

THURSDAY, MAY 7, 1987

Iowa City Press-Citizen

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# lowa's investigation isn't over yet

## Committee to continue search for information

By Randy Brubaker The Press-Citizen

The University of Iowa's investigation into improper payments made to two former Hawkeye football players will continue.

The initial report of a special investigatory committee was made public Wednesday, but UI President James O. Freedman has asked the group to remain in existence.

The committee's report said that Ronnie Harmon and another former Iowa football player, who was not named, received payments from agent Norby Walters while they competed for the Hawk-

eyes during the 1985 season.

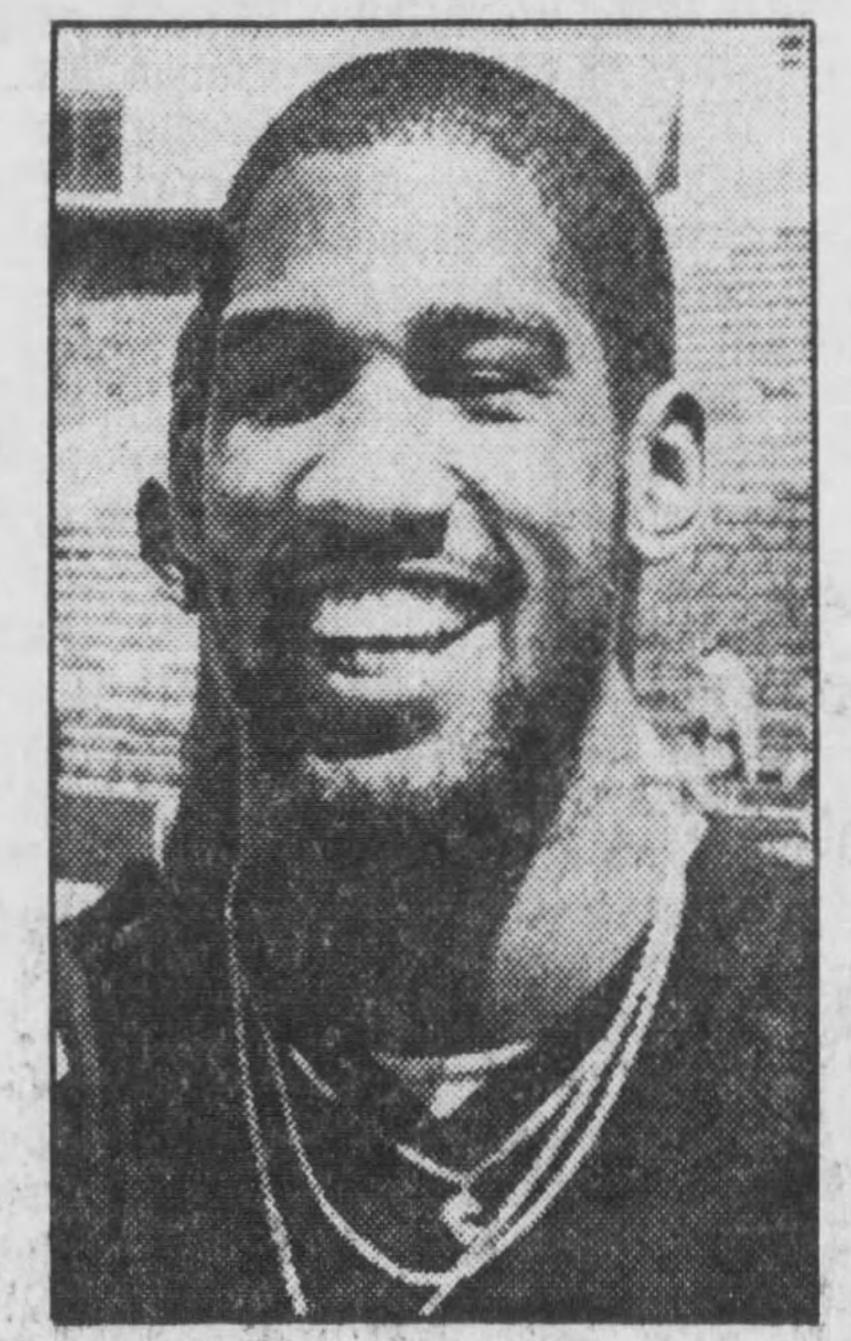
The second player was identified Wednesday by Walters as defensive back Devon Mitchell, now with the NFL's Detroit Lions.

