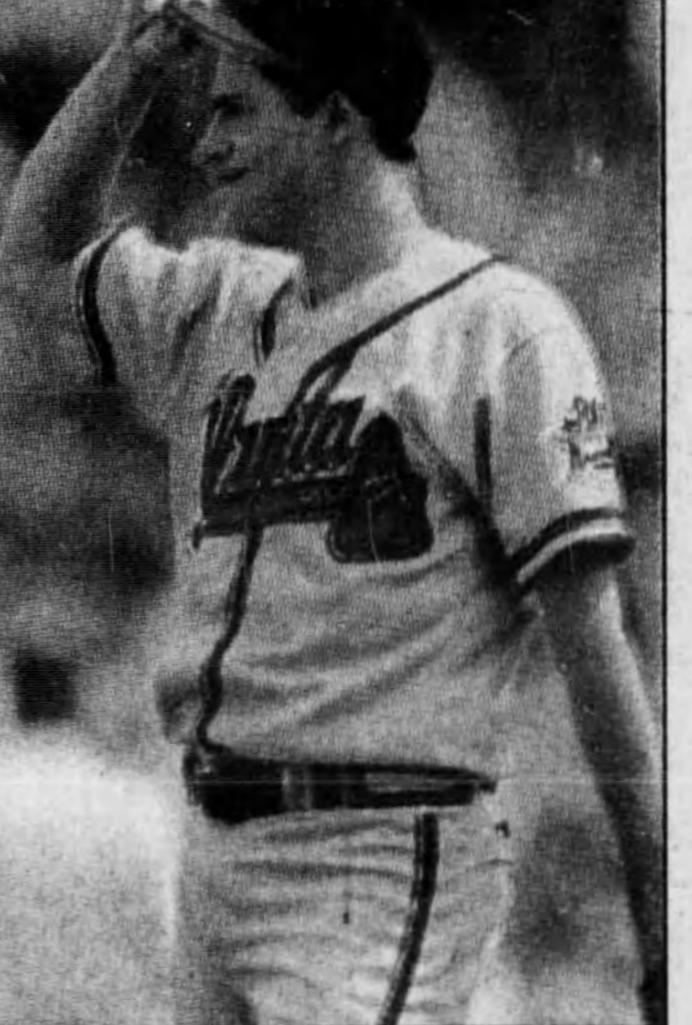
#### BASEBALL

#### Maddux rolls on at Cubs' expense

Atlanta Braves pitcher Greg Maddux (right) ties a major-league record with his 16th straight road victory, beating his old teammates 7-2 at Wrigley Field. Maddux could win his fourth straight Cy Young Award this year. Page 3.



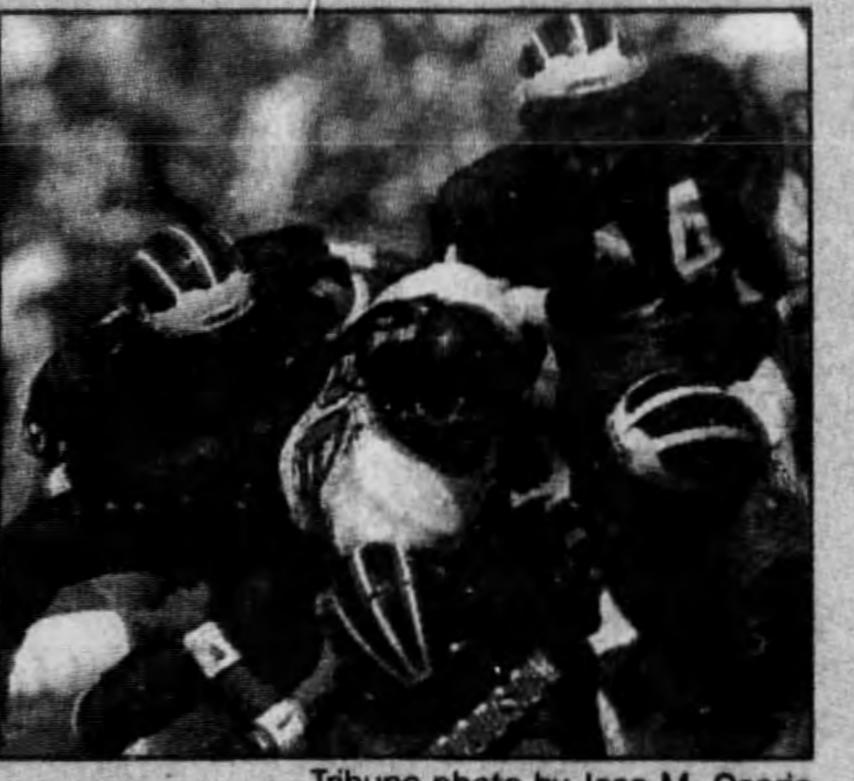
AP photo

#### **HORSE RACING** A million reasons to love this race

Chicago owner Joe Sullivan hopes to hit pay dirt at Sunday's running of the Arlington Million. Page 10.

# Chicago Tribune Sportssunday

SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 1995

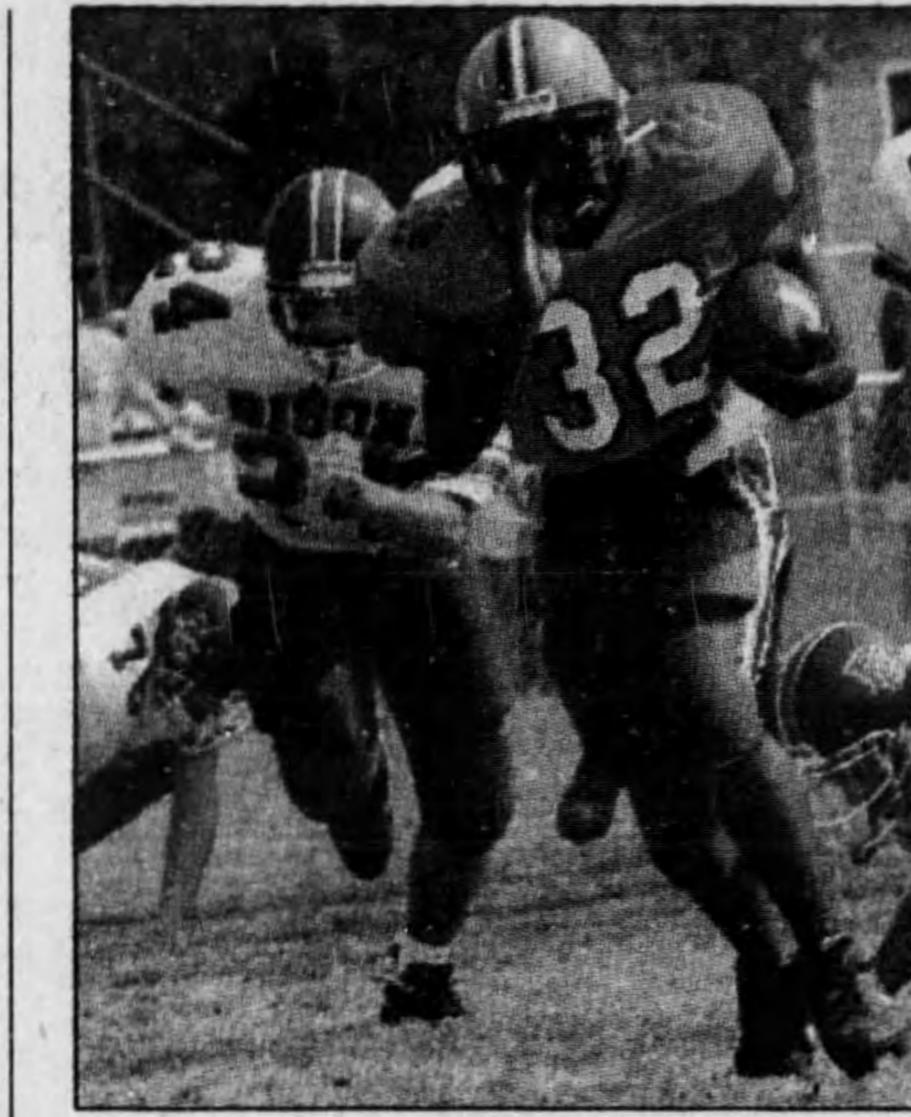


Tribune photo by Jose M. Osorio

#### **COLLEGE FOOTBALL** This time it's a Michigan miracle

Trailing 17-0 in the fourth quarter, No. 14 Michigan stages a huge rally, capped by a brilliant 15-yard touchdown catch by Mercury Hayes as time expires, to defeat No. 17 Virginia 18-17 in the Pigskin Classic. Page 3.

Michigan defenders swarm Virginia running back Kevin Brooks.



PREPS PLUS Football coverage A look at area games, including Evanston's 35-7 win, Pages 13, 14. < Evanston's

**DeWayne Louis** (32) breaks loose for a TD against Buffalo

Grove. Tribune photo by Val Mazzenga

#### **PRO FOOTBALL** The Bear facts: What fans can expect

Despite a mediocre preseason, things aren't all bleak for the Bears. Page 4.

**Bernie Lincicome** 

AGENTS OF TROUBLE

IN THE WAKE OF THE NEWS



## Bears yukking it up while yechning it up

anic, like a toothpick, is portable. It can be used anytime, but better only once. And this is too soon to waste

The Bears may be the first team to ever go from the playoffs to the landfill without ever playing a game. August does not count. Never has.

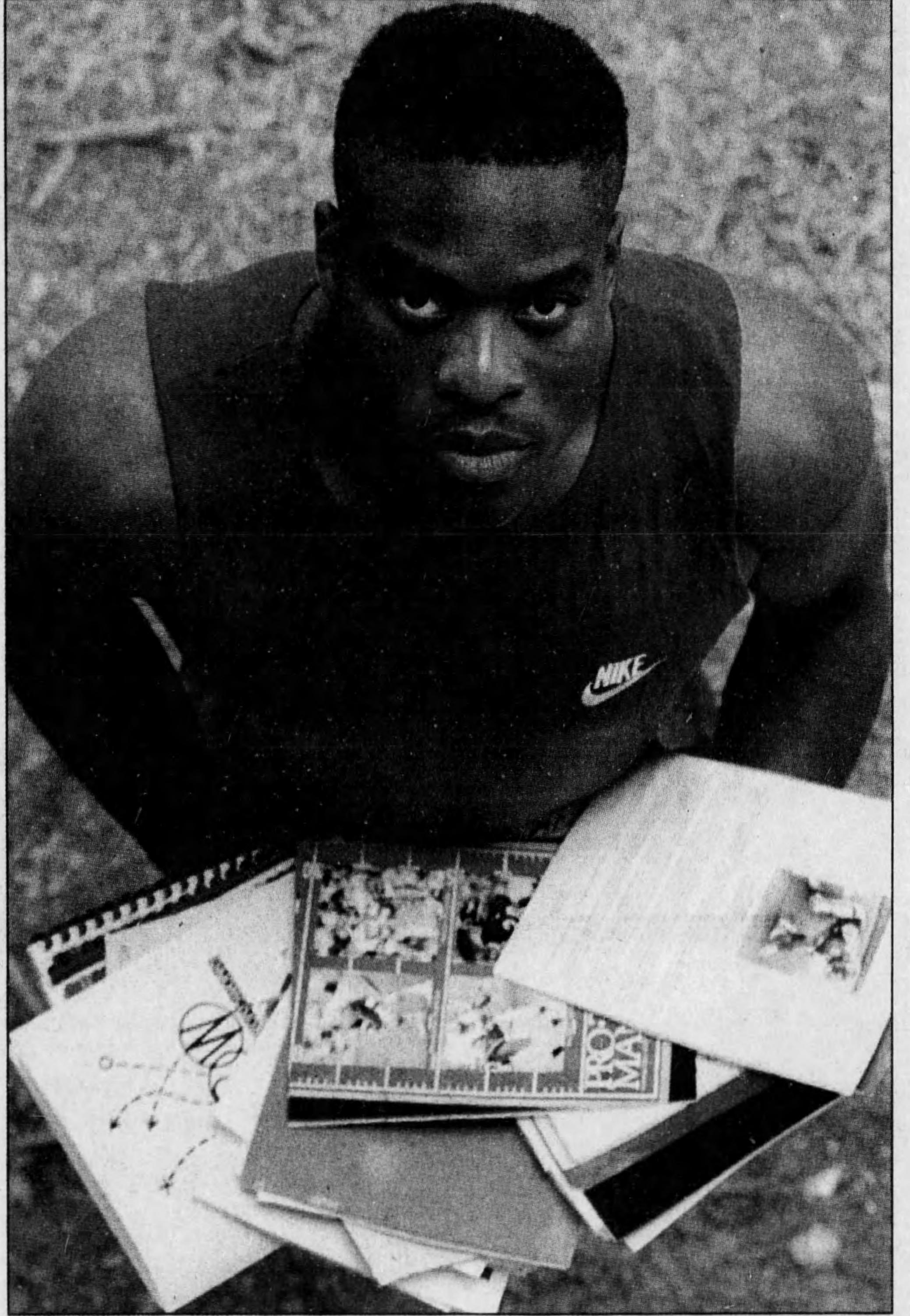
I'm still picking the Bears to win 12 games. Nothing that happened in Cleveland or Indianapolis has changed my mind about that.

Not the puny punts of the second-round draft choice nor the various and numerous thumbs of the top pick. Not the penaltyprone antics of the new safety nor the glaring obscurity of the new wide receiver.

It's going to take more than a month of ham-fisted incompetence to burst this optimist's balloon. There are explanations for all of this.

I suspect that Todd Sauerbrun may have been kicking with the wrong leg during the preseason, just a goofy, rookie thing to do. He will start using the leg he used at West Virginia, the one that made him the next Ray Guy, maybe as soon as against Minnesota next Sunday. And Rashaan Salaam, slyly, has been practicing drive-ruining fumbles so the Bears will be ready should such a thing happen during the regular season. Salaam has given his teammates valuable training in diving and digging for loose balls in live situations. This is what preseason is for. Salaam will get used to being tackled, something that apparently did not happen to him at Colorado, at least while he was holding out for more money than he shows any signs of ever earning. And the corners do seem to be a little farther away at lake level. He'll find out as soon as he turns one. Shaun Gayle was going to be missed, even though Gayle could play whole months without getting one stupid penalty called on him. His replacement, with his number, Marty Carter, has just been letting us know in his own attention-attracting way that Gayle is no longer here. Michael Timpson is not rushing into his role as the next great Bears wide receiver. This is wise. Showing too much too soon leads to double coverage when it counts. Unselfishly, Timpson is making Curtis Conway look like Jerry Rice. I am not discouraged by the way the quarterback challenge was settled, which was Dave Wannstedt pretty much saying: He's No. 1 because I'm the coach and I say so. Trying to choose between Erik Kramer and Steve Walsh is at least as hard as deciding which spare tire to put on the front. I choose to ignore the endorsement that insists that they will both play a lot this year. The way the offensive line has been blocking, the best way to choose the quarterback might have been to see who could play best on Rollerblades. And in that case, Kramer looks the more escapable.

