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COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Kansas' recovery faces big test

Improved Jayhawks may not be ready for Florida St.

By Ed Sherman TRIBUNE NCAA FOOTBALL WRITER

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J.-Gale Sayers is Kansas' most famous football alumnus. However, Jayhawk coach Glen Mason would prefer the former Bear great be a quiet alum.

Mason is set Saturday to lead Kansas into what will be the team's biggest game in years. The Jayhawks will meet No. 1 Florida State in the Kickoff Classic in Giants Stadium.

It's the official start of the college football season, in front of a national television audience. That's pretty heady stuff for a program that was 1-10 as late as 1988.

Yet Sayers questions why Kansas is here. And he might have a point. The Jayhawks are 27-point underdogs, and the potential is for much worse from a high-powered Seminole offense. Kansas' defense could melt right into the Astro-Turf on what is expected to be a blistering hot day.

could discourage a lot of players." Mason responds by going into

the brave coach's rap about not being afraid of Florida State. Even if the likely disaster should occur, Mason believes it still will be worth the trip.

"Everyone has got a different opinion," Mason said. "Gale doesn't think we should play. I asked John Hadl [former Kansas quarterback and coach] if we should play. He said, 'I would consider you chicken if you didn't play.'"

First things first, Kansas wasn't the Kickoff Classic's first choice to pair up with Florida State. The Classic would have rather had a Michigan instead of a game with an almost four-touchdown point spread.

