

By Mike Conklin

Fly like a Falcon: If you were on Interstate 94 Thursday afternoon and saw an ominous, black 18-wheel rig with Atlanta Falcons stickers heading northward, yes, that was full-time coach and part-time racecar driver Jerry Glanville. "Had a lot of fun with my CB going around Chicago," he said. Glanville was on his way from Atlanta to the Milwaukee Mile, where he'll be taking part in Havoline "Formula 3" 250 events, which include Saturday qualifying and the Sunday race. Glanville hasn't exactly been tearing up the Busch Grand National Circuit. He qualified for three races; he finished 40th, 27th and had the third race postponed because of snow. "I find coaching pays a whole lot better than this," said Jerry. Nevertheless, it is obvious the coach likes life in the fast lane. Two days before coming to Milwaukee, he shot the rapids of the Salmon River in Idaho in a kayak with Dick Butkus for a TV show.

P.S.: Glanville won't be leaving tickets for Elvis Presley at the Milwaukee Mile. "He's in the race and he's a very good driver," said Jerry, referring to Robert Pressley. "I just told him he's got to change the spelling of his name a little bit."

Close to home: The Bulls' drafting of Corie Blount and Anthony Reed was a breakthrough for Chicago sports agent Mark Bartelstein. As the representative of both players, this is the first time he's had a client picked by the Bulls. "It's going to make it easy to keep an eye on everything," said Bartelstein. Will it be easier to get them signed? Bartelstein, who said he expects no problems, and Bulls GM Jerry Krause will start talking after the holiday weekend. Like Krause, he's eager to put the paperwork behind them and get his players on Chicago's team in the Utah summer league. "There's a tremendous upside to both Corie and Anthony, and the only way for them to show it is to play," Bartelstein said. Several years ago, Bartelstein rocked the NBA when he negotiated a \$26.5 million contract for John "Hot Rod" Williams of the Cavaliers. Williams, like Reed, was from Tulane.

Draft leftovers: You have to like the Bulls' pick of Blount for this reason alone: His tenacious defense will toughen Stacey King in practice. . . . Anyone else think Gheorge Muresan, the 7-7 guy from Romania taken by the Bullets, looks like that "Jaws" character in the James Bond movie? . . . Speaking of tall, Manute Bol and Shawn Bradley, both 7-6 and now Philly teammates, once met. Bol appeared to be a smidgen taller and said to Bradley: "I'm still the king, man." Shawn, incidentally, will be tithing his NBA salary, with 10 percent going to the Mormon Church. ... J.R. Rider, who changed his first name to Isaiah, has "34" tattooed on his chest and demands that number from the Timberwolves. No problem. They don't have a No. 34. What if he'd gone to the Suns? Rider, saying he's "got an attitude" like Charles Barkley's, said he would've been willing to flip Sir Charles for it.

Cut short: The press gathered at the Berto Center to cover the draft and had sympathy for Mike Greenberg. He was WSCR-AM's man on the scene and, as such, did an excellent job feeding information to Mike Murphy's show—up to a point. Don't forget, WSCR goes off the air at sundown. Therefore, after a nice buildup, the allsports station didn't get to tell listeners whom the Bulls drafted. It signed off right after Boston chose Acie Earl, six picks ahead of the Bulls. "I thought maybe we'd catch a break and they'd speed it along, but it wasn't to be," Greenberg said.

Stormin' Norman: Best place in the next few weeks to check the moves of former Illinois star Ken Norman, mentioned as a possible signee by the Bulls, will be Touhy-Herbert Park on the city's West Side. Norman's annual benefit tournament tips off Tuesday, and it's likely several NBA players, past and present, will be competing. Norman's a free agent after playing with the Clippers last season.

On the Rockies: Nobody's a bigger draw for the already popular Colorado Rockies than the Cubs, who open a four-game series Friday in Denver. The advance sale for the games was about 215,000 tickets.

Relatively speaking: Lou and Skip Holtz won't be the only father-son coaching combination when Notre Dame renews its rivalry with Southern Cal this season. John Robinson's 29year-old son, David, has been added to the Troians' staff after several years of coaching in other college programs. The younger Robinson started as a grad assistant at Michigan. Most other assistants like having the old man's son on the staff. It gives them someone to oppose the boss. Said David: "The great thing about working with your father is you see him a lot more. The bad part is you get all the lousy jobs no one else wants."