'Come draft time, there are 75 to 100 kids who think that they are top-10 kids. They've been pumped up and lied to.' Illinois coach Lou Tepper



## McCaskey's problem on new venue? Himself

### Fans vent anger on Bears owner in new poll

#### **By Don Pierson** and Rick Pearson TRIBUNE STAFF WRITERS

The late George Halas was one of most revered sports figures in Chicago history.

A football guy to his very core, Halas was the coach and owner who built the Bears' winning legacy and was the team's visible icon on the cold and muddy sidelines.

Michael McCaskey, grandson of "Papa Bear" and the man who inherited that legacy, may be this city's most reviled sports executive.

His Ivy League demeanor and stiff public persona symbolize elitism in a down-and-dirty sport. The public's perception of McCaskey, justified or not, is one of arrogance and naivete about politics, football and public relations.

#### **TRIBUNE POLL**

#### The view of McCaskey

Residents of the Chicago area were polled Aug. 22-24 about a new stadium for the Chicago Bears. Among the questions asked of 600 people were two specifically aimed at reactions to the role played by Bears President Michael McCaskey.

#### Do you approve or disapprove of how McCaskey has handled the issue of a new stadium for the Bears?

Approve: 12%

#### No opinion: Disapprove: 32% 55%

Has McCaskey helped or hurt

Tribune photo by Jose More Brochures from agents have become a ubiquitous part of the life of Simeon Rice.

# Age of the agent: Athletes at risk

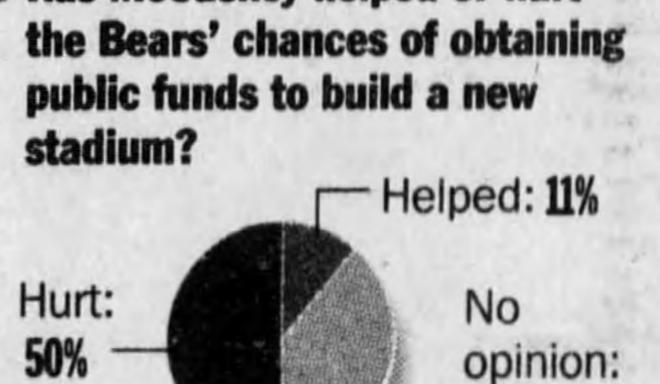
Many incentives tempting, but wrong

McCaskey is, after all, the man who fired one of the most popular coaches in Chicago history, Mike Ditka. He is the man who, critics contend, did not spend enough money to build on the 1985 Super Bowl championship. He is the man who has repeatedly bungled political attempts for a new Bears stadium.

And now, one of the most criticized sports executives in the city has proposed the unthinkable for Bears fans who grew up with Halas: moving the team out of state if he doesn't get a new stadium.

In the storm following that threat, McCaskey again finds himself in a wildly unpopular position, one that the public clearly believes he again mishandled.

A new Tribune poll, conducted last week by Market Shares Corp. of Mt. Prospect, finds that a vast majority of people disapprove of the way McCaskey has handled the stadium issue. And, they believe, he is actually hurting the Bears' chances for getting a stadium.



Margin of error ±4 percentage points Source: Tribune poll Chicago Tribune

The poll, which had a margin of error of 4 percent, showed that 55 percent of the respondents disapprove of the way McCaskey has approached the stadium issue. Only 12 percent approved; the rest were undecided. McCaskey fared even worse among those who called themselves Bears fans; 63 percent of them disapproved.

Moreover, 50 percent said McCaskey is actually hurting the team's chances of obtaining public funds for a new stadium. Only 11 percent said he is helping the cause; the rest had no opinion. Once again, Bears fans graded him harder, with 58 percent registering against McCaskey.

McCaskey, who certainly is not the only owner to come under criticism from demanding fans,

SEE MCCASKEY, PAGE 4

But, like Salaam, the line is showing the quarterback where the trouble is most likely to come from so he will be ready for it.

The very, very expensive secondary has not been as inept as it seems. It has just been letting the cheaper help know that sooner or later the line and the linebackers are going to have to do their share, showing them the folly in the proposition that the best run defense is a poor pass defense.

Not every sack can be a coverage sack and not every tackle should be made 10 yards downfield.

This lesson has been very obvious, so that a couple of times a game John Thierry has not looked entirely like a Q-Tip thrown into a window fan and Chris Zorich has not always been the third guy into the pile.

Maybe Salaam could have been more helpful if he had been allowed to run against the Bears defense. It did not get much fumblerecovery practice.

The Bears are ready. Others might be fooled, but I can see right through this August ruse. The Bears have just been building overconfidence within the division.

Try to make some sense out of those preseason tapes, Minnesota.

A Sure, that's it.

First of three parts on the problematic relationship between professional sports agents and college athletes.

#### **By Andrew Gottesman** TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Simeon Rice had just played the greatest game of his burgeoning career at Illinois, exploding onto the national scene with a school-record five sacks against Washington State.

But it was Rice who felt stalked those two days in Chicago last fall, by professional sports agents seeking to represent the gifted linebacker. They hoped to land the junior as a future client, and thus earn a cut of any professional contract he might eventually sign.

It started Wednesday night, when an agent called Rice's room at the Chicago Hilton and Towers. That one proposed, unsuccessfully, a meeting in the hotel lobby.

Another agent was more

aggressive Thursday night, after the Fighting Illini had suffered a heartbreaking 10-9 loss despite Rice's efforts. This one stood between the locker room and the bus at Soldier Field, then handed Rice a brochure as disappointed players filed by.

"He was trying to make light. of the situation, saying, 'Don't worry, Simeon, you've got your money,' " Rice recalled. "I was already angry. It made me even angrier."

The calls and the letters flowed in all season, especially when it seemed as if Rice might leave school early for the NFL draft. At the Peabody Hotel in Memphis, where Illinois stayed before its Liberty Bowl victory, at least 10 agents called Rice's room-with one posing as a relative waiting in the lobby.

It sometimes went further: One agent offered Rice \$100 per sack, which he declined, while another joked about get-

SEE AGENTS, PAGE 5

#### The NCAA rule

NCAA Rule 12.3, 1.1-Use of agents: An individual shall be ineligible if he or she enters into a verbal or written agreement with an agent for representation in future professional sports negotiations that are to take place after the individual has completed his or her eligibility in that sport. Rule 12.3, 1.2: An individual shall be ineligible

if he or she (or his or her relatives or friends) accepts . . . benefits from any person who wishes to represent the individual in the marketing of his or her athletic ability. The receipt of such expenses constitutes compensation based on athletics skill and is an extra benefit not available to the student body in general.

Source: NCAA

## '95 rebound critical for Irish—and Holtz

#### **By Joseph Tybor**

TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

They greeted him with shouts of "Lou," "Lou," "Lou," hoisted their beer glasses in wild salute and cheered like their team had just been voted No. 1 in all of college football.

Life can be grand for a Notre Dame coach in an Irish bar on the Far South Side. When coach Lou Holtz entered the Reilly's Daughter pub last week wearing a bright green sports jacket to tape his first TV show of the season, he was heralded as a hero.

He knew better. It was only because he has yet to lose a game this season.

Holtz is entering his 10th season with the Irish, and has passed or is on the brink of eclipsing several milestones. But he knows it may not matter to the what-have-you-done-for-melately group of Irish fans.

He and his team are coming off a shocking 6-5-1 season, the worst since his first year at Notre Dame. More than quarterback Ron Powlus, more than his entire team, he is under the microscope.

It is not that he will necessarily lose his job if the Irish falter again. New Athletic Director Mike Wadsworth is a fan of Holtz's, and the coach will have one more year on a five-year contract after this season.

What Holtz stands to lose means much more—his legacy.

He won't publicly acknowledge that he wants to go down in history with the greats, but in his early tenure at Notre Dame, he glibly tried to mask. the greatness he sought:

"I didn't come here with the ambition of being put on a pedestal with people like Rockne and Leahy and Parseghian," he said. "In the end, I'd just like SEE IREA, PAGE 7

#### Chicago Tribune, Sunday, August 27, 1995 Section 3

#### **AGENTS OF TROUBLE**

### Agents

#### **CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

ting him a \$46,000 Toyota Land Cruiser. Now a senior at Illinois, Rice estimates that more than 100 agents have contacted him since the end of his freshman year-with many more expected this season.

As college football gets underway, agents also are going to work.

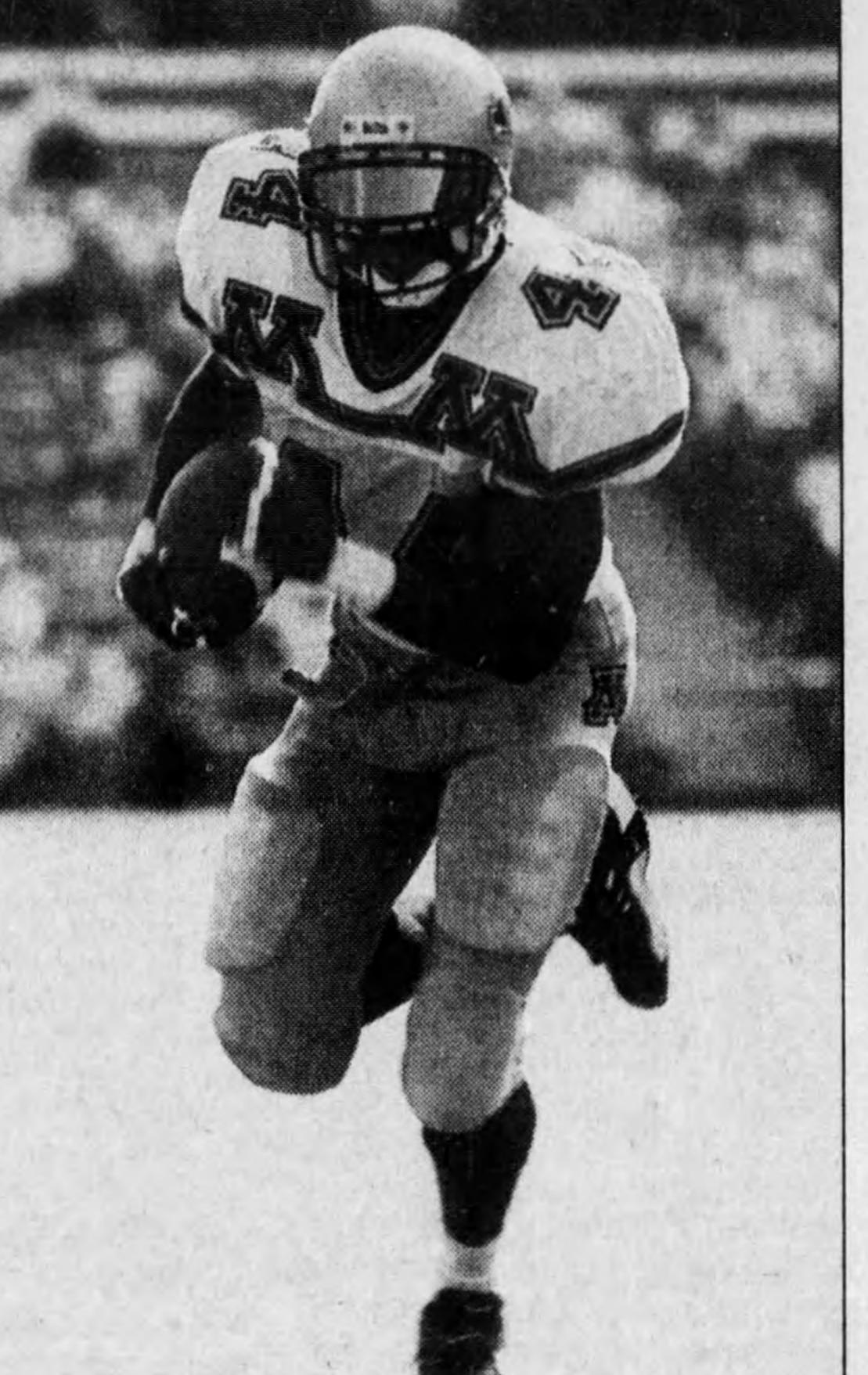
And despite a decade of wide-ranging reforms, prompted by major scandals that rocked collegiate athletics, the overall behavior of agents seems to have improved little. Insiders still estimate that at least 75 percent of first-round draft picks in football and basketball have been offered something of value to sign early with an agent.

"I think that it's become worse," said Rick Perko, a staff member for the NCAA's Professional Sports Liaison Committee. "Most agents don't believe that we can clean it up, that there's any significant deterrent to act differently."

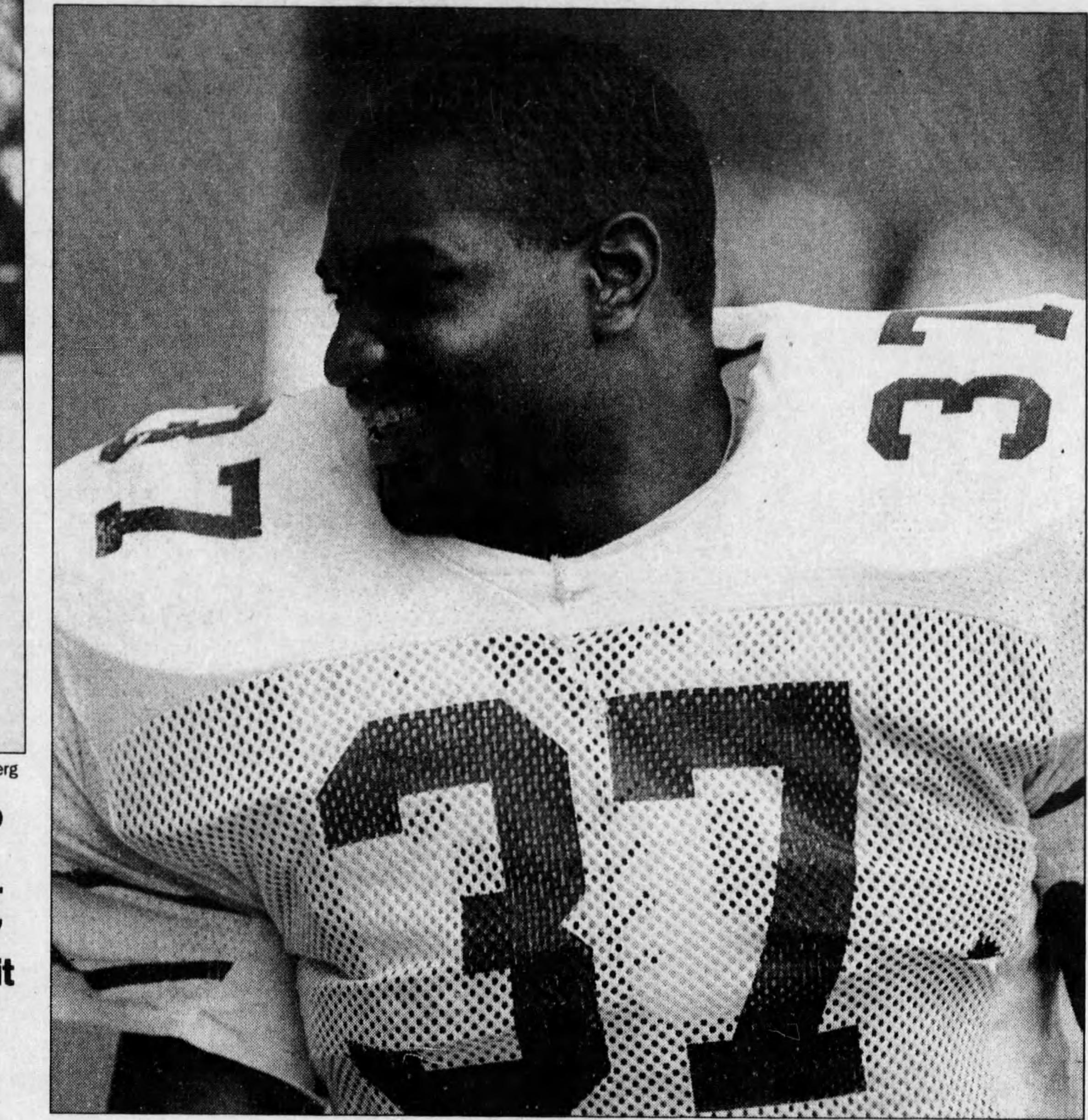
Ohio State coach John Cooper was just as blunt, calling agents "the No. 1 problem we have in college athletics."