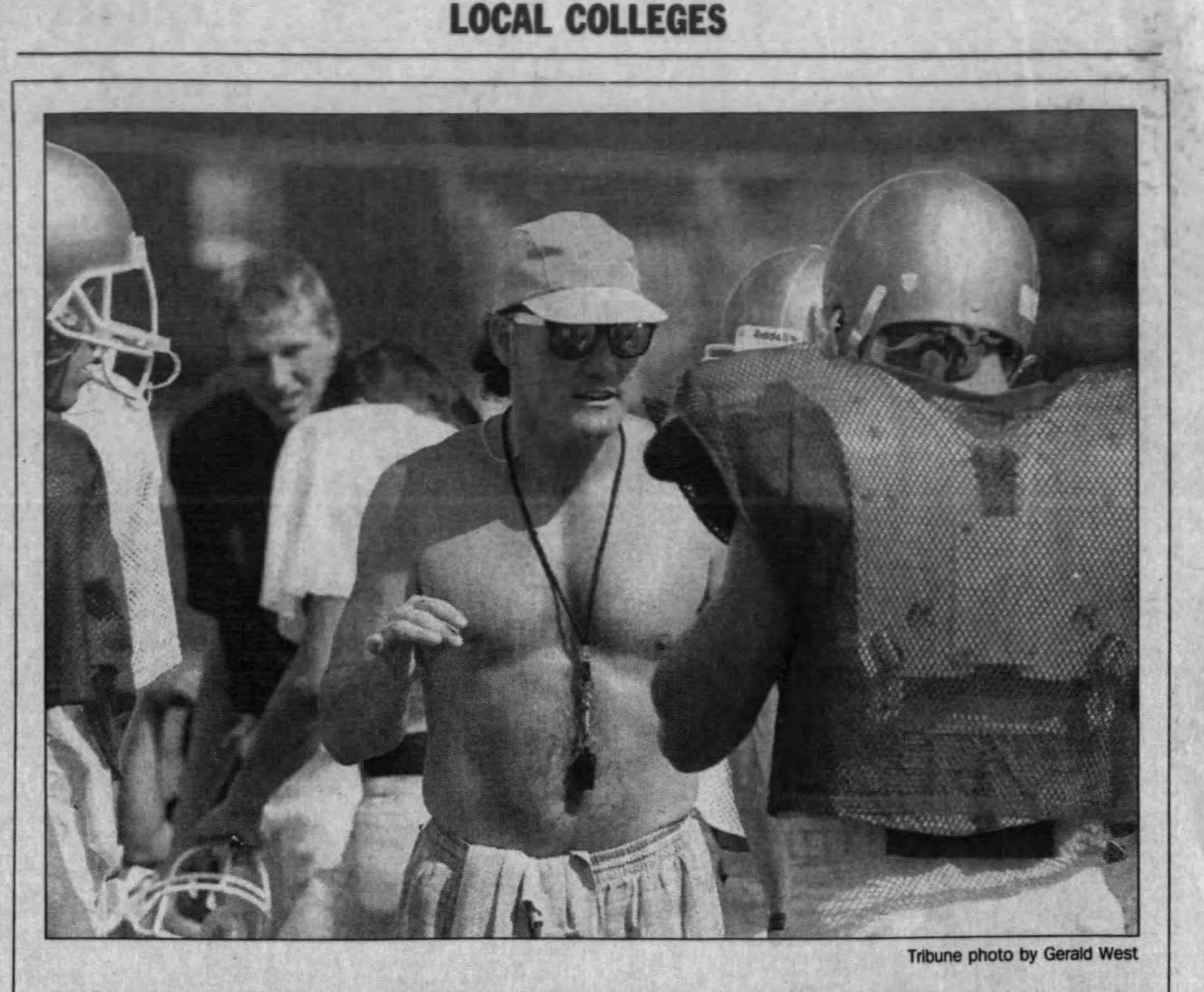
But teams are reluctant to take

was near the 95 limit. Mason said if the '93 team played the '88 team, "We'd be a 27-point favorite."

Mason slowly rebuilt the program after a disastrous first season. The Jayhawks broke through in 1991, finishing 6-5, and then enjoyed a big season in 1992. They routed Oklahoma 27-10, an unthinkable notion in the 1980s.

Kansas now serves as the inspiration to rebuilding programs everywhere, including the one at Northwestern.

"The program has gone from a loser to a winner to a bowl winner," Mason said. "Most of our fans think if we don't have a winning season, they'll be disappointed. They used to be happy if we could put 11 players out there without taking a delay-of-game penalty."



The Jayhawks were 8-4 last year, including a victory over Brigham Young in the Aloha Bowl. But to Sayers, taking on the Seminoles might be too much too soon, especially since one of their 1992 defeats was a 49-7 drubbing by Nebraska. He stated his concerns earlier this month.

"I'm not going to say it's going to kill your program," Sayers said. "But I am saying Florida State has a tremendous team, and if Kansas comes in and gets beat 40-zip, it

on an extra game, let alone an opponent like Florida State. So the Classic found Kansas, a program that hungers for exposure. A big six-figure payday also doesn't

hurt.

"Back in 1988 [Mason's first year], there was talk of dropping football," Mason said. "Now we've gone to a bowl game and been offered a game like this. Who can pass this up?"

Indeed, it is a credit to the Kansas program and Mason they are in this position. Back in 1988, the Jayhawks were at the bottom of the football food chain.

Kansas had just over 50 scholarship players, while everyone else

Mason made it happen, and now he is one of the hottest coaches in college football. He's so hot that for the last couple of years he has had to put down rumors that he will replace John Cooper at Ohio State, where he was once an assistant coach.

That's talk for another day, not August. However, should Mason and the Jayhawks pull off the upset Saturday, he will be able to write his own ticket anywhere.

"I told the guys that they came here to play college football," Mason said. "Some guys never get the opportunity to play in a game like this. When you do, you thank God and make the best of it."

No leads in death of former agent

MALIBU, Calif. (AP)-Authorities were able to release only sketchy information Friday night about how former sports agent Lloyd Bloom was killed, other than he was found shot to death at his Malibu home.

Bloom, 36, was found Thursday morning by a family acquaintance who had come to check on him, said Benita Hinojos, a sheriff's department spokeswoman.

Bloom was shot several times in the upper body, Hinojos said,

but no weapon was found. She said nothing obvious indicated a break-in, and nothing apparent was missing from **Bloom's** home along Pacific Coast Highway.

"There's nothing else I can tell you," Hinojos said.