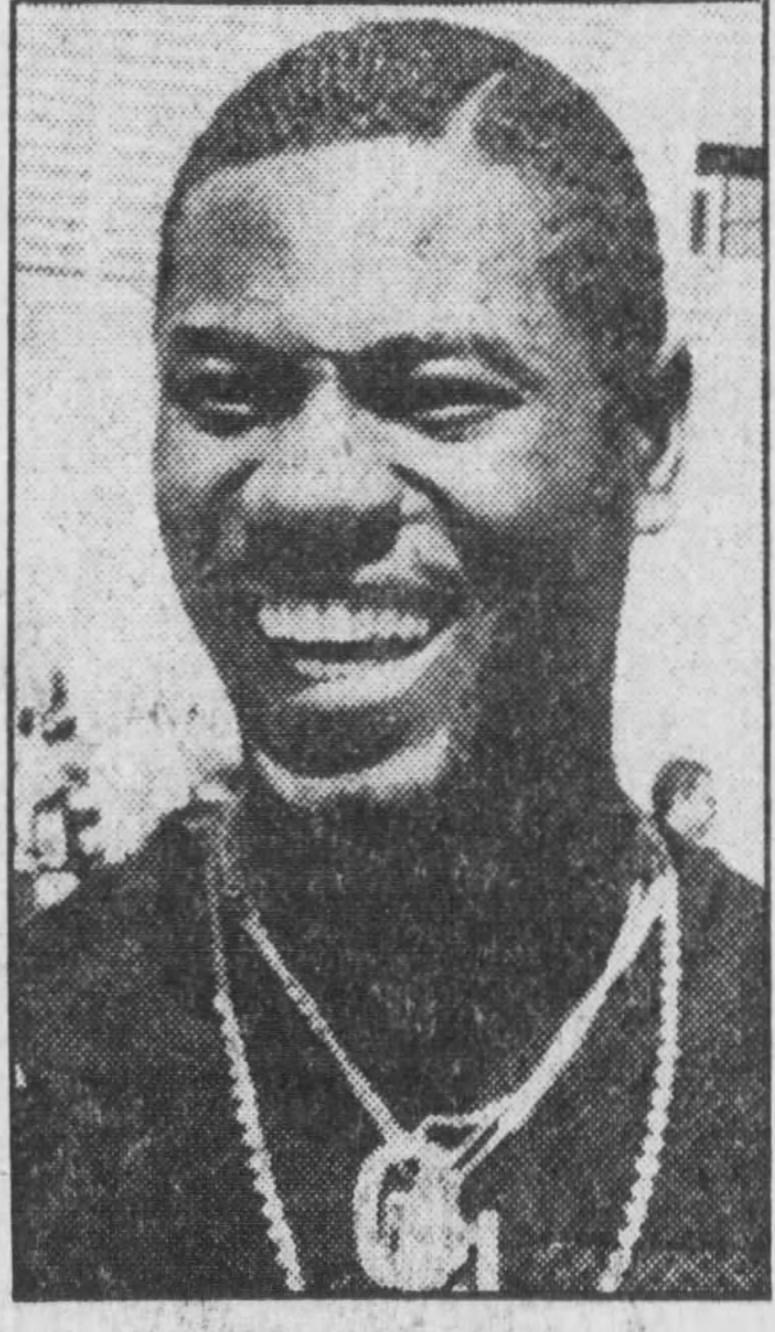
In Harmon's case, the payments reached \$54,000, Walters has said, while the other player may have received as little as \$575. Both apparently had signed contracts with

The payments and the signing of contracts are both violations of NCAA rules for players who have college eligibilty remaining.

