

Addition by subtraction

Today is Opening Day, although
the opener isn't until tonight.
The sport is baseball, by the way. The sport is baseball, by the wa
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. of their usual 84-game seasons.
Those shortened schedules were 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,
starting the season three weeks later starting the season three weeks lat
than usual seems rational. And 84 games to eliminate only 10 of the NHL's
26 teams from the postseason seems a 26 teams from the postseason seems a
bit much.
Which brings us to the NBA, which begins its playofffs this week. Michael
Jordan would probably again become Jordan would probably again become
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 Temorable. Will Jordan's Bulls get past Charlotte in the first round? Past Orlan do 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 Den ver 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?
And ther Houston?
And then, there's Shaq.
Baseball better enjoy its first couple will cast a large shadow through midJune. The real Opening Night is Thurs
day, when the NBA playoffs begin. ALL OF WHICH leads to football The first round seems to take two whole days. But now it's over. How did the Iidwest teams do.
Let's start with St. Louis. Yes, St.
Louis is in the NFL. The Cardinals ouis is in the NFL. The Cardinals
mean, the Rams - picked offensive guard Jesse James of Mississippi. Jesse James? How appropriate for a
team that left Anaheim high and dry and robbed St. Louis of millions. The Chicago Bears had what might be an excellent draft. The Bears are only the Bears when they have a areat run-
ning back, and Rashaan Salaam could Ce one. ick on punter form averaged over 60 yards a punt in West Virginia's loss to
Nebraska in the Kickoff Classic, and he Nebraska in the Kickoff Clas did a lot of kicking that day.
Green Bay's first pick was defensive Green Bay's first pick was defensive He has to be better than the guy they got rid of at that spot, Terrell Buckley.
Kansas City drafted some players, bu none of them are Joe Montana. Minnesota had four selections in the to the New York Giants for Herschel Walker. Are the guys the Vikings got NFL good? You want inside info on the
ESPN's Chris Mortensen Speaking of Mortensen, in this space Sunday I mentionen his 1991 book,
"Playing For Keeps." It is the story of how the U.S. Justice Department got Bloom convicted for conspiracy and mail fraud,
In the book, Mortensen quoted former saying some Iowa football players, including Chuck Long, were angry and a usatory toward former Walters/Bloom client Ronnie Hermon atter Harmon
lost four fumbles in the 1986 Rose Bow "That's not right," Long said Monday Thave never, ever been angry at Ronhis day. It was just one of those this days."
games

## Bender hopes for big Bills in Buffalo <br> Coe record-holder <br> But I think Ive got a shot and that

signs as free agent By Mark Dukes Carey Bender doesn't believe Marv
Levy is just being kind to a fellow Bender, the Coe College star running
back who holds 25 NCAA football Eagles sign Lillibridge, 3D records, Monday signed a free-agent
National Football League contract with Buffalo. The Bills'. coach is Levy, 1950 Coe graduate.

PRO FOOTBALL
 ple." ber against Monmouth during Co's
Hall of Fame and homecoming weekhall. Bender rushed for 238 yards on 20
earries and scored four touchdowns in carries and scored four
a $57-16$ Kohawk victory. "We didn't talk much football at the
time," Bender said. "He did congratutime, me on what I'd done. .Four other teams - Colts, Chiefs,
 Bender said he received "a smal
signing bonus" of $\$ 5,000$, and will have his expenses covered while he's in camp. "I won't receive my sa.
I make the team," he said.
Under his contract, he will receive first two years, then can renogiate

The agreement, secured by agen
Phil Maggio of Gainesville, Fla., "wen Phil Maggio of Gainesville, Fla.. "wen
real smoothly," Bender said. "It was
easier than picking a college." easier than picking a college."
Coe Coach D.J. LeRoy can tell Bender a little about what is ahead. LeRoy

## Rollins playing, laughing

Fresh start from last season By Jim Ecker
Gazetas sonotswiter
 ernon Rollins wor ty of Iowad football team last
fall. Now hets fall. Now he's wearing No No.
which probably isn't a big
deal
deal. Except for one thing. Except for one thing.
Rollins would like to forg
the turmoil from last fall Rollins would like to forget
the turmoil from last fall, his
first on first on the U of I campus. He
got embroiled in an academic got embroiled in an academ
quagmire and nearly quit school in disgust. He was at the Cedar Rapids
airport, on the verge of transferring to Syracuse, when Io-
wa coaches fetched him and IOWA FOOTBALL brought him back to campus,
violating a minor NCAA rule along the way.
Coach Hayden Fry wanted linebacker last season, but by the time all the academic
hoops had been cleared it was hoops had been cleared it was
mid-season. Rollins elected to redshirt, preserving a full year of eligibility.
It was a tough season for No. 44, and symbolically (at
least) he's tossed that old je sey aside. He's No. 56 now a doesn't want to dwell in the ${ }^{\text {past. }}$ I re "I really don't want to even
talk about that," he said Satur day after starting a t lineback-
er for the No. 1 unit in the an. er for the No. 1 unit in the an
nual spring game at Kinnick Stadium. "That's in the pas
Im just having fun right
now. 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 penciled in as a second-string linebacker last summer before training camp began.
"He's the best freshman

lowa 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 lighter moment during loot Saturday's spring game.
linebacker I've ever had here
Fry declared this month "Combines the best qualities of ex-Hawkeye stars Larry Sta-
tion. Melvin Foster tion, Melvin Foster and John
Derby. A natural. Can't miss." Rollins, amused by the ace Roiles. II amused by the accolades. "I haven't even played a