Around town: WLUP's Steve Dahl begins appearing in White Sox TV ads over the July 4 weekend. We'll see "a more mature" Dahl in the spots, says a spokesman for the DiMeo and Associates firm, which produces them. Steve, a seasonticket holder, is the only Chicago pesonality asked to do more than one Sox commercial in the four years DiMeo has done them. . . . Mike Huff gets a day off from baseball July 14 to take part in the annual Robert Huff Foundation celebrity reception for scholarships at Wilmette GC. Others scheduled to appear will be Jay Hilgenberg, Dan Jiggetts and Bill Melton. Mike's late father, Robert, is the former Bell and Howell CEO.

And finally: Chicago may have the largest Polish population this side of Warsaw and it may be a site for World Cup games next year. But Milwaukee, which isn't a venue, may be the U.S. base for Poland's team if it qualifies for the event. A Wisconsin Soccer Association delegation will meet Polish officials Friday to discuss the possibility of the team using an indoor-outdoor soccer facility being built in the Milwaukee suburbs.

The Inside Story

Court rules against Illini's Thomas

By William Grady Legal affairs writer

University of Illinois basketball star Deon Thomas was blocked Thursday in his bid to pursue a federal lawsuit against the former assistant coach at Iowa who secretly tape-recorded their conversations in

A three-judge panel of the federal appeals court in Chicago ruled against Thomas' request that the lawsuit be reinstated.

Instead, the court said Thomas could not use federal and state antieavesdropping laws to seek damages from Bruce Pearl, now head basketball coach at Southern Indiana in Evansville.

In another sports-related ruling this week, a separate three-judge appeals court panel threw out the conviction of former sports agent Norby Walters. Walters and colleague Lloyd Bloom were indicted in 1988 on charges they had compromised the NCAA eligibility of dozens of college football players.

at Chicago's Simeon High School, was at the center of a recruiting controversy in 1989 that led to an NCAA investigation of the Illini basketball program.

Illinois was punished as a result of charge of mail fraud while retaining

the investigation, although the most serious allegations were never proved.

Thomas, in turn, filed a federal lawsuit against Pearl, who had been attempting to recruit him for Iowa. The suit alleged the secret tape-recordings were an unlawful invasion of Thomas' privacy and a violation of federal and state wiretapping

The appeals court agreed with the result, though not the reasoning, of ruling by a U.S. District Court judge who dismissed the lawsuit last year. The appeals court said Thomas would be unable to prove that Pearl intended harm when he recorded the conversations.

Urbana lawyer Steven Beckett, who represents Thomas, said further appeals were possible, though no decision had been made.

In the other case, it was the second time an appeals court panel here has overturned Walters' con-

In September 1990, a three-judge Thomas, a 6-foot-9-inch sensation panel ruled that Walters and Bloom were denied a fair trial and overturned their conspiracy and racketeering convictions. Rather than stand trial again, both entered conditional guilty pleas to a lesser

the right to pursue appeals.

Walters and Bloom had been accused of offering cars and money to sign college athletes as clients before their eligibility had expired and then concealing those agreements from the schools. The two had hoped to cash in when it came time for the athletes to negotiate professional contracts.

NCAA rules prohibit athletes from entering into contracts with agents if they wish to retain their college eligibility.

On Wednesday, though, the appeals court ruled there was not enough evidence to sustain a mail fraud conviction. Writing for the panel, Judge Frank Easterbrook said there was no evidence Walte knew that colleges are required to mail eligibility forms to the NCAA, the underpinning of the charge.

"Walters is by all accounts a nasty and untrustworthy fellow," Easterbrook wrote, "but the prosecutor did not prove that his efforts to circumvent the NCAA's rules amounted to mail fraud."

The decision also could void the conviction of Bloom. Steven Molo, one of Bloom's lawyers, said that they will now seek

to withdraw the guilty plea and ask that the charges be dismissed.

The goal: Keep Sosa on even keel

DENVER-Sammy Sosa is on another one of his streaks seven homers, 16 RBIs in 11



games. He can't keep that up, but the key for him will be whether he can sustain a decent level of performance instead of getting hot for a week,

"He's come a long way," said manager Jim Lefebvre, "and he made it strictly on

then vanishing for two or

tools alone. "He just needs discipline. When he calms down and stays focused, you can see the improvement, but once he starts feeling good about himself, he gets out of that discipline."

That, said Lefebvre, is when he figures he can hit everything and winds up hitting nothing, piling up strikeouts.