Bloom and partner Norby Walters were convicted in 1989 of racketeering and other charges relating to attempts to sign college football players as clients while the players were still eligible to play.

The jury foreman in that case said the players' schools, including Iowa and Michigan State of the Big 10, were partly to blame because they were lax in following eligibility rules.

An appeals court reversed the convictions a year later.

Bloom and Walters later entered conditional guilty pleas to two counts of using the mails to defraud the players' schools. Those convictions were overturned in June.

St. Francis' new offensive coordinator, Jim Boyter, instructs players during a recent practice.

St. Francis steps up again

Saints tackle **Division II with** hopeful Gillespie

By John Owens SPECIAL TO THE TRIBUNE

Eight years ago, the College of St. Francis didn't even have a

football team. This year, the Fighting Saints make the move from NAIA Division I to NCAA Division II. At

the same time, they leave the independent ranks to take their place in the Midwest Intercollegiate Football Conference (MIFC).

So is anyone worried about taking on too much too soon?

"I think it's inspiring for us to start in a new league," head coach Gordie Gillespie said. "Sure, we're not playing any weak teams, but we've always played a quality schedule and we've held our own. I think we'll

high school championships as a football coach at Joliet Catholic and, most notably, 1,347 victories as a college baseball coach—the most wins for any college baseball coach living or dead, active or retired.

Now, in what may be his final season before retirement, the 67year-old Gillespie is bent on building another winner.

The Fighting Saints finished a disappointing 4-5 in 1992. That mediocre mark, however, can be partly attributed to a rugged independent schedule that featured only three home games and ended with six straight contests on the road. And the road trips weren't easy—long bus rides to schools in Kentucky, Iowa, Minnesota and Nebraska.

"It was more mentally and physically fatiguing," recalled senior offensive guard Jim Quinn. "We were in good shape, but when you have to sit on a bus for 12 hours, it affects you." But that changes with the new conference schedule this year. The other schools in the MIFC are in Michigan, Indiana and Ohio. "The furthest trip is our first one to Ashland," Gillespie said. "After that, the trips are usually four hours. For us, a four-hour trip is like a home game." Gillespie will field a veteran team, with 16 starters returning from last year. Nine of those returnees are on offense, including senior quarterback Paul Myzska (64 completions in 150 attempts for 1,014 yards). Myzska, who also rushed for 353 yards last year, leads the Fighting Saints' double wing/option offense. The key to this scheme is the team's offensive line, which features five returning starters, including the 6-foot-5-inch Quinn and 6-4 senior offensive tackle Mike Gavin, both preseason All-American candidates.

Boyter to get more production out of his backfield. Last season's leading rusher, fullback Tyrone Isaac (119 carries for 627 yards), decided not to return, and starting tailback Mike Seneker graduated.

Seneker will be replaced by his backup, Steve Tomczak, younger brother of Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Mike Tomczak. Taking over for Isaac at fullback will be senior Mike Nunziato (469 yards rushing last year).

On defense, the Fighting Saints will be led by senior defensive tackle Tom Ellickson, a second-team NAIA All-American last year. Ellickson, a Lincoln-Way graduate, led St. Francis with 10 quarterback hurries and finished third on the team with 48 tackles.

Senior free safety Matt Woods (a team-leading 64 tackles last year) and senior defensive end Tom Zoretic (31 tackles last year) also return for the Fighting Saints, who will again feature the blitzing "46" defense, originated by Houston Oilers defensive coordinator Buddy Ryan during his tenure with the Bears. "[Defensive coordinator] Mike Slovick probably knows more about the '46' than any other guy besides Buddy Ryan," Gillespie said. Gillespie hopes that the combination of an exciting defense and a new conference will account for more people in the stands during home games at Joliet Memorial Stadium. Still, he is realistic. "You'd like to think this would attract more people to the stands, but when we played Central State last year we only had 4,000 people when we should have had 40,000," he said. "You'd like to think that more fans would come to the games. "But this is more of a high school town, with Joliet Catholic

HORSE RACING

Offspring pick up where legends left off

By Neil Milbert TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Alydar is dead, but his rivalry with Affirmed will live on Saturday at Arlington International Racecourse, where Aquilegia will attempt to upset Flawlessly in the \$500,000 Grade I Beverly D.

