



Atlanta (Smoltz 12-7) at Cincinnati (Smiley 12-5), 5 p.m., KMAX-FM (107.1) Cleveland (Hershiser 17-6) at Seattle (Belcher 10-13), 5 p.m., Ch. 7

One thing is certain:

Please see BASEBALL, C4

"Anything could have happened," said Seattle rookie Bob Wolcott, and it did, as Cleveland's Albert Belie found out.

Friday

Cincinnati at Atlanta, 5 p.m. Seattle at Cleveland, 5 p.m. Saturday

Cincinnati at Atlanta, 4 p.m. Seattle at Cleveland, 4 p.m.

Sunday

Cincinnati at Atlanta, 4 p.m.* Seattle at Cleveland, 4 p.m.*

Oct. 17-18

Atlanta at Cincinnati, 5 p.m.* Cleveland at Seattle, 5 p.m.* * if necessary

WORLD SERIES

Starts Saturday, Oct. 21, in National League park.

THE NBA



WOES Laker guard **Eddie Jones** faces thumb surgery and could be out six weeks. C3

LAKER

Valley/Region

Pages 6-7

HUNG JURY: Jonathan Beauregard, a former Cal State

Reds Doubled Over, but Not Laughing

MIKE DOWNEY

A Glimmer of Distant Diamonds

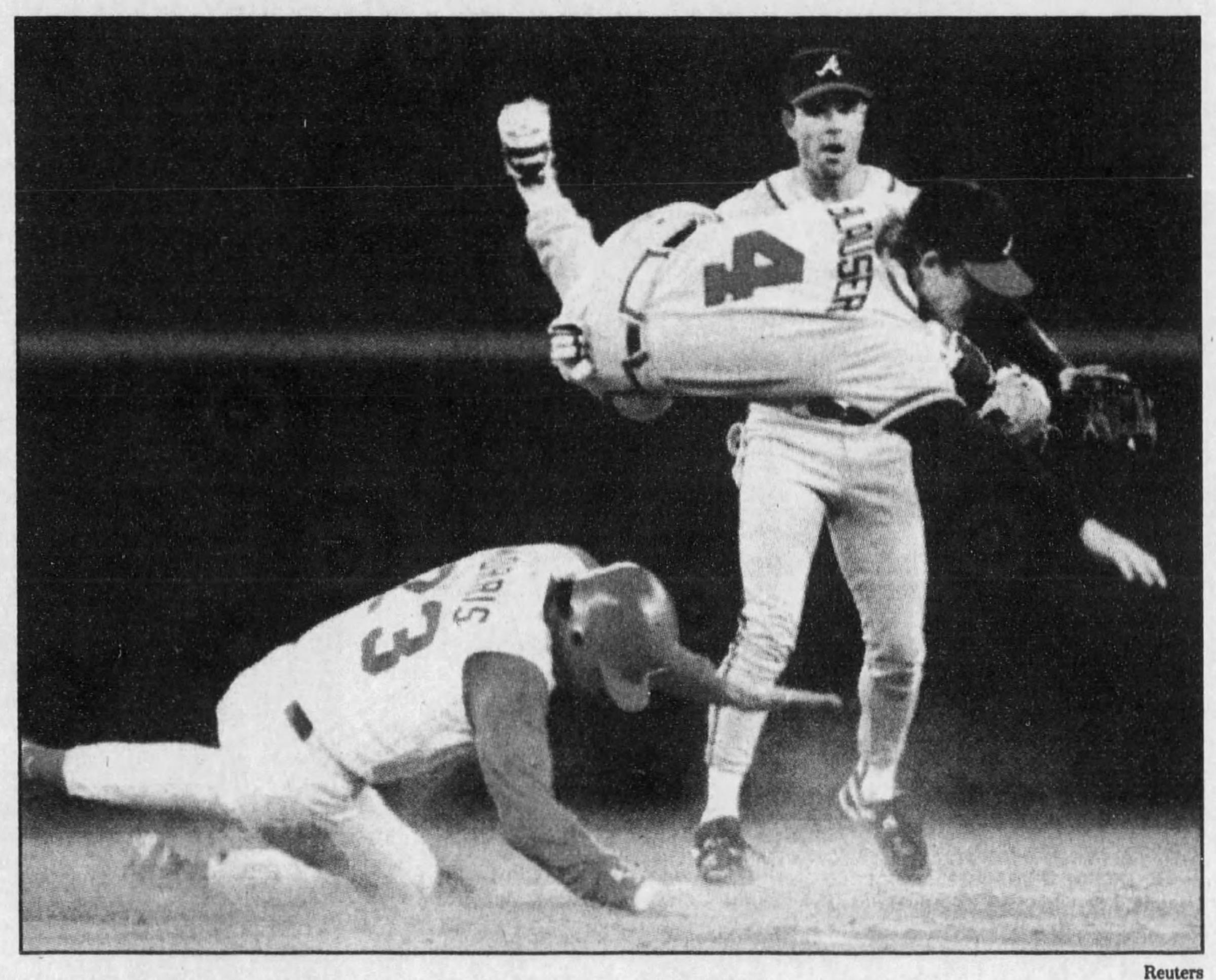
INCINNATI-The tying run stood on third base, the winning run was on first base, and approaching the plate with a bat in his hand was Reggie Sanders, with the Cincinnati crowd, what there was of it, chanting: "Reggie! Reggie!"