Even short of illicit payments, agents can cause big problems: Athletes may be distracted on the field and in the classroom; they may choose to leave school early, then fall much lower than expected in the draft; or they may choose bad agents after college. In addition, the worst improprieties generally start with benign contact.

And once cash is offered, especially to poorer kids from weak families, some athletes jump at it. Players know that college sports are big business, and some want more than a scholarship. Longtime power Alabama was placed on probation this month, in part because former defensive back Antonio Langham signed with an agent and took \$400 while still eligible. Last season, similar incidents were uncovered at Ohio State in football and at Arizona in basketball-costing wide receiver Joey Galloway two games for the Buckeyes and guard Damon Stoudamire one game for the Wildcats. The biggest scandal unfolded in 1993 at Florida State, where several players participated in a \$6,000 shopping spree at Foot Locker that was covered by two recruiters for agents. These stories are similar to those heard some 10 years ago, when the infamous tandem of Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom reportedly spent, upward of \$800,000 to recruit 58 college athletes at 32 schools. That prompted a decade of rule-making, ranging from legislation in more than 20 states to tougher licensing guidelines by the major professional unions to wide-ranging educational programs at universities nationwide.



'A lot of players think they are better than they are, and that can be a distraction, and then you start to play poorly." Michigan's Jarrett Irons (below)



#### **Problems on both sides**

The basic goal has been to regulate agents, in terms of background and behavior, by mandating their registration with oversight bodies. The failure, according to most experts, is a dismal lack of enforcement.

And problems clearly persist on the athletes' side, too, with the NCAA investigating five to seven players on agent-related allegations at any one time. Of the recent disclosures, Perko said: "I would not be surprised if something like that were to continue to happen."

Still, some people do believe that the system has improved, most notably because more players now receive adequate representation after college. They also argue that the worst abuses have ended, and that a portion of the remaining problem must be attributed to corrupt players who accept incentives. "The field is measurably more clean than it was 20 years ago," said Leigh Steinberg, a Californiabased agent who represents about 65 NFL players. "I think the system is reasonable right now, given the fact that not a lot of Alabamas are happening."



Allsport photo by Todd Rosenberg

'They said, 'We just want to talk to you, become your friend, build a relationship with you, because our clients are more than just clients.' It's a bunch of bull. There's no way it can be anything else, because the root of the relationship is money.' Minnesota's Chris Darkins (above)

#### Dear parent of Athlete,

It was a pleasure speaking with you last week. I was glad to be able to introduce you to the world of "Zucker Sports". I am with such players as Quentin Coryatt, Dewayne associated Washington, Kevin Smith, Richmond Webb, Donnell Woolford and Jim McMahon. As you can see we specialize in representing high round we would be honored to add draft picks. Mr name to the list of premier NFL players that we represent.

In 1992 ZSMG negotiated a four-year contract for Quentin Coryatt which averaged \$2.175 million a year. Included in this contract was a \$4 million cash signing bonus, which at the time was the highest cash signing bonus ever given. In addition to Quentin Coryatt, ZSMG has negotiated contracts for Deion Sanders, Jay Hilgenberg, Donnell Woolford and Richmond Webb which have made all of these players the highest paid players at their respective positions.

Photo for the Tribune by Julian H. Gonzalez

against any early contact, because of the potential for distraction and impropriety. Some coaches even will reward agents who wait until season's end, either by adding their names to an "approved" list or by arranging introductions.

"I think anytime a kid talks to an agent early he's just asking for trouble," said Penn State coach Joe Paterno. "It can't help you."

Athletes generally are told to refer any direct contacts to parents, or to ask the agents to try back in January. But while many players divert solicitations, others succumb to curiosity or courtesy.

Unchecked, those inquiries can quickly get out of control. Tepper suspects that endless beeps on an answering machine sometimes represent messages from agents.

And even if a player waits until graduation to select an agent, he might make a bad choice because of those early courtships. Too many players listen to the first offers, officials said.

But, Steinberg concedes: "There still remains a strong problem area."

The NCAA cites two issues, amateurism and integrity, as main reasons why it does not allow eligible athletes to retain agents or to be paid by them—although it does permit communication. Receiving money would constitute professionalism, while forming an official relationship could leave athletes in the tricky position of trying to serve both agent and coach.

"You've got agents telling a kid in the defensive secondary, 'Now, don't you be coming up tackling that 230-pound fullback,'" drawled lowa coach Hayden Fry. "'You'll get hurt, and if you're hurt your contract won't be nearly as large.' "

Agents are not about to stop calling, however, not with the money involved and the sheer number of suitors. Not all agents are unethical, but the profession clearly has earned a dubious reputation.

#### Stakes are high

The NFL Players Association has about 780 certified agents. Those agents, along with an estimated 2,000 others who are not currently certified, vie each year to represent the top 300 or so college athletes in contract negotiations.

At stake is up to 4 percent of every contract. This year's first-round draft picks signed for an average of \$1.226 million per season, including bonuses, which is almost \$50,000 in annual agent fees. The key is landing clients, and the way to start is by making contact, preferably ahead of the vast competition. Some agents have begun to recruit high school athletes and many routinely solicit top college freshmen, especially now that some younger players are opting to leave school early. Although various agents use different strategies

Zucker, Sports Management Group was established with the purpose of offering professional athletes a wide range of services. ZSMG provides expertise in contract negotiations, financial planning (including income tax return preparation and estate planning), marketing, public relations and legal counsel.

If you're a top prospect, you and your parents are going to get tons of mail. The above are excerpts from recruiting letters sent out by agent Steve Zucker's firm, Zucker Sports Management Group.

in solicitation, the letters and phone calls start pouring in long before an athlete is allowed to choose somebody.

"I've got folders on top of folders in my apartment, big boxes full of stuff from different agencies," said Rice.

As with recruiting, agents try to flatter the athletes and sell themselves. Steve Zucker, an agent from Winnetka, lists players he represents and some of the big dollars they now earn.

... [W]e specialize in representing high-round draft picks," Zucker wrote in a letter to one college player's father last fall. "... [W]e would be honored to add [your son's] name to the list of premier NFL players that we represent."

Zucker's letter also notes that he abides by NCAA rules in terms of recruiting clients, and mentions that some NFL teams would rather deal with certain agents.

"It's even possible that an affiliation with [me] could help you move up a notch or two," Zucker wrote.

Many agents also contact the player's parents or coaches, and some try to meet the player at his apartment or practice facility.

And, as with Rice, they flock to hotels. Illinois coach Lou Tepper now orders the team's phones turned off on road trips. Tepper, who also caught an agent talking to eight juniors in the team's practice bubble last winter, said every Illini starter and many reserves have been contacted. In the Peabody's lobby last year, Tepper said, an agent was showing brochures to a third-string senior.

body," he said. "They lose nothing, they make 3 or 4 percent of something."

#### **Helpful or bothersome?**

Many players think that pushy approaches are inappropriate, especially when they are trying to concentrate during the season. What may be flattering at first can quickly become a nuisance, they say.

"I think it's kind of annoying, just the things they say," said Minnesota running back Chris Darkins, an early Heisman Trophy candidate who gets several calls from agents each week. "They said, 'We just want to talk to you, become your friend, build a relationship with you, because our clients are more than just clients.'

"It's a bunch of bull. There's no way it can be anything else, because the root of the relationship is money."

Said Ohio State tailback Eddie George, who had his phone number changed after an agent called at 5 a.m.: "I try to be as polite as I can, and just try to tell them that it's irrelevant right now to what I'm doing. I tell them I'll deal with it after the season."

Purdue fullback. Mike Alstott, another Heisman candidate, said one agent came to campus last month. The man procured a picture of Alstott, for recognition purposes, and then waited at Purdue's training facility. "He sat around for eight hours, just outside different places around the complex, reading a book waiting for me," Alstott said. "It's just crazy what they do."

"He may not take anything from the agent, but he may feel obligated," said Chris Kennedy, assistant vice president at Duke. "He may think the guy was real nice or was always there for him, but he may not be the best guy."

#### **Underclassmen vulnerable**

Tepper also notes that many agents will say anything to prompt interest among potential clients, especially underclassmen who may think about leaving school early. Some agents make impossible guarantees about improving a player's draft status, often by promising invitations to allstar games and combines, or about gauging interest among professional teams.

Eleven of the 33 underclassmen who opted for last spring's draft were not selected, and others were picked lower than they had been led to believe, costing them both in education and salary. Experts call that a sign of undue influence by agents.

"If you're a kid who's craving the NFL and you're just hopeful somebody's going to draft you and there's somebody calling you and blowing smoke at you and telling you how wonderful you are, you like to hear that," Tepper said. "Come draft time, there are 75 to 100 kids who think that they are top-10 kids. They've been pumped up and lied to."

They've also been led to believe that money is available for the taking, and that's when benign contact can become illicit payments. The problem, of course, involves agents who offer incentives and players who accept them.

Mel Levine, a former agent currently serving 30 months in a federal prison for tax fraud, estimates that he advanced players \$321,300. He detailed the improprieties in a book, called "Life in the Trash Lane."

"Yeah, the agent's responsible, but so is the kid," said Levine, speaking by phone from the correctional facility in El Paso, Texas. "They know exactly what they're doing."

"They go out and spread the net over every-

Coaches overwhelmingly counsel athletes

And while several top players denied taking money from agents, they also admitted that it is readily available. Said Rice: "You can get that from any of them."

Monday: Who are agents?

#### **OTHER VIEWS**

#### Who built the idols?

CHICAGO—Sports columnist Bob Verdi wonders whether Michael Jordan's leadership of the so-called dissident band of NBA players now pushing for the decertification of their union is going to tarnish the fans' image of him.

Verdi's concern reveals an intriguing assumption: that Michael Jordan can get away with just about anything-except challenging the right of the owners to restrict what he and his fellow players can earn.

Jordan can pocket tens of millions of dollars hawking everything from fancy gym shoes to underwear to sports drinks. But when he stands up to the bullies who own the ball and threatens their ability

to make as much money off of him as they can, the whole world of sports is out of joint. And the media set about the task of punishing the rebels for daring to steal the secret of profit from the gods.

Oh, yes. And columnists such as Bob Verdi find themselves deeply disturbed over the gap between image and reality, though they've been the ones who've helped to fashion the hollow images. Debra Mecher

#### **Ban chewing tobacco**

MORTON GROVE-I am 84 and have been a Cubs fan for 50 years or more. I quit smoking and chewing tobacco because they were ruining my health. It makes me sad and angry when I see players chewing tobacco on TV.

Children are great imitators and want to try it, but it is a very bad habit. I think all coaches and owners should ban chewing tobacco.

We don't see athletes in other sports chewing tobacco. Then why should baseball players do it? Let them chew gum and ban chewing tobacco on TV for good Fred J. Malone

#### **Dunston's 'death wish'**

LOMBARD-Loyal Cubs fans who viewed on TV the two recent flagrant assaults committed by Shawon Dunston are increasingly embarrassed by his Jekyll and Hyde behavior.

During the last four years, mainly because of a non-baseball injury and rehabilitation, Dunston has averaged 50 ballgames a year. For his performance, lackluster until this season, he has cashed paychecks of \$60,000 per game, or about \$15,000 per plate appearance.

What prompts this letter is perplexity at the sympathetic press Dunston gets, including the Aug. 16 quote in the Tribune suggesting that his recent slaps and punches prove that he plays hard, with advice to children that "everybody ought to play that hard."

Surely by this time fans, the team physician and management strongly suspect that Dunston is ambivalent about playing baseball day in and day out. His antics are indicative of a career "death wish" now that he is a complacent millionaire 12 times over, such that neither he nor his children or grandchildren will ever

have to work for a living.

There is a sad lesson here not only for the Cubs but for America's children, who inherit a morally deformed culture with its head conspicuously in the sand. Robert Darcy

#### Now online **Chicago Tribune Online** Chicago Tribune Online INSTRUCTIONS ON PAGE 2, SECTION 1

We invite our readers to share their ideas in this section. Write us at Other Views/Sports, Chicago Tribune, 435 N. Michigan, Chicago, Ill. 60611. Readers can send in letters to otherviews@aol.com via America Online. Letters must include your name, address and phone number and are subject to editing.

