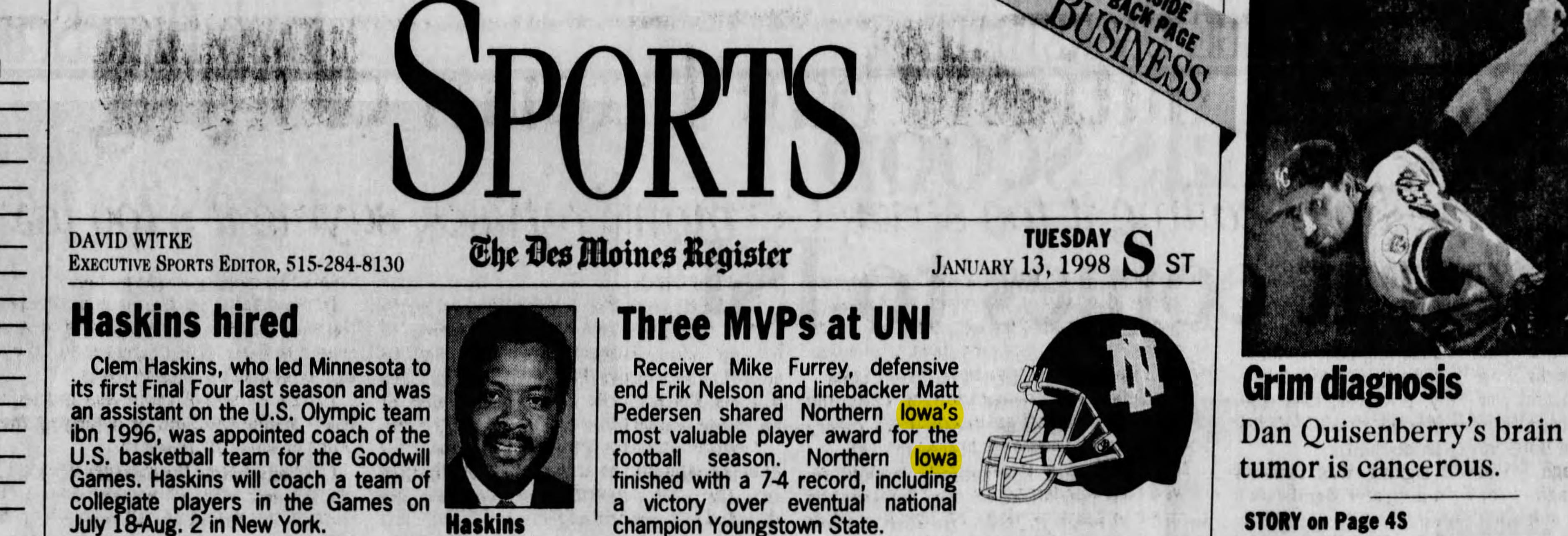
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CO		100
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Cleveland	at	Utah	
Golden State	at	Minnesota	
L.A. Clippers	at	Milwaukee	
New Jersey	at	Toronto	
Phoenix	at	Sacramento	
NATIONAL HO	CKEY	LEAGUE	
Anaheim	at	Los Angeles	
Dallas	at	San Jose	
Detroit	at	N.Y. Islanders	
Florida	at	Coloraodo	
Montreal	at	Tampa Bay	
New Jersey	at	Boston	
Pittsburgh	at	Carolina	
St. Louis	at	Edmonton	
Toronto	at	N.Y. Rangers	
Vancouver	at	Chicago	



### Classic Super Bowl or disaster? Try small train wreck

### **By MIKE LOPRESTI** GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

loses Super Bowls like the **Denver** Broncos. San Francisco 55, Denver 10 in 1990. The most lopsided Super Bowl in history. And that's saying a mouthful. Washington 42, Denver 10 in 1988. The Redskins scored 35 points, enough to win all 32 Super Bowls, in the second quarter alone. New York Giants 39, Denver 20 in 1987. The pass defense left a little to be desired. The Giants' Phil Simms threw 25 passes. He completed 22. Dallas 27, Denver 10 in 1978. The Broncos' offense was very balanced. They lost four fumbles and had four

On that note, the final countdown to San Diego may This must be said. Nobody now begin. Green Bay and backs. Brett Favre and his un- prayer. Denver, assume your

interceptions.

### COMMENTARY

There are big-name quarter-

digits of the NFC team. But Pittsburgh, "We came into There is sentiment. Elway will have so much on his side Denver's argument will start their backyard. We ate their with Terrell Davis' running food. We drank their wine. And that the Pope might send a game. It will include the un- now we're leaving." "I just wanted," said Denver derrated Denver receivers. It defensive end Neil Smith, "to will conclude that Elway has a give No. 7 one more chance." better supporting cast than he There is irony. Last year, the has ever taken into a Super Packers were the darlings, re-Bowl. "We kind of have an NFC storing glory to the holy land of mentality," Davis said. "And Lombardi. This year, they're the bad guys in Elway's path. the type of team we have is an NFC type of team." "I know everybody is going to be pulling for John Elway," They do have pluck. Only five wild cards have made it Reggie White was saying Sunthis far, the 1980 Oakland day. "But we want it." And there is The Question. Raiders the lone champion. To Elway has his opportunity. But get here, Denver has had to does he have a chance? storm through unfriendly rest "I think this is as good a stops named Arrowhead Stafootball team all around as I've dium and Three Rivers been on," he said. Stadium. Not since 1991 has the AFC As tight end Shannon Sharpe team even come within single noted about the weekend in

But the Packers have won 12 of their last 13. They have not allowed a passing touchdown since November. They have beefed up the ground game, and stopping the run has been the soft spot of the Denver defense.



