

# A Reward, to Ewing, Is Knicks in Playoffs

By Jerry Sullivan

You'd think a contract valued at around \$30 million for 10 years — not including lucrative endorsements — would be sufficient reward for any man. But the Knicks' Patrick Ewing says he wants even more.

"When a big man runs, he likes to be rewarded," Ewing said yesterday. "He isn't going to kill himself out there on the court if there's no reward."

Ewing, who was at the South Shore Mall in Bay Shore on promotional duty for Adidas, wasn't talking about financial compensation. The 7-foot center was talking about the kind of rewards that come to big men who run the floor on the fast break.

Obviously, Ewing doesn't feel his Knicks teammates did a good enough job of getting him the ball on the break a year ago. But he said he's confident things will improve under new coach Rick Pitino, a fervent disciple of pressing, fast-break basketball.

"I've heard he's a hard worker and he likes to win, just like we do," Ewing said.

Pitino visited Ewing at Georgetown recently and told him, over dinner, what he expected from him next season. According to general manager Al Bianchi, Pitino told Ewing he wanted him to demonstrate more of the rebounding and shot-blocking skills he was known for as a collegian. And yes, he told him the Knicks would run more than they did

while winning 47 games during the past two seasons.

"He told me we'll run a lot," Ewing said. "That's my style of play. I'm happy about that. I can utilize my talents in the running game . . . Our style last year was much different, more walk it up and set up the offense."

Before he can run, of course, Ewing must be able to walk. Hampered by sore knees, he missed 51 games in his first two pro seasons and has yet to prove he can endure the pounding of an 82-game NBA season. Playing Pitino's exhaustive, uptempo style won't make it any easier on his knees.

"The knees are coming along now," said Ewing, 25. "They feel a lot better. I'm working out regularly [at Georgetown]. There's still some discomfort now and then, but I'll just keep working hard, like I've always done."

Ewing has always done his best to deflect any hint of controversy, and he continued to do so yesterday. From the

outset, his representatives from Adidas made it clear he did not wish to discuss Bianchi's recent assertion that no Knick — not even the \$30-million man — was indispensable should the right deal come along.

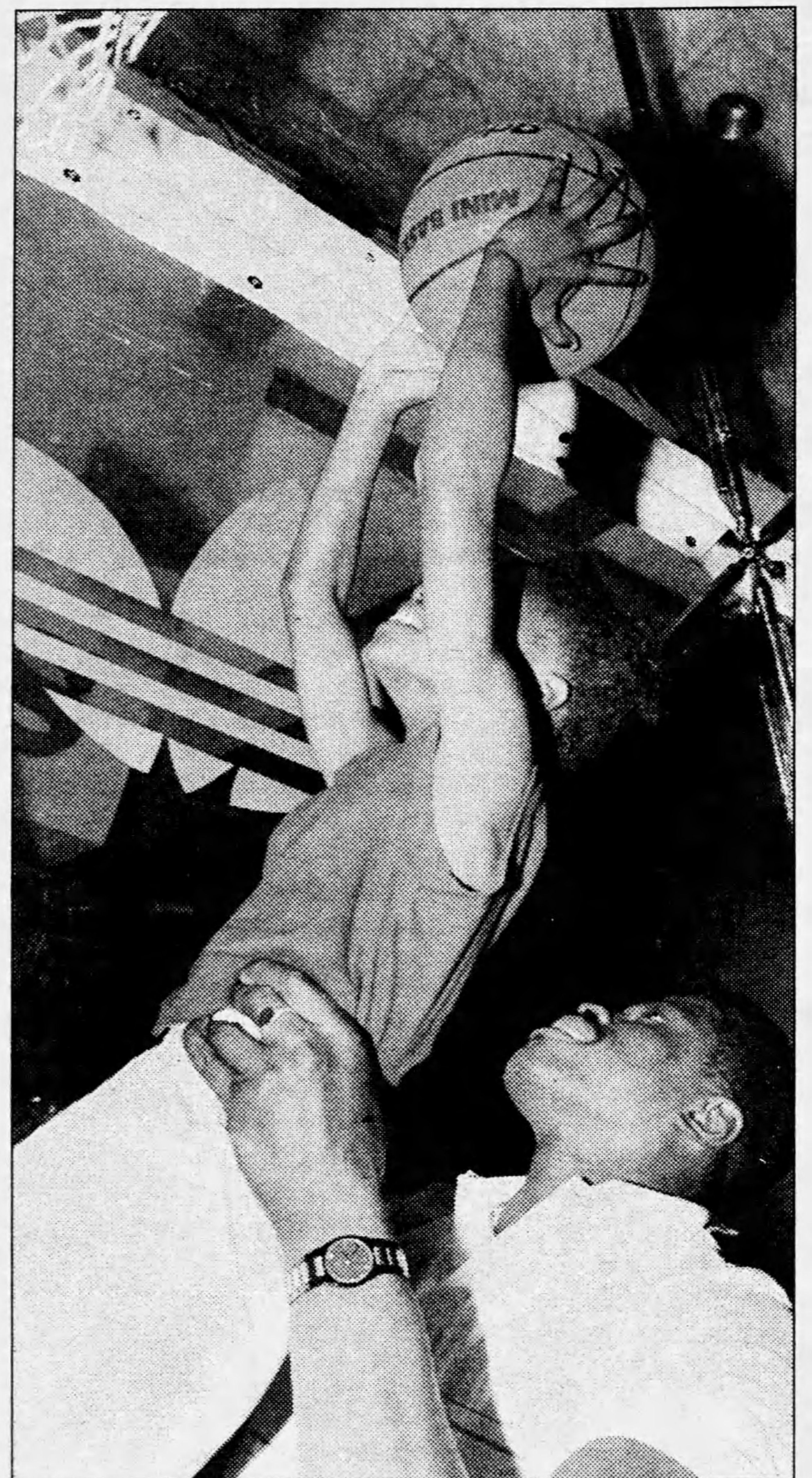
"I have no comment on that," Ewing said.

Are you upset by it, he was asked?

"No comment," he replied. At least he was smiling.

*"When a big man runs, he likes to be rewarded. He isn't going to kill himself out there on the court if there's no reward."*

— Patrick Ewing



Newsday / Michael Ach

Knicks center Patrick Ewing lifts a young fan to the basket during an appearance on Long Island.



Majors

## Easy Talker Also Happens To Coach Iowa



Fry

By John Valenti

Hayden Fry claims to be "just an