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#### MONDAY, AUGUST 28, 1995

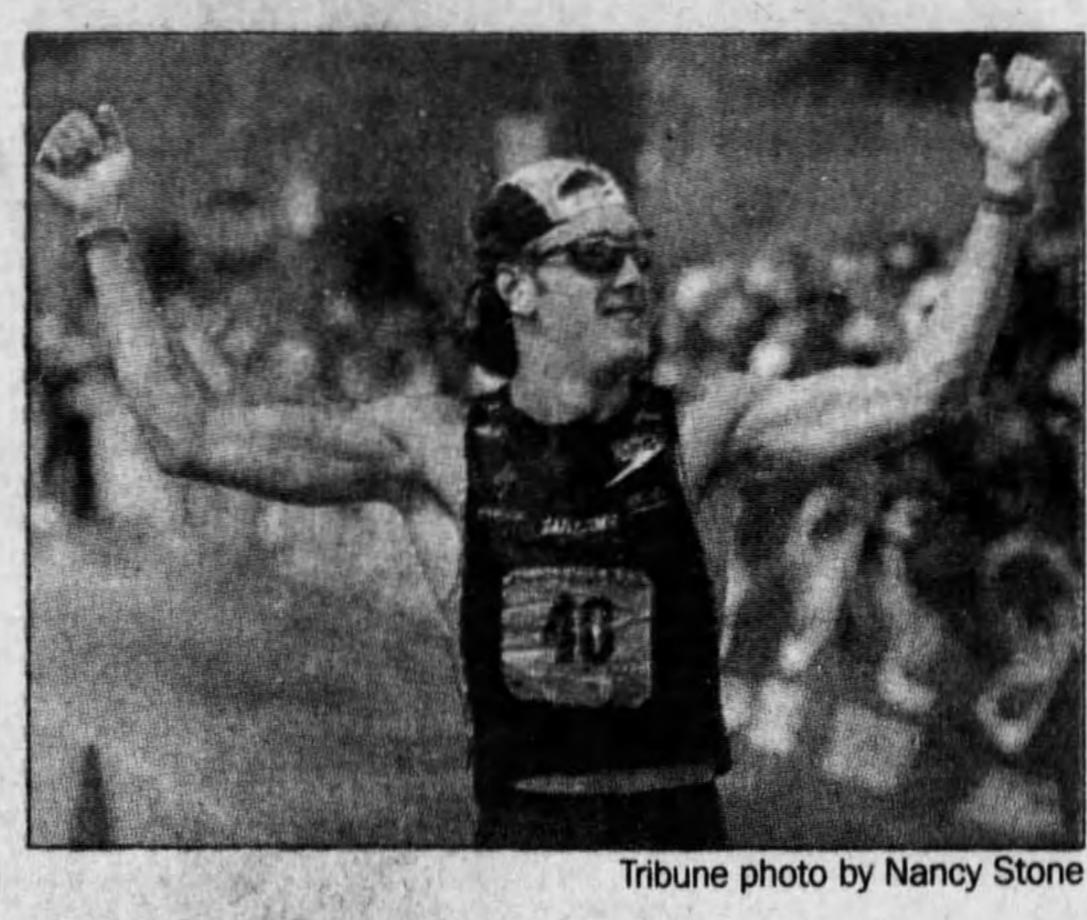
**ON THE LINKS** Jenny Lidback, Greg Norman and Tiger Woods enjoy notable Sundays in golf. See Page 6

#### FOOTBALL

**Bears make their final cuts** The Bears reduce their roster to 53 by releasing the following players:



WR Kenny Shedd WR Fabien Bownes LB Jamal Cox FB Mike Faulkerson **DB** Marlon Forbes LB Darwin Ireland G Octus Polk



## TRIATHLON

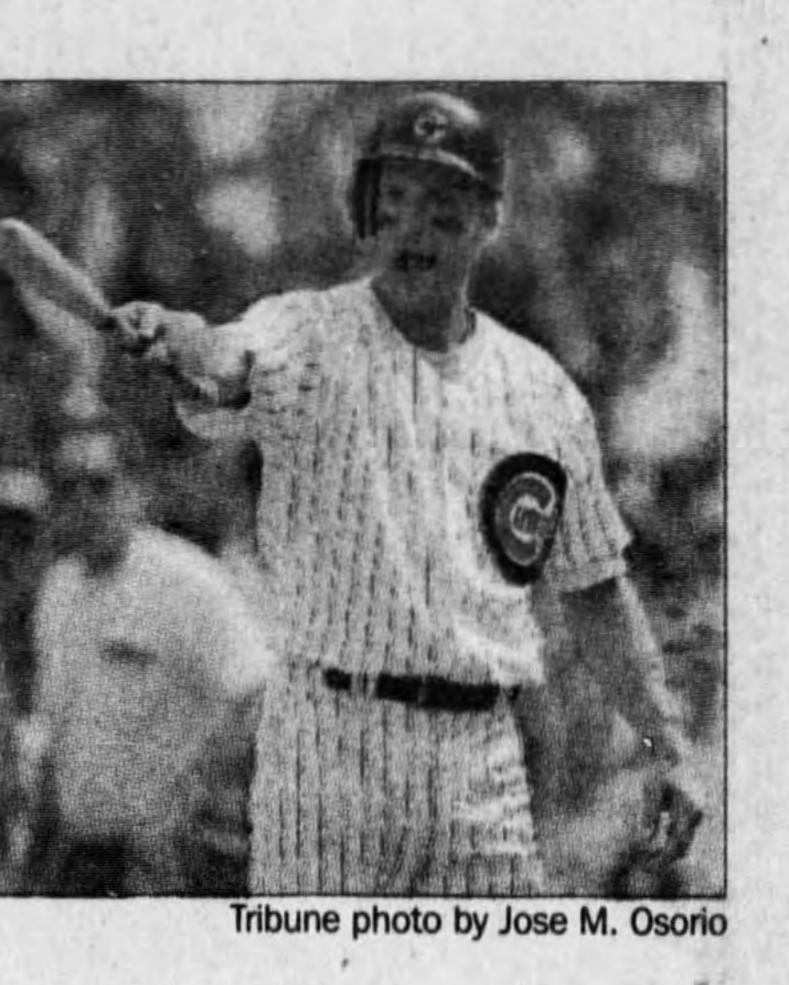
### **Smith and Jones** make it look easy

Spencer Smith (left) smokes the pack by nearly two minutes to win the Mrs. T's Chicago Triathlon, while Michellie Jones (right) takes the women's division for the third time in four years. Page 5



#### BASEBALL

**Cubs outclassed** Mark Grace (right) argues a strikeout call in the fourth inning of a 3-1 loss to the Braves, the Cubs' third straight loss to a superior Atlanta team that has won seven in a row. Page 3



**Bernie Lincicome** IN THE WAKE OF THE NEWS

#### AGENTS OF TROUBLE



### Best way to cure wild-card fever: Sleep it off

ild-card fever. I got it. I think. I could practically see it hanging over Wrigley Field Sunday. Or maybe that was just an atmospheric inversion. This is so new, it is easy to be fooled.

With the blue haze blowing in, the Braves beat the Cubs for the third day in a row, Atlanta's Tom Glavine treating Cub bats like oatmeal.

This is what Glavine does, of course, as did Greg Maddux and John Smoltz before him with Steve Avery to follow.

This is what the Braves should do since they have the best record in the National League and believe there cannot be a World Series without them. This is the way it worked out last year, you know.

Ordinarily, none of this would matter since, first of all, it is nearly September. Secondly, the Cubs are not within mailing distance of first place, except that first place is not what it used to be.

## For an agent, toughest feat is snagging clients

Second of three parts on the problematic relationship between professional sports agents and college athietes.

#### By Andrew Gottesman TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Steve Zucker is reclining comfortably on the couch in his Winnetka home, awaiting a call from the Washington Redskins. Papers are strewn about on a

table before him, and the telephone is nearby.

Zucker is one of the most wellknown sports agents in America, representing about 35 athletes. On this particular day, he is completing a deal for wide receiver Michael Westbrook—the fourth pick in last spring's NFL draft.

The contract, once complete, will be worth \$18 million over

seven years. Zucker gets 4 percent, or \$720,000.

"So many people want to become an agent," says Zucker, a former criminal lawyer whose first athletic client was then-Bear Jim McMahon in 1984. "It's glamorous, so many people love sports and would love to make sports their business."

Take Tracey Thomas, a Chicago attorney who specializes in

patent and entertainment law. A sprinter in college, Thomas encouraged his downtown firm to open a sports practice about two years ago.

They now represent four NFL players, including a fifth-round pick and three free agents. That's not a particularly glamorous or lucrative clientele, especially if the athletes don't stick. Thomas admits that it's a

tough business to crack, especially if a prospective agent takes the high road and accepts clients only through recommendations: "Why should someone go with anyone who doesn't have any experience with what they're doing?"

Still, almost anybody can call himself or herself a sports agent—and thousands of people

SEE AGENTS, PAGE 4



Neither is fourth place. Fourth place has a whole new name. It is called "the wildcard spot."

The ideal wild-card spot, as we all know, is in the hole with a high pair showing, but baseball has other uses for it.

It is to manufacture counterfeit pennant races, in the thick of which are the aforementioned Cubbies, and every other team with a losing record, as far as I can tell.

Even the White Sox are not mathematically eliminated, a torture they deserve.

The other sports have had wild-card races for some time. These are sports whose seasons are used to sell TV time and give excoaches somewhere to be on the weekends. But no one has complained much, and even Michael Jordan had no problem coming out of retirement to play for a wild card.

As new as it is, there is a special distinction in being involved in a wild-card race. It is like shooting par from the red tees, finishing first in the overweight division of a marathon, being good at mixed doubles.

This is like trying to find out who is the most talented Pip, or determining who has to be Garfunkel instead of Simon, who is Hootie and who are the Blowfish.

The wild-card race serves an important purpose. It is to see who gets to be the cummerbund with the tuxedo, the epaulet on the uniform, the hood ornament on the limo.

The Cubs are not likely to be eliminated from the wild-card race until the last series Tribune photos by Jim Prisching

Awad (left) and veteran jockey Eddie Maple charge down the stretch to win the 15th Arlington Million in track- and stakes-record time, then return triumphantly to the Arlington International Racecourse winner's circle.

'My biggest concern was trying to figure out who was going to be where at the quarter pole. There weren't a lot of openings when I got there. There was one, and that's the one I took.' Winning jockey Eddie Maple (left)

with Stephens in countless winner's circle pictures during his 29-year riding career. It was Maple's most important victory since he won the 1985 Belmont with Stephens' gelding Creme Fraiche.

"My biggest concern was trying to figure out who was going to be where at the quarter-pole," said Maple. "There weren't a whole lot of openings when I got there. There was one, and that's the one I took."

With a quarter-mile remain-

SEE MILLION, PAGE 5

of the season, but I am only guessing. What I do know is that the good teams in baseball-Cleveland, Cincinnati, Boston, California and Atlanta—are getting less attention for being double digits ahead than the Cubs are for hanging around 15½ games behind.

Without these wild-card races we would foolishly be comparing the Indians to the 1927 Yankees or the 1993 Toronto Blue Jays.

The only real race left in baseball, in the National League West between Los Angeles and Colorado, may lose some of its urgency because the loser of it is likely to be the wild card, but don't forget that Seattle and Milwaukee are breathing down Texas' neck.

Baseball has gone to so much trouble to phony up its pennant races, I feel obligated to play along.

Is it too much to ask that we forget that wild-card contenders are the raisins and not the bran, the anchovies and not the pizza, the croutons and not the salad? I think not.

If the Cubs were not in a wild-card race, would Randy Myers still be the closer, would Mark Grace be arguing whether his bat was tipped on a strikeout or Brian McRae be throwing his bat and helmet in disgust after striking out to end the only Cub rally of the day?

Or would Cub pitchers be trying so hard that they would throw three wild pitches in one game, a team record, by the way, for a wild-card contender. As far as is known.

Tribune file photo by Nuccio DiNuzzo After Wisconsin's program sagged last season, coach Barry Alvarez says, "We've gone back to square one."

#### TOURING THE BIG TEN

## Badgers seek old formula

#### Alvarez works in quest for 'chemistry' of '93

This is the seventh in a series of on-campus reports previewing the Big Ten football season.

#### **By Barry Temkin**

TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

MADISON, Wis.-The hilly seclusion of a former Catholic seminary seems the perfect setting for the task confronting Wisconsin's 1995 football team.

Out here on the outskirts of town, nearly 5 miles west of campus, coach Barry Alvarez not only is trying to replace 14 starters, he is also attempting the even more delicate task of recapturing the chemistry that helped propel Wisconsin to the 1993 Big Ten co-championship and the school's first Rose Bowl victory.

That 10-1-1 season was as blessed as last

year's at times seemed cursed. Injuries to quarterback Darrell Bevell, wide receiver Lee DeRamus and running back Brent Moss hobbled the Badgers' offense. Then late in the season, Rose Bowl MVP Moss was arrested and later convicted of possessing crack cocaine, one of several offfield incidents that would embarrass the program.

Wisconsin closed the 7-4-1 season with three straight victories, including a Hall of Fame Bowl triumph over Duke. Alvarez then set out to ensure that the '95 season would build on that momentum.

"We've gone back to square one," he said between practices last week at Holy Name Catholic Center. "We've treated this year like it was our first year."

That approach includes strengthening the bond between coaches and players, one that was weakened somewhat with last year's veteran team. Once the season ended, coaches kept in touch with players,



Tribune file photo by Nuccio DiNuzzo Senior guarterback Darrell Bevell, one of several Badgers who was injured in '94, is optimistic about this season.

SEE WISCONSIN, PAGE 12



## **Ohio St. kicks BC around in Kickoff Classic**

COLLEGES

#### FROM TRIBUNE WIRES

BC

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J.-There is a chance you take when the Kickoff Classic calls, with money and exposure and the opportunity to

become the only Ohio St. 38 game of the day. You can become

Ohio State, confidently looking toward the future after a surprisingly easy 38-6 victory Sunday over Boston College at Giants Stadium.

Or you may have to confront

your shortcomings as the Eagles did, when an impressive start was lost in a numbing series of errors that added up to a potential crisis. "I don't need game films to see where we need to improve," said Dan Henning, the Boston College coach. "We have to make tackles."

The Eagles were unable to solve the more sophisticated passing game the Buckeyes have developed under Walt Harris, the former assistant coach with the Jets and now Ohio State's quarterbacks coach. The system, which uses the backs as potential targets

rather than blockers and decoys, helped the Buckeyes outgain BC 488-300.

"It was like a measuring-stick kind of game," said Orlando Pace, Ohio State's massive sophomore offensive tackle.

**OSU's Eddie George rushed 17** times for 99 yards and caught three passes for 44 more, and Shawn Springs added a 97-yard kickoff return for a touchdown when the game was still close.

Ohio State also exploited the Eagles' problems in the secondary, a situation that worsened with the

academic suspension of Tony Ransome, a senior cornerback who had won a starting position last spring. The Eagles were forced to use Billy Gustin, a second-year freshman in his first college game, and Buckeyes quarterback Bobby Hoying took full advantage by throwing for 269 yards.

But the new diversity of the Ohio State passing game-10 players caught at least one pass-and the inability of the Eagles to respond was more significant than the play of any individual.

The Thinking Man's Guide to Hair Restoration. Now, the Award-Winning Television

### Agents

#### **CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

do. With little regulation and few requirements, the only real obstacle is having a client.

In football, about 250 players get drafted each year. Insiders say thousands of agents, most without a single client, would like to represent those athletes.

"The problem in the field is that sports agentry is the most popular field of business in America," said Steinberg, who estimates that 3,000 agents competed for last year's NFL draft picks.