"It's a constant battle to keep him focused," Lefebvre

Bullinger down: Jim Bullinger was returned to Triple-A lowa Thursday to make room for the returning Greg Hibbard, who will face the Rockies here Friday

Bullinger was 1-0 with a 7.36 earned-run average in seven games.

Shawn Boskie remains as insurance for now in case Hibbard or Mike Harkey, Monday's scheduled starter, has a setback.

Dunston update: "The last thing I talked to Shawon Dunston about," General Manager Larry Himes said Thursday, "was that he was going to come into town in July, see Dr. [Michael] Schafer, and if he's cleared we can get our game plan going as far as him joining our Rookie League club."

The visit should happen next

Different year I: Mark Grace, who played at San Diego State, on the state of the Padres:

"It was a tough ticket. You'd show up before the game, and the only thing you could get were outfield seats. Things have

"I feel sorry for Tony Gwynn. I hate to see him go through this. They've absolutely dismantled this ballclub, and I hate to see it."

Different year II: Grace reached 56 RBIs Wednesday in the Cubs' 76th game.

The first Cub to reach 56 last season was Sandberg, who did it on Aug. 9, in the team's 110th

Alan Solomon



Tribune photo by Michael Meinhardt Sox fans haven't forgotten Carlton Fisk, hanging his number from the upper deck at Comiskey Park during Thursday night's game.

Early return seen for Karkovice

Catcher Ron Karkovice could be ready to play as early as the middle of next week.



Karkovice separated his shoulder in a fall at first base on June 19 and was expected to miss three to six weeks. How-

ever, his progress is so good that he was able to throw and swing a bat for the first time before Thursday night's game.

"Saturday will be two weeks," said trainer Herm Schneider. "It won't be that soon, but it could be between 21/2 and 3 weeks."

Trade talks: General Manager Ron Schueler continues to work the phones in pursuit of a veteran pitcher. One quality name that could be available is Montreal righthander Dennis Martinez. The Expos have let it be known they would part with Martinez if they fall out of contention. They are 10 games back of the Phillies but gaining ground. Schueler says he talked with Montreal GM Dan Duquette about Martinez, but nothing is imminent.

No deal: Schueler dismissed a rumor making the rounds again that the Sox are close to a deal for Cincinnati pitcher Tim Belcher. "We have nothing going on with Cincinnati," said Schueler.

Winging 'em: Catcher Mike LaValliere has thrown out six of

eight baserunners since joining the Sox. He allowed two stolen bases in his first two starts and has thrown out six consecutive runners since. He was out of the starting lineup Thursday night because the Orioles started left-hander Jamie Moyer.

Robin's rest: Also out of the starting lineup for just the second time this season was third baseman Robin Ventura, who is 19 for 87 (.218) in his last 23 games. That's the second-worst slump of his career. In his first full season in 1990, he had an 0-for-41 drought.

"You go through bad stretches and you go through good stretches," said Ventura, who thought the night off would be good for his mind. "Then there are stretches where you're going good and your average is bad. It'll be OK."

Big bat: Frank Thomas crushed one of the longest drives of the year before the game. He launched a pitch from batting-practice hurler Mike Maziarka onto the concourse behind the left-field bleachers.

Pain-free: Reliever Terry Leach, who just went on the disabled list for the second time this season, threw in the outfield before Thursday's game.

"He said it's the first time he hasn't felt any pain at all since April," said pitching coach Jackie

Joey Reaves

Steve Nidetz On TV/radio sports

Players blamed

What seemed an innocent question to Dick Enberg earlier this week as to why interest has decreased in NBC's "Breakfast at Wimbledon" tennis weekend evidently struck a nerve.

The usually mild-mannered Enberg, who professes an endless love for the sport and the scene at the All-England Lawn Tennis and Cricket Club, angrily blamed the powers in men's tennis for keeping players such as Andre Agassi and Boris Becker from becoming anything more than household pests.

In the meantime, ratings for the network's live Wimbledon finals telecasts have dipped from a high of .7.9 with a 33 share for the 1981 John McEnroe-Bjorn Borg men's championship to a 5.3 and 19 for last year's Steffi Graf-Monica Seles women's match. Last year's two-weekend average of 4.4 and 16 actually was an increase over 1990 (3.4/13) and '91 (3.9/14).

Enberg said that while golf and bowling receive almost weekly coverage on network TV, "we get to the majors and the world is supposed to know these characters. But that's just part of it. Just as great is that the tennis community, primarily the men, has not been very cooperative in building an image that's likable.