UI Athletic Director Bump Elliott said he did not expect the uni-

See COMMITTEE/8B Ronnie Harmon





Devon Mitchell

## That two took money shocks Drost, Croston

By Kelly Carter The Press-Citizen

One former Hawkeye football player was startled to hear a committee found Ronnie Harmon had taken money while playing for Iowa. Another was more surprised that a second ex-player had done likewise.

After a six-week investigation, a UI committee revealed Wednesday that two former Hawkeye football players had accepted money from New York-based agent Norby Walters before their eligibility at Iowa had expired.

"Two of them, huh?" Jeff Drost, a former Iowa defensive tackle who was recently selected by Green Bay in the NFL draft, said. "I'll be darned. I knew Harmon just through the papers like everybody else. Now that I found out it was two, I couldn't even guess the other one."

"That does surprise me," Dave Croston, a former UI offensive tackle also drafted by the Packers, said. "I actually thought it'd come out the other way (that no one was paid). Something like this going on, it's no way we'd know about it. That's why it surprised

me. I had no idea." Harmon was not named in the

See REACTION/8B

## Jackson may have died from cocaine

The Associated Press

EL PASO, Texas - Cocaine may have been a "contributing factor" in the death of Texas-El Paso basketball star Hernell "Jeep" Jackson, according to court papers.

An autopsy "has ruled out natural causes and physical trauma," police homicide Detective Joe E. Garcia said in an affidavit filed in municipal court. "Pending the receipt of final toxicology reports, it is believed that cocaine was the contributing factor to the death."

Police investigating the death searched Jackson's apartment and found what was believed to be cocaine residue, the sworn affidavit said.

Jackson, a senior all-Western Athletic Conference guard for the Miners, joined some Houston Oilers football players for a benefit basketball game last Saturday at the Fort Bliss military reservation. During the second half, as he sat on the bench, Jackson collapsed. He was declared dead at Beaumont Army Medical Center about an hour later.

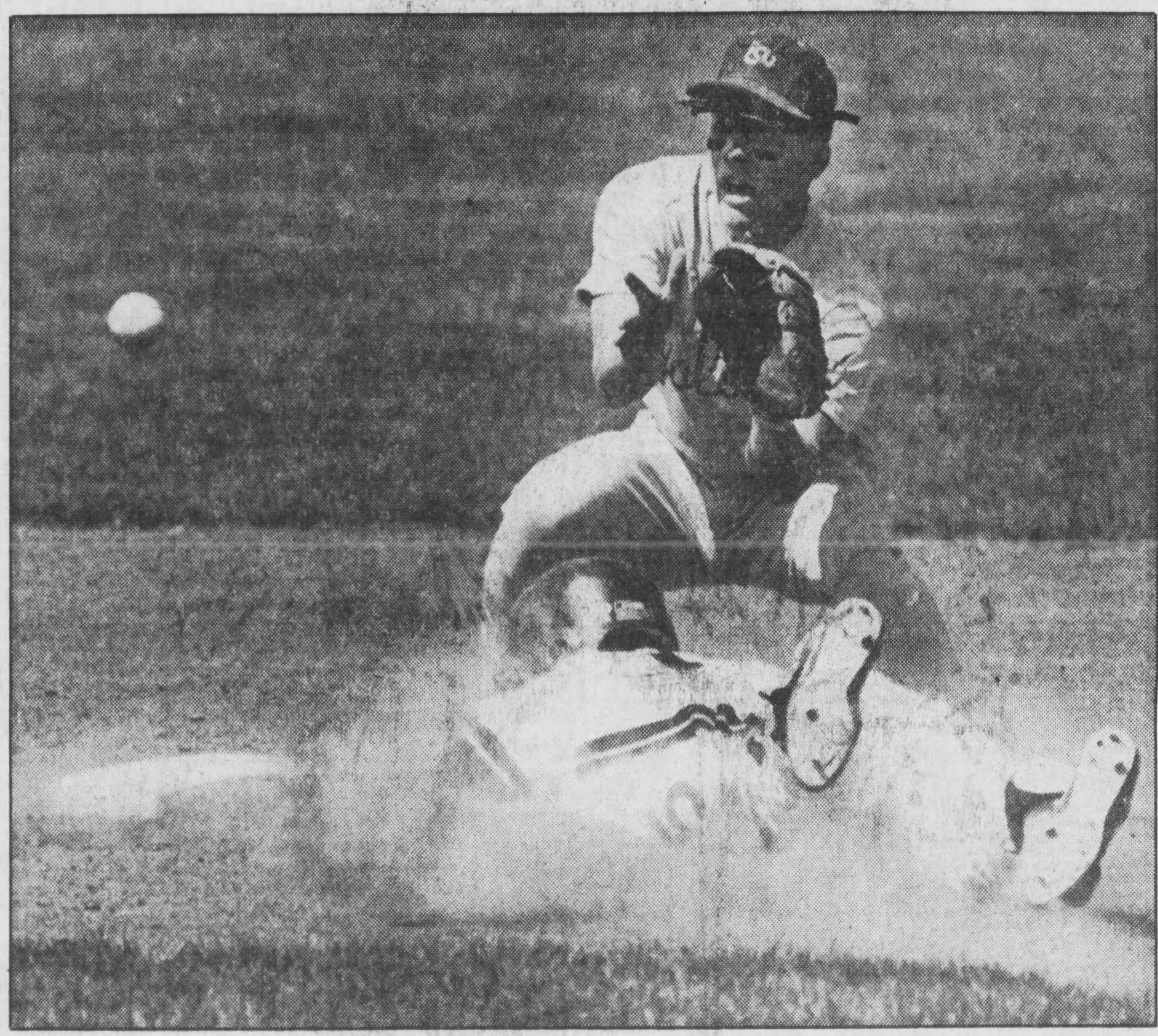
Manuel Diaz, chief investigator for the El Paso County medical examiner's office, said a three-hour autopsy Sunday showed "no visible signs of damage to the heart that could be seen with the naked

