COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Florida St. probes charge of payoffs

By Ed Sherman TRIBUNE COLLEGE FOOTBALL WRITER

Florida State might have some. tarnish thrown on its national football championship.

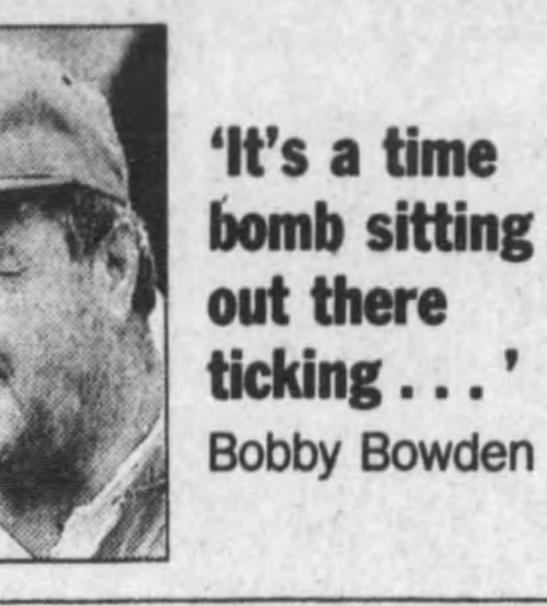
The school announced Saturday it would investigate allegations that as many as nine players received cash and merchandise from a representative of an agent while playing on last year's title team. It is against NCAA rules for a player to accept any inducements from an agent before the completion of his eligibility.

If the NCAA can prove the school knew or should have known of the rules violations, Florida State would be subject to penalties, including forfeiting victories. School officials said Saturday they were unaware of any problems and that they had a proper compliance program in place. Twice a year, Florida State requires each player to sign a form stating they didn't take any money from an agent. It is highly unlikely anything will happen to affect Florida State's status as national champion. The NCAA doesn't conduct a championship in football and wouldn't have any jurisdiction to strip the Seminoles of a title they won in the polls.

Florida State confirmed the involvement of two players Saturday, although the names weren't disclosed. It stressed Heisman Trophy winner Charlie Ward wasn't involved.

"We have learned there were indeed some problems we need to address," said Sandy D'Alemberte, president of the university. "We've only begun the investigation. There are a great deal of things we don't know."

Florida State was made aware of the charges by Sports Illustrated, which reportedly is planning a story on agents. Two of its writers, including Doug Looney, who co-wrote a book last fall portraying Notre Dame coach Lou Holtz negatively, contacted school officials for reaction. The writers wouldn't give the school any



focus on the players, not the school. If the players involved were underclassmen, they could lose their eligibility.

"Everyone is quick to say a school will have to forfeit games," said Richard Hilliard, NCAA director of enforcement, who wouldn't talk directly about the case. "It's hardly a certainty. The question is, 'Did the school know?""

Last year, Alabama all-America cornerback Antonio Langham took money from an agent. He was suspended for his final two games, but the school incurred no sanctions. Also, when it was revealed numerous players received illegal payments from agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom,

No smallies? Try (ahem) carp

OUTDOORS

Bass angler finds lively action fly fishing for Old Buglemouth

RANKLIN GROVE, III.-**Mike Haines of Kingston** carefully floated his long strand of yellow fly line onto the still water, but the big fish took a lazy look, turned tail and casually swam away.

Another humiliating rejection on picturesque Franklin Creek, maybe the prettiest smallmouth bass factory in northern Illinois.

We came Monday to convince the smallies that crystal-clear water along with a 20-degree temperature drop were no reasons to reject honest baits. But now we had a cold shoulder even from an arrogant carp.

As president of the newly formed Illinois Smallmouth Alliance, Haines may not like folks to know he's really a carp man at heart. But good anglers know Old Buglemouth can be a wonderful adversary, especially when fly fishing for other species becomes little more than exercise.

John Husar **ON THE OUTDOORS**



mer dog days can be hard on those who like to fish small, clear streams for smallmouth and rock bass. Heat seems to drive those bass into hiding until the air cools near the end of the day.

"That's when I switch to carp," Haines said. "You can wade out in midday in your gym shoes and shorts and have a ball. Those carp'll be active throughout the day. I'd say most people have no idea carp can be caught on flies, but I've had days when I've caught plenty. And they give you



names. "We're trying to find the people they talked to," said a athletic department official. "We're stabbing

in the dark right now." The Tallahassee Democrat reported several players spent up to \$6,000 during a shopping spree at a local mall with money from an agent. The school still isn't exactly sure which agent was involved. If history is an indication, any potential penalties probably will

none of the schools involved was penalized.

The Florida State situation underscored the agent problem facing many campuses.

