Sports 2

SPORTS COLLECTIBLES

BOOK REVIEW

"Playing for Keeps," by Chris Mortensen. \$21 by Simon & Schuster. Available at area bookstores.

Province Man Kept The MOB FROM SINKING ITS HOOKS INTO PRO FOOTBALL

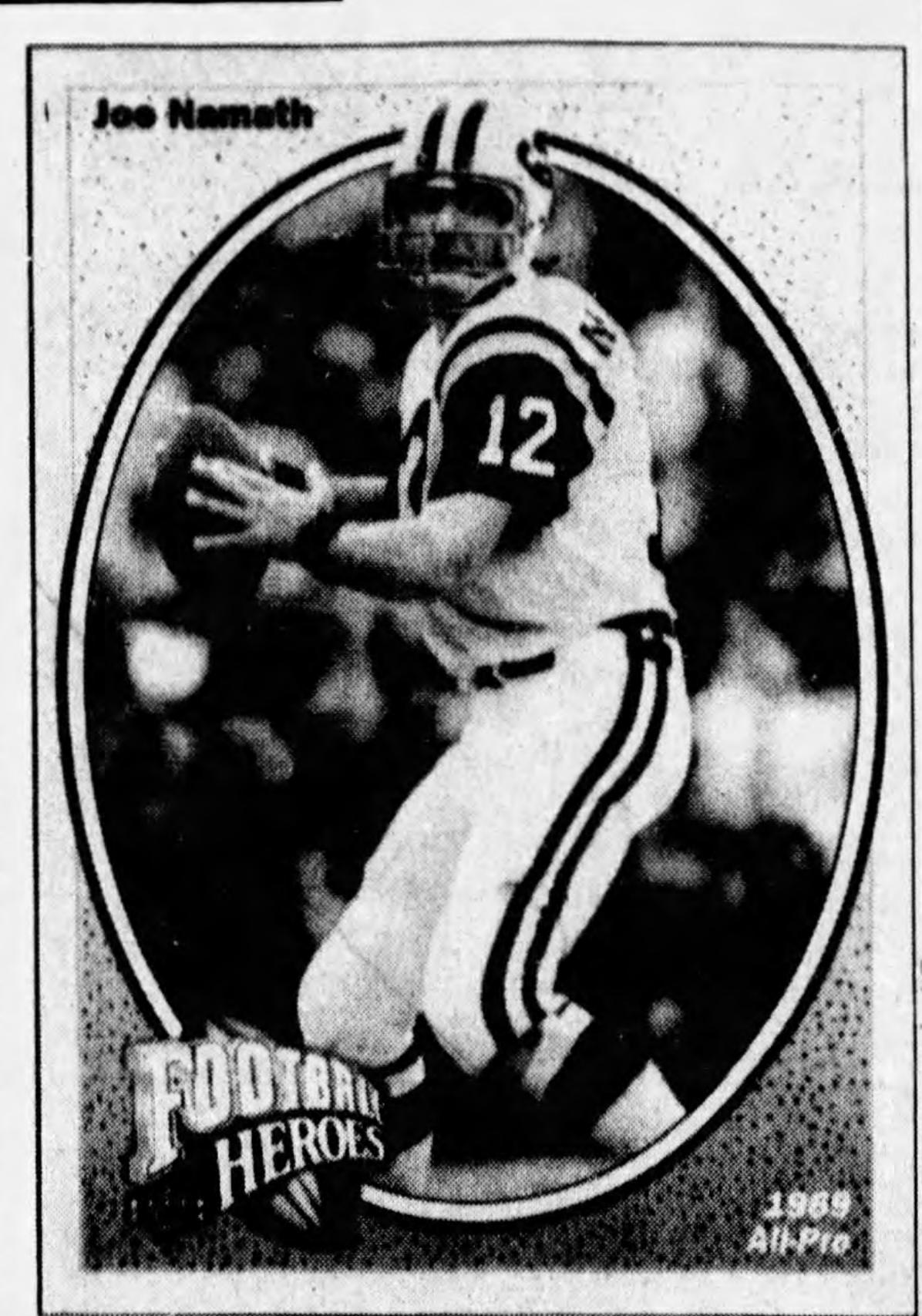
CHRIS MORTENSEN

Late arrivals could alter gift planning

By James E. Smith STAFF WRITER

If you've already filled out your Christmas list, better check it twice. There's a flurry of end-ofthe-year activity that threatens to complicate your gift-giving (or receiving) plans. A sampling of new products due soon:

The long-awaited David Justice hologram from Silver Star is being shipped this week. The makers of the high-quality Nolan Ryan and Rickey Henderson holograms bring you the Braves' right fielder swinging a bat . . . or is that a tomahawk? Seeing under direct sunlight is believing. A Cal Ripken Jr. hologram also has been produced. Parkhurst, the granddaddy of hockey cards from the 1950s, is being revived by Pro Set, which will produce just 15,000 cases (2,500 translated into French) of super-gloss action cards. Upper Deck has its first NBA issue, as well as the 1991 Football High Series. The football series includes the second edition of Football Heroes, featuring autographed Joe Namath cards. New from Racing Collectables of Atlanta are die-cast replicas from stock car racing's glory days. The 1956 Ford convertible, 1959 Chevrolet, 1963 Ford and other models driven by pioneers like Junior Johnson and Ned Jarrett. For more information, call 436-8975. Action Packed's 1991 Rookie/Update sets are out. The perfect stocking stuffer, Santa Claus makes his third appearance in NFL Pro Set Series II foil packs. Even if you're not a fan of the cards, you'll enjoy The Official NFL Pro Set Card Book. It's 293 color pages detailing the front and back of every card produced by the company, from Stacey Bailey (No. 1 in 1989's Series I) to the Pro Set Gazette Collectible Card. Retail price is \$19.95.



TV-RADIO

NBC rookie Hampton tackles Falcons today

Former Bears defensive lineman **Dan Hampton**, the latest rookie find of NBC executive producer **Terry O'Neil**, wasn't sure he would even make the cut on the network's NFL announcing teams.

It was the start of July, and Hampton still

wasn't issued a uniform, having shed Chicago's black jersey in a bid for a blue NBC blazer.

Prentis Rogers

"They didn't hire me until about a week before the seminar for all the announcers in late July," said Hampton, who will call the Falcons' crucial game

'Playing for Keeps' details mob links of Walters, Bloom

By Mike Fish STAFF WRITER

College football is nothing more than a bunch of student-athletes working up a sweat on Saturday afternoons.

If you believe that, just read your daily newspaper. Or better yet, read "Playing for Keeps." Chris Mortensen's book is a detailed glimpse into one of the most sensational scandals ever to hit the beleaguered world of college athletics. It is a dramatic look at how organized crime, through the allegedly illegal practices of sports agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom, also tried to gain a foothold in professional sports.

Mortensen, whose coverage of the Walters and Bloom investigation for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize, spent four years researching this case. He methodically chronicles how the agents — backed by the mob muscle of Michael Franzese, dubbed the "yuppie don" — lured top college football stars into signing representation agreements while still competing on the college level.