A new Mr. October in the making.

The Atlanta manager, Bobby Cox, changed pitchers. And when he sat back down inside the dugout, he happened to remember one interesting Sanders statistic.

Cox nudged his pitching coach, Leo Mazzone, to say: "You know, he hit into 10 double plays this year."

"Well, shoot, Bob," Maz-**Please see DOWNEY, C4**



Shortstop Jeff Blauser goes airborne to avoid Hal Morris during one of five Atlanta double plays.

NL: Devereaux's single wins opener, 2-1, in 11th inning as Braves turn a record five double plays.

By BOB NIGHTENGALE TIMES STAFF WRITER

CINCINNATI-The Cincinnati Reds' clubhouse was nearly empty late Tuesday night. The stereo was shut off. The camera crews were gone. The only sound was a a muffled groan coming from a locker.

"We could have won this game, we should have won this game, but we let the damn thing get away," Red shortstop Barry Larkin said. "Maybe we didn't give it away, but they definitely took it away.

"We blew opportunity after opportunity, and now we're paying the price big time."

The Atlanta Braves, who have been to this dance four consecutive seasons, took a 2-1, 11-inning victory away from the Reds in the first Please see NL, C4

Northridge football player, will be tried again on attempted murder charges after a panel failed to reach a verdict. C6

THE NHL

Kings 6, Chicago 5 (OT) Roundup C5

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Sports Updates

By Phone

TimesLine is not operating because of equipment changes, but full service is expected to resume sometime today.

Online

Sign on to TimesLink for: Daily Sports Trivia Quiz Running and Biking Guides More on SoCal Teams

Details on using Times electronic services, page B6

For Kings, It's So Far, So Good

By LISA DILLMAN TIMES STAFF WRITER

Whether or not two games can be classified as a trend, it is clear that the Kings are showing little resemblance to last season's onice disaster.

It had to be startling for the Chicago Blackhawks-at least for two periods. The last time the teams played was in May, and the Kings looked like a team simply waiting to be put out of its misery. This time, the Kings had three power-play goals and 13 different players figured in the scoring during a 6-5 overtime victory against the Blackhawks on Tuesday night at the Forum. Center Yanic Perreault, who had two Please see KINGS, C5



PAUL MORSE / Los Angeles Times

Rick Tocchet (22) keeps his eye on the puck in the first period of the Kings' 6-5 victory over the Chicago Blackhawks at the Forum.

Caron's New Branch Laden With Thorns

Colleges: Personal injury lawyer's attempt to become a sports agent has led to controversy.

