Classified Ads, 8-13D







Gazette sports columnist

Addition by subtraction

oday is Opening Day, although the opener isn't until tonight. The sport is baseball, by the way. You may remember it. Bats, gloves, Darryl Strawberry.

Bats and gloves, anyway. Baseball is using a 144-game schedule as opposed to its normal 162. That's on the heels of the National Hockey League teams employing 48-game slates instead

of their usual 84-game seasons.

Those shortened schedules were caused by bad things like strikes and lockouts, but they're good ideas. It still isn't baseball weather in many cities, so starting the season three weeks later than usual seems rational. And 84 games to eliminate only 10 of the NHL's 26 teams from the postseason seems a bit much.

Which brings us to the NBA, which begins its playoffs this week. Michael Jordan would probably again become a full-time player if the league cut its schedule in half. Every regular-season game would seem crucial, except those involving the Minnesota Timberwolves.

This batch of NBA playoffs could be memorable. Will Jordan's Bulls get past Charlotte in the first round? Past Orlando in the second round? Past New York or Indiana in the Eastern finals? Past San Antonio, Utah, Seattle or Phoenix in the league finals?

Is this Phoenix's year at last? Is it New York's? Can Seattle rebound from its embarrassing first-round loss to Denver a year ago? If Utah is ever to win it all, isn't this the year? Are the Lakers for real? Shouldn't Indiana again be feared in the playoffs?

Whither Houston? And then, there's Shaq.

Baseball better enjoy its first couple of days in the sun, because basketball will cast a large shadow through mid-June. The real Opening Night is Thursday, when the NBA playoffs begin.

ALL OF WHICH leads to football. The NFL draft takes two whole days. The first round seems to take two whole days. But now it's over. How did the Midwest teams do?

Louis is in the NFL. The Cardinals — I mean, the Rams - picked offensive guard Jesse James of Mississippi.

and robbed St. Louis of millions. an excellent draft. The Bears are only

the Bears when they have a great running back, and Rashaan Salaam could be one.

Virginia. Sauerbrun averaged over 60 yards a punt in West Virginia's loss to did a lot of kicking that day.

Green Bay's first pick was defensive back Craig Newsome of Arizona State. He has to be better than the guy they got rid of at that spot, Terrell Buckley.

to the New York Giants for Herschel Walker. Are the guys the Vikings got

Speaking of Mortensen, in this space Sunday I mentioned his 1991 book, "Playing For Keeps." It is the story of how the U.S. Justice Department got sports agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom convicted for conspiracy and

Big Ten commissioner Wayne Duke as saying some Iowa football players, incusatory toward former Walters/Bloom client Ronnie Harmon after Harmon lost four fumbles in the 1986 Rose Bowl.

"That's not right," Long said Monday. "I have never, ever been angry at Ron ie Harmon, and I will defend him to this day. It was just one of those games."

Bender hopes for big Bills in Buffalo

Coe record-holder signs as free agent

> By Mark Dukes Gazette sports editor

Carey Bender doesn't believe Marv Levy is just being kind to a fellow Kohawk.

Bender, the Coe College star running back who holds 25 NCAA football

Eagles sign Lillibridge, 3D

Rollins

playing,

laughing

Fresh start eases

from last season

By Jim Ecker

Gazette sportswriter

No. 44 when he prac-

ticed with the Universi-

ernon Rollins wore

ty of Iowa football team last

which probably isn't a big

Except for one thing.

fall. Now he's wearing No. 56,

Rollins would like to forget

the turmoil from last fall, his

first on the U of I campus. He

got embroiled in an academic

He was at the Cedar Rapids

airport, on the verge of trans-

ferring to Syracuse, when Io-

wa coaches fetched him and

brought him back to campus,

violating a minor NCAA rule

Coach Hayden Fry wanted

to use the true freshman at

the time all the academic

linebacker last season, but by

hoops had been cleared it was

mid-season. Rollins elected to

redshirt, preserving a full year

It was a tough season for

No. 44, and symbolically (at

least) he's tossed that old jer-

doesn't want to dwell in the

sey aside. He's No. 56 now and

"I really don't want to even

talk about that," he said Satur-

day after starting at lineback-

er for the No. 1 unit in the an-

nual spring game at Kinnick

Stadium. "That's in the past.