When Ron Morris, a Southern Methodist wide receiver and later a top draft pick of the Chicago Bears, tried to back out of the deal, he was told by **Bloom** that Walters would "have someone from Las Vegas break your legs ... You'll never play again." Unfortunately, after skillfully being led through 328 pages, up through the conviction of the agents on racketeering and extortion charges, we learn that a circuit court of appeals in 1990 overturned the convictions of Walters and Bloom. And that their situation didn't stop subsequent college stars from asking for money. Falcons cornerback Deion Sanders and former Georgia running backs Tim Worley and Keith Henderson are just a few of the players named in lawsuits for failing to repay money they accepted from agents while still in college. Walters and Bloom really got around. In 1985-87, they wooed 58 college players - including eventual first-rounders Tim McGee (Tennessee), John Clay (Missouri), Brent Fullwood (Auburn), Mark Ingram (Michigan State), Paul Palmer (Temple), Terrence Flagler (Clemson), Reggie Rogers (Washington), Rod Woodson (Purdue) and Tony Woods (Pittsburgh). The deal was that the players accepted money, in some cases as much as \$30,000, to sign early with the agents. Two of the more pathetic players encountered by the government were Rogers, a former Washington defensive end, and Fullwood. By the time the government sized them up as witnesses, there was no way it could let them take the stand. Rogers was an emotional mess, partly from his older brother Don dying of a cocaine overdose during his bachelor party the previous summer. Rogers had double-dealt, also having taken money from a Tacoma, Wash., agent. His limited attention span frustrated government attorneys, and they were left wondering whether he could even read. Fullwood raised the same suspicions. He once looked out a window in the federal building in Chicago, pointed at Lake Michigan, and asked, "What ocean is that?" One of the wildest stories the prosecution team heard, which was never reported, came out of meetings with Clemson stars Flagler and Terrance Roulhac. Both players told of an incident that occurred the night they signed in a Clemson motel with the agents in June 1986. The signing was overheard from an adjoining room by an Atlanta electronics salesman, who contacted the Clemson police. The salesman, Gary Defauw, alleges that the Clemson police worked behind the scenes to cover up the signings. Defauw said after he told what he had overheard, police threatened to charge him with crimes such as solicitation of a bribe and something called "eavesdropping." Defauw said he wasn't allowed to leave until signing a statement in which he agreed not to pursue the allegations he had made about Walters and the Clemson football players.

SIGN HERE: Braves pitchers Steve Avery and Tom Glavine will be autograph guests next Saturday and Sunday at the Chattanooga-Hamilton County (Tenn.) Convention and Trade Center. Avery, who has not made any Atlanta appearances since the World Series, will sign Sunday from noon to 3 p.m. for \$15. Glavine will be available Saturday from noon to 3 for \$10. Admission for the show is \$3. For more information, call 615-'756-0001.... Glavine and Chicago White Sox first baseman Frank Thomas will be the autograph guests at the Castlegate Hotel show Dec. 28-29. Thomas (\$19 for flat items or baseballs, \$35 for bats) will sign from noon to 3 p.m. Saturday, Glavine (\$9) from noon to 3 p.m. Sunday.

WHAT'S HOT: A look at what Atlanta collec-

1. 1992 Donruss baseball; 2. 1990 Leaf II

Steve Avery; 3. Topps 1953 Archives; 4. 1991

Stadium Club Steve Avery; 5. 1990 Leaf II David

tors are asking for:

Upper Deck's 1991 Football High Series has been shipped in time for the late Christmas rush. Joe Namath is featured in a ninecard Football Heroes subset. Namath also autographed 2,500 cards randomly inserted.

Justice; 6. 1991 Stadium Club hockey; 7. 1989 Topps Traded Steve Avery; 8. 1991 Donruss Studio; 9. 1980-81 Topps Magic Johnson; 10. 1989 SCORE Mark Rypien.

SHOWTIME: Here's a schedule of upcoming shows:

Today at the Outlets Ltd. Mall, I-75 at Chastain Road (exit 117), noon to 5 p.m. Free. Information, 428-4490.

Today at the VFW Fairgrounds Building (Highway 166) in Carrollton, noon to 5 p.m. Admission \$1.

Today at the Marriott Hotel Northwest, I-75 North and Windy Hill Road, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cards and comics. Admission \$2 adults, \$1 students, \$5 families.

Today at the Gwinnett Flea Market and Antique Center, I-85 and Jimmy Carter Boulevard in Norcross, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Information, 368-8211.

Today at the Atlanta Airport Marriott Hotel, I-85 and Riverdale Road in College Park, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission \$1.