OWL

positions. NFC vs. AFC. Champion designate vs. accident waiting to happen.

Truck vs. dog in the road. Or maybe this time will be different. Nothing lasts forever, although after 13 consecutive championships, the NFC is

working on it. From sea to shining sea, they know who the favorite is for Super Bowl XXXII. In Siberia and Sierra Leone, they know who the favorite is.

But you know what? This doesn't look like a bad Super Bowl, if you don't mind predictability.

precedented three most valuable player awards. John Elway and his storybook. Both sure of why they will be in San Diego.

"I play this game for one reason," Favre said. "To win a Super Bowl."

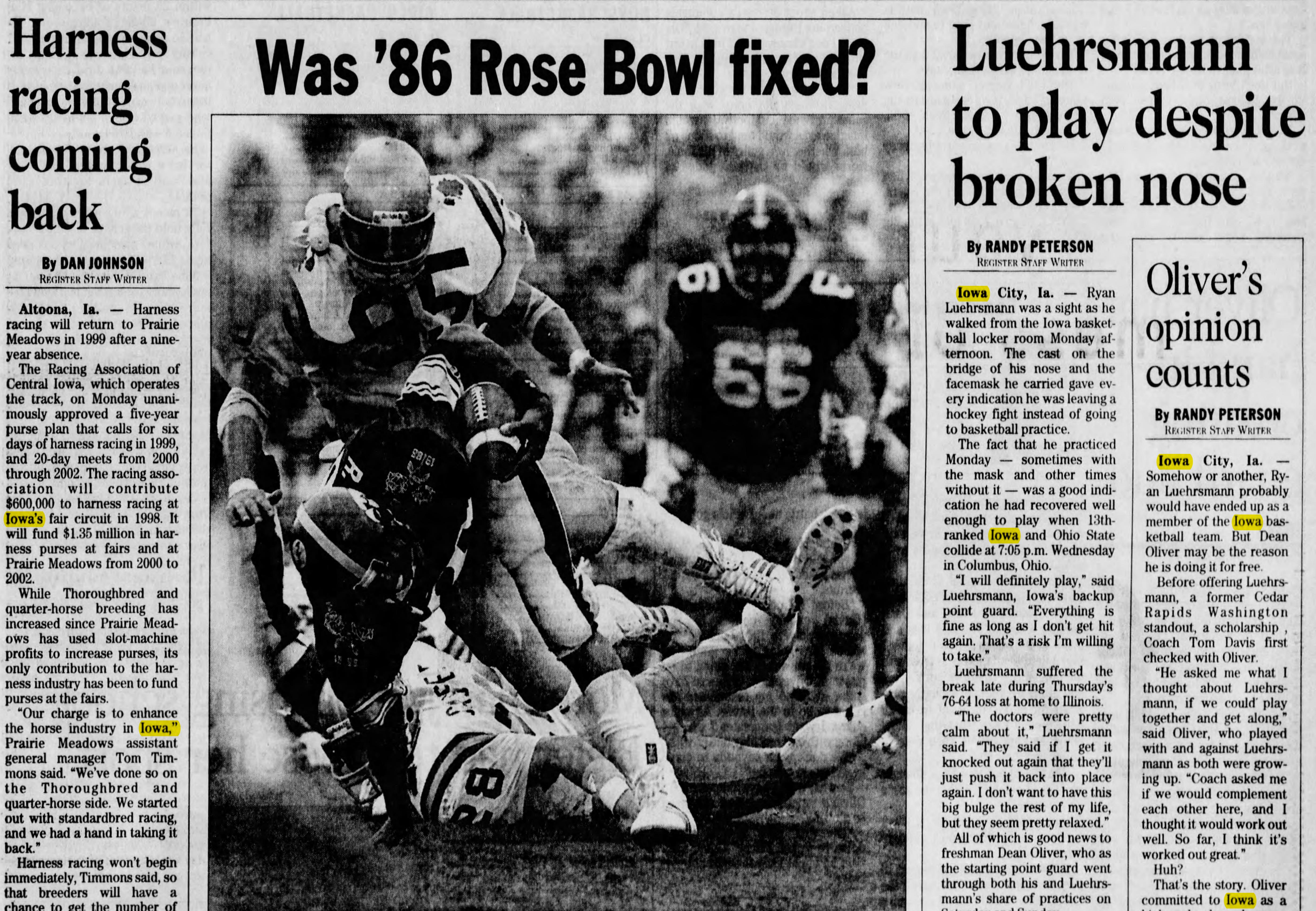
"I've never had a chance to win one," Elway said Sunday. "As soon as this one was over, started thinking about the game."