The current crop of top agents essentially walked into the industry by accident, representing a friend who happened to play sports well. Those same agents have come to dominate the field by accumulat-

#### Want to be an agent?

What the National Football League Players Association requires before it will certify a professional sports agent:

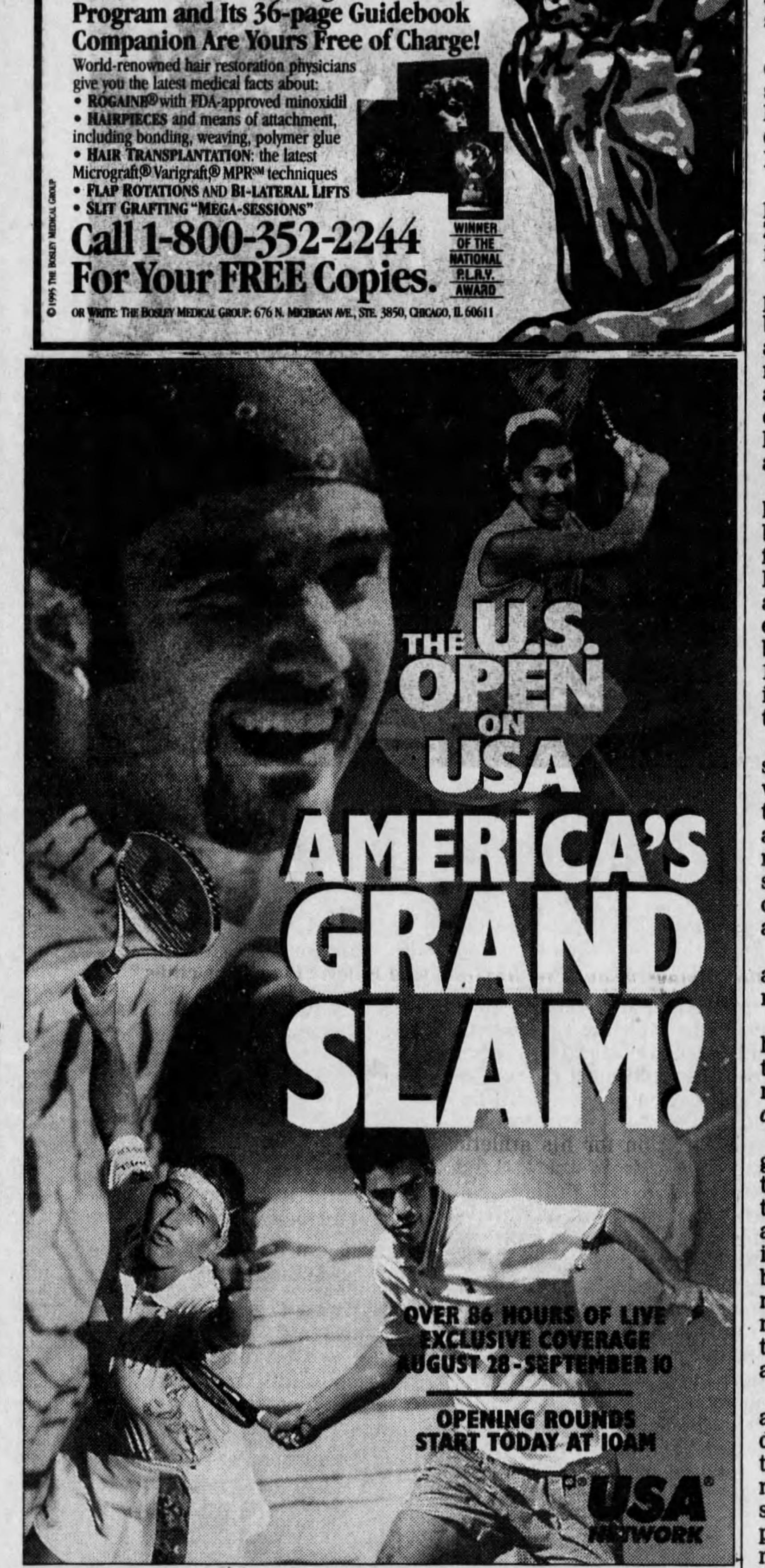
#### ▶ To become certified

 Prospective agents must have a four-year college degree or "equivalent negotiating experience."

 They must fill out an application, and pay a \$400 application fee. They must pass a background check.

#### > To remain certified

Agents must pay an annual \$800 fee.



"They all think they have a chance, just like every kid on the streets of Chicago thinks they'll be Michael Jordan," said Bill Saum, enforcement representative for the NCAA.

Therein lies the crux of a major problem in college sports. As Zucker's letterhead puts it: "Playing games is serious business."

Some agents resort to inappropriate or illicit tactics to lure eligible college players who are neither allowed to retain representation nor accept anything of value. Many agents hassle athletes and some offer payoffs, flouting NCAA regulations and state laws and players association guidelines.

The NCAA placed Alabama's heralded football program on probation this month, in part because former defensive back Antonio Langham signed a contract with an agent and accepted \$400 while still eligible. Such scandals have been breaking regularly for more than 10 years, apparently in spite of varied reforms designed to thwart them.

Yet most agents contend that the system has improved and now works pretty well, that most of them are scrupulous and that only a handful give the profession a bad name. In addition, according to some agents, the athletes who take cash are just as responsible for any problems.

"This isn't all nefarious, tempting agents," said Leigh Steinberg, who represents 65 NFL players.

ing clients in subsequent drafts.

Ten men-Tom Condon, Brad Blank, Ralph Cindrich, Frank Bauer, Jim Steiner, Marvin Demoff, Drew Rosenhaus, Tony Agnone, Jordan Woy and Steinberg-represent just under 25 percent of all NFL players, and Steinberg alone signed six of the last seven top picks. Fewer than 500 agents represent the entire league, about 1,800 players.

"There were a few people who managed to break into the business and then kept going," said Gary Roberts, president of the Sports Lawyers Association and a professor of law at Tulane. "Most people just got lucky."

Zucker, for instance, let thenrookie McMahon use a spare bedroom on one of the young quarterback's first trips to Chicago. The relationship blossomed from there.

But many other agents, drawn by the glitz and dollars, have tried to crack the business without a client on hand. While there is no specific academic degree, some college students even attempt to specialize in the field by concentrating on sports business and sports law classes.

There are several problems, however, including the relative dearth of athletes and the increasingly complex nature of professional contracts.

Licensing bodies have begun to shut out the most unqualified agents, with at least 15 states requiring registration and Florida administering a test. Each of the four major players associations also certifies agents.

 They must attend a one-day seminar each year. They must abide by all union guidelines and all state laws. They must use standard NFLPA player-agent contracts. They must provide billing information. They must submit to audits by current or former clients.

Chicago Tribune

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ing college players less lucrative.

Craig Domann, a former football player at Kansas, explained how he broke into the industry five years ago and then began to expand his Aurora-based business: "What you do at the beginning is represent free agents and hope a few stick. Then you're able to utilize your contacts for referrals."

Domann, who represents nine professional football players, said he often gets recommendations from coaches and graduate assistants he has come to know through football connections.

Thomas said his firm, in sticking to accepted attorney guidelines, does not make cold calls.

But with so many agents out there—and not all of them ethical-players said solicitations are almost constant. NCAA officials estimate that at least 75 percent of first-round draft picks in football and basketball have been offered something of value.

Too often, those initial contacts close the deals.

"I usually get started late in talking to players and a tremendous percentage of them are already

Titlebaum, director of sport management at Tulane.

The biggest agencies also can promise financial incentives, such as loans, without actually offering a contract agreement. That would be permissible under NCAA rules, if unethical.

"A large agency may fly in in September and say to a player, 'We've got a \$1 million line of credit waiting for you in January,'

" one midsize agent said on the condition of anonymity. "They won't even ask if he wants it, but the message has been delivered."

The problems have led many insiders to advocate another solution: They suggest that players simply hire lawyers after graduation, rather than agents. Lawyers charge by the hour, instead of a percent-

**Proponents say salaries are** largely determined by draft position-known as "slotting"-rather than by a tenacious negotiator. Notre Dame coach Lou Holtz even said that agents should be paid in based only on what they earn for a player above and beyond what the ve player could earn for himself.



Even if the industry is cleaner, however, agents generally concede that most *players* are behaving more wisely-not necessarily most agents.

"Usually, the better players will gravitate to the better agents and they will also take their time, get their family involved, get their adviser involved, get their school involved, somebody involved besides them," Zucker said. "Unfortunately, so many young players meet a guy that sounds real good, the guy will offer him something and that's the end of it."

The majority of sports agents are attorneys, but they also range from dentists to teachers to car salesmen to former players. In addition to negotiating contracts with professional teams, they often handle players' finances and endorsements—and may even guide them through personal problems, from marital friction to missed flights.

The obstacles, however, are not difficult to overcome.

Take the NFLPA: To get certified, agents must have a four-year college degree or "equivalent negotiating experience," fill out an application, pay a \$400 application fee and pass a background check. To remain certified, they must pay an annual \$800 fee; attend a oneday seminar each year; abide by all union guidelines and all state laws; use standard NFLPA playeragent contracts; provide billing information; and submit to audits by current or former clients.

Most states are just as lenient. And since established agents can't pursue all 250 draftees, second-tier players often do sign with newer firms. The rookie salary cap is further widening that niche, at least in football, by mak-

spoken for," said Zucker, who mails out a form letter. "You see a lot of contracts signed on Jan. 2 or 3, so it's really set and as soon as they play the last game they sign the contract."

According to the more experienced agents, most of the obvious abuses can be traced to novices. Without credibility, they said, newer agents literally need to buy their way into the industry.

"If somebody's not a lawyer, their basic approach is like anybody else's in business: Go sell," Steinberg said.

Smaller agencies, however, insist that unscrupulous behavior is not confined to new entrants. They note that well-known agents hire so-called "runners" and "bird dogs" to recruit players for them, essentially isolating themselves from the process.

"I think what they were forced to do was find other mechanisms to get to the athletes," said Peter

"You don't ever need an agent," said Jarrett Irons, a junior linebacker at Michigan. "You're giving a man all that money to do nothing."

Most agents, however, contend that charging by the hour is unrealistic and that fierce negotiators can get more money for their clients. They also note that secondtier players who don't make teams, and thus have no salary, pay nothing if they have an agent.

"It's so hard in this area to ..... quantify services on an hourly basis," Steinberg said. "Part of and your role is to assist the man in maturation. And the truth is that so many agents are desperate to sign players that they would probably do it for less than 4 percent anyway."

Tuesday: Why nothing has changed.

HORSE RACING



#### **By Dave Surico** TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

Hawk Attack and trainer Elliot Walden have discovered that going through life with blinders on is not

### Giant Hit, Earthquake triumph

**Giant Hit and Earthquake** appear ready for another shot at Hambletonian winner Tagliabue in Saturday's World Trotting Derby at the DuQuoin State Fair.

ond division. Overshadowing the trium-(1994). phant males was Divine Vic-Walden himself turned in a tory, who set a track record for Grade I effort to bring Hawk 22 her sex and gait when she Attack up to the race on workouts withstood the stretch move of alone. However, that tack was not Speedy Trip to take the \$149,000 the 32-year-old conditioner's choice. American-National 3-year-old filly trot by a nose in 1:57 2/5. Hawk Attack developed a fever

much the best, but his time of 2:00 over the firm turf was. It broke by a full second the previous 1¼-mile stakes mark shared by Derby Wish (1985), Ghazi (1992) and Vaudeville

after winning the Grade II Arling-

ton Classic July 3. The illness

caused the colt to lose three to four

days of training and prevent him

from starting in the second of

Arlington's sophomore turf triple,

the Grade II American Derby July

"When you're in certain situa-

tions you have to make the best of "

it," Walden said. "We were think-

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The Champion T1011 Jersey Tee Shirt and W053 Mesh Shorts. The originals. In a spectrum of colors, for an array of activities.

JCPenney

as bad as the adage suggests.

Thanks to the equipment change, and a little more maturity, winning is now the focus of Hawk Attack's attention. The colt continued his victorious ways with blinkers on in record style, capturing the biggest race of his career-the \$400,000 Grade I Secretariat Stakes—by a head Sunday at Arlington International Racecourse.

Walden added the blinker hood after Hawk Attack got on a streak of close encounters of the losing kind.

"[He was] letting up a little bit, losing his concentration," said Walden. "They [blinkers] just helped him focus in."

Blinkers make horses look straight ahead and prevent them from upsetting their concentration by looking at things on their sides.

Since Walden first made the addition June 14 at Churchill Downs, the son of Silver Hawk has gone 3 for 3. The Secretariat is the crowning moment of the trainer and horse's career.

Breaking from the first post, jockey Pat Day held the rail with Hawk Attack and stayed on or near the lead with American Derby winner Gold and Steel. With a mile gone, Hawk Attack found himself

Sportsman's American-National race for 3-year-old male trotters was staged in two \$102,000 divisions and the impressive winners were Giant Hit, the third horse in the Hambletonian, and Earthquake, fourth in the Hambletonian.

Giant Hit won by 21/2 lengths over Dr. Fabe in 1:58. John Patterson drove the winner for trainer Per Eriksson.

With Berndt Lindstedt driving for trainer James Keller, Earthquake had a faster time, 1:57 3/5, in defeating Greatest Victory by a length in the sec-

in third, two heads behind favored Gold and Steel and second choice Dowty.

"We weren't planning on the lead," Walden said. "The way it came up and the way he broke out of the gate, Pat got the first quarter pretty comfortable in :24. Instead of anchoring him back, that's the great thing about Pat, the way he will adapt to the way the race is

The eliminations for Friday night's \$207,500 American-National aged trot produced major upsets.

Tak The Tuk, who went off at 24-1, won the \$25,000 first elimination in 1:54 2/5, an allage track record for trotters. In the second elimination, 13-1 longshot Impeccable Image held off 3-10 favorite S J's Photo to win by a head.

Neil Milbert

running and will change what needs to be changed.

"He wasn't where I wanted or expected him to be, but with Pat in the irons, he just has a way to conserve them. He can save a horse, and one thing about it, he saved all the ground. In this kind of race you need to save all the ground unless you're tons the best."

Hawk Attack may not have been

ing of running him at Saratoga in the [Grade II] Hall of Fame Stakes [Aug. 7], but just decided to train him up to the race." The winner paid \$10.20, \$5 and \$4

23.

as the third betting choice. The \$240,000 winner's purse raised Hawk Attack's bankroll to \$445,040 gleaned from a 4-4-2 record in 12 starts.

Mecke closed strongly for second and and French invader Petite Poucet ... :0 ran third. Favored Gold and Steel tired and finished fifth.