Saturday at Four Seasons Mall, 2200 South Cobb Drive, Smyrna, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Free.
Saturday at American Legion Post No. 105, Fayetteville, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission \$1. Information, call 957-9798 or 487-7973.
Next weekend at Outlets Ltd. Mall, I-85 and Pleasant Hill Road (exit 40) in Norcross. Saturday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Free. Call 473-1745. with **Joel Meyers** today against Seattle (1 p.m., Channel 11).



"It was like being a rookie in the NFL," Hampton said. "You know, they think you have talent, but you're hired in a trial run. At first, I thought they'd let me do about five games this season to get my feet wet, but I've worked every week, so I'd like to try and stay with it. It's great to go to a game, get paid and don't get the hell beat out of me."

Hampton, who has been on several games shown in Atlanta, is having a solid year. NBC likes his work, and overall the reviews have been positive.

"I'm sure there will be discussion after the year. There's always talk and evaluation," Hampton said. "But the feedback I'm getting has been great, and I think in another year of work I could rank up there with just about anybody."

But at the center of Hampton's thoughts today will be the Falcons-Seahawks game. Hampton doesn't think much of the Seattle offense.

"'Ground Chuck' [named after coach **Chuck Knox**] is so lean, weight-watchers would approve," Hampton said. "But this is not a gimme for Atlanta because the Falcons' strength — the passing offense — is matched against the Seahawks' strength, which is their defensive line with four No. 1 draft picks. If Atlanta can't protect [**Chris**] **Miller**, it will have a hard time beating Seattle."

Hampton recalled playing three times against the Falcons in the mid-'80s.

"That was back when they had **Steve Bartkowski, William Andrews** and a good offensive line. Bartkowski was the focal point," Hampton said. "But then they went through a period when they didn't have an identity. They're back to throwing the ball, and what happens in the next two games is the gut-check and will determine if they have turned the corner.

Next Sunday at the Hilton Inn, I-75 and Windy Hill Road, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission \$1.

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A REMINDER: The recorded Collectors' Hotline (222-2032) is not a free appraisal service. It is designed for you to call in information as well as offer a forum to express your views. If there is a topic you want to read about, let us know.

TICKET TIPS

Tech-Georgia, Kuppenheimer nearing

Tickets are available for the Georgia Tech-Georgia basketball game Wednesday in The Omni, 7:30 p.m., for \$14 through The Omni box office, all TicketMaster locations or the Tech ticket office. For information, call (404) 249-6400 or (404) 894-5447.

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KUPPENHEIMER CLASSIC: Tickets are available for the college basketball doubleheader (Georgia vs. Penn State and Georgia Tech vs. Kentucky) in The Omni at 7 p.m. Saturday. All seats are \$25. Tickets are on sale through Ticket-Master or by calling (404) 249-6400.

kansas Dec. 29 at 2:30 p.m. EST in Shreveport, La. All tickets are \$25. Call (404) 542-1231.

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GEORGIA TECH FOOTBALL: Tickets are available for the Aloha Bowl game against Stanford Dec. 25 at 3:30 p.m. EST in Honolulu. All tickets are \$20. Call (404) 894-5447.

HAWKS: The next home games are against Indiana Tuesday and Cleveland Friday. Both games start at 7:30 p.m. in The Omni. Tickets "Atlanta's focus should be on Seattle because if it doesn't win Sunday, next week's game against Dallas will almost be too big to deal with for a young team."

NBC has upgraded access of today's game to between 20 and 25 percent of the country, adding several major markets such as Los Angeles, Baltimore and Washington.