There is tradition. The Packers, who have never lost a Super Bowl, trying to repeat as they did when this carnival was born three decades ago. The Broncos trying to get out of history's outhouse.

They are hardened from the trying experience of having to defend a championship, after an uncertain start.

"We were trying to play up to whatever people said we were," White said of the shaky early autumn. "We started playing for us instead of worrying about what everybody else was doing."

DENVER VS. **GREEN BAY** Time: 5:00 Date: Jan. 25 Television: NBC Site: San Diego Stadium: Qualcomm Records: Denver 15-4; Green Bay 15-3 Super Bowl records: Green Bay 3-0; Denver 0-4.



year absence.

chance to get the number of horses up to support a meet.

The harness industry dwindled after two abbreviated meets at Prairie Meadows in 1989 and 1990, when the track was broke. Prairie Meadows ran out of money during the summer of 1989 and cut short the harness meet after 34 days. That made it difficult to recruit harness horses in 1990, and the track was able to run only a partial meet that was supplemented by simulcast greyhound races. "When Prairie Meadows shut down after all the financial trouble, it set back harness racing for quite a way," said Ken Buck, a horse breeder from Denison. "A lot people got rid of a lot of broodmares." The 20-day meets will offer \$30,000 per day in purses. In addition, Prairie Meadows will contribute \$750,000 to harness purses at the county and state fairs. That money will come out of the purse budget that is in Prairie Meadows' five-year operating plan that calls for total purses to rise to \$19.9 million by 2002. "Along with the fair program, that would be a good combination," Buck said. "And I would surely hope that down the road we could get 30 to 45 days at Prairie Meadows, but this is an awfully good start."

THE REGISTER

lowa's Ronnie Harmon fumbled four times in the first member involved with Harmon's agents said Monhalf of the Rose Bowl in 1986, but a former Mafia day he hadn't heard of a plot to throw the game.

Saturday and Sunday.

"It was a great workout," he said Monday. "I haven't had a sub in practice for two days, but I feel pretty good."

### **By RANDY PETERSON** REGISTER STAFF WRITER

Iowa City, Ia. -Somehow or another, Ryan Luehrsmann probably would have ended up as a member of the Iowa basketball team. But Dean Oliver may be the reason he is doing it for free.

Before offering Luehrsmann, a former Cedar Rapids Washington standout, a scholarship, Coach Tom Davis first checked with Oliver.

"He asked me what I thought about Luehrsmann, if we could play together and get along," said Oliver, who played with and against Luehrsmann as both were growing up. "Coach asked me if we would complement each other here, and I thought it would work out well. So far, I think it's

That's the story. Oliver committed to Iowa as a high school sophomore

IOWA Turn to Page 2S

Dan Johnson's phone number is 284-8375. His e-mail address is: johnsond@news.dmreg.com

Capo: 'I don't know that it was'

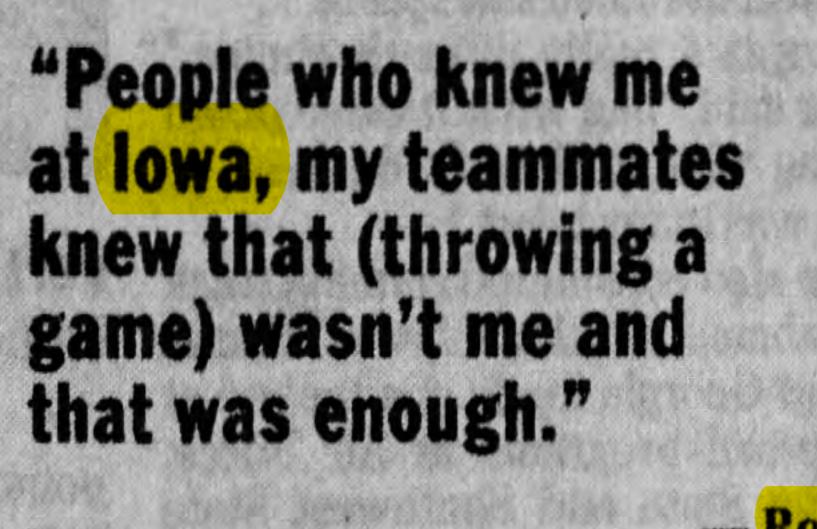
### **By TOM WITOSKY** REGISTER STAFF WRITER

Atlanta, Ga.- Michael Franzese, a former capo in the Columbo crime family and key figure in the Norby Walters sports agent scandal, said he has no knowledge of any attempt to fix the outcome of the 1986 Rose Bowl. "I don't know that it was,"

Franzese said after making a anti-gambling presentation team. at the NCAA Convention.

Franzese was a partner with former New York entertainment agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom, who attempted to sign as many as 20 potential firstround NFL draft choices prior to the end of the college eligibility.

Among players signed by Walters and Bloom were Ronnie Harmon and Devon has spent much of his pro- so said that Harmon's career Mitchell, members of the fessional football career in clearly was hurt by his in-1985 Big Ten Conference the shadow of the game. He volvement with Walters and champion Iowa football has said he didn't throw the Bloom.



told the Chicago Tribune last month.