"They're very quick to receive the merits and the high economic gain that comes from playing on television and from the commercial patches they wear," continued Enberg, who has broadcast practically every major sport there is. "But they're so uncooperative when it comes to trying to build a likable image. Of all the athletes I've covered in all sports, the tennis animal is the most difficult of all to get to know."

And Enberg was just warming up.

"And yet it's only them, it'd not like a whole team," Enberg said. "For the most part, just to be able to sit down for an hour . . . they won't keep the date. They haven't gone out of their way to popularize their sport. There doesn't seem to be a commitment to their sport the way there is in the NBA."

Enberg said the women players are more cooperative, but "that goes back to Billie Jean King. She handed the baton to Chris [Evert] and she handed it to Martina [Navratilova]. The top players in women's tennis do feel that responsibility, and that filters down to the younger kids."

Analyst Bud Collins, who has been Enberg's booth partner at Wimbledon since 1979, pointed the finger at the players' agents and their union, the Association of Tennis Professionals, for many of the problems.

"When I first started covering the game [in the '60s], they were glad you just talked to them," said Collins. "In the early years with NBC, if we asked someone to be interviewed, they'd walk off a cliff. You can sort of understand that they're now badgered a little bit [by all the coverage at Wimbledon], but on the other hand, it's money in their pockets. I'm ashamed on behalf of tennis, because it is my love, that these players have

gotten so very difficult. "They're closeted by their agents. They're given very bad advice. They're making so much money. Their feeling is, 'Who needs it?' I go back to the days of the Australians-Rod Laver, Roy Emerson, Ken Rosewall—they were marvelous. They would talk to you. They would go to dinner with you. They would even play with you. I don't find

anyone like that today. "This is a very real problem for the ATP. The ATP is really very afraid to guide the players. They're afraid the top guys will say, 'Well, we'll form our own group.' That crosses a lot of minds sometimes. When the ATP was founded [20 years ago], it was founded by very principled guys like Arthur Ashe, Stan Smith, John Newcombe, Cliff Drysdale. That's when it was a true players' union. Now it just runs the [men's] tour; the players have very little say. And they're doing a very bad job."

But, guys, why haven't you mentioned this on the telecast?

"I don't feel the public is interested in our problems," said Collins.

"Maybe through some other exposure, players will start to think about doing a better job with our public relations and building our own sport," said Enberg. "I did baseball for 12 years, and all you had to do was hang around the batting cage and you had 25 stories. They would all come and talk to you."

Bears coach or not, Mike Ditka will return to WSCR Radio this fall, hosting a weekly talk show at 4:30 p.m. Mondays and offering his commentary at 7:30 a.m. Mondays and Fridays. "He's a great addition," said program director Ron Gleason in making the announcement Thursday. "He was terrific last year and we think he'll be terrific again." WMAQ-Ch. 5, in conjunction with

McDonald's, is offering youngsters from 8 to 18 a chance to walk with Michael Jordan during his golf tournament in August. Winners of the "Walk with the Stars" contest will be announced starting Tuesday on Channel 5's "First Thing in the Morning." . . . Johnny Morris and Howard Sudberry will host the weekly "Arlington Weekend," a 30-minute show devoted to thoroughbreds, which debuts at 11 a.m. Sunday on WBBM-Ch. 2. ... TNT set another NBA record when Wednesday night's draft telecast had a 4.5 rating, breaking the mark of 3.7 set in 1989 and up 55 percent over last year's 2.9 To celebrate the holiday, WGN-Ch. 9 airs "Baseball's Funniest Bloopers" at 7 p.m. Saturday before the Cubs-Rockies telecast.

On this date

■ 1921: The Jack Dempsey-Georges Carpentier heavyweight match, before 80,183 at Rickard's Orchard in Jersey City, becomes the first million-dollar gate in

boxing history. Dempsey wins by knockout. 1933: The Giants' Carl Hubbell beats the Cardinals 1-0 in an 18-inning game, allowing six hits and no walks. 1941: The Yankees' Joe DiMaggio homers to extend his consecutive-game hitting streak to 45 games, surpassing Wee Willie Keeler's record of 44.

■ 1963: The Giants' Juan Marichal beats Milwaukee's Warren Spahn 1-0 in 16 innings on Willie Mays' homer. 1966: Billie Jean King wins the first of her six Wimbledon singles titles, defeating Maria Bueno.



'Of all the athletes I've covered in all sports, the tennis animal is the most difficult of all to get to know.

NBC's Dick Enberg

GIL THORP







WHAT?