Fry has been raving about

Rollins since the first day he

arrived on campus. Fry thinks

Rollins is so good, he had the

6-foot-3, 225-pound rookie pen-

linebacker last summer before

"He's the best freshman

By J.R. Ogden

Gazette assistant sports editor

performances, but never more sat-

Jay Thornton has had better

A University of Iowa junior

ciled in as a second-string

training camp began.

I'm just having fun right

IOWA FOOTBALL

quagmire and nearly quit

school in disgust.

along the way.

of eligibility.

frustrations

records, Monday signed a free-agent National Football League contract with Buffalo. The Bills' coach is Levy, a 1950 Coe graduate.

"I think they have too much invest-

PRO FOOTBALL

ed for that to happen," Bender said. "They are obviously there to win. But it probably helps to know some peo-

Levy watched Bender play last October against Monmouth during Coe's Hall of Fame and homecoming weekend. Bender rushed for 238 yards on 20 carries and scored four touchdowns in a 57-16 Kohawk victory.

"We didn't talk much football at the time," Bender said. "He did congratulate me on what I'd done."

·Four other teams — Colts, Chiefs, 49ers and Broncos - inquired about Bender Monday. But Bender liked the

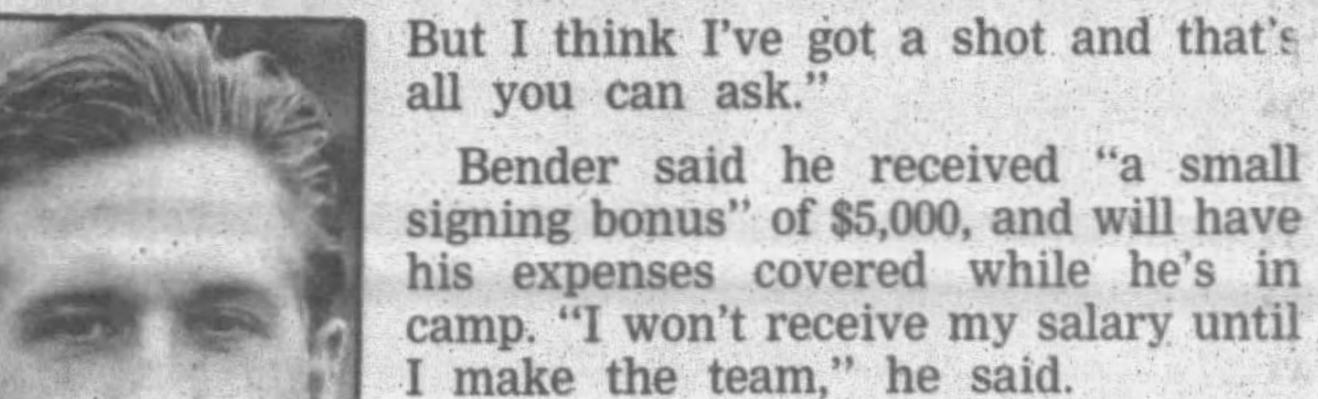
"Of course, Thurman Thomas is the main man. But Kenneth Davis is retiring and Coach Levy said to be ready to do about anything," Bender said. "Wherever can get on the field, it doesn't matter. I'm not

that big a name

to be picky.



"I don't know much about all of it.



Under his contract, he will receive "basically the minimum they pay" the first two years, then can renogiate, Bender said.

The agreement, secured by agent Phil Maggio of Gainesville, Fla., "went real smoothly," Bender said. "It was

easier than picking a college." Coe Coach D.J. LeRoy can tell Bender a little about what is ahead. LeRoy,

Turn to 3D: Bender

reject offer

Replacements ready to work tonight's offer

NEW YORK (AP) - Major league umpires rejected the latest offer from owners, making it likely replacements will be working the delayed season opener tonight.