By ELLIOTT ALMOND and STEVE HENSON TIMES STAFF WRITERS

VENTURA-After graduating from the Ventura College of Law in 1984, Robert Troy Caron spent the next decade developing a thriving personal-injury law practice.

Some would say he had climbed to the highest level of that branch of the profession, figuratively as well as literally. His plush 16th-floor office is in Oxnard's 21-story Union Bank Tower, which stands above the fertile farmland of southwest Ventura County like an out-ofplace monument to moderniza-

But Caron, 37, wanted to expand. In 1993, he established Pro Manage, hoping to become a major player in the high-profile sports-agent game.

"I warned him early on, 'You're trying to jump into a pool already filled with great white sharks,'" said one former associate, asking not to be identified. "But he wanted something more fun than the drag law had become."

What Caron wanted, said Dennis Ebell, Pro Manage's marketing director, was for the agency to become the largest in its field, the William Morris of sports.

In the last two weeks, however, Bobby Caron has been on a Please see CARON, C5 1018 1018

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BASEBALL PLAYOFFS DAILY REPORT

AMERICAN LEAGUE

These Dodgers Still Alive in Playoffs

They were both 3-0 in the postseason of 1988 as the Dodgers defeated the New York Mets in the National League championship series and the Oakland A's in the World Series.

Tonight, however, Tim Belcher and Orel Hershiser will be on opposite sides, starting pitchers for the Seattle Mariners and the Cleveland Indians in Game 2 of the American League's championship series.

Belcher reflected on '88 and said: "There was no hotter pitcher on "the planet [than Hershiser]. He single handily carried the pitching staff through September and October. He was the best pitcher I've ever seen, and he may have been the best anyone has ever seen during that stretch."

Including his victory in Game 2 of the division series, Hershiser is now 5-0 in the postseason and 17-6 for the Indians in 1995, rekindling memories of his Cy Young Award form of 1988 and those 59 consecutive scoreless innings.

"My stuff is very, very close and my health is very, very close," he said. "Am I approaching that form? Yes. Do I expect [to be that dominant again]? No, because there was such a miracle finish to that year. My role has also changed. I'm one of a cast of players now. I'm not the person expected to carry the team, so to speak."

Belcher had a 4-0 career record in the postseason before losing Game 2 of the division series in relief. He was 10-12 with the Mariners after going 7-15 with the Detroit Tigers last year and ¹ being one of the last players to be signed out of the Homestead, Fla., free agent camp in the spring. "Considering the year I had in Detroit and the experience this spring, it would have taken a lofty imagination to think I'd be starting a game in the LCS," he said. "However, when I got here and saw the talent, I felt that anything was possible, and it has been. The emotional level is very close to what I felt with the Dodgers in '88 except that we went all the way that year. We haven't done that here-yet."

CARON

Continued from C1

detour. He has found that life as a sports agent is certainly no drag, but the fame, action and headlines his career move have brought may not be quite what he had in mind.

For allegedly giving athletes money and other benefits in an effort to secure them as clients, Caron is the subject of investigations not only by the NCAA and the Pacific 10 Conference but also the FBI. He also is a defendant in a civil suit filed by USC and is dart-board material for coaches around the country who have sounded the alarm against unsavory practices by agents.

Twelve players from seven schools have been questioned about their association with Caron. Under NCAA rules, athletes who accept money or other favors from agents can lose their eligibility.

