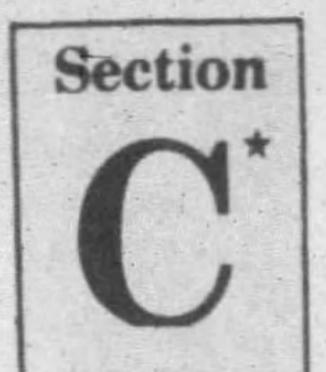
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HLAS



Cosell speaks; who listens?

he voice is back, though it will tell you it never left. Howard Cosell is alive and well on the talk show circuit these days, promoting his new book, "What's Wrong With Sports." As you can guess from the title, it isn't another of the good-natured, anecdote-filled sports books that say little and cram store shelves.

"Somebody's got to tell the truths that I've told," Cosell said Wednesday on "Good Morning America."

Cosell was the television sportscaster of a generation. He was a key reason "Monday Night Football" became a national phenomenon. As a boxing announcer, he has been rivaled by no one for candor or color. He was one of the few true journalists in television sports. He also was quite an entertainer.

Most of the "truths" in Cosell's book have been documented elsewhere, and often. And it gets tiresome when the author constantly pats himself on the back and lets you know of his close, friendly relationships with the bigshots of the world.

It often seems as if the measure of a person's worth and ability in Cosell's eyes are directly related to how that person coexists with Cosell. His criticisms of Al Davis, George Steinbrenner and Norby Walters, among others, seem tempered because they liked him and confided in

Davis; who broke Oakland's heart by moving the Raiders to Los Angeles, wrote the book's foreword. Others, many of whom don't pay Cosell homage, don't fare so well.

Nonetheless, Cosell's writings and subsequent electronic media appearances to sell the book are welcome. The people who work in television sports these days are unwilling to be critics.

"The idea is to be likably inoffensive," NBC's Mary Albert has said. "It doesn't pay to be Cosell anymore."

On Larry King's radio show Thursday night, Cosell said there probably is no shortage of would-be television sports journalists. He blamed the industry, claiming it is far more interested in business than artistry.

Still, it is only sports, right? The toy department? Were it only so.

"Sports have become a necessity in the lives of the American people," Cosell writes in his book's first paragraph, "and the ramifications of this need threaten to invade every avenue of American life.

"It's no simple matter. Sports as we know it today involves labor, law, sociology and politics. The industry, amateur and professional, has become so greedy and massive that it has lost perspective and suffered a decline in values."

Cosell spends three chapters attacking collegiate sports, something he paid scant attention in his previous books.

"Big-time college sports is evil," Cosell said on 'Good Morning America,' "and unless it can be reformed satisfactorily think they should scrap the whole damn thing."

That isn't the kind of comment you would hear from a John Madden, Tim McCarver or Billy Packer. The hardest-hitting commentary they offer is when they disagree with a decision from a coach or game official. They really don't stand for anything other than to be liked in order to make huge sums of money. The same applies to most sportswriters (other than the huge sums of money), and Cosell isn't hesitant to lambaste them.

The game — the show — is the thing, not the human condition. Not the issues of the day. Not the actual people who make those touchdowns and jump shots.

"When it comes to sports, our priorities are out of whack;" Cosell writes. "... you can only correct the evils by exposing

· * them and discussing them." If only you could. With the billions of dollars to be made in sports these days, a critic is a mere whisper in the wind. There once was a day when a Howard Cosell seemingly could make a difference. That day has passed.

S.O.S. doesn't save Bullets for C.R.

By Mike Koolbeck Gazette sportswriter

S.O.S. is out. And the three-year existence of the CBA Silver Bullets. in Cedar Rapids apparently is at an

"I got a call late (Thursday) night and they told us we were out of the picture," said George Steinke, vice president of S.O.S. Enterprises. S.O.S. had submitted its bid earlier in the day.

STEINKE SAID the call he received came from Dennis Folden, a vice president in the Krause Gentle Corporation and one of five mem--

bers of the Silver Bullets' board of directors.

"(Folden) talked about maybe working on a counter offer, but we're just too far apart," said Steinke. "I have to believe they got a pretty good offer. I think they have a really good shot at selling the team."

Although Silver Bullets president/general manager Kevin Krause was tight-lipped about a possible sale, indications are the franchise will be sold to Flint, Mich., publisher Mike Wilcox. Krause and Wilcox met Thursday in Michigan.