Samples of blood, urine and tissue from Jackson's body are being studied, police Lt. J.R. Grijalva said Wednesday, but test results aren't expected until next week.

The affidavit was filed Tuesday night by police seeking an arrest warrant for Michelle Lee Cabrera, 19, who was arrested Wednesday on a felony charge of delivery of a controlled substance, cocaine under 28 grams, or less than one ounce.

According to the affidavit, Cabrera met Jackson and others at a restaurant near the UTEP campus last Friday. She accompanied them to Jackson's apartment, where he "ingested some of the substance in a manner consistent with cocaine use."

"Since the death, the defendant has made verbal statements to various individuals, expressing her guilty feelings for what happened to Jackson," the affidavit reads.



Press-Citizen/David Creamer

lowa's Randy Frakes beats the throw to lowa State's ble-header at the UI diamond. The Cyclones swept the Dave Herbeck for a stolen base during Wednesday's dou- Hawkeyes. Story/9B

## Crucial series awaits Hawks, but Banks is not optimistic

By Pat Dailey The Press-Citizen

If Iowa wins three of four games against Minnesota to win the Big Ten's Western Divison title this weekend, it will be a surprise to Hawkeye Coach Duane Banks.

Banks said he wouldn't be surprised if his team lost all four games to the Gophers.

The two teams will tangle in 1 p.m. double-headers Friday and Saturday at the UI diamond.

Minnesota is 9-3 in the Big Ten, while Iowa is 8-4. Third-place Illinois is 6-

"I don't see how in the hell we can Hawkeyes were beaten twice by Iowa State Wednesday.

"I'm going to put a challenge to the kids," he added. "We're going to have to play hard. If we don't, we'll get

Iowa State Coach Bob Randall said he expects Iowa to do well against the Gophers. "I like Iowa's chances," Randall

said. "Minnesota is a good come-frombehind team, though. We had three games with them, all losses." Banks will send right-handed fresh-

man Allen Rath of Riverside (2-1, 1.71 ERA in the Big Ten) to the mound in the first game Friday. Right-handed junior Mark Boland (3-0, 3.86) will start the second game.