"I just feel this is a big issue that has been simmering for a long time," Caron said Tuesday night. "It seems to have exploded on me. What has happened [to me] is precedented. They are exploring the waters. The current situation can't go on any longer. They're using this to take control of it. . . . in a Robert Troy Caron strong-handed way." Three USC football players running back Shawn Walters, defensive end Israel Ifeanyi and linebacker Errick Herrin-were suspended Sept. 28 for their involvement with Pro Manage. They have not been reinstated. allegedly received Walters \$15,900 in airline tickets, concert tickets, pocket money and other items, according to a ledger acquired by The Times. USC officials say the total is much less. The other players were given phone cards, pagers and trips to Las Vegas with Caron, Ifeanyi told school officials. UCLA linebacker Donnie Edwards, who has been injured since the Oregon game last month, allegedly received \$150 for food, according to another document. He was declared ineligible by UCLA on Monday. The school has asked the NCAA to restore his eligibility. The Times also reported that Caron signed promising teen boxer Fernando Vargas of Oxnard to a professional contract, jeopardizing his chances of competing as an amateur in the 1996 Summer Olympics. After initially suspending Vargas, USA Boxing officials said Tuesday he can fight while they are investigating him but cannot receive money from either their organization or the U.S. Olympic Committee. Caron, who is not subject to NCAA regulations, has denied wrongdoing. In telephone conversations with The Times, he said he never paid an athlete who had eligibility remaining. He said he has been misunderstood and falsely accused, but has declined extensive comment on the advice of his lawyer, Russ Sauer of Los Angeles. "We have strongly advised Bobby to remain silent for the moment while we fully assess all these

FBI Enters Caron Probe, Seeks Mail, Wire Fraud

By ELLIOTT ALMOND and STEVE HENSON TIMES STAFF WRITERS

The FBI has entered the investigation of Robert Troy Caron, the Oxnard sports agent who is the target of a joint NCAA-Pacific 10 Conference probe.

The ongoing controversy over alleged payments to college athletes led authorities to question whether federal laws of mail and wire fraud were violated, said sources who asked not to be identified.

Steve Zipperstein, U.S. assistant attorney, refused to confirm or deny if there is an investigation into Caron's activities in trying to recruit players to become clients of his Pro Manage sports agency.

Shawn Walters, Israel Ifeanyi and Errick Herrin were suspended by USC on Sept. 28, and Donnie Edwards was declared ineligible by UCLA on Monday for allegedly receiving money or pagers from Caron. The NCAA and Pac-10 also are investigating cases at several other schools.

criminal exposure," said Russ Sauer, Caron's attorney. "On the other hand, given the wide amount of publicity [of this case], people might be investigating to determine things."

Sauer, who is defending Caron against USC in a civil suit filed last week, said he was unaware of a federal investigation.

Caron, 37, a personal injury lawyer and agent, has denied wrongdoing, saying he never paid athletes who had college eligibility.

In the late 1980s, federal authorities investigated New York sports agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom, who were convicted of signing athletes before the athletes' college eligibility had expired, and of threatening some of the athletes' with harm if they sought to break the agreements.

the days their lawyer teammate piled players into his large motor home and took them to road games, giving the group a touch of class.

C5

Caron also hired teammates at the law firm "just to give them jobs," said Ebell, a former Cardinal tailback. They became the nucleus of Pro Manage.

Ebell, who played at Ventura High in the early '70s, is the marketing director, although the firm's two NFL clients, Eddie Mason and Kenny Gales, have no endorsements. Nicko Rising, a former Cal Lutheran player, is an agent. Aupiu, a former high school state wrestling champion and Moorpark College football player, also works in marketing. Beard, a former Atlanta Falcon, is listed as a personal trainer on the firm's letterhead.

"[We were] tired of being sore all the time [and] wanted to find some kind of avenue into sports," said Ebell, a friend of Caron's for 25 years. "He's done very well with personal injury, This was like a hobby . . . a little baby.