"I hope a sale is imminent," Krause said Friday from his Cedar Rapids office. Wilcox did not return phone calls

made by The Gazette. Krause said earlier this week that he had been negotiating with an outof-town buyer and that the major

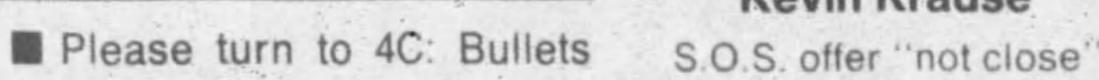
stumbling block holding up the deal was the buyer's ability to secure an arena lease. He said the buyer was looking at two cities. Wilcox told the Flint Journal he

was interested in buying a CBA team and moving it to either Flint or Saginaw, Mich. He has conducted preliminary talks with the Saginaw Civic Center, according to its director, A.C. Chapman.

"We're in that conversation stage," said Chapman. "We'd be very happy to have a CBA team in our hall. I personally hope he buys a team and if he buys one he brings it

to Saginaw." Chapman said Cedar Rapids was one of the teams Wilcox mentioned he was interested in buying.

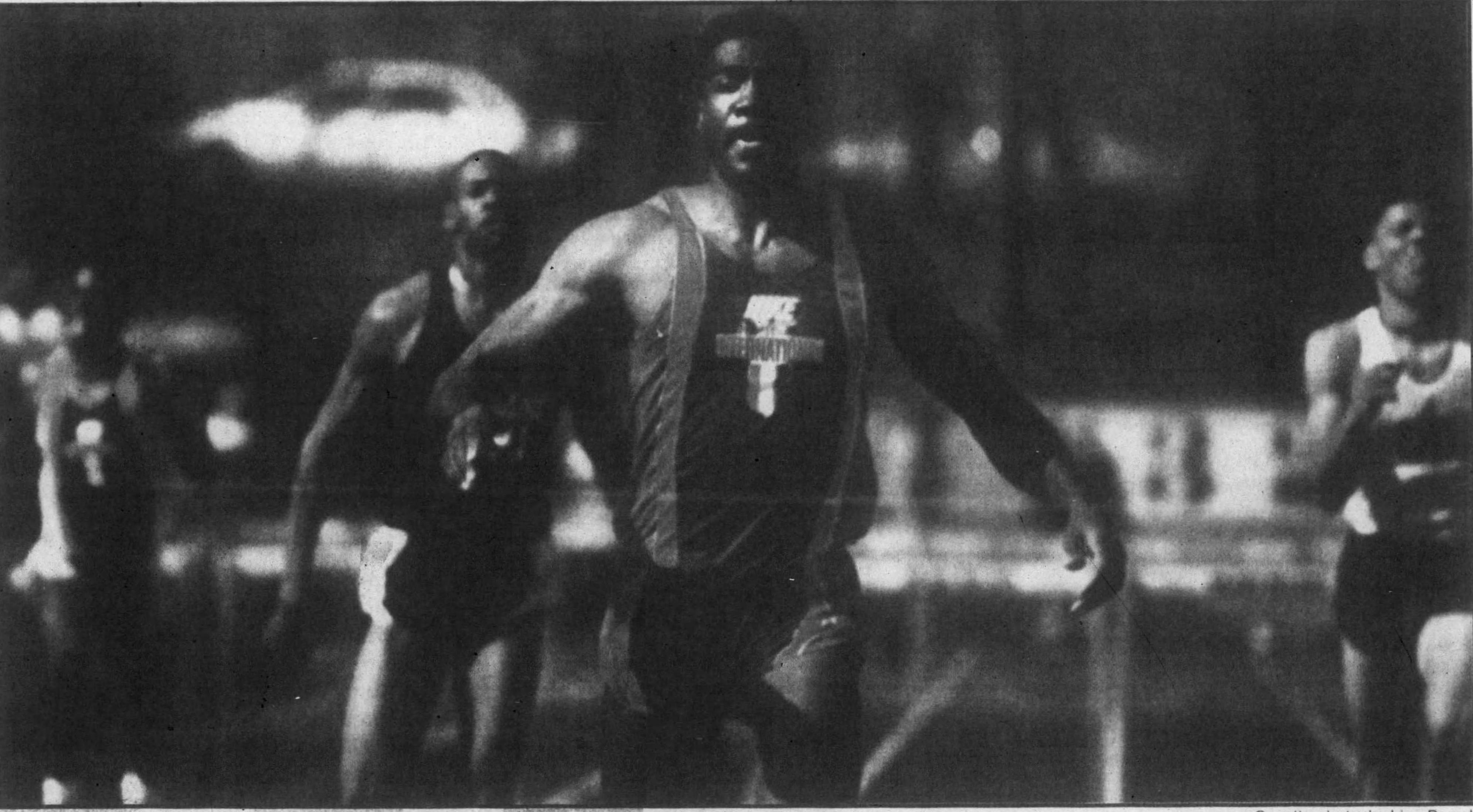
Krause had said he preferred working with a local group and keeping the team in Cedar Rapids if their offer "was in the ballpark." Such was not the case with the offer made by S.O.S.