"This is something you're so afraid is going to happen," said Florida State coach Bobby Bowden. "It's a time bomb sitting out there ticking, ticking, ticking—and you hope that big old hand doesn't hit our number. It hit our number."

Haines unveiled his deadly "carp fly"-a loosely tied yellow woolly bugger that looks suspiciously like a kernel of corn.

"Caught a 28-inch 8-pounder last summer on the Kishwaukee with that," he said with a flush of pride. "That's what we Flatlanders do when it gets tough."

Haines explained that late sum-



a lot of action. The smaller ones of 2 and 3 pounds will jump."

Haines said he was stunned when he first caught a carp on a little yellow stone fly nymph while fishing for rainbows near Rock Falls and the thing took a big leap.

"Usually, it's just one leap, then they bear down," he said.

The nice thing about fishing clear streams for carp is you sometimes can see them finning in midpool and accordingly plan your cast. A good quartering toss will plop the bait a few feet ahead of the fish and to one side, then slowly intersect with the quarry. Put a bait in front of a carp and twitch it just right and you'll often be in for a fight.

But this was not the time to think of carp, with smallies lurking in almost every hole of Franklin Creek. This Rock River tributary a few miles east of Dixon is one of Illinois' leastknown splendid fisheries, although this time it was troubled by extremely low water, which meant you had to hike from pool to pool to do any serious angling.

The stream winds for 6 miles through the rock-walled wonders of Franklin Creek State Park, complete with caves and overhangs. This beautiful nature preserve is a tribute to grass-roots activism. Faced with the threat of development, local residents several years ago forced the state to accelerate its purchase schedule, thereby preserving a bona fide treasure. The pristine, riffly stream is only one of Franklin Creek's crowning jewels. Its bottomland floodplain routinely nourishes one of the finer spreads of wildflowers I have seen in any spring. Right now, acres of creek bottom are carpeted with calf-deep Virginia bluebells, so bright they'll hurt your eyes. Or were those merely tears of rapt appreciation? Flowers of every hue stand in thick communities, including the wild geranium. It's the kind of place where each time you move

to a spot, you first perch on a log and drink in the scene before wetting a line.

"I knew this was a special piece of habitat, but my mind hadn't played it up to be this good," marveled state fisheries chief Mike Conlin, fishing the creek for his first time. "It is marvelous."

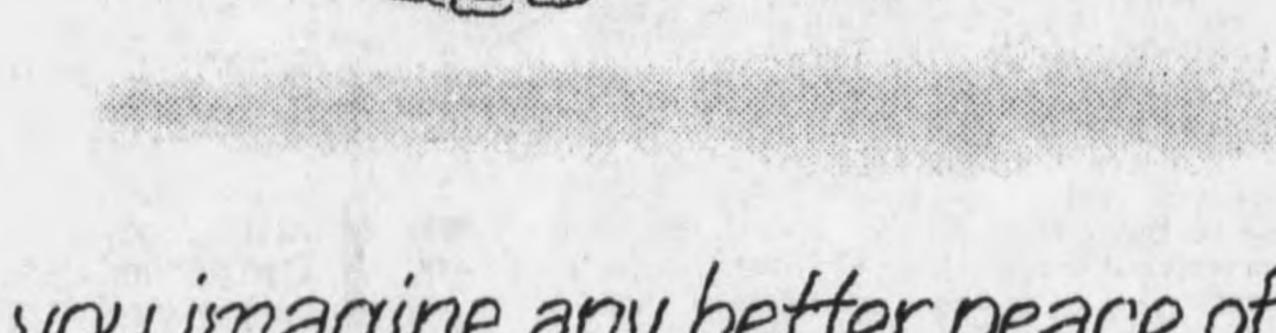
Our group, guided by regional fisheries guru Pete Paladino, divided the creek into three sections to avoid overcrowding. Each bunch accordingly fished about 2 miles of stream. Everyone caught smallies, particularly late in the day when the sun warmed the water. I had a nice 11-incher on a Beetle spin, plus several battling rock bass of acceptable pan size.

Dale Ludewig of De Kalb had the best results farther upstream—six smallies on a blackish Clouser fly, four from a single hole. Fellow outdoor writer Les Davenport, who ran out of patience with artificial baits, did a number on both smallies and carp with nightcrawler pieces on a gold hook slowly drifted through deeper holes.

Several fellows even nailed fat, angry creek chubs on flies and artificials, which has to be the last word in ultralight fishing.

"I remember as a kid going down to the pasture and catching creek chubs and bullhead," Conlin reminisced.

There were enough suicidal chubs in Franklin Creek to make one begin to think of ways to cook them, or at least pickle them in chunks like herring. Why not?



Can you imagine any better peace of mind than taking your car or truck to a GM Goodwrench Service Plus dealer?

I went back to Franklin Creek again Wednesday with my wife and got chewed out for not discovering the place years ago.

