Pitching records sale for posterity, reader predicts
 Ted Williams believest there isn't a record in
the books that will be tougher to break than


 of 1990 season, and he is still going strong 28 Ksin in his first 3 games of 1 giv1. Todays managers use as -pitcher rotation,
and they bring in relefe p pitchers in the 8 th or gthi ininges of almost every game son on pitch-
eri in the tuture will get enough starts to win

## LITERS

Sn eimes, and no pitcher rill get to pitch
enoubdi inings to tritice out tas many batters as Ryap hasa already - let alone his total at
career's end - Dan C. Pedersen, 1101 career's end - Dan
Crocker, Des Moinea.
Imisis to commend the young lady - Patti
Battini - who sang the national antrem at Battini - who sang the national anthem at
the firss basketball finals on March 16. She didi a beautiful job.
I also appreciated the way the young
Galva-Holstein high school wresting cheerleader sang the a athem the week before, at teide begining of the wresting compeetition
We also enioved the Voices of valley (Weest
Win
 boys basketball finals.
These poong peope to be praised for
ber their renditions of a s song that means soo much
to somany of us. We can overlook the comedi-
 the pop singers
addeet frlis of their own makting We do enjoy seing on TVour fine young
athletes periorm in competitions at the climax of their respective seasons. We would also ilike tose, and hear, more of our fine muv,
scicians performing on TV. in a program all sicians performing on Tv, in a program all of
their own. They also work very hard and de serve more recognition for their achie
ments - Frran Stonetiogs, Schleswig.
The sportscasting job done by Jim Nantz
and Billy Packer in the Final Four was the
 everyone to match. OrI Ishould say everyone besides Duve tans.
Packers comments were anything but ob
jective and even degrading at some points. jective and even degrading at some points. I
would rater have icick vitale than Packer. At least he doesn"t tavor one team over anoth. er. - Kevin Hayee, Des Moines.
Professional basketball and footbal are
unique vocations. The prerequisites would read as follows: "You are reyurred to toutend
college before you may pursue this career college before you may pursue this career.
Howeerer you need not accaure a four- -ear de
 directly useful. thileticis skill, potential and
savy are the main neeessities. We can help you deyelop the remainng ingredients,"
 looks to higher education for its employeee
but does not evaluate academic persistence or performance
Permaps this explains the results from a reeent surrey on graduation rates publishee
by "The Chronicle of Higher Edication., Among Division I-A colleges, 5.3 percent of fresmmen students who enrolied in in 1984 had
graduated by August, 1989 , as had 51.1 per-
 of the for tball recruits and d sacant 13.9 per-
cent of male bastetball players had earned a degree within that period. By isolating these
latere figures, the overall rate for other ath letes mould likely approach 60 percent. Hat the majortspof particicpants in these
two sports beenserious baont onlege their two sports been serious about college, their
graduation percentages should actually have bean much hithere than the norm. Since most
were on full scholarshipe, they were less apt to drop ouit due to the financial hardship. In
addition, their stipends allowed them to strectch a free education out over a five year
time trame. Beyond that, these athletes are
 iesest tutoring privileges and academic skills
enhanecement that exceed what is provided most other underera aduates. Masior colleges and diviversities are, and
must beselective cacaemicaly. They are
also the beatic also the basicicrecourse any serious football or basketball player has for honing his athletic
talents, regardiless of his intellectual capacict ty. Therein lies the problem. - Mart Gries, 100 Leoman Dr, Storm Late.
The NCAA, in its effort to clean its own
bouse, has enacted some changes mhich may prove more detrimental to its overall mis.
sion I refere to the reductions in scholarships din assistant coaches.
By reducing the number of assistant
ooches, atheticic programs are losing an important ingredienent to their overall mix. Com-
oining less precte time with fewer coaches means players will get less individual attention to work on skills, and the overall quality
of play will suffer, except at the places that pillay
pillill suffer, except at the places thal
Reduction Mheccuction of scholarssips has implications Lenying opportunities to players. Feweer
scholarasilips means more competition for top levere players which will lead to, guess what
more chteating. Fewer scholarships
will also tring more playing time for freshmen, some ing the NCAA should be tring to
they are serious sbout academics.
By ene eing these rumes and and claiming re-
orms
orme Tms, the NCAA is treating the symptoms adout ref problem. Tinhey need tor ene serious man R. Apt. 207, Des Moines.
The Regigister inviles ietters from its
veaders on toples of interest to other sports Man, Send to sports Forum, Des Molines Beg Ner, P.P., Box 95s, Des Molieses, Iowa, 50304 dresteren must pone igmber and corrry an ad ad Chaineces ot pubilication are esest tor shortrer
letiter that lettern that clearily state
Letters may be ealited:

## Rawlings' once-controversial call for reforms now looks good on field as well as in classroom


 bale for varsitye compestman atineetes ineieigi-
ber
wether whether any other school did. Wiumnin days, dummors surraceed that big-time
 thing to burt the
athletic program. As octoroversy ymirled about him, the 6 .
foot 7 -Inch former college athlete stod in its
and

 swayed.
rig guess 1 didn't expect the magnitude or the degree to which the controveryy devel.
oped, but overallit twasin all that toad,' Rawl.
 Helped Trigger Reforms Recently, Rawlings remembered those
weeks of controversy with some fondness weeks of controversy with some fondness.
Thought he clock is still running on the turee year time limit he gave others to act on the
eligbibity jisue, Rawilings sees intercollegiate athletics as in in ransition and says the changes
are logn overde able pride in the roie he he has played both local. ly and nationally in the reform of collegiate
athetis. To athletics. To a great degree, Raminings salvo
brought more attention to college athetic re. form than anything elise. months before stoor up in the preceding Ramings said. "I beieieve that wasa a key fac Lor in what we now see as great momentum Soward even further retorms.
Since the Iowa furor began, the retorn of
intercollegiate athletics has become as hot a topic as any in U.S. sports. In recent moothe NCAA members have voted to impose ilimita On the amount of time that can be demande
of student-athetes and on anthetic mendin that has careereded out of control sinice the mid
Now, the report of the 22 -member Kight Athletics has taken center stage since et is re lease last month. Among other things, the re port, entitled "Keeping Faith with the sta-
dent-Athlete,",
recommends
strons presidential control of athmetic departments, higher and more certailin academic require
 college athietic departments, but trom the employees of toose ceparimenis.
More Changes Ahead
Forsies, temineres, is harderanan of athetiletic controin the report. Its value, however, isn't so much in what it recommends, but ratier in its push for further change.
"Within the conte
Wirthin the context of reform, the Knight "It is within reper reformsery wealready have passed in J Junary in Nastrillil. and is in the
 much more reason to theineve the reform process is ging go to continue."
Moreover, Rawings
Me presesure where it it belongs - on the col lege presidenternere it healongso - on the col-
lerning boards. governing boards turn overs totacecommentrol Ident. Rawingss says he got tavorable first-hand experience in the govening board-president
relationstip pollowing disclosure of Ronnie


Harmon's and Devon Mitchell's embarrassing
Harmon's and Devon Mitcheil's embarrassing
academic transcripts during the Norby
Walters-Lloyd Bloom trial. He said that inci Walters-Lloyd Bloom trial. He said that inci-
dent trovides a oood example of what haphe governing board.
"There wasn't one
"There wasn't one hint of dissatisfaction or attempt to influence me from the members of ments," Rawlings said. "I knew they were re ceiving some complaints and expressions of concern, but there wasn't a moment In the aftermath of the trial, Rawlings also ordered a review by faculty and administraion officialis of the transcripts of atheetes who years. From that review, school officials ound isolated cases similar to those of Harmon and Mitchell,
overall problems.
Rawlings said he was irritated to find even few of those kind of transcripts. "The problem was that if raised serious Rawlings said. "As a result, we decided we had to send a strong message that this type of Steps Strengthen Progra
Steps Strengthen Program
The combination of Rawlings' stand on The combination of Rawlings' stand on
freshman eligibility and the review of transcripts helped soften the enegative impact of the transcripts' disclosure. "I don't think this school ever really suffered greatly from a
tarnished image," Rawlings said. "Instead, we made it clear immediately what was important to this school and that we would main-
tain our academic values regardless of how it tain our academic values regar
affected our sports program."