Aquilegia is a daughter of Alydar, runner-up in all three 1978 Triple Crown races. Flawlessly is the daughter of Affirmed, who conquered Alydar and became the 11th and most recent Triple Crown winner.

Flawlessly, from California, will go into the world's richest grass race for fillies and mares after winning 11 of her 14 grass races. She is the 6-5 favorite on the morning line.

Aquilegia, from New York, has won five of 10 races on turf is the fourth choice at 6-1.

Let's Elope is the 5-2 second choice in the seven-horse race followed by Via Borghese at 3-1. Let's Elope moved to California after being Australia's Horse of the Year in 1990 and 1991. Via Borghese won three of her

four races last year in Ireland and has captured five of seven since moving to the United States this year. In her most recent start, she set a Rockingham turf-course record for 1¹/₈ miles in winning a Grade III race.

In harness racing at Sportsman's Park, Hambletonian runner-up Pine Chip and Hambletonian Oaks winner Winky's Goal will head their respective fields for the \$220,000 American-National 3-year-old colt trot and its \$174,000 sister race.

do OK."

St. Francis opens its season against Ashland (Ohio) on Sept. , the first conference game for the previously independent Fighting Saints. The MIFC placed three teams in the Division II playoffs last year-Grand Valley State, Ferris State (both of Michigan) and Butler.

The reason Gillespie is unfazed by a difficult conference schedule is because he has made sure his team has faced strong competition like perennial NAIA **Division I power Central State** (Ohio) the last few years. And Gillespie is no neophyte small college coach.

During the last 43 years, Gillespie has been a head coach for baseball, basketball and football teams in the Chicago area at the high school and college levels. His accomplishments are undeniable: four NAIA championships as a college baseball coach at Lewis University and the College of St. Francis, five state new offensive coordinator Jim and Providence being so good."

Still, it will be a challenge for

Million

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1. That's right where Evanescent's trainer, Lou Goldfine, expected him.

"There are only four or five horses who are going to get any action," Goldfine said. "The big two [Star of Cozzene and Lure] will get the majority of the play."

McAnally took exception to Johann Quatz's being dismissed as a long shot.

Secretariat Stakes comment

Sunday.

TV/radio: ESPN, 5-6 p.m. (tape delay will be part of Million telecast package) Conditions: 1¼-mile grass race for 3-year-olds. **Purse:** \$400,000; \$240,000 for the winner.

PP	Horse	Country	Jockey	Odds	Comment
11	Strolling Along	U.S.	Mike Smith	7-2	N.Y. races very good
5	Earl of Barking	U.S.	Corey Black	5-1	Best from the West
12	A In Sociology	U.S.	Earlie Fires	6-1	A in early speed
2	Explosive Red	U.S.	Shane Sellers	6-1	American Derby hero
14	Smarginato	England	Jose Santos	6-1	Possible darkhorse
9	Awad	U.S.	Jorge Velasquez	10-1	Occasionally in hunt
4	Brazany	France	Kent Desormeaux	12-1	From Boutin's barn
13	Palashall	U.S.	Lanfranco Dettorri	15-1	N.Y. form lukewarm
6	Snake Eyes	U.S.	Gantt Gomez	20-1	6 for 7 on turf
10	Newton's Law	U.S.	Corey Nakatani	20-1	Took 3 in England
1	Lt. Pinkerton	U.S.	Wigberto Ramos	20-1	Sometimes in charge
8	Lykatill Hil* [CQ]	U.S.	Jack Kaenel	30-1	Good Calif. races
3	Northern Injun*	U.S.	Curt Bourque	30-1	Won 3 minor stakes
7	Tabasco Cid*	U.S.	Shane Laviolette	30-1	Ex-claimer likes turf
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North Park player dies of head injury

By Joe Knowles TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

James Morgan, a 19-year-old freshman football player at North Park College, died Friday after becoming ill at practice Thursday

head injury.