"It's so beautiful here it makes you want to cry," she trilled.

I solemnly nodded. Of course, I already knew that.

Franklin Creek State Park is best reached from Franklin Grove on Ill. Hwy. 38. Go north on a county road and follow the signs. Trail and stream maps are located in the parking lots on either side.

Woods and waters

Illinois is well on its way to another spring turkey record, with 4,252 gobblers bagged in the first three seasons. With seasonal tallies of 1,651, 1,326 and 1,275 so far, hunter success is up by 12, 18.3 and 10 percent, discounting the five new counties. "It has been an exceptional spring," said DOC forest game manager Paul Shelton. He said 70 to 75 percent of Illinois' counties have shown increased harvests. Among the new counties, Morgan has a 42 percent hunter success rate.

Local kid does good: Riding high atop the list of amateurs in last week's Profes sional Walleye Tour opener on Lake Erie was David Zurawski of Bloomingdale, at 19 the youngest of 308 pros and amateurs in the tourney. He helped boat 112.02 pounds of fish in three days of fishing with different pros-Gary Parsons, Andy Pacer and Bill Vojak. The Glenbard North High School graduate borrowed money from his older brother to pay the \$395 entry fee and went home with a fully equipped boat. A two-time American

with basser Roger Davis at 6:30 p.m. May 18 at Elgin Community College.

This 'n' that: "Big Jim" Drury's pals on Shabbona Lake pitched in to dedicate a nifty park bench in his memory last Sunday. The late guide and tackle master was honored by the Shabbona Lake Sportsmen's Club, the De Kalb County Anglers and Quad Counties Hawg Hunters. This has been a so-so year for morel mushrooms in Illinois. A few spots in Central Illinois have seen nice returns, but the northern part of the state has been iffy. Give them another week or two before you shrug them off for the season. ... Ed Zalig of Countryside was stunned to catch a 14-inch muskie last Monday while fishing nightcrawlers for bass in Sag Quarry East. "It would be a pretty place to fish," he observed, "if not for the fact it has become a trash heap. The forest preserves really should clean it up." ... The newly formed Chicagoland Bank Anglers have another organizational meeting slated for 9 a.m. next Saturday at Daley Bicentennial Plaza's field house, 337 E. Randolph. Call 312-902-2535, evenings. . Chuck Wonderlich of Richmond Hunt Club has been named honorary director of the Illinois Association of Hunting Preserves for his years of fundraising and organizational support. ... Donations are being sought for the Ruffed Grouse Society's fundraising auction on June 2 at the Arlington Park Hilton. Call 708-566-0708. Book beat: Richard P. Thiel's scholarly volume, "The Timber Wolf in Wisconsin: The Death and Life of a Majestic Predator" (University of Wisconsin Press, \$17.95), clinically describes almost everything one may wish to know about this creature's experience in Wisconsin, supported by a forward from wolf expert L David Mech. In another important nature release, photographer Mitsuaki Iwago's 'Whales'' (Chronicle Press, \$17.95) is a bargain for its stunning photos. Ditto for "Wild Babies," by Nan Richardson and Catherine Chermayeff (Chronicle Press, \$14.95), which captures the wonders of 36 species from armadillo and bee to musk ox and shark. The latter would be a terrific gift for kids.

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Fishing Association ice champ, Zurawski hopes to turn pro.

Local pros not so hot: Except for Mike Norris' \$12,500 check for second place, Illinois pros fared poorly in the Lake Erie PWT event. Mike Gofron of Antioch just missed a check in 29th place, Bill Kulka of Oak Forest was 39th and Bill Vojak of Round Lake Beach was 45th. Eight others failed to make the top 50. ... Imagine boating 99.55 pounds of walleyes and not qualifying for a check. That was the cutoff just missed by Kent Hutcheson of Pierre, S.D., who was penalized .20 of a pound when two of his fish were weighed dead on the final day. It seems his livewell had been left open and his amateur partner stepped into it, crushing a pair of fish. ... Norris, incidentally, is grateful for having an athlete's quick grasp of things. When last Thursday's 8-foot waves pitched him into the splash well at the rear of his boat, he grabbed for the outboard engine and hung on. "Thank God it was there, or I'd have gone overboard," he said. ... Norris has expanded his outdoor communication skills to include the Kane County Chronicle, where he replaces the late Ken Stage. He also plans a three-hour fishing seminar

John Husar

Walton League report lauds hunter behavior

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ATLANTA-Trespassing is the single most significant form of irresponsible hunter behavior, according to a report by the Izaak Walton League of America.

But overall, behavior of U.S. hunters is good and getting better, the league said. The report, based on a nationwide survey of state fish and wildlife agencies, cited hunter-education courses as the No. 1 factor in the trend.