Big Ten season rolls around, I $\quad \begin{aligned} & \text { said "I feel the out-0 } \\ & \text { can say what I want to say." }\end{aligned}$ program helped me." Rollins said he enjoy S urday's game at Kinniced Saturday's game at Kinnick, because he finally got to play be-
fore a real audience again. He made eight tackles, tying for
made
top honors top honors on the Black squad.
elt good I felt light" he Turn to 3D: Rollins

- Turn to 3D: Bender


## Umps reject offer

Replacements ready to work tonight's offer


 | ing it ilikely replacements will |
| :--- |
| be weroringt the delayed season |



 Philitiss saidion Monadad night The board of the unpires
union revecteed the offer 90 BASEbALL
during a 2 -hour, 10 -minute
conference call.
In 1991, the sides settled just
a few hours before the first 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 have locked out the umpires
since Jan. 1, the day after
their four-year agreement expired.' "t's with regret that
can't make a deal," manag

 time of the association ons shoos. ing."
Foll
day st Following the players' 232 -
day strike, the last thing own-
ers wanted was another labor confrontation. Players indicated their support for the um
pires but said they would play. Umpires intend to picket to
night's opener in Miami be night's opener in Miami be-
tween the Los Angeles Dodg. ers and the Florida Marlins.
"We've been in constant "We've been in constant ciation 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 sel absoukely clear,
sothing I think that we
bothnounce 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 30 -year veteran to r
$\$ 215,000$ from $\$ 175,000$. In their last public proposal,
umpires asked for starting pay of $\$ 85,000$ with a top scale of
$\$ 240,000$ $\$ 240,000$.
"What
"What they're doing here is
just trying to throw sand in just trying to throw sand in
people's eyes," Phillips said.

Thornton floors field to earn NCAA title

## By J.R. Ogden

 Gazethe assistant sports editor performances, but never more satisfying results isfying results. A University of Iowa junio from Augusta, Ga.., Thornton be
came the Hawkeyes first national
GYMNASTICS
gymnastic champion since 1969
Saturday when he won the floor Saturday when he won the floor
exercise at the NCAA Champion exercise at the NCAA Clio
ships in Columbus, Ohio. Thornton won the floor exercise
with a 9.85 score - not quite as
good as the 9.95 he hit at the Big
Ten Championships a month earTen Championships a m
lier in Champaign, III.
"It "er in Champaign, III.
said definitely wasn't my best,"
shornton, who also placed sthird in the parallel bars with 9.575. "My only mistake was no
sticking my dismount. "But it turned out that was all Thowa Coach Tom Dunn also said outstanding dismount. "It was his best routine (of the
year) up to the dismount," Dunn year) up to the dismount," Dunn
said. "He's done a better dis
mount. If he had stuck the dis
mount, they would have give him
a 9.955, like he did at the Big
Tens." a 9.95, Thornton said he didn't realize Thornton said he didn't realize
until after he'd won the floor
exercise that he exercise that he was breaking a
long drought in men's gymnastics long drought in men's gymnastics
at Iowa. The Hawkeyes' last na-
tional champ was Keith McCantional champ was Keith McCan-
less in the pommel horse in 1969.
Thornton is only the seventh Thornton is only the seventh
Hawkeye national champ in men's gymnastics.
"That kind of made the week-
end a little more worthwhile a little more worthwhile,

- Turn to 4D: Thornton


Jay Thornton

- National champ

Lights not good enough APPLETON, Wis. - The Cedar Rapids game with the Wisconsin Timber Rattlers Monday night was postponed because the
outfield lights were not properly focused. The teams will play a twin-bill tonight. League President George Spelius postponed
of Monday's game on the advice of his son, league administrator George Jr
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 "From center field to home plate was way
too darke, Rerrels Manager Tom Lawless too dark, Kernels Manager Tom Lawless
told the, Post-Crescent. "It was too dan-
gerous." gerous."

## TODAY'S TIPOFF

## TELEVISION



Chicago Cubs. 1 p.m. WGN - Baseball - Los Angeles Dodgers at Florida Mar lins. $6: 30$ p.m. Espr
Boxing - Miguel 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
Bulls of 1993 to win the championship." Bulls of 1993 to win the championship.,

- Michael Jordan about his team's chances in - Michael


## EVENTS IN THE AREA

Girrs' soccer - Dubuque Wahlert at Washington . 5 p.m.j. Dubuque Hempstead at Kennedy, $4: 15$ p.m Regis, 6 p.m.

- Boys' soccer - Waterloo East at Regis, 4:15 p.m. Waterloos' tennis - Dubuque Senior at Regis, 4 p.m.i
Linn-Mar at Washington, 4 p.m.
Boys' track
Relays. $5 \mathrm{p} . \mathrm{m}$.
Softball - St. Ambrose at Mount Mercy, 3 p.m. Completete listing in Fine Print


## TRIVIA QUESTION

Who owns the National League record for the longest hitting streak? Answer in Fine Print

Johanns ready to sign Cedar Rapids Kennedy junior Aaron Jo
hanns will announce at a press conference haday he"ll signounce at a petter of intent to play
today 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 re Four Cougars
13.2 points.

The next signing period for high school
seniors is early November.