Saturday, right-handed freshman Cal beat Minnesota," Banks said after the Eldred (2-1, 5.12) and right-handed senior Mark Denkinger (1-1, 5.11) will start for Iowa.

If Iowa wins three games against the Gophers, it will advance into the Big Ten playoffs against Purdue, the No. 2 seed from the Eastern Division. The Boilermakers are 10-6 in league play, 33-16-1 in all games.

A split of the four games and Iowa will meet Michigan, the No. 1 seed from the Eastern Division. The Wolverines are 11-1 against conference teams, 41-7 overall.

A Minnesota sweep could eliminate the Hawks from any playoff berth. Michigan, which will host the fourteam playoff May 15-17, has already clinched the Eastern Divison title.

old Big Ten playoff format was 1983. "We have the opportunity to do what no team here has done in a long time," Iowa senior Gary Ellis said.

Iowa's only appearance in the 6-year-

## Cubs stay atop East

#### Davis shots key win

The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO — The Chicago Cubs, with the help of two homers by Jody Davis, kept their hold on first place in the National League East Wednesday

"We've had a lot of well-pitched games. About the only trouble we've had is putting runs on the scoreboard. A lot of our homers have come in bunches," Davis said after a 9-4 victory, the Cubs' ninth in 11 road games this season.

Winning pitcher Scott Sanderson (2-0) allowed seven hits, including two homers by Candy Maldonado and one by Bob Melvin, before leaving in the eighth inning. Lee Smith finished for his seventh

The Giants had totaled 33 hits in their last two games, beating St. Louis 10-7 and 10-6.

Although the Giants outhomered the Cubs 3-2 and matched their hit total with 10, they came up considerably short. One factor was the 10 walks issued by four San Francisco pitchers.

"We weren't supposed to win this game, I think," Manager Roger Craig said.

Davis raised his home run total to seven. The Cubs have 14 homers in the last six games and have outhomered the opposition 38-15 in 26 games. Chicago is 6-0 in night games.



The Associated Press

### Heads-down play

Boris Becker makes a diving attempt to return a shot to Juan Avendano of Spain Wednesday in the Tournament of Champions in Forest Hills, N.Y. Becker won the match 7-6, 5-7, 6-2.

#### THE SCOUT/ Compiled by The Press-Citizen

### Hawk matmen still No. 2

These results just in: Iowa State wins the 1987 NCAA wrestling tournament with 133 points, Iowa is second with 108, followed by Penn State, Oklahoma State and Bloomsburg. Old news?

Yes and no. Those were the team standings when the tournament at the University of Maryland ended March 21, but they were unofficial pending the outcome of NCAA drug testing.

As of Wednesday, it's official: The Hawks didn't set the mark in College

Park. The NCAA isn't saying whether any of the 60 wrestlers failed their drug tests administered at the tournament, but the official team scores released are identical to the unofficial results. If any wrestler

had tested positive, points he accumulated would have been subtracted from his school's total.

The top three place-winners at each weight were tested, along with three wrestlers selected randomly from each weight class.

The Scout's Quiz: Name the leading scorer in the Major Indoor Soccer League for the regular season completed last weekend.

All wrestlers tested at the NCAA Division II tournament apparently

passed, too. The NCAA Wrestling Committee, consisting of athletic directors and

coaches from schools, met last week and had a fleeting discussion on the matter with the man in the know, Tucker DiEdwardo, NCAA staffer in charge of championships.

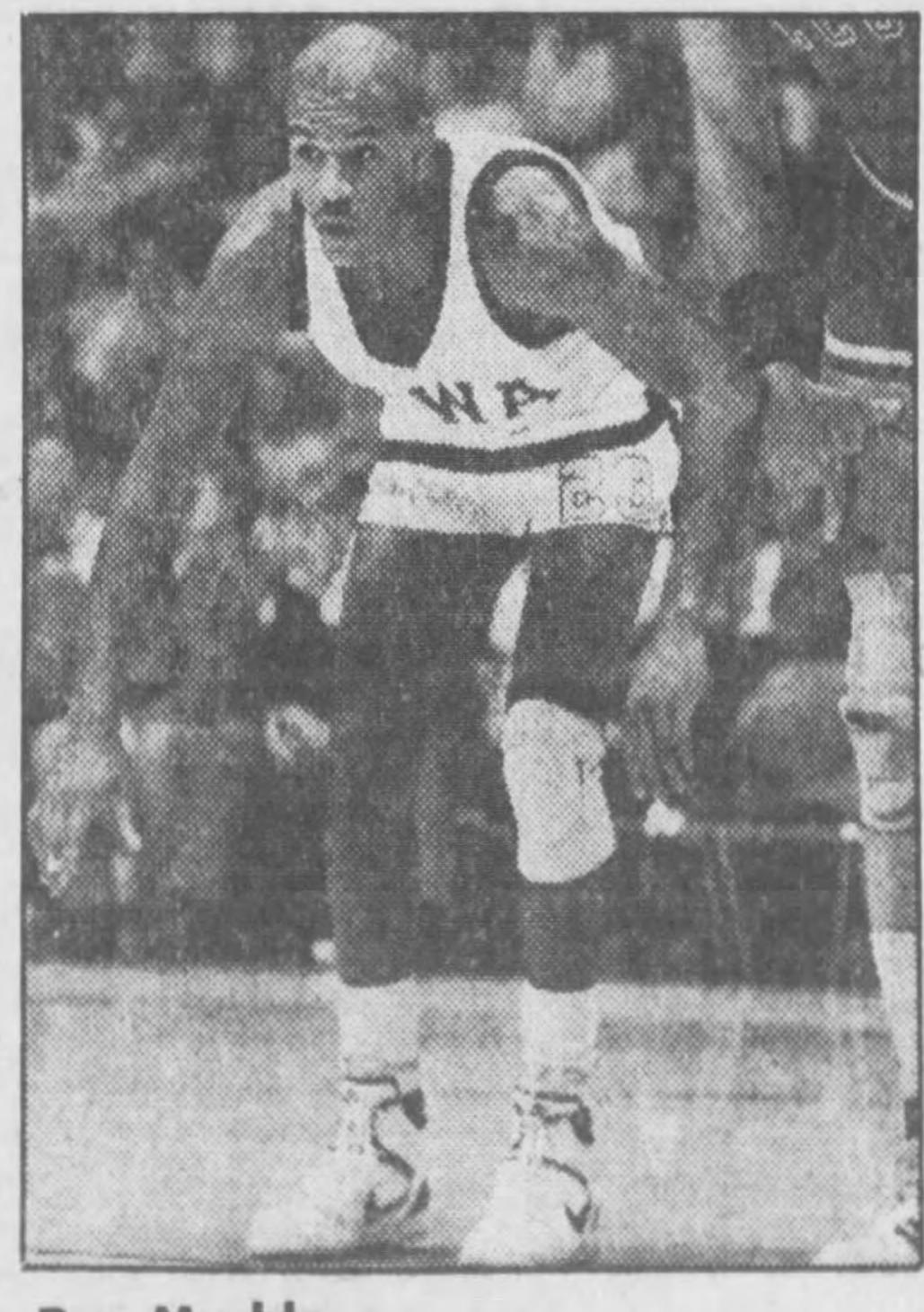
"As best as we could determine from his rather carefully guarded statement, the results of that tournament stand," Dick Walker said. Walker is wrestling coach at Wartburg College and a committee member.

"This stuff has got quite an air of confidentiality about it," Walker said.

The Sporting News, in its latest issue, surveyed athletes about the NCAA's strengths and weaknesses.

This from Hawkeye basketball player Roy Marble: "The major strength of the NCAA is the drug-testing policy. I feel drugs put the abuser in a precarious position."

Quiz answer: Tatu, of the Dallas Sidekicks, was the MISL's top scorer with 73 goals and 111 points.



Roy Marble

#### ON TV

Tonight's choices are limited and late:

• The Cubs play San Francisco at 9:30 p.m. (WGN) with Harry Kalas subbing for Harry Caray;

In the NBA playoffs, the Lakers meet Golden State at 9:30 p.m. (WTBS).

Friday preview: • The Cubs play San Diego at 9 p.m. (WGN).

## Committee

Continued from page 1B

versity to be penalized by the NCAA because the report said Coach Hayden Fry and other athletic department officials had no knowledge of the payments.

"I'm delighted that no one on the staff had knowledge or had reason to have knowledge," Elliott said.

The university's football program is not currently being investigated by the NCAA, Elliott said.

One of the three-member faculty committee's future tasks is doing more investigative work. The committee obtained limited records detailing money sent by Walters to the players via Western Union money orders. The report said, "It is possible that full access to Western Union records will become available in the near future and that those records may disclose that other Iowa studentathletes received funds from ...

Also, Freedman asked the committee to work with UI Vice President Dan Ellis, the Board in Control of Athletics and Elliott in implementing reforms "as fully and promptly as possible."

The committee recommended that the university should:

· Help student-athletes, especially minorities, better adjust to school and the community "by treating them as persons in whom we are interested for themselves apart from their athletic abili-

 Make certain it is doing all it to educate athletes about agents;

 Consider banding with the Big Ten Conference and filing a civil suit against Walters "on the theory that he tortiously interfered with the university's advantageous relationships with the Big Ten and the NCAA."

"'Obviously we're going to follow up on all of these areas," Elliott said. "We're going to make a supreme effort to see that this doesn't happen again."

Also suggested by the committee: that agents such as Walt could be detered if the state legislature would make it a criminal act to interfere with the college careers of athletes.

Committee members are David H. Vernon, law professor; Leodis Davis, chairman of the chemistry department and member of the Board in Control of Athletics; and 1986. Julia Davis, speech pathology professor, associate dean of the college of liberal arts and chairwoman of the Board in Control.

committee interviewed about 30 administrators, coaches and players, Vernon said.

Harmon was not interviewed. "We tried to get through to him by phone," Vernon said. "We tried very hard, but the efforts failed. We got no response."

In addition, neither the second player who received payments nor Walters was questioned. Harmon has refused comment

on the matter with reporters. Harmon and Walters have each filed claims against the other in the past two months.

#### WE FOUND NO EVIDENCE ...'

Excerpts from a University of lowa report on improper payments made by agent Norby Walters to two former Hawkeye football players:

. . . Student A and Student B appear to have received at least four payments each from Norby Walters, a sports agent. We found no evidence that other student-athletes at the University of lowa, past or present, received

"... We found no evidence that any member of the athletic department, administrator or coach knew or had reason to know that improper payments were being made to the two

 $\square$ "... If the university and the broader lowa community were remiss in any way in dealing with the problem, it was in the failure to create a sense of community in which the two student-athletes would have been more likely to develop appropriate loyalty to the university and their teammates, and, thus, to have rejected Mr. Walters . . .

"... Unless the profit can be taken out of the actions of sports agents like Norby Walters, it is unlikely that a single university or even intercollegiate athletics as a whole can do much to prevent the Norby Walters of the world from acting as they do . . ."

"... The committee is persuaded that the educational and monitoring programs now in place are sufficiently complete that no student-athlete could have any doubt about his obligations under the rules . . ."

Walters and fellow agent Lloyd Bloom of World Sports Entertainment, Inc., are suing Harmon for breach of contract in New York Supreme Court and are asking for \$500,000 in damages.

Harmon reportedly signed a contract with Walters in March 1984, but the pact was postdated Jan. 2, 1986 — the day after Harmon's last game as a Hawkeye.

Walters claims Harmon was advanced \$54,000 for living expenses from March 1984 through August

But Harmon fired Walters while the agent said he was trying to negotiate a contract for the player with the NFL's Buffalo Bills. In his suit, Walters is asking for commission he said he earned in negotiating Harmon's four-year, \$1.4 million contract.

Walters has filed a grievance against Harmon with the NFL Players Association, claiming there, as he is in court, that Harmon is guilty of breach of con-

Harmon, now represented by lawyer Martin Rauch, also has filed a grievance with the NFLPA. Harmon claims that Walters should be barred from serving as an agent for NFL players.

## Reaction

Continued from page 1B

university committee's report, but Walters has said he paid the player \$54,000. Harmon's new lawyer, Martin Rauch, has not disputed

The other player in the UI report was also not named, but Wa United Press International Wednesday that the individual was defensive back Devon Mitchell.

Walters and his partner, L Bloom of World Sports and Entertainment, Inc., represented Mitchell. They negotiated his fouryear, \$445,000 contract last year after the Detroit Lions selected Mitchell in the fourth round of the 1986 draft.

Since March, when news of Wal payments to Harmon was made public, Mitchell has refused to answer any questions regarding Walters. Wednesday, he once again declined comment through the Lions' public relations department.

The report also said Walters contacted two other players - one whose eligibility had expired in ing agents by investigating all 1985 and another in 1986 — but both turned down any offers by the agent.

wind of who talks to who, but I ing more money than in the past." never even heard (Walters') name the report said. until it came out in the papers about Ronnie."

were drafted. Two of them, Jon- dent-athletes who played with the athan Hayes of the Kansas City two players to see if they noticed Chiefs and George Little of the Miami Dolphis, said Wednesday clued members of the athletic dethat they had not been approached partment to the possibility of rule by Walters while playing at Iowa.

Harmon, a native of Laurelton, N.Y., was known as a flashy dresser with leather outfits, rope chains and raccoon hats. He and his brother, Kevin, currently a senior running back at Iowa, made it fashionable to ride around Iowa City on red motor scooters. But Ronnie's former teammates said

they had no reason to believe he was getting money illegally. Perhaps they believed Harmon was receiving money from his older brother, Derrick, with the NFL's San Francisco 49ers.

"Sometimes you wonder, but my mom doesn't have a lot of money at home," Drost, a native of Waukee, said. "I just scrimp along and have the clothes on my back and my truck's still running."

"I don't question anyone else's business," Croston said. "Their personal life is their own business - where they get whatever they have. . . . It's unfair because you don't know their situation or their background."

The UI committee's report said during or shortly before the fall semester of 1985, six student-athletes acquired scooters. As soon as Athletic Director Bump Elliott became aware of this, he questioned the players about the source of funds used to buy the vehicles, the report said.

"The University of Iowa athletic department monitors possible violations of the NCAA rules concerncases in which it appears that a student-athlete's lifestyle has changed in a way that indicates "Jesus," Drost said. "You get that the student-athlete is spend-

During its investigation, the three-person committee inter-In 1985, three players from Iowa viewed current and former stuany changes that should have violations, the report said.

The committee also found that another player, whose eligibility had expired in 1985, was contacted by more than 100 agents during his junior year about the possibility of their representing him. The player did not indicate that he had been asked to sign a contract or that he had been offered money.

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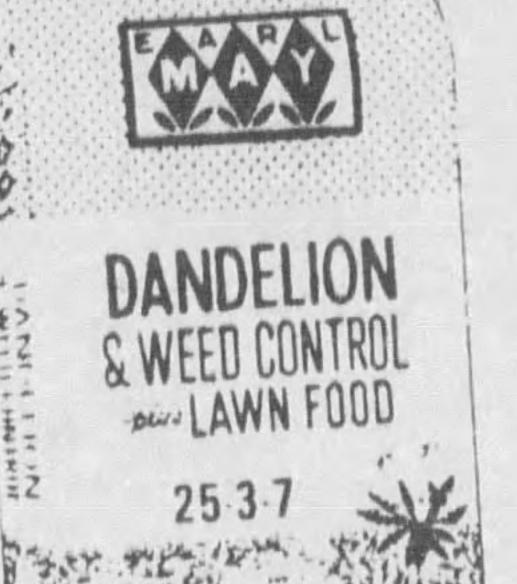
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