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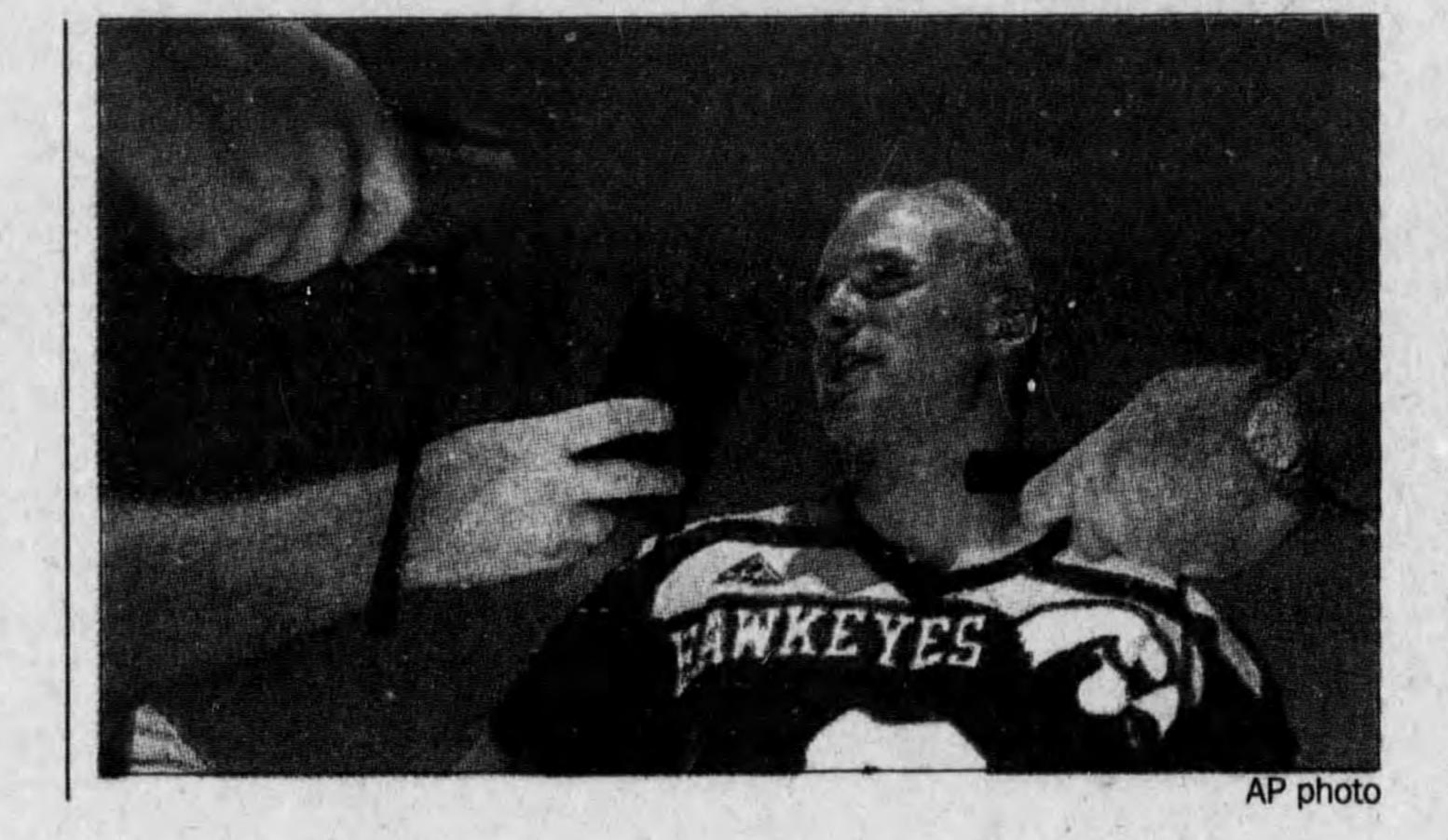


TUESDAY, AUGUST 29, 1995

THIS TIME, NO FIGHTS White Sox tip Brewers 6-5 with a lack of fisticuffs that marked last encounter. See Page 3

#### PRO FOOTBALL Stepping up

Wide receiver Jeff Graham must make the big plays this season if the Bears are to be successful on offense. Page 3



## TOURING THE BIG TEN

### Eyeing an lowa revival

The Hawkeyes look to their defense to turn around a string of disappointing seasons. But there's little doubt coach Hayden Fry's offense, including wide receiver Tim Dwight (left), can light up the scoreboard. **Back Page** 



## BASKETBALL

Coming home

The Bulls are expected to name former player John Paxson (left) an assistant coach for the 1995-96 season. **Page 3** 

Tribune file photo

#### AGENTS OF TROUBLE

#### Where agents are regulated

Twenty-four states have adopted legislation designed to curb the abuses of professional sports agents

KEY:

States with an agent-related law

States that require registration

States that provide for criminal penalties

## Agent restraint often a matter of law

Last of three parts on the problematic relationship between professional sports agents and college athletes.

#### **By Andrew Gottesman** TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

In an attempt to crack down on unethical sports agents, Illinois lawmakers passed a measure in 1987 that makes it illegal to pay college athletes. But almost 10 years later, neither Illini football coach Lou Tepper nor any national experts had heard of the unused law.

In 1985, Oklahoma became one of the first states that required

### But enforcement is hit or miss

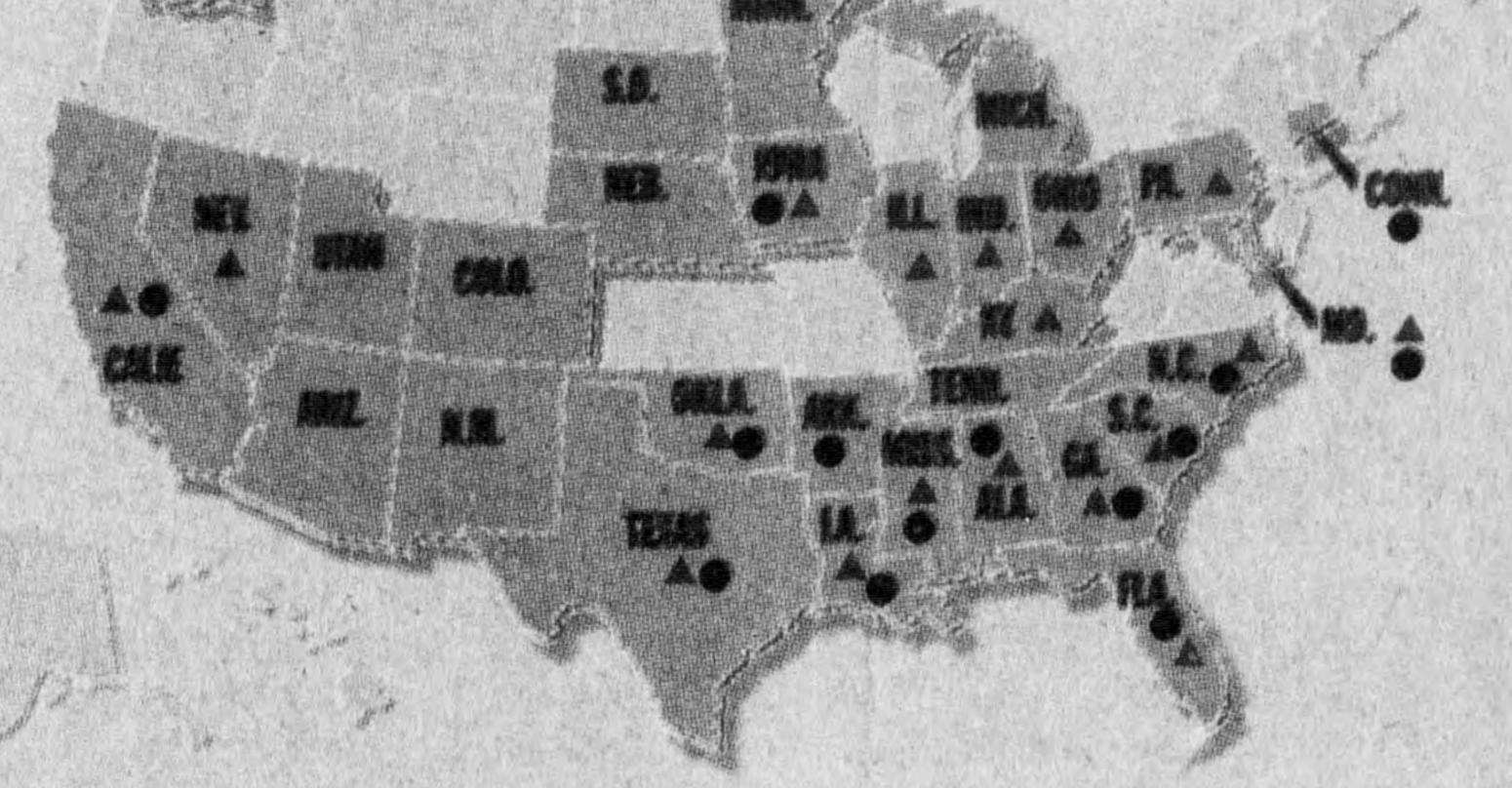
agents to register. But a decade later, exactly one person had filed the necessary forms—and he signed up just last year. Nobody has been prosecuted or fined under the statute.

The NFL Players Association began approving agents in 1983, requiring their adherence to state laws, but it never has decertified one. Steve Endicott, a Dallas-based agent who pleaded no contest to breaking Florida's statute in connection with a highly publicized scandal at Florida State, has not even been issued a warning.

After major improprieties a decade ago, when it was widely reported that agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom gave some \$800,000 to 58 players they were pursuing as potential clients, reform movements spawned a variety of laws and rules among several oversight bodies.

Because of a lack of enforcement, however, those efforts have had little impact. "I think agents are aware of the state laws and they're aware that the players association can take action, but I don't sense that their behavior has changed," said Rick Perko, a staff member for the NCAA's Professional Sports Liaison Committee. "If there are some real penalties meted out, it might."

Said Guy Joyner, an administrator with the secretary of state's office in Texas: "The hardest thing to enforce is finding out about the violations. We're just hoping it's not going SEE AGENTS, PAGE 8



Source: Sports Law & Finance and Tribune reports

Chicago Tribune



## Sosa's blasts silence critics Count 'em: 2 homers avoid sweep By Bill Jauss THEUNE STAFF WRITER

## clicks on Seles is relaxed —and a winner

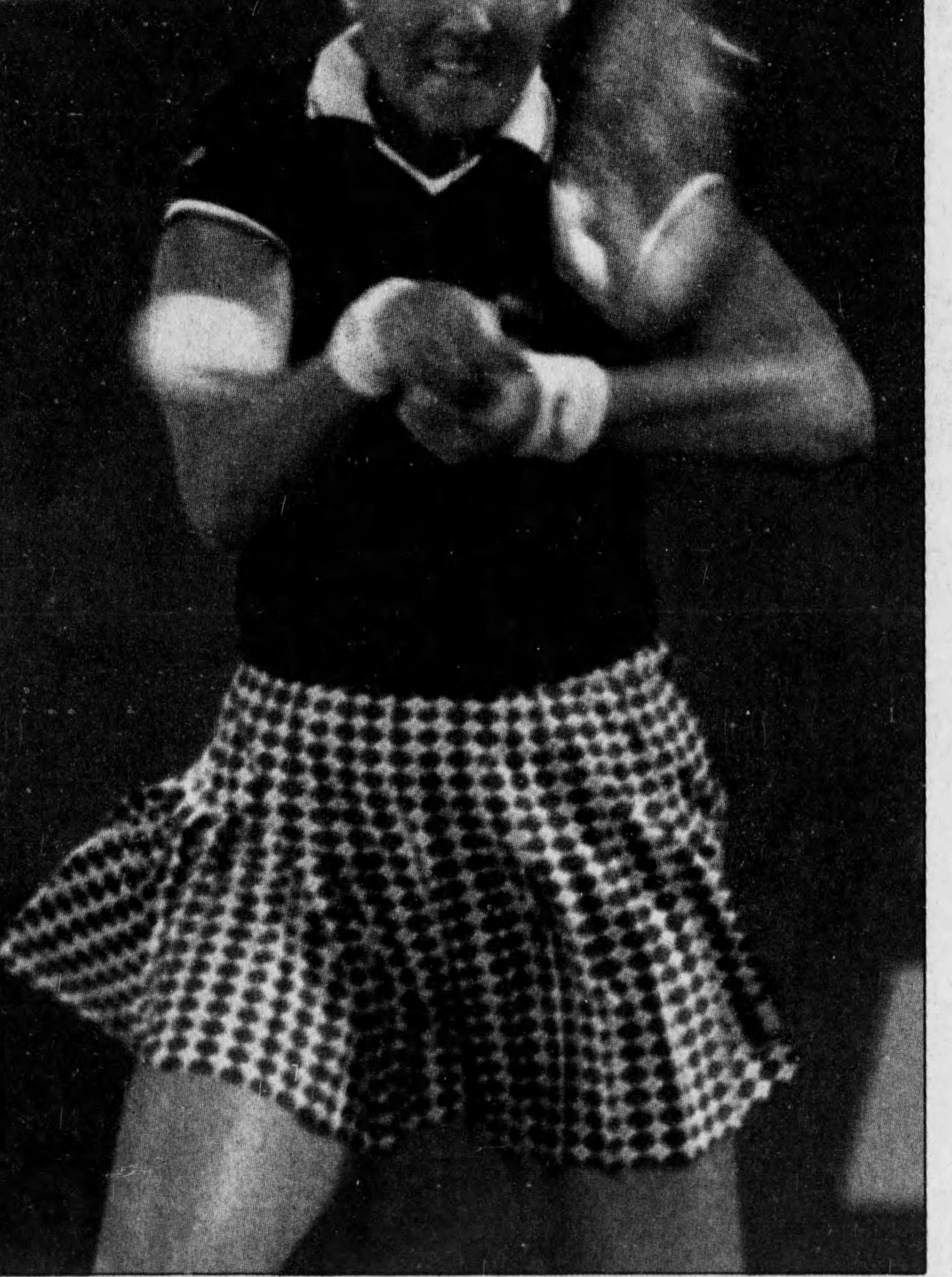
#### By Philip Hersh TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

NEW YORK—She had suddenly emerged from the locker room building for the 100-yard walk across a public area to the stadium court at the National Tennis Center, but the people along the route didn't see Monica Seles at first. Her head was down and she was moving at the pace of a race walker in the middle of a phalanx, surrounded by five yellow-shirted security guards and three other protectors.

Finally, just as Seles was about to disappear into the shadows of the stadium, she stopped at a fan's request. A gap opened in the phalanx. A camera flashed. And then she moved on, less hurriedly, for the final few steps that would take her back to day-light, to the stadium court where Seles

#### Edberg wins; injured Ivanisevic retires. Page 4

would play a brief celebrity match Sunday afternoon and would beat 44th-ranked Ruxandra Dragomir of Romania 6-3, 6-1 in her first Grand Slam tennis tournament match in  $2\frac{1}{2}$  years Monday night.