"At this stage, the way these negotiations have proceeded, it's unlikely we will be able to reach an accord tomorrow," umpires' union head Richie Phillips said Monday night. The board of the umpires'

union rejected the offer 9-0

BASEBALL

during a 2-hour, 10-minute conference call.

In 1991, the sides settled just a few hours before the first pitch, so there still was a slight chance for an agreement today. But both sides were clearly pessimistic. Owners have locked out the umpires since Jan. 1, the day after their four-year agreement expired.

"It's with regret that we can't make a deal," management negotiator Robert Kheel said. "We would rather have the disruption at the present time, however unattractive that may be, rather than at a time of the association's choos-

Following the players' 232day strike, the last thing owners wanted was another labor confrontation. Players indicated their support for the umpires but said they would play. Umpires intend to picket tonight's opener in Miami between the Los Angeles Dodgers and the Florida Marlins.

"We've been in constant contact with the players' association over the past several weeks," Phillips said from his

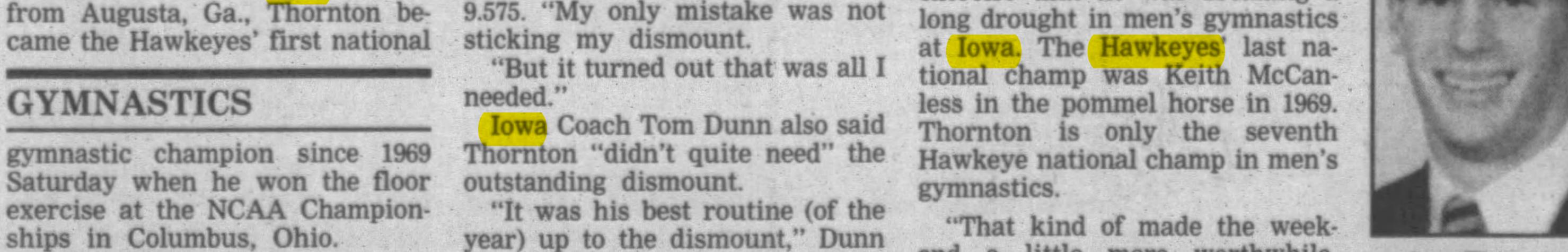
Let games begin, 2D

home outside Philadelphia. "The position of the players" association has not been made. yet absolutely clear. That's something I think that we'll both announce tomorrow."

The leagues are proposing a raise in starting salaries to \$70,000 from \$60,000. The top of the scale calls for the pay of a 30-year veteran to rise to \$215,000 from \$175,000.

In their last public proposal, umpires asked for starting pay of \$85,000 with a top scale of \$240,000. "What they're doing here is

just trying to throw sand in people's eyes," Phillips said.



Turn to 4D: Thornton



Gazette photo by L.W. Ward

said. "I feel the out-of-season

Fry thought Rollins looked

good Saturday. "When he hits

you, man, you can tell it," he

said. "He's so big and power-

Rollins was a SuperPrep, Pa-

■ Turn to 3D: Rollins

program helped me."

Jay Thornton · National champ

TODAY'S TIPOFF

TELEVISION

Preseason Baseball - Chicago White Sox at

Chicago Cubs. 1 p.m. WGN ■ Baseball — Los Angeles Dodgers at Florida Mar-

lins. 6:30 p.m. ESPN Boxing - Miguel Angel Gonzalez vs. Ricardo Silva, Lightweights. 8 p.m. USA

Complete listing in Fine Print

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"Our team doesn't have to be the team of yesterday. We can be like we are and still have the opportunity to win. We may not need to be the Chicago TRIVIA QUESTION Bulls of 1993 to win the championship." - Michael Jordan about his team's chances in the playoffs.