Kevin Krause

DRAKE RELAYS



Gazette photo by Lisa Powell

Danny Harris crosses the finish line to win the men's special invitational 400-meter intermediate hurdles Friday at the Drake Relays in Des Moines. It was Harris' sixth Drake title, and the winning time of 48.52 seconds was the fastest in the world this year. Patrick McGhee of the Hawkeye Track Club (second from left) was second.

Harris dusts hurdles field City's Stecher claims 100

By Becky Stover

Gazette sportswriter ES MOINES — Danny Harris didn't disappoint 15,400 spectators in his return to the Drake Relays Friday after a three-year absence.

The former Iowa State athlete elaimed his sixth Drake title, winning the special invitational 400-meter intermediate hurdles in impressive fashion.

His winning time of 48.52 seconds is the world's fastest for 1991.

"Racing is always easy when you come back to Iowa. Especially here," said Harris, who became the first male athlete to win six Drake titles, including one in the open 400.

"Catching (Patrick) McGhee early really helped my confidence. The track was very fast and it felt good. The crowd here is what really makes you go, though."

Iowa State picked up a pair of relay wins, including its fifth straight in the men's 6,400 relay, and a long jump victory.

COLLEGE

Former Kansas athlete Scott Huffman got his Drake Stadium record in the pole vault back, winning the special invita-

tional event with a record 18-51/4 jump. Harris, the 1984 Olympic silver medalist in the 400 hurdles, admitted he was "a little nervous" before the four-man race.

"Here in front of all these people wanted to make sure I did well and that also won," said Harris, who last ran at the Drake Relays in 1987.

Of the time, well off his personal best of 47.48, he said, "It's a good start for me but I must do better."

McGhee of the Hawkeye Track Club was second in 50.07, McClinton Neal of Texas-Arlington was third and Michael Graham of Ames fourth. McGhee came in with a season best of 48.93.

Harris, who won 15 races last year, said

Please turn to 2C: College

By Jeff Dahn

Gazette sportswriter. ES MOINES — By his own admission, winning a Drake Relays title was never a goal of Iowa City

High's Donnie Stecher. For that reason alone, Stecher may cherish his victory in Friday's boys' 100-meter dash more than any other.

Stecher, a 5-foot, 5-inch, 170-pound powder keg, overcame an uncharacteristic bad start to top the eight-man field in the 100,

crossing in 11.20 seconds. His win was the only one by a Gazettearea prep athlete Friday, and was witnessed by 15,400 fans attending the first

day of the 82nd running of the Relays. Day One began wet, cool and windy but finished gloriously with hazy sunshine warming temperatures to 75 degrees.

Day Two commences this morning with rain in the forecast. The first final events in the prep section are the discus and long jump competition, both slated for 9 a.m.

PREP

Two area athletes attempted to repeat as chamions Friday but both were unsuccessful. Linn-Mar's Mick Mulherin finished in a tie for fourth place in the high jump competition after winning a year ago, and Sigourney's Rhonda Eiben settled for third in the girls' 100-meter dash following her championship of 1990.

Consequently, the spotlight belonged to Stecher.

"It's been a dream of mine ever since I was a freshman to win a state title, but I never thought much about Drake, really. It never entered my mind as a goal," Stecher said.

There was a restart in the race following a false start and Stecher wasn't happy about the way he broke out of the blocks when the race finally did get under way.