#### Abstract

Rawlings ordered several steps be taken, Rawings ordered several steps be taken, ncluding a requirement that greater atten- tion be given to assuring academic progress tion be given to assuring academic progress among student-athletes. Some critics feared among student-athletes. Some critics feared that such action would hurt Iowa's athletic competitiveness. In fact the oposite appears to have taken place - something that Rawlings is quick to "A Rose Bowl appearance, an unexpected NCAA bid for the men's basketball team, an NCAA championship for the wrestling team, a rated softball team and a f field hockey team that makes it to the Final Four," Rawlings said. "And that was just this year. I'm not counting the regular season championship counting the regular season At the same time, Rawlings pointed out, the graduation rates of the men's and women's program have remained high in comparison o their Big Ten counterparts as well as other schools within the NCAA. For example, Rawl ings pointed out, the Hawkey football program is one of only two that can boast a prad- uation rate equal to or better than the overall uation rate equal student body's. "It clearly has "It cearly has been a great year for us both in the field and in the classroom," " awwingss in the field and in the classroom," Rawlings said. "It is not every year we have the suceess waid have had and I think it is tribute to this school, its faculty, its coaches and its stuWhat Lies Ahead? Looking ahead, Rawlings predicts even greater reform efforts on the national level Heater reform efforts on the national level. administrator for the ment's program to totic- ceed Bump Eliott, who has announced his re- tirement. ceed Bum tirement.


Raxlings sald daecsison stould be made
 tell will be someone with experience in intercolle "We are looking for someone who can work effectively and with great ine writy," Rowl-
ings said, adding that the new men's athettic director must not only command respect from alumni and coaches, but also be able to work effectively with the Iowa women's pro-
gram headed by athletic director Christine gram.
Grant. Of the national reform effort, Rawlings
said it is clear to him that high admission and said it is clear to him that high admission and
academic standards will be considered and aliaely approved at the 1992 NCAA convention
to be held in Anaheim. Rawlings said a recent to be held in Anaheim. Rawlings saidd a recen
visit with fellow chief executives in Washington, D.C. has cemented that feeling.
menturything I hevar indicates that the mo-
dents will stick dents will stick witheat it at least one more year
in a very focused fashion," he said. "You can' expect that level of attention every single year for many years in a row. . unt I Io think
we will get another year or two." we will get another year or two." Of his vow on freshman eligibility, Raw ings repeated that he waill be willing to back
down if the NCAA makes sufficient dow if the NCAAA makes seffificent trogress
on academic reforms. That would include on academic reforms. That would include
raising the Proposition 48 standards to inraising the Proposica
clude a higher grade point average in a grea er number of college preparatory courses.
"That way we would have freshman inelig "That way we would have freshman ineligi-
bility for those who need it and eligibility for
those who are caphle of hit bility for those who need it and eligibility for
those who are capable of handling it," Rawl-
ings said.

## Athletes get sentimental over favorite old gear



 jockey favors a particular whip." wrote Chris
Lazzarino. "And as a baseball player can
splinter his favorite bat, a whip's life is limitsplinter his favorite bat, a whip's life is limit""For some guys, a whip is like a security
lanket,' says jockey Jerry Bailey. 'But you learn not to depend on one whip too much, because they can break or get run over by a
tractor if you drop it and the outriders can't factor it in youe.'"
Consequenty, the favorite of the moment is used sparingly, hoarded for the biggest races No. 1 fiberglass whip aboard commercial lights, thereby spawning brisk arguments With security-conscious airline personnel. While some ofionally may seem direct descendants of the Marquis de Sade, the Frenchman who made whiping infamous, racing
wands become favorties because of the noise vands become favorites because of the noise one end is popped.
A good "popper" produces a sound equiva-
lent to a gun shot, quickly catching the atten tion of a day-dreaming mount. They tell me tran or ars don't like horses to be whipped vigor-
trusly because some will resent the pain, cease ously because some will resest the pain, cease
running hard and may never try to run hard

Favorite Baseball Gea
Lazzarino's story set me musing about favorite articles of equipment in other sports. Starting with baseball, it is true the best hit-
ers coddie a favorite bat. It is just as true bats break and must be replafed often.
Gloves ing item of equipment. Whereas a good hitter might lend a bat to a friend, a good fielder would no mo than his wife.
The classic gathering of battered leather

came in the 1971 World Series. Brooks Robinsane, in one the alitime er reat third
was with Basemen, many fieleding records stor second baseman,
was a pitsburgh reserve. mas a pittsburgh reserve.
Robinson owned a sporthin Robinsen owned a sporting goods store and
had access to the best tioves at the e ouest
prices Yes prices. Yetot four years previous to the then Se
ties he took tow now ries he took two new gioves out of stock and
traded both for a glove beng used by outielder Dedeve May.
Being already
 that the Hall of Fame wanted it tor display.
Brooks agreed to send it when one of his re.
 serve gloves started feeling right. None dida,
sit
sin
in
IIVe
It thenk
that Mazerosk's love affair ran even deeper. Bill arroved is the me ajfor rean reagesen in deeper. two giveses, a gamen and a reserve. No. 1 be
came a casuaty
 ement rame that beat the Yankees, $10-9$, and
brought the Bucs the title. brought he Bures the titite Fild and one sove-nir-crazed nut stole Mazeroskk's glove from
the dugout Bill had to go to No . 2 in 81 . He lasted 10 more years. oso doid the giove
pathed and seen on dozens of times and also patched and semen on dore
Recent advances
Recent advances in technology have
changed patterss, but golf is agame in which
 favorite wedge and d a favorite putter with th
tenacity of small children hanging onto tal tered liankets.
chese days. tournament players often
carry two drivers and three wedges and don't carry t to drivers and three wedgese and don't
get as locked in on any one cluc. They also 1 id.-
 nation, then, the putter emerges as the No.
treasure.
 the greens never cease switching, whereas a
guy like Ben Crenshaw makes a $a$ putter er wanted. He found a a ood one asa achcoolboy in
Austin, Ter, almost 30 years ago. Little een Anhe instumention is sill geing grtong. During the 20 years he has been recognized
as arguably the PGA Tour's best gin the as arguably the PGA Tour's best on the
greens, crenshaw fatithưly stroked with that putter. Once in a great while hed dry anothe


Football and Basketball

## Footbail and and and basketetball offer and Football and dasketball offer fewer oppor- unites for lifetime allegiances, although

 have read that Hanl of Frame passing star Most asked think a good fititing heimet
mould be treasured most by those moo play
 equirment
"plip pad
$\qquad$ perenimilly powerful Bricham Young Univer-
sity
they we thave to checr constantly to
the hey're being worn. Players hate them, even
nowing its dangerous goin without', nowing its dangerous going without""
Particucurarly in bosketball but also in foot ballo othaining gnan retetianing gut aersain in fersey-
number is is ikely tre No. 11 rreasure. Basket. number is likely the No. 1 treasure, Bastect-
ball players simply don't have much gear oth ball players simply don'thave much gear other than sulirs, pants, socks and

The treasured items range from mitts to putters to teddy bears.
People ernh heave a tonot, trow alibcus or

 nust prevenil tor the wort diless though, as Competition smimmers, divers and gymasts perate with seant amounts of clotitigig and

 mey Corma didedy Often, though, in the minimal-equipment
sports, lucky charms become the enduring sports, lucky charms become the enduring
treasures. If memory serves correctly, Greg
Louganis, the best diver the world has yet pro ouganis, the best diver the world has yet pro-
duced, lugged a teddy bear to competitions as unced, lugged a teddy bear to compel
Tennids players young girls tote dolls. Tennis players have favorite racquets res-
rung many times, but racquets do trung many times, but racquets do get cases don't get slammed around as much and In amateur wrestling, according to Hawk. eye Coach Dan Gable, the headgearea is the
hing and some wear a favorite until it foll hing and some wear a favorite until it falls apart. However, in his brilliant career that Item never accompanied Gable onto the mat.
"I had a small isometric rope I carried in a "I had a small isometric rope I carried in a
back pocket for quick 10 or 15 -minute worknth grade es. "It was given to me by my sevall the way trosuugh htee Olymer and G camerried it il
of times, an athlete's treasured item is not known to others."