Iowa lost the 1986 Rose the first half. Harmon, who played last Franzese supported Har-

# --- Ronnie Harmon,

### game.

Federal prosecutors used Bowl to UCLA, 45-28, despite Franzese as a star witness in that is always viewed suspibeing heavily favored by bet- the trial in claiming the signtors. During the game, Har- ing of the athletes was denon, who eventually would signed to allow organized admit receiving \$50,000 from crime to exert influence in Walters during his college the National Football League years, fumbled four times in and college football through

gambling. season for the Chicago Bears, mon's claims Monday but al-

### NCAA Convention College athletes are susceptible to bookies, a former Mafia member says. Page 3S

"You can ruin your reputation and become someone ciously when you involved yourself with gamblers or those connected with gambling," Franzese said.

Asked if Harmon was an example, Franzese said that "it's pretty clear he has never been quite the same on the field. I think it put a dent in his career."

Tom Witosky's phone number is 284-8522. His e-mail address is: witoskyt@news.dmreg.com



HARRY BAUMERT/THE REGISTER Ryan Luehrsmann (24) of lowa will face Ohio State despite a broken nose, Coach Tom Davis said Monday.

# She still loves Luther

NCAA CONVENTION

### Track star Johnson Lane honored by NCAA

### By TOM WITOSKY REGISTER STAFF WRITER

Atlanta, Ga. - Turena Johnson Lane has been living in Georgia since August, but it's clear the former Luther College all-America distance runner's left a big piece of her heart in northeast Iowa.

and my teammates meant to me," such a beautiful, special place for in all three events. me."

en athletes of 1997. Johnson Lane career is probably just beginning," received the nationally recognized Honda Award as the NCAA's Division III collegiate woman athlete of the year.

and won the NCAA Division III individual championship.

As a cross-country runner, Johnson Lane won 17 individual championships, including consecutive victories at the Division III Central Region championships in 1996 and 1997.

Last year, Johnson Lane also cap-"I can't tell you how much Luther tured the Division III indoor and outdoor championships in the 5,000 Johnson Lane said Monday as a tear meters and the 10,000 meters with an trickled down her cheek. "It was just average victory margin of 20 seconds

"She is someone with such a posi-Johnson Lane was one of 11 fe- tive and strong attitude about runmale college athletes honored Mon- ning and competing. She is always day as the best U.S. collegiate wom- ready and willing to work and her said Betsy Emerson, Johnson Lane's coach at Luther.

> Emerson said the 22-year-old Brainerd, Minn., native eventually

Lane, who is now balancing married life with becoming an elementary school teacher and a world-class runner while running with a South Carolina track club.

She is currently a substitute teacher in the Statesboro, Ga., school district. Her husband, Todd Lane, is an assistant track coach at Georgia Southern University.

"I hope to coach one day too, but right now I enjoy teaching so much," the diminutive Johnson Lane said, adding that she enjoys teaching first-, second- and third-graders. "I've always said that I wouldn't teach anyone bigger than me so third grade is about the limit."

She said her most vivid memories from Luther are of running with her friends and her teammates.

"I loved to run through Decorah. There would be days I'd see 10 deer in a field or rabbits running along the road. Those were special days to me and I will always have great memories," she said.



Johnson Lane received the honor after dominating in Division III cross-country and track in 1997. She went undefeated in cross-country

could become a world-class distance runner with a chance to compete in the Olympics. That would be fine with Johnson

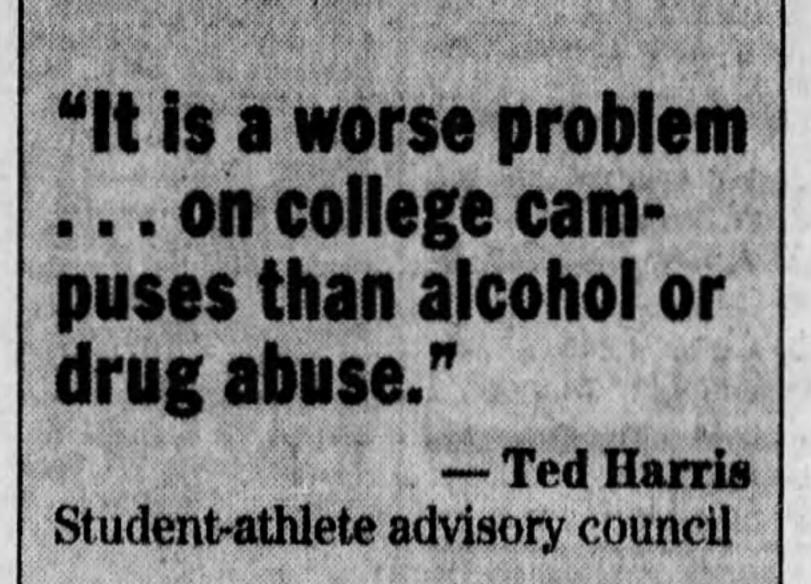
### Former Mafia boss: Bookmakers prey on college athletes

**By TOM WITOSKY** REGISTER STAFF WRITER

Atlanta, Ga. - A former member of the Columbo organized crime family said that gambling on college campuses is widespread and commonly involves student-athletes.