Timely advice. It won the Cubs a ballgame Monday, and they contend it kept them in the wild-card chase.

Billy Williams, Hall of Famer and Cubs hitting coach, offered Sammy Sosa a philosophical tip. "Billy told me, 'Good pitchers stop good hitters,' **Cubs** 7 "said Sosa. "And

Braves 5 those three pitchers are pretty good."

Williams and Sosa were referring to Atlanta starters John Smoltz, Greg Maddux and Tom Glavine, who beat the Cubs three times over the weekend and struck out Sosa six times while holding him to one hit in 10 at-bats.

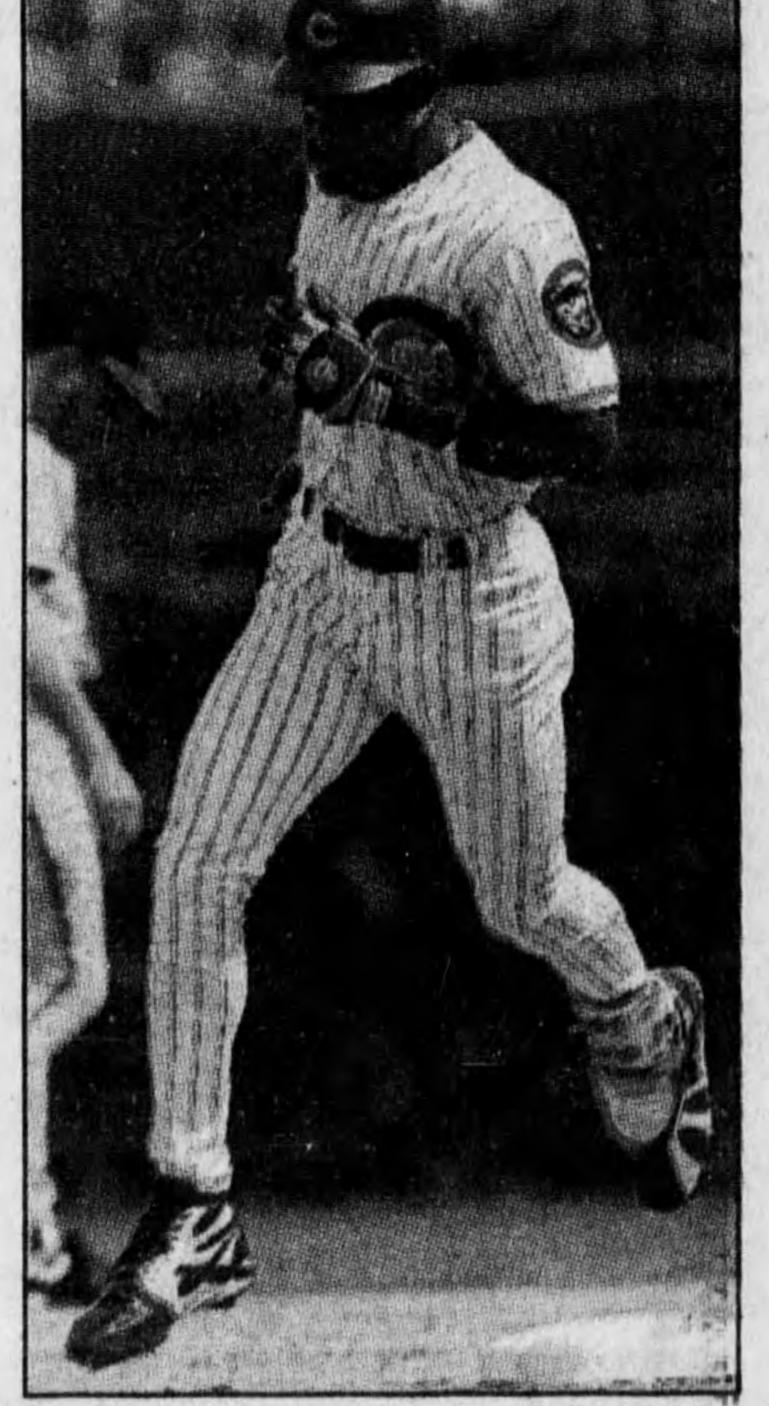
"But I remembered what Billy told me and didn't get down and kept swinging," said Sosa.

Sosa toasted the Braves' Steve Avery for two home runs, his 28th and 29th of the season, and four RBIs as the Cubs and Jaime Navarro beat Atlanta 7-5 at Wrigley.

Williams wasn't the only one who offered timely advice, nor Sosa the only player who benefited from it.

Early in the game, catcher Scott Servais told Navarro, "Don't worry ... and keep throwing your fastball."

Navarro did just that, and improved his record to 12-5. He



Tribune photo by José M. Osorio Sammy Sosa rounds the bag at second Monday after hitting the first of two home runs.

outs, walked only one and delivered a key two-out RBI single to make the score 5-3 in the sixth inning.

Sosa enjoyed the 14th multihomer game of his career and the third this season. He reached a career-high 95 RBIs.

Sosa also may have silenced

These were her first appearances before New York fans since winning a second consecutive U.S. Open title in 1992. Seles had not played the U.S. Open since because of what happened April 30, 1993, when she was stabbed in the back while seated during a changeover at a tournament in Hamburg, Germany.

Monday's was a first-round match of the 1995 U.S. Open, in which Seles suddenly, stunningly, is a title favorite for reasons beyond sympathy or empathy. Sunday's was to play doubles with Bill Cosby against 1981 U.S. Open champion Tracy Austin and Jets placekicker Nick Lowery in the Arthur Ashe Aids Tennis Challenge.

Before her 15 minutes of light(hearted) work Sunday, Seles walked to the stands and willingly began signing autographs. At first, her back was to the empty court, but the fans were virtually pressing the flesh with her. Then, at one point, she waded in deep enough that fans were behind her, and a teenage boy reached a piece of paper across her back. Seles turned, calm in this brief frenzy around her, and signed the paper.

"For a long time you see this tunnel and it's dark all the time and it was really nice to see some light coming in," Seles said of her return to tennis. "Going back to someAP photo

beyond sympathy or empathy. Sunday's was Monica Seles grimaces as she returns Monday against Romania's Ruxandra Dragomir.

thing that I've done, and all I've ever done in my life is play tennis, and this became a little bit more out of control with what happened. But it became bigger than tennis and it should have been so simple. I mean, it's sport, I shouldn't be worried."

Those thoughts came from the transcript of a recent press conference. The 21-year-old talks that way, in stream of Seles consciousness, her thoughts punctuated mainly and randomly by a giggle or a pause.

There was a significant pause in her press conference Sunday, when Seles was talking about her practice opponents during some of the darkest days. "I mostly played

SEE SELES, PAGE 4

#### A return to greatness?

Monica Seles, 21, was the most dominant player in women's tennis before being stabbed.

Grand Slam titles: 8—French Open (1990-91-92); Australian Open (1991-92-93); U.S. Open (1991-92).

WTA Tour singles victories: 33. Career prize money: \$7,557,481.

Tour rankings: 1994-did not play; 1993-8\*; 1992-1; 1991-1; 1990-2; 1989-6; 1988-6. (\*played only four tournaments before stabbing).

On March 11, 1991, ended Steffi Graf's record reign of 186 weeks as women's No. 1; became youngest No. 1 in tennis history.

French Open win in 1990 made her youngest player (16 years, 6 months) to win Grand Slam singles title since 1887. had a career-high nine strike-

#### SEE CUBS, PAGE 5

## Twin Cities down on Moon, Vikings

#### **By Don Pierson**

TRIBUNE PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

Warren Moon is a 38-year-old quarterback with a sore shoulder who has yet to lead his team to a touchdown this summer. On Sunday, he will try to pick up the Minnesota Vikings where they left off eight months ago when the Bears eliminated them in the playoffs.

The game is in Chicago this time, and it's just as well for Moon and the Vikings, because they are on shaky footing at home.

Just answering the football questions would be enough of a distraction. The week before training camp, Moon struck wife Felicia in their Missouri City, Texas, home and "choked her to the point of nearly passing out," according to Felicia's report. Moon's 7-year-old son, the youngest of four children, had called 911. Moon was not charged.

Moon and his agent, Leigh Steinberg, say Moon sought counseling before the assault. Since then, Moon and his wife have tried to face the issue squarely and are continuing counseling.

"I addressed the team the first night of camp and let them know the things that happened to me," Moon said. "My family • and I are fine, and I don't want it to be a distraction."

Outside the training camp headquarters where Moon was speaking earlier this month was a limousine Moon said he and

SEE MOON, PAGE 2

#### TOURING THE BIG TEN

# Defense key to Iowa ending its drought

### No question Hawkeyes can light up board

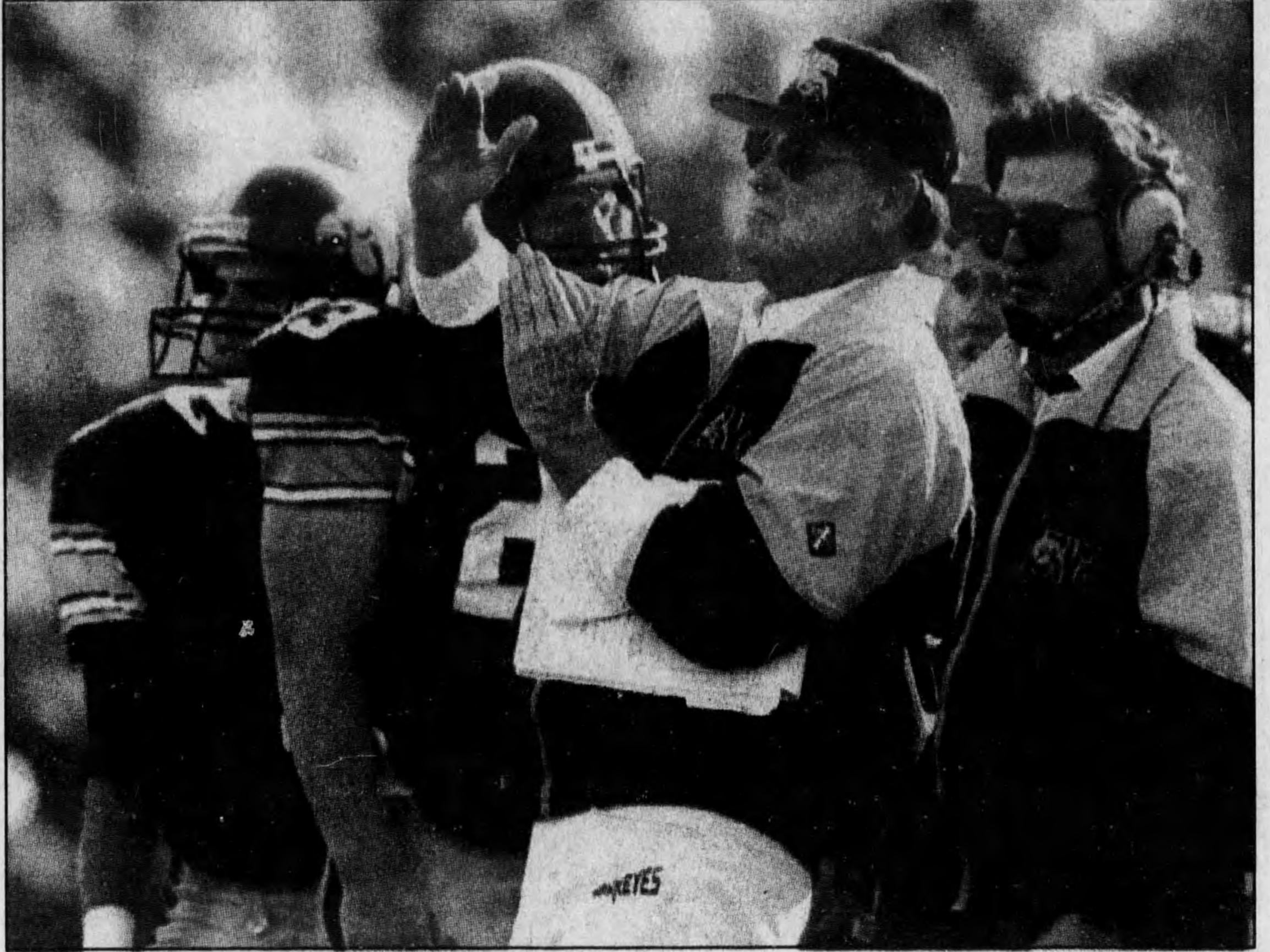
**By Michael Hirsley** TRIBUNE STAFF WRITER

IOWA CITY—Hayden Fry, the dean of Big Ten football coaches with 16 years at the helm of the Iowa Hawkeyes, is an avid student of history.

And he knows how to interpret it to motivate his players.

As his team prepares for the 1995 season, Fry does not dwell on the recent history that shows Iowa without a winning season since 1991.

Instead, he accentuates the positive with reminders that nottoo-distant Hawkeyes squads



Eighth in a series of on-campus reports previewing the Big Ten football season

IOWA Hawkeyes

#### 1994-95

#### Record: 5-5-1

Conference record: 3-4-1 **Conference finish:** Seventh in the Big Ten, did not go to a bowl.

#### 1995-96

Coach: Hayden Fry (116-69-6 in 16 seasons).

Big game: Indiana, Oct. 14

change to a 5-2 alignment from last season's 4-3 defense include linemen Bickham and Chris Webb and linebacker Bobby Diaco.

The loaded offense is headed by running backs Sedrick Shaw and Tavian Banks, tight end Scott Slutzker, wide receiverkick returner Tim Dwight and quarterback Matt Sherman.

"We have a lot of talent on both sides of the ball, and our big finish last year was a confidence-builder," said Shaw, a junior whose 1,563 yards rushing leave him only 999 short of becoming Iowa's all-time leading rusher.

Fry stressed that Iowa's defensive struggles put pressure on the offense as well: "We've got to control the ball a little more, to keep our defense off the field.'

Although three consecutive non-winning football seasons might spell big trouble for some coaches in some places, that doesn't seem to apply to Fry in Iowa. History is on his side.

have been a lot more successful than most other Big Ten teams.

But all the while he's doing that, he has slipped in a warning that a significant positive streak is in jeopardy.

"Personally, I'd hate to be one of the seniors, one of the only seniors, not to have made at least one Rose Bowl trip during the time I've been here," Fry said on a recent morning in his office, admitting he has used the line on his seniors.

Since Fry began coaching at Iowa in 1979, every Hawkeye who stayed five years has made it to at least one Rose Bowl. Iowa went to Pasadena in 1982, 1986 and 1991 as Big Ten champion.

Fry's teams have played in 11 bowl games, going 4-6-1, including losses in their three Rose Bowl appearances. During that Ten team that has played in Iowa.

But after three subpar seasons, Iowa doesn't get much respect this year, picked anywhere from fifth to seventh in preseason conference polls.