"He didn't do it for the money. The guys who worked in here, we were friends and family. He wanted to give us something we could all do together . . . as we aged. Caron enlisted the help of former Ram Ron Jessie when he started the business in the summer of 1993. Jessie, whose son Brandon is a forward at the University of Utah and is under investigation by the school for his link to Caron, knew how the system worked. According to a 1987 New York Newsday article, Jessie and another recruiter allegedly gave about \$75,000 in loans to college football and basketball players on behalf of Pro Star Management Inc., company owner Joel Bobo told the newspaper. "I was just giving [Caron] some credibility to help him get started," Jessie said. "The first thing I warned him, 'You can't go out and buy players.' " Caron also found many of his recruiters from the local sports scene. Melvin Nunnery and Corey Fucker, Shawn Walters' former roommates, had played football at Moorpark College. Another recruiter, Tim Shanahan, had played at Ventura Buena High and at Arizona. Caron hired him to help recruit Wildcat football players. Two of those, Tedy Bruschi and Richard Dice, were implicated in the controversy because their names appeared on a phone list obtained by NCAA investigators and The Times. Dice, of Northridge, admitted having taken a phone credit card from Pro Manage. He said he gave it to his roommate, wide receiver James Romero of Tarzana. Romero was suspended for one game because of the incident. A source familiar with the operation said Caron had a box of hundreds of calling cards with Pro Manage logos on them. "[Bobby] always lived right on the edge a little bit," said Phil Passno, a longtime Ventura College football coach who opened a shortlived Ventura bar, BC's, with Caron. Caron's style in business is an extension of the tenacity he exhibited as a player. Passno recalled a Ventura College scrimmage in which Caron came out of the secondary to knock out a star tailback. "It was chilling," Passno said. "As a lawyer, he's the same way, very competitive. If he were involved in an agency, he would do what it took to attract players. He would do what his competition does."

-ROSS NEWHAN

be Seattle ace Randy Johnson appeared in four games during the 11-day period from Sept. 28-Oct. 8, throwing more than 400 pitches in 28¹/₃ innings, striking out 35 and winning all four games.

But Indian Manager Mike Hargrove doesn't expect fatigue to be a factor when Johnson pitches Game 3 in Cleveland's Jacobs Field on Friday night.

"So Randy is going to throw 97 m.p.h. instead of 98?" Hargrove a said. "I think if you talk to any hitter in either league and asked them who they least would like to face, Randy Johnson would head the list.

"Nobody relishes the idea of facing a guy who is 6-foot-10 and throws the ball 98 m.p.h. with as good a breaking pitch as you want to see.

Cat-and-mouse: Cleveland starter Dennis Martinez apparently wasn't happy when Ken Griffey Jr. stepped out of the box during his first-inning at-bat, forcing Martinez to abort his delivery just as he was about to release the ball.

But the wily, 40-year-old veteran wasn't going to let the 25-year-old Griffey show him up. So instead of throwing his next pitch, Martinez delivered a retaliatory strike, going into his full windup, rearing back, whipping his arm around and . . . holding on to the ball.

-MIKE DIGIOVANNA

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Consultant Is Not in His Playbook

Davey Johnson, who will lose his job as manager of the Cincinnati Reds once the season ends, said he has no plans to take the Reds' offer of a consulting job.

One source familiar with the FBI probe said it would be difficult to prove criminal wrongdoing under federal law, but authorities were concerned enough to look into the situation.

"I don't see any potential

nefarious issues that have been raised," Sauer said. "Bobby has attempted to cooperate as best he can with the NCAA and USA Boxing. He is being attacked from a whole host of angles. He would prefer to help these athletes get back on track. He would like to be speaking publicly.

"He has spent a great deal of time donating many, many thousands of dollars to sports organizations throughout Ventura County, and it pains him to read all these terrible things."

Caron was a football star at Ventura High and Ventura College in the '70s. He then played at San Diego State for two years, but the feisty strong safety never really left this close-knit coastal community.

After graduating, Caron returned to the town where his parents raised two boys and two girls, and went to law school. After passing the state bar exam, he opened practice as a criminal lawyer here. It did not take long for Caron to become successful, as a lawyer and a businessman. A Golden Gloves boxer who competed into his 30s, he first dabbled in professional sports by representing Lupe Aquino, a junior-middleweight world champion from Santa Paula who was convicted in 1989 on vehicular manslaughter charges. He was released from prison in November of 1992.

But the convictions were overturned on appeal in 1990.