"There was no noticeable contact as far as I could see," said Rucks. "This was a routine drill. The whole thing is unexplainable."

North Park spokesperson Patty

strictive medical history.

"All our players go through physical checkups," said Rucks. Morgan was born in Chicago and graduated from Lincoln Park High School last year. He was twice named Lincoln Park's most valuable football player. He was trying to make the North Park squad as a linebacker. "This is a tough thing for the team to take," said Rucks. "These are still young men, and this will be a time of grief and questioning for all of them." Visitation for Morgan will be from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. Sunday and at 9:15 a.m. Monday at Cooney Funeral Home, 3552 N. Southport Ave. Funeral mass will be said at 10 a.m. Monday at St. Gregory Church, 1634 W. Gregory St. Jerry Crimmins and Rob Jones contributed to this report.

"I think the oddsmaker was a bit generous at 20-1," he said. "Some people are already on the phone trying to get some money down at that price."

Last year in France, Johann Quatz competed at the highest level. Among his three victories in eight starts was a Group I race at Longchamp. Since moving to McAnally's barn in California this year, Johann Quatz has posted two wins, a place and a show. Last time out, he won Hollywood's 1¹/₈-mile Fiddle Isle Handicap by four lengths.

Since running ninth in last year's Million, Star of Cozzene has performed won six of 10 races from coast to coast and running second in each of his defeats.

Lure has six wins and three places in nine grass races. He won his first two jousts with Star of Cozzene, then was a competitive second in the next two, fading in the stretch. In all four races, Lure went off as the favorite.

One of the losses came at the Million distance of 1¹/₄ miles. But trainer Shug McGaughey isn't as concerned about the distance as he is about the condition of the grass.

*--Mutuel field (a bet on one is a bet on all three). (Odds are Arlington morning line)

"He's definitely better on a firm course," McGaughey said.

Accompanying Lure to Arlington is Strolling Along, pegged as the 7-2 favorite Sunday in the day's other Grade I race, the \$400,000 Secretariat Stakes for 3year-olds.

Unlike Lure, who runs fast in the early going, Strolling Along does his best running in the stretch.

But the two also have a lot in common. Both are sons of Danzig out of Alydar mares, and Strolling Along's career is following the same direction as Lure's.

"This spring Strolling Along wasn't living up to expectations on the dirt, and it was in the back

of my mind all along to switch him to the turf because of Lure last year," McGaughey said. "After Strolling Along ran so poorly in the Withers, I decided to make the move to the grass, and it has worked out very well."

Since finishing 10th in the Withers May 5 at Belmont, Strolling Along has recorded a win, two places and a show.

In contrast to the Million, the 1¹/₄-mile Secretariat will have 14 contestants and seems a wideopen affair. A In Sociology, a New Yorker who defeated Strolling Along last time out, and California stakes winner Earl of Barking are the second choices on the morning line at odds of 5-1;

morning.

According to head coach Tim Rucks, Morgan was participating in a kickoff-coverage drill Thursday when he became dizzy and disoriented. Morgan was removed from practice, and paramedics were summoned.

"We sat him in the shade until we could get some help," said Rucks. "He seemed fine up until that point."

The paramedics took Morgan to Illinois Masonic Hospital, where he was pronounced dead at 3:12 p.m. Friday. According to Rucks, the cause of death was listed as a

Wigand said that Morgan apparently was not taken to nearby Swedish Covenant Hospital because paramedics determined he needed a full-service trauma unit.

"Evidently, the paramedics felt that he needed a neurologist right away," said Wigand.

Pamela Bauers, nursing supervisor at Illinois Masonic, confirmed that Morgan was being treated for a head injury. She said the cause of death would be determined by the Cook County Medical Examiner.

Rucks said that, to his knowledge, Morgan had no previous re-