Today on TV

I p.m. — Tennis: Prudential Securities Gr pionships. The finals of an unheralded event	sportSouth
I p.m. — Football: Seahawks at Falcons. biggest games in years for Atlanta.	One of the Channel II
I p.m. — Tennis: Grand Slam Cup. Same-constrained of the singles final in Munich, with \$2 minutes the winner.	
2 p.m. — Golf: New York Life Champions nal round of PGA Senior tournament in Puer	
3:30 p.m. — Football: North Carolina-Sou Shrine Game. A matchup of the best high so from the two states.	
4 p.m. — Football: Giants at Redskins. It's lieve the game between these longtime rival pact on the playoff race.	
7 p.m. — Soccer: English First Division. 7 age.	SportSouth
8 p.m. — Football: Bills at Colts. Jim Kelly a Thomas could have a big night for Buffalo.	and Thurman ESPN
10:30 p.m. — Soccer: Sockers at Sidekic Friday's Major Soccer League game of the w	

FALCONS: Today's game against the Seattle Seahawks is a sellout. Information on possible playoff tickets is not yet available.

GEORGIA FOOTBALL: Tickets are available for the Independence Bowl game against Arrange from \$10 to \$30. Call (404) 249-6400. For group tickets, call 827-DUNK.

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FIGURE SKATING: Tickets are available for the International Championships next Sunday at 2:30 p.m. in The Omni. Katarina Witt is included in the women's event. Tickets are \$50, \$25 and \$20 and may be purchased at The Omni's box office or through TicketMaster. Call (404) 249-6400.

BRIEFS

French Seventyfive wins Bay Meadows

Longshot French Seventyfive found racing room entering the stretch, outfinished Forty Niner Days in the final furlong and won by a length Saturday in the \$250,000 Bay Meadows Handicap in San Mateo, Calif. Forty Niner Days finished second a neck in front of the 5-2 favorite **Batshoof** in a field of nine horses, 3 years old and up. The winner covered 1¹/₈ miles in 1 minute, 49 2-5 seconds. Ridden by **Gary Boulanger** and sent off a 10-1 longshot, French Seventyfive paid \$23, \$10.20 and \$5.20 in his first race at Bay Meadows. BASKETBALL: Alex English, the NBA's No. 10

career scoring leader, signed a one-year contract with Napoli, an Italian basketball team. Financial terms were not disclosed. English, 37, who spent 15 seasons with four NBA teams, replaces Ohio State's **Treg Lee** on the team, which also includes former NBA player **Cliff Robinson.** ... Steve Alford, who led Indiana to the 1987 NCAA championship, was named basketball coach at Manchester (Ind.) College. Alford inherits a team with an 0-7 record.

HIGH SCHOOLS: The Shelbyville, Tenn., team's three-year, 110-game winning streak, which included three state titles, ended Friday night with a 77-75 loss to Cardinal O'Hare of Philadelphia.

Today on radio

I p.m Football: Seahawks at Falcons	750 AM
2 p.m. — Basketball: Georgia-Purdue	105.7 FM
4 p.m. — Football: Giants at Redskins	680 AM
2 p.m. — Basketball: Florida StN. Carolina	1550 AM
OTHER BROADCAST EVENTS	

■ TV: WAGA (Channel 5) has "This is the NFL" at noon, followed by "The NFL Today" at 12:30 p.m. and a Winter Olympics preview, "Albertville '92," at 3, featuring bobsledder Wolfgang Hoppe and freestyle skier Donna Weinbrecht. WXIA (Channel 11) has "NFL Live" at 12:30 p.m. CNN airs "College Coaches Corner" at 11 a.m. and "NFL Preview" with host Vince Cellini and analyst Buddy Ryan at 11:30 a.m. Chris Berman and Tom Jackson host "NFL GameDay" and "NFL PrimeTime" on ESPN at noon and 7 p.m., respectively. CNN's Van Earl Wright hosts "Falcons Report This Week" at 11 a.m., followed by "Sport-South Journal" at 11:30 a.m.

Radio: Jim Powell hosts "Sunday Night SportsTalk" on WSB (750 AM) after the Falcons game. WGST (640 AM) will have "Southern Fishing" with O'Neil Williams at 5 p.m.