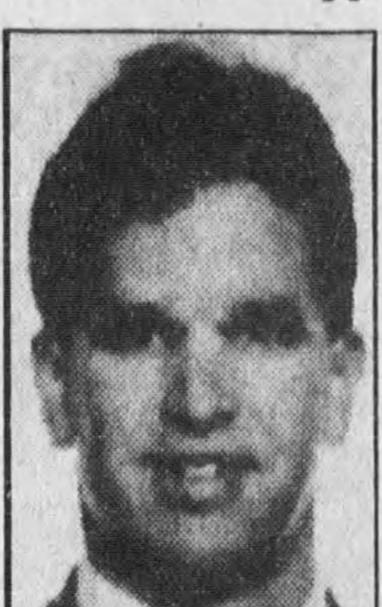
"The allegations were that the agents would send things in the mail, committing mail fraud on the universities," said Steve Derian, a UCLA law professor. "The court said the connection with the mail was so slight they could not be convicted under this statute."

Times staff writer Maryann Hudson contributed to this story.

by sponsoring youth, high school and college teams, at the same time his practice was plagued by controversy. He has been a defendant in at least 11 civil cases in Ventura County since 1988, according to court records.

"Local attorneys have grown to despise him," a former associate said.

An incident in the crime-riddled La Colonia section of East Oxnard in March of 1992 further damaged Caron's reputation. Under circumstances that some of his former associates called suspicious, Caron and an entourage stopped at a market after a night of cruising in his black limousine. Two in the group, Caron employees Miller Aupiu and Therman Beard, were stabbed in a fight in the parking



"I don't think I'd benefit anyone by sitting behind a desk," Johnson said. "I think my expertise comes from being on the field."

Cincinnati third-base coach Ray Knight guaranteed that the Reds would win the National League pennant . . . sort of.

"We're going to win, guaranteed," Knight said. Guaranteed?

"OK, semi-guaranteed."

Semi-guaranteed?

"OK, guaranteed. They only remember when you're right anyway.'

Cincinnati second baseman Bret Boone when asked if his father, Kansas City Royal Manager Bob Boone, was coming to the series? "No, he'll only be out if we make it to the next round," he said. "He's a front-runner."

Atlanta Manager Bobby Cox says baseball should make some changes to sustain fan interest and prevent pitchers' injuries.

""You've got to shorten the season and make the first round [of the playoffs] seven games too," Cox said. "Look at the Dodgers-1-2-3 and they're out. That's not fair. You play the whole season so you can be out in a five-game series? That's not right."

Atlanta outfielder Luis Polonia, relishing the fact that he's in the playoffs, says he can't figure out which of his former teams choked worse, the Yankees or Angels.

"Both of them were big-time chokes," Polonia said. "The Yankees should have kept me. They could have used me against Seattle. What did they need [Darryl] Strawberry for, to watch the game from the bench?"

And the Angels?

"Hey, if you're them, you've got to pack up your bags and say, 'See you,' " Polonia said. "How can you play that bad? I don't think anybody will ever believe they can win after this."

-BOB NIGHTENGALE

As his firm grew, however, different sides of Caron emerged. Although he became increasingly active in Ventura County athletics

had slipped away in regulation.

Leading, 5-2, they let Chicago back

in it late in the second period when

rookie forward Eric Daze scored

with 5:53 remaining and defense-

man Gary Suter scored on the

power play at 8:40 of the third to

And with 2:49 left, 34-year-old

Denis Savard showed he still has

pull within a goal.

One witness who asked not to be identified said Caron and friends were attacked by about 20 people who were at a house across the street from the market.

Caron continued to find refuge in sports and was particularly fond of Ventura College basketball. He sponsored a team of redshirts from the school in a city recreational league. He also hired several of the team's players to work as couriers in his office during summer breaks.

"He was one of the guys, a great guy to hang out with and talk sports with," said Lance Fay, a Ventura guard last season who now is at Montana State.

