Walters would plead guilty.

At the end of a six-week trial in 1989, Walters and Bloom were convicted on mail fraud, racketeering and conspiracy charges for compromising the eligibility of the college athletes by signing them to early contracts and concealing the agreements from the schools in return for thousands of dollars.

During the government investigation, 42 athletes signed pretrial diversion agreements in which they agreed to repay the scholarship monies of which they defrauded their schools.

After the appellate court decision last fall, a Tribune survey of those schools found that more than half of the 42 former college athletes who agreed to repay scholarship

money reneged on their pledges.

Among those athletes were Kenneth Davis, a \$317,000-a-year running back for the Buffalo Bills; Tim McGee, a \$325,000 wide receiver for the Cincinnati Bengals; Terry Flagler, a \$321,000 wide receiver for the Phoenix Cardinals; Brent Fullwood, a running back with the **Cleveland Browns who made** \$500,000 a year last season; and Adrian White, a \$230,000 safety for the New York Giants.

As part of their agreements, the athletes also promised to cooperate with the government's investigation, most agreed to perform community service and several testified at the trial.

Walters was a successful booking agent who had represented pop singers before he and Bloom set up a business in 1984 to pitch themselves to college players. The agents, both native New Yorkers, were accused of providing cash bonuses, no-interest loans and sports cars to athletes in return for signing the early contracts.

Walters and Bloom were sentenced to prison terms, but they have been free on bond pending their appeals. Bloom awaits a retrial before U.S. District Court Judge George Marovich.