"I have to admit that I am a little surprised when I talk to rookies in the NBA or major-league baseball. Many have told me that they have been betting on games," said Michael Franzese, who was a capo in the Columbo crime family during the 1970s and 1980s. "No one should be shocked anymore that bookmakers are after college money."

Franzese, who is now a music, television and film producer, made his comments during a forum on gambling problems now apparent on many college campuses. NCAA officials believe that gambling is so widespread on college campuses that more schools are vulnerable to betting and pointshaving scandals similar to the one recently disclosed at Arizona State and at Boston College in 1996. "Gambling on college campuses is a huge, huge problem," said Cedric Dempsey, executive director of the NCAA. "The FBI and the NCAA are now cooperating to a great extent to try to correct and resolve these problems."

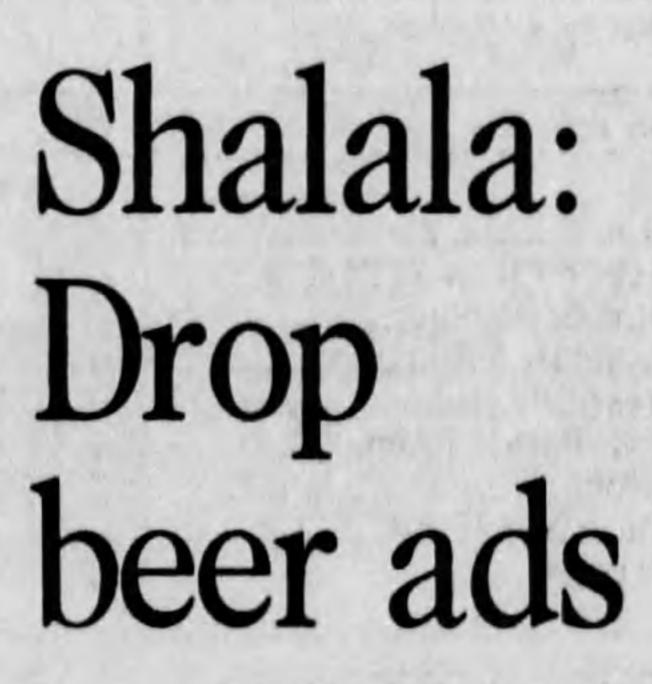


events, 3.7 percent had gambled on their own games, and less than 1 percent received money from a gambler to play poorly.

In the 1980s, Franzese was a key figure in an attempt by New York entertainment agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom to sign as many as 20 potential first round NFL draft choices to representation contracts while the athletes were still in school.



"Sever the tie"



Gilbert Brown is greeted by fans in the Green Bay airport after the Packers beat San Francisco.

## They're Niners no more: Packers make a name

Green Bay, Wis. (AP) - Maybe now Green Bay won't be constantly compared with San Francisco.

Despite their pedigree, the twotime NFC champion Packers have established an identity and bumped the 49ers from the playoffs three consecutive years.

"We have two different teams and two different cities. It's time we're recognized as the Green Bay Packers and the Green Bay Packer organization," said Coach Mike Holmgren, whose nine postseason victories tie him with Vince Lombardi.

Holmgren learned the West Coast offense, with its quick slants and short dropbacks, from Bill Walsh, the architect of the modern NFL passing attack.

In 1992, he brought those philosophies, along with several assistants, to Green Bay and shared his acumen with a wild young quarterback named Brett Favre who would become the three-time most valuable player, the perfect complement to a dominant defense led by Reggie

### Denver's super duo could help owner accept past losses

### USA TODAY

Denver Broncos owner Pat Bowlen can't shake the bitter memory of three Super Bowl losses in four years.

"They all were pretty much the same," Bowlen said. "If I had to pick one that we should have won, it would be the last one in San Diego. We just blew it in the second quarter."

That was Super Bowl XXII in 1988, when Washington's Doug Williams threw four touchdown passes in a 35-point spree, the greatest quarter by any Super Bowl guarterback. The Broncos lost, 42-10.

"But that was then and now is now," said Bowlen, who claims this is the best of all Broncos teams to reach the Super Bowl. "I don't want to take anything from the others, but from a talent standpoint, across the board they're better."

Bowlen also said John Elway is playing the best football of his 15year career.

"He's healthier; he's more relaxed," Bowlen said. "And his offense is quarterback-friendly."

College officials aren't the only ones who believe gambling is a major problem among college students.

"Quite honestly, it is probably a worse problem among the general student on college campuses than alcohol or drug abuse," said Ted Harris, a former gymnast at the University of Nebraska and a member of the NCAA's Student-Athlete Advisory Council. "I have seen students with sheets and lines openly betting. It is quite common."

Sara Kennan, a soccer player at the University of San Francisco and another member of the council, agreed.

"I've seen it become quite common among students in general," she said. "Most student-athletes are aware of the problems and try to keep away from it, but it is there to deal with."