Until he was 35, Caron also found time to play on the Ventura County Cardinal semipro football team.

Former Cardinals reminisce about

KINGS

Continued from C1

goals, scored the game-winner at 2:10 of overtime as he was poised in front of the net, putting away a pass from Rick Tocchet, who was at the left post.

After the goal, the Kings poured off the bench and Coach Larry Robinson jumped and hugged his assistants. It was a rare powerplay opportunity in overtime, given to the Kings when Blackhawk defenseman Keith Carney was sent off for interfering/obstructing with

MIGHTY DUCKS TONIGHT

Opponent—Hartford Whalers. Site-Hartford Civic Center. Time-4 p.m. PDT. TV-Prime Sports. Radio-KEZY (95.9 FM). Records-Ducks 0-1, Whalers 1-0. **Record vs. Whalers**-No meeting last season.

Duck update-Because last season's lockout wiped out interconference play, the Ducks' last game against an Eastern Conference team was on March 27, 1994. Only three players on the roster are 30 or older, and the inexperience showed in Monday's season-opening 4-3 loss at Winnipeg. Left wing Paul Kariya skipped much of practice Tuesday because of a sore groin but will play tonight. Whaler update --- Hartford upgraded its team by acquiring veteran left wing Brendan Shanahan from St. Louis for young defenseman Chris Pronger in July and by getting center Jeff O'Neill, the fifth pick overall in the 1994 draft.

was replaced by Jeff Hackett. Belfour gave up five goals on 18 shots and was pulled after left wing Dimitri Khristich scored his first goal as a King, on the power play at 7:47, to give the Kings a 5-2 lead.

Hackett was flawless until overtime. His biggest test in regulation came on King forward John Druce, who had a breakaway with 15 seconds remaining. Druce made a couple of moves on Hackett, but his backhand shot glanced off the right post.

Meanwhile, the complicated King sale to Denver billionaire Philip F. Anschutz and local developer Edward P. Roski Jr. is taking longer than had been expected. The parties involved were working hard to close it on Tuesday but it did not happen. One league source said that additional undisclosed liabilities had cropped up, but LAK Acquisition Corp. lawyer Bennett Silverman said that was not the case.

NHL ROUNDUP

Stars Defeat Flames in Home Opener

From Associated Press

Greg Adams and Dave Gagner "each scored two goals, and backup wgoalie Darcy Wakaluk made 33 saves in place of flu-ridden Andy Moog as the Dallas Stars beat the Calgary Flames, 7-3, Tuesday might in their home opener.

St. Louis 5, Edmonton 3-After being held without a shot in the opener, Brett Hull scored four

goals for the second time in his career as the Blues won their home opener.

Toronto 7, New York 3-Mats Sundin had two goals and two assists, and linemate Mike Gartner added two goals as the Maple Leafs defeated the Islanders at Toronto. The Maple Leafs outshot the Islanders, 50-21, and converted three of 12 power-play chances against two New York goalies.

Tocchet.

The other King players with a multiple-point game were center Kevin Todd, who scored once and added an assist, Tocchet who had two assists, and Marty McSorley scored once and added an assist.

It is the first time the Kings opened with two consecutive victories since 1988-89, which was Wayne Gretzky's first season in Los Angeles. But a sparse crowd, 12,202, was on hand to view the accomplishment, making it the smallest since Dec. 8, 1988 and the seventh smallest of the Wayne Gretzky era with the Kings.

As well as the Kings played against the Blackhawks, the lead -ROBYN NORWOOD

plenty of star quality left in him. King goaltender Byron Dafoe made a pad save on defenseman Eric Weinrich's shot from the right point but Savard was there in close to put away the rebound just outside the right crease.

The Blackhawks were buoyed by a change of goaltenders at 7:47 of the second as starter Ed Belfour

"It's the adding up of disclosed liabilities and the bank holiday [on Monday]," he said, explaining the delay.

Another source said that the deal could end up closing late Thursday but that it was more likely to occur on Friday.