Nonetheless, there remains a broad streak of loyalty and optimism in "Hayden's world." It extends beyond the tight complex of Fry's office crammed full of statistics sheets, nearby 70,000-capacity Kinnick Stadium

Hayden 'Fry's Hawkeyes haven't had a winning season since 1991, but he's accentuating the positive.

#### 1995 SCHEDIII F

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ot. 9	Northern Iowa
ot. 16	at Iowa State
ot. 30	New Mexico State
t. 7	at Michigan State
t. 14	Indiana
t. 21	Penn State
t. 28	at Ohio State
v. 4	Illinois
v. 11	at Northwestern
v. 18	at Wisconsin
v. 25	Minnesota

time, Michigan is the only Big and "the Bubble," the football field-size indoor practice facility. more Rose Bowl games than Iowa fans have been a loyal bunch that has assured sellouts at virtually every home game and sent large contingents to bowl games during the Fry years.

> But as construction workers hurry to install a mammoth new scoreboard at the stadium this year, everyone knows the Hawkeyes' challenge at Kinnick, where they lost two critical Big Ten games last year, is to keep visiting teams from putting too

WHAT'S AHEAD The schedule of the Tribune's series: Indiana: Wednesday Purdue: Thursday Minnesota: Friday

many points on that board. Even as Fry keeps dreams of a Rose Bowl alive among his players, he is painfully aware of where his recent teams have fallen short.

"The big key to our season is how much we can improve defensively," he assessed without hesitation. "If we can keep our main people healthy, we could have a surprisingly good defense."

One of those "ifs" is lineman Lloyd Bickham, a 6-foot-3-inch, 270-pound senior and former Chicago Public League defensive player of the year at Robeson.

A broken leg last season and a shoulder injury in 1993 forced Bickham to miss half the games after he began both seasons as a starter.

"Yeah, the injuries have been

Key losses: Fullback Kent Kaul **Defensive lineman Parker Wildeman** Wide receiver Harold Jasper **Returning starters:** AP file photo 16 (6 offensive, 7 defensive, 2 kickers, 1 punter)

#### PLAYERS TO WATCH

frustrating ... makes you feel

maybe you shouldn't be playing

the sport," Bickham said. "But

I'm not a quitter, and my family

"I think I'll be healthy this

Knowing that doubts linger

about the defense's strength and

health, he jokingly has given

himself and his defensive mates

"I call us the 'question marks."

I tell them, 'We're nothin' but a

bunch of question marks.' It's a

challenge to us, and I think

season, particularly with inju-

ries on defense and at quarter-

back, the Hawkeyes finished

with three victories and a tie in

their last four games. Their 5-5-1

record almost got them a bowl

Nonetheless, the final statis-

is very supportive.

year."

a name:

Lloyd Bickham: Nose guard Matt Sherman: Quarterback Sedrick Shaw: Running back

#### **PREDICTIONS**

By publications

ATHLON	STREET & SMITH	Big 7		
Big Ten 7th	Big Ten 5th			

#### CENTENNIAL FACT

Kinnick Stadium, site of 63 consecutive sold-out lowa home games, is named after Hawkeyes' only Heisman Trophy winner, halfback Nile Kinnick, named college football's best player in 1939.

Chicago Tribune

tics left no question about the team's offensive strength -averaging 407 yards and 28 points per game-and defensive weakness, allowing 381 yards and 29.5 points per game.

Among 41 returning lettermen, including 16 starters, key defensive players in Fry's

"Folks here remember that we had a lot of losing seasons at Iowa before Hayden turned things around," said "Bump" Elliott, an Iowa City resident and former athletic director at Iowa. When Fry led the Hawkeyes to the Rose Bowl in 1982 with an 8-4 record, that snapped a string of 19 non-winning seasons.

"They're more realistic here than other places, where the heat is turned up on coaches real fast," said Elliott, who came to Iowa after gaining fame as a player and then coach at Michigan.

Receiver Dwight, who grew up in Iowa City, put it differently.

"The Iowa Hawkeyes are pretty much the only show, and Coach Fry is pretty much a god,

in this state," Dwight said.

But he insisted his team realizes there is some recent history to be reversed. "Everybody's more up, more enthusiastic than last year," he said. "Now we've got to see what we can do on the field."

we've got the stuff to respond." As to the Rose Bowl streak, Bickham said: "Coach has mentioned it quite a few times in practice. But he doesn't need to. " We tell ourselves about it." Although Iowa struggled last

#### AGENTS OF TROUBLE

invitation.

#### ranta Agents

#### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

on."

The NCAA has no jurisdiction over agents, but it can punish individual schools and promote education among athletes. Yet those efforts also have been frustrating, officials said.

"If you judge success by the actions we have taken to educate kids, then I think we've been successful," Perko said. "If you judge success by the decisions young men make, then the results are more mixed."

While 125 colleges have established panels to help athletes deal with agents, many essentially exist in name only. So while some players have been shielded and educated, others still wander into

the clutches of unscrupulous agents-or just don't believe they'll get caught. be knowledgeable so Too often, experts said, educational programs do not reach impoverished athletes or athletes without strong family backgrounds. That can translate into bad, even illicit, decisions. NCAA The placed Alabama

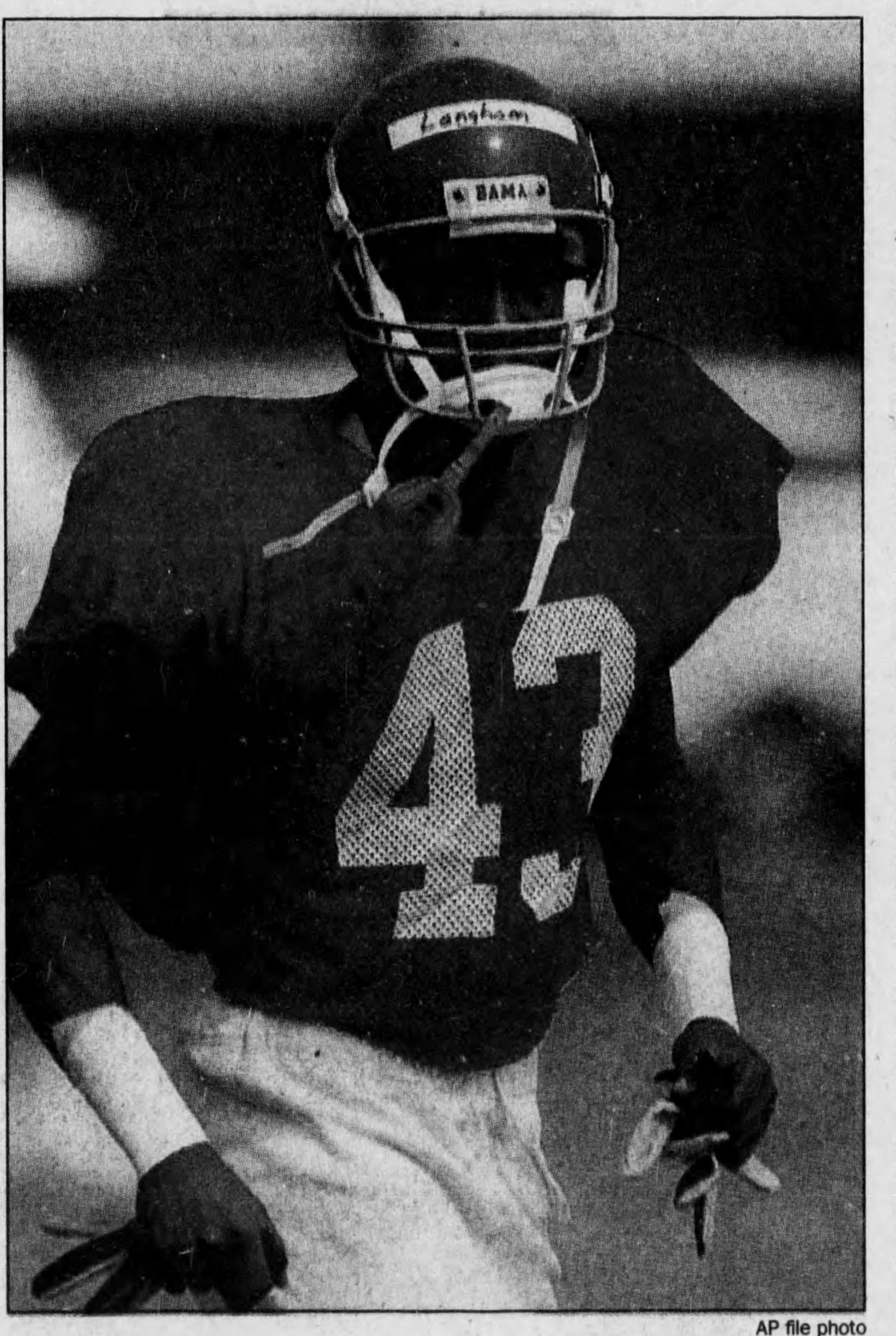
Saum said: "If there was more time to do it or more people to do it, we might discover more. We are not naive to the problems out there."

But while most experts stress the need for tougher enforcement, others propose more radical remedies. Some think that players should be paid, or at least allowed to retain an agent, in order to open the process and root out the clandestine problems.

Those strategies are not likely to gain a widespread following, however, unless current approaches truly fail: "I don't think we've seen what we can do with the rules we have," said Peter Titlebaum, director of sport management at Tulane University. According to NCAA rules, eligible athletes can neither retain agents nor accept anything of

value. Nevertheless, agents begin to contact players early and sometimes offer payoffs.

they didn't let a guy The biggest problem is that come in and intimidate agents, of which them into thinking there are several they needed an agent thousand, compete to land a pool of several hundred athletes-whom they hope to represent in contract negotiations with professional teams. Agents generally earn about 4 percent of those contracts, or about \$50,000 a year for an average first-round pick in the NFL draft. Beginning with California in 1981, states began to regulate agents in various ways. Today, 24 states have statutes on the subject. The most basic laws require registration and background checks in order to simply ensure clean records and keep track of agents. Other states limit solicitation to certain methods or times of year, and some provide criminal penalties for agents who offer to pay players. Such crimes, however, generally are treated as misdemeanors. In Illinois, which does not require registration or limit solicitation, agents who give money to eligible players are subject to one year in prison and a \$1,000 fine.



the union also has difficulty provior. He often hears rumors from and about various agents, then has trouble getting sworn statements.

"They all want to clean the business up, but they don't really want to clean the business up," he said. "Nobody wants to be a snitch."

While schools have initiated a wide range of educational programs to help athletes make better decisions, they likewise have met with mixed success. In light of continuing problems, it is apparent that some athletes still are making poor choices.

Many coaches said they talk about agents at the first meeting freshman players attend.

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who's telling you that

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professor who isn't,

it's clear who you will

pick and a law

pick.'

"I wanted my guys to be knowledgeable so they didn't let a guy come in and intimidate them into thinking they needed an agent and pull the wool over their eyes," said Wisconsin coach Barry Alvarez, who brought

very few use it. The key appears ing allegations of unethical behav- to be getting a couple of players to use the panel, which can then build trust among younger teammates.

> "It is very tough to crack," said Steve Ross, a professor of law who has been on the little-used committee at Illinois since its inception about five years ago. "If you have an agent who's telling you that you'll be a first-round pick and a law professor who isn't, it's clear who you will pick."

Overall, Tulane's Titlebaum said schools are just paying "lip service" to the problem.

"Their heart is in the right place, but I don't think they're being realistic about how deep this industry goes and what

agents will do to get these kids," he said. "Are they tired of being embarrassed?"

In reality, most players learn about agents from former teammates who have been through the pro-

"It's pretty much something you just know," said Ohio State tailback Eddie George. "I wouldn't want to sit in a seminar. I

and pull the wool over their eyes.' Wisconsin coach Barry Alvarez

'I wanted my guys to

on probation this month, in part because former defensive back Antonio Langham had signed with an agent and accepted \$400 while still eligible. Other incidents recently rocked Ohio State and Arizona, making apparent the lack of reform since this problem emerged.

Many experts had hoped that the most recent disclosures would lead to more enforcement, but so far little has been accomplished. Officials insist that they are hampered by limited resources.

"I'm not sure how long the window's going to stay open, or if it's even closing in some respects," Perko said. "The committee's wondering, 'Are these groups [such as states and players unions] going to step forward and take action on some of these incidents?' If they don't now, when will they?"

Of the NCAA's own reaction, enforcement representative Bill

Of course, nobody has been prosecuted under the statute.

The NCAA put Alabama on probation in part because former defensive player Antonio Langham signed with an agent while still eligible.

And few other states actually have registered or fined many agents, with even fewer pursuing criminal sanctions. Last year, Florida became the first to imprison an offender-jailing Nate Cebrun in connection with a \$6,000 shopping spree by several Florida State players.

So it is not surprising, then, when insiders still estimate that at least 75 percent of first-round draft picks in football and basketball were offered something of value by an agent. There simply are not enough deterrents, experts say.

Observers note, however, that it should be easy for states to

enforce registration requirements: It would be simple, after all, to cross-check the return addresses on player solicitations with a list of registered agents. Only several hundred agents are registered nationwide, out of several thousand who are active.

Still, there are critics of state laws. Many agents believe that the industry needs a uniform statute nationwide, and that the government should limit its involvement to criminal prosecutions.

Most agents prefer that players associations handle registration, because they have national scopes. But Mark Levin, the NFLPA's assistant director of research, said

in an NFLPA offi-Steve Ross cial to address the U. of I. law professor **Badgers** before last season.

At Arizona, where guard

Damon Stoudamire was suspended for one basketball game in March after his father accepted airfare from an agent, officials even plan to institute a program for parents. The presentation will take place on a football Saturday, when many parents are in town.

The Wildcats also are starting mandatory programs for athletes. Gayle Hopkins, associate to the athletic director, called them "scare tactics."

Still, Hopkins admitted that the strategy doesn't always work: "You can have everything you want, policies and procedures and informational items, but the kids have to use it. Would they go if it was voluntary? I'd be surprised if they did."

Universities also have established advisory panels, generally made up of administrators and professors with business or legal expertise. Those panels, however, are not universally successful.

At Duke, for example, most of the top stars use it. At Illinois,

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have classes and other things to worry about."

Increasingly, the top players are simply establishing their own advisory panels.

Leigh Steinberg, a Californiabased agent, said Dallas Cowboys quarterback Troy Aikman used an Oklahoma City law firm "with a flotilla of lawyers peppering me with questions." Ki-Jana Carter, this year's top draft pick from Penn State, used a Columbus, Ohio, firm where "the questions were so incisive and the research was so strong that it was like a confirmation panel for secretary of state."

But, Steinberg notes, "a significant part of top football players follow a very different pattern." Many athletes, usually poor and without family support, expose themselves to unscrupulous agents.

"If you have stability with yourself, you're going to be more apt to resist them," said Simeon Rice, a linebacker at Illinois. "But if you're desolate, if you're needy, then you'll take what you can get."