NCAA officials have initiated a major national campaign to educate student-athletes about the problems associated with gambling. The campaign, dubbed "Don't Bet on It, warns student-athletes and athletic department officials of NCAA rules prohibiting gambling on sports events and how campus betting makes student-athletes vulnerable to bookmakers. A recent survey by the University of Cincinnati of 648 NCAA Division basketball and football players disclosed that more than 25 percent had bet on other college sporting

Among players signed by Walters and **Bloom** were former University of Iowa stars Ronnie Harmon and **Devon Mitchell and former Purdue** star Ron Woodson.

Federal prosecutors used Franzese as a star witness in the trial. He claimed that the signing of the athletes was designed to allow organized crime to exert influence in the NFL.

Walters and Bloom were found guilty in 1989 by a federal jury in Chicago, but those convictions were later overturned.

Walters remains an agent in California; Bloom was murdered four years ago at his home in California in what appeared to police to be an execution. No one has been arrested in connection with the murder.

Franzese, who served two prison terms before dropping out of organized crime, is now a frequent speaker to professional and college athletes concerning the dangers of gambling and how to avoid becoming vulnerable to bettors and bookmakers.

Franzese said he has been allowed to live despite his openness about his previous life because he never testified against anyone connected with organized crime.

At the same time, Franzese said his life in organized crime often put him in contact with bookies and athletes.

"Bookies make their living by getting close to athletes, whether it is professional sports or college sports. They want the information and will do anything to get it," Franzese said. For example, Franzese said he used a Long Island car dealer who was a compulsive gambler to make automobiles available to athletes. That dealer would then involve athletes in illegal gambling.



### By TOM WITOSKY REGISTER STAFF WRITER

Atlanta, Ga. - Majorcollege sports officials should end their business relationships with the beer and alcohol industries immediately, said Donna Shalala, U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services.

"We need to sever the tie between college sports and drinking," Shalala, former chancellor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, told NCAA delegates Monday at the association's 92nd annual convention. "Completely. Absolutely. And forever."

Shalala said that such immediate action, while hurting many schools financially, would assist in the growing effort to curb alcohol abuse on college campuses, particularly binge drinking.

"There have been deaths at MIT, LSU, Fordham, the University of Massachusetts, Virginia, Penn State and many other schools," Shalala said. "We also know that alcohol abuse can lead to later health problems, certain types of cancer and is frequently a factor in assault, date rape, suicide and drowning."

White and LeRoy Butler. But Holmgren, who has beaten the 49ers four times in 25 months, isn't

even fond of the term anymore.

"What I get tired of hearing is the 'West Coast offense,' " Holmgren said. "I think that's kind of a lazy term, really. I mean, it was kind of a cute little deal at one time and now it's been six years. It's not the same."

OK, how does the Midwest Version of the West Coast Offense sound?

Or how about just the Cheesehead

## Mora returns to coach Colts

### FROM REGISTER WIRE SERVICES

Jim Mora followed a familiar path in the National Football League, moving from the broadcast booth to become coach of Indianapolis Monday.

Mora, 62, who spent the past season as an NBC commentator, succeeds Lindy Infante, who was fired last month after the Colts finished 3-13, the worst record in the league. "Maybe I was burned out a little," said Mora, who NFL resigned as NOTES coach of New Orleans midway through the 1996 season. "But I think the year and a half off was probably good for me. One of the problems is, maybe in this business you can stay someplace too long.

since going on deferred adjudication in June 1996. However, he denied two other allegations and, as part of a plea bargain, was punished for four months instead of a possible 10 years.

State District Judge Sue Pirtle told Morris, a free agent running back who played for Baltimore this season, that if he makes another mistake he'll have to serve the remain-

Bowlen means Terrell Davis, the Broncos' power back, has given Elway a running game.

Is this Elway's final shot?

"He's signed for three or four more years," Bowlen said. "I hope he doesn't leave. I'd have nightmares. I'd love to think he'll play for that long."

### **Offense**?

Whatever you call it, Holmgren believes Sunday's 23-10 victory over San Francisco will finally pull him out of the 49ers' shadow.