EVENTS IN THE AREA

■ Girls' soccer — Dubuque Wahlert at Washington, 4:15 p.m.; Dubuque Hempstead at Kennedy, 4:15 p.m.; Iowa City West at Jefferson, 4:15 p.m.; Waterloo East at Regis, 6 p.m.

Boys' soccer — Waterloo East at Regis, 4:15 p.m.;

Waterloo West at Linn-Mar, 4:15 p.m.

■ Boys' tennis — Dubuque Senior at Regis, 4 p.m.; Linn-Mar at Washington, 4 p.m.

Boys' track - Prairie, Linn-Mar, Marion at Prairie Relays, 5 p.m.

Softball - St. Ambrose at Mount Mercy, 3 p.m. Complete listing in Fine Print

Who owns the National League record for the longest hitting streak?

Answer in Fine Print

Johanns ready to sign

Cedar Rapids Kennedy junior Aaron Johanns will announce at a press conference today he'll sign a letter of intent to play basketball in a Division I program.

Johanns, who would not disclose the school Monday, will hold a press conference at 2:45 p.m. at Kennedy.

A 6-foot-5 player, Johanns led a balanced Kennedy scoring attack last season with 13.2 points per game.

He also topped the team with nine rebounds per game.

Four Cougars averaged between 12.1 and 13.2 points.

The next signing period for high school

seniors is early November.

Let's start with St. Louis. Yes, St. Jesse James? How appropriate for a team that left Anaheim high and dry

The Chicago Bears had what might be

Chicago wisely used a second-round pick on punter Todd Sauerbrun of West Nebraska in the Kickoff Classic, and he

Kansas City drafted some players, but

none of them are Joe Montana. Minnesota had four selections in the first two rounds, and didn't trade them any good? You want inside info on the NFL, call ESPN's Chris Mortensen.

mail fraud.

In the book, Mortensen quoted former cluding Chuck Long, were angry and ac-

Lights not good enough

APPLETON, Wis. - The Cedar Rapids

Kernels' scheduled Midwest League baseball

game with the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers

Monday night was postponed because the

The teams will play a twin-bill tonight.

of Monday's game on the advice of his son,

league administrator George Jr.

gerous."

League President George Spelius postponed

The Rattlers' parent club, the Seattle Mari-

ners, were willing to let the game go on, but

the Kernels' parent California Angels were

not, according to the Appleton Post-Crescent.

too dark," Kernels Manager Tom Lawless

told the Post-Crescent. "It was too dan-

"From center field to home plate was way

outfield lights were not properly focused.

GYMNASTICS

isfying results.

gymnastic champion since 1969 Saturday when he won the floor exercise at the NCAA Championships in Columbus, Ohio.

Thornton won the floor exercise with a 9.85 score - not quite as mount. If he had stuck the dis-

good as the 9.95 he hit at the Big Ten Championships a month earlier in Champaign, Ill.

linebacker I've ever had here,"

"Combines the best qualities

of ex-Hawkeye stars Larry Sta-

tion, Melvin Foster and John

Derby. A natural. Can't miss."

"That's Coach Fry," said

lades. "I haven't even played a

down yet of football. Once the

Rollins, amused by the acco-

Fry declared this month

lighter moment during last Saturday's spring game.

Thornton floors field to earn NCAA title

"It definitely wasn't my best," said Thornton, who also placed third in the parallel bars with a

said. "He's done a better dis-

mount, they would have give him a 9.95, like he did at the Big

Thornton said he didn't realize until after he'd won the floor exercise that he was breaking a

linebacker Vernon Rollins, who nearly quit school last year over academic problems that

kept him off the field, is looking forward to a new start in his football career. Here, he enjoys a

Big Ten season rolls around,

can say what I want to say."

urday's game at Kinnick, be-

cause he finally got to play be-

fore a real audience again. He

"I felt good. I felt light," he

made eight tackles, tying for

top honors on the Black

Rollins said he enjoyed Sat-

end a little more worthwhile,