Please turn to 2C: Prep

lowa football on TV

Gazette staff report

IOWA CITY — Iowa's home football games against Hawaii and Illinois will be shown on national TV, according to schedules being prepared for the 1991 season. Iowa hosts Hawaii in the season opener Sept. 7, with kickoff now set for 11:30 a.m.

linois Oct. 19, with kickoff planned for 2:30 p.m. "Those are both fixed," said a member of the U of I athlet-

The Hawkeyes entertain Il-

ic department who has been briefed on TV plans for next season. Iowa's game at Iowa State Sept. 14 will be shown by the

Cyclone Television Network, including KCRG-Channel 9 in Cedar Rapids, at 12:10 p.m. Other U of I games — including a Big Ten showdown with Michigan here Oct. 5 are being considered for TV,

with networks allowed a 12-

day or six-day selection peri-

od before the game. Big Ten to Tuesday

■ IOWA CITY — The Big Ten Conference is working on a plan to shift its "Big Mon-

day" basketball games on ESPN to Tuesday nights, according to a source in the U of I athletic department.

Big Ten teams have been playing the second game of "Big Monday" double-headers at 8:30 p.m. Central time, following 6:30 contests featuring Big East teams.

On Tuesday nights, the Big Ten would play at 6:30, followed by an SEC game at 8:30.

Those 8:30 games on Monday night actually started at 9:30 in Eastern times zones (such as Indiana, Ohio State, Michigan and Michigan State), with some games ending near midnight.

Indiana Coach Bob' Knight has been a vocal critic of the late starts.

Big 8 teams reportedly would replace the Big Ten in the Monday night time slot.

Big Ten officials are not commenting on the proposed change, but the U of I official is convinced it will happen. He was briefed at a league meeting last week.

"They made it sound to us like it's a done deal," he said.

Boddicker beats ex-teammates

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) -Mike Macfarlane delivered a twoout, two-run double in the eighth inning Friday night, sending Mike Boddicker and the Kansas City Royals to a 5-3 victory over Boston.

Kirk Gibson drew a one-out walk in the eighth from Tony Fossas (0-1) and stole second. Gibson took third on a fly out and, after Kirk Stillwell was walked, Daryl Irvine relieved and Macfarlane doubled into left-

Baseball roundup, 3C

center.

Boddicker (2-2), who won 32 games for the Red Sox the past two years and signed a free agent contract over the winter with innings. Jeff Montgomery pitched the ninth for his fifth

Wade Boggs on his first pitch to ble in the ninth.

his old team, then Boggs went to third when second baseman Terry Shumpert bobbled Jody Reed's grounder and scored on a double-play grounder by Mike

Ellis Burks walked leading off Kansas City, gave up five hits the Boston second and Tom and three runs through eight Brunansky followed with a 430foot drive over the left-field fence for a 3-0 lead, his third of the year. Brunansky also had two Boddicker gave up a double to doubles, including a leadoff dou-

Motor-Boat's homer boosts C.R. Reds

By Mike Koolbeck

But Jones was the only one to do it.

Gazette sportswriter. Motor-Boat Jones said anyone who got a flyball up into Friday night's stiff southerly breeze at Memorial Stadium could have hit a home run.

Jones' two-run homer in the bottom of the fifth broke a 3-3 tie and carried the Cedar Rapids Reds past the Quad City Angels, 6-3, in a Midwest League game played before 993 fans.

The Reds (6-7) and Angels (10-5) square off again tonight at 7:05.

"It was a good pitch," Jones said of the 2-2 fastball from right-hander Dave Adams (0-2) he lined over the left-center field fence. "But the way the wind was blowing so hard, anybody who got a ball going

into left field was going to hit a homer." Jones' blow, following a lead-off double by Kevin

Riggs, made a winner of Reds southpaw Greg Margheim (1-1), who allowed one earned run in six innings.

Greenwell.

Leonard Griffen pitched the next two innings before Trevor Hoffman came on and blew away the Angels in the ninth, striking out two, for his second save. Hoffman, a converted shortstop, has fanned

seven batters in 31/3 innings. "I don't know how a guy could make the transition any better," said Cedar Rapids Manager Frank Funk. "Once he gets command of a hard slider, there's no telling how fast he could make it

up (to the major leagues)." "When it gets to the late innings you have to get focused and the catchers have done a good job of working with me, getting me focused," said

Please turn to 5C: C.R.