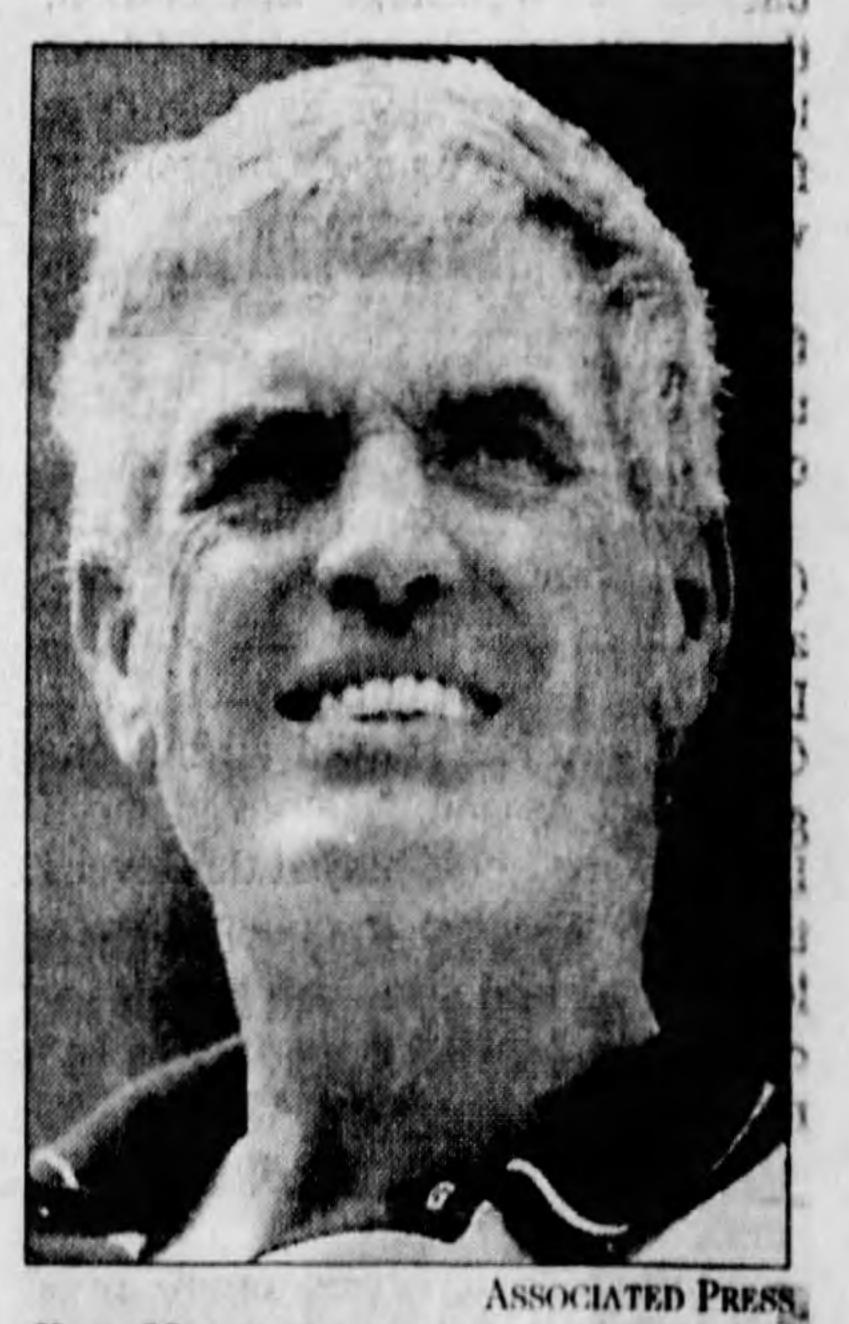
"I hope so, but I'll also concede that while I was here I was a good student," Holmgren said. "I tried to be. Obviously, when you go from

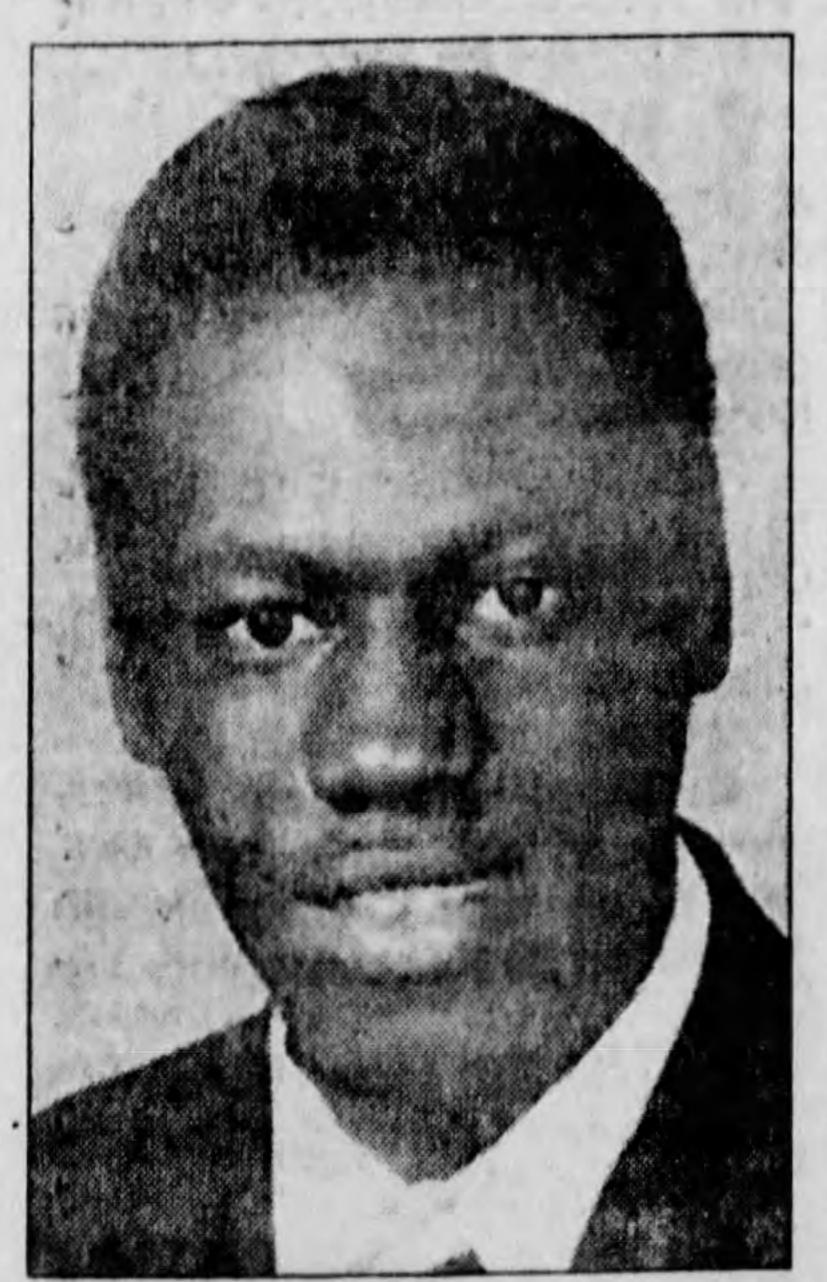
### here to someplace else like we did in

Green Bay, after six years now, we've established our own identity."

Now, the student is 49ers Coach Steve Mariucci, who cut his teeth on Holmgren's staff in Green Bay.

And now, the model franchise is the powerful Packers.





**Devon Mitchell** Dealt with agents

"After they lost a lot of money, the athletes were then brought to me. I told them to forget about the debt, but that I wanted to know everything that was going on in the locker room. wanted to know who was sick, what the coach was doing, who was doing well," Franzese said.

Some players were also ordered to throw games.

"When they were told that the game was on the line, they were expected not to play well," Franzese said.

College athletes are more vulnerable to contact by bookies and gamblers than many athletes, he said.

"Many of these kids are easy marks because they come from families without a lot money or they feel isolated or alone," he said. "That is all a bookie needs to become some athlete's friend.

Tom Witosky's phone number is 284-8522. His e-mail address is: witoskyt@news.dmreg.com

In recent years, NCAA officials have insisted that any beer advertising on tournament broadcasts urge moderate usage and acting with responsibility. In addition, other officials have said that the association should consider dropping all beer advertising.

Shalala also cited national statistics indicating that 40 percent of all college students engage in binge drinking, and it is more prevalent among college students than non-college students.

Shalala added that some schools - North Carolina, Baylor and Brigham Young - already are declining alcoholrelated sponsorship of its sporting events.

But other school and conference officials said that such action would be too dramatic.

Doug Elgin, commissioner of the St. Louis-based Missouri Valley Conference, acknowledged that Anheuser-Busch is a major sponsor of the conference's postseason basketball tournament and other conference sports events.

"Our relationship with AB is a good one," Elgin said.

"I've now had some time to sit back. I feel like the season spent in broadcasting was valuable to me. saw things from another side."

Mora is the latest in a line of coaches who have returned to the sidelines after spending time as television broadcasters. The list includes Mike Ditka, who replaced Mora in New Orleans last season, and Dick Vermeil, who was hired by St. Louis for a job that Mora had sought.

Mora is the Colts' eighth coach since the franchise moved from Baltimore in 1984.

Morris sent to jail - With tears in his eyes, Bam Morris was taken from a Rockwall, Texas, courtroom in handcuffs Monday to begin a 120day jail sentence for violating his probation on a 1996 marijuana possession conviction.

Morris admitted to missing seven meetings with his probation officer

der of the sentence in prison with no chance for appeal.

NFL seeking big TV bucks -The National Football League is close to finalizing a new television deal that could be bigger than all nine of its previous contracts combined.

The NFL is looking for an eightyear deal to replace its four-year, \$4.4 billion contract with Fox, NBC, ABC, ESPN and TNT that expires next month, three industry sources told The Associated Press on Monday on condition of anonymity.

Industry insiders predict at least a 70 percent increase in rights fees, which would bring the NFL about \$1.87 billion annually. A deal could be announced as soon as Wednesday if the incumbents meet the NFL's price. League and network officials were either unavailable or unwilling to comment.

Sources also say the NFL would have the option of opening up the deal after five years if it feels it can get more money. This increases the pressure on the networks to ante up or face being without the hottest television sports property until at least 2006.

Under the previous deal, Fox paid \$1.58 billion over four years, ABC paid \$920 million, NBC paid \$868 million, ESPN paid \$524 million and

Jim Mora is returning to the sidelines after a season in the, broadcast booth. Indianapolis named him coach on Monday.

### TNT paid \$496 million.

Seattle eyes Steelers' chief ---Pittsburgh began the off-season Monday speculating about freeagent losses. Only this time, the list is topped not by a player, but football operations chief Tom Donahoe.

Donahoe, largely responsible for keeping the Steelers competitive despite an almost yearly turnover in talent, is a top candidate to become Seattle's general manager.

The Seahawks want to hire a proven talent evaluator and administrator to run their football operations, and have been interested in " Donahoe for several months.

Seattle reportedly is willing to pay? its new general manager about \$1 million per year, or approximately five times Donahoe's salary in Pittsburgh.

Donahoe downplayed such talk? Monday, the day after the Steelers' 24-21 American Football Conference championship game loss to Denver." and said he had not been contacted > by another club.

Under NFL rules, a team must first seek permission from Steelers president Dan Rooney to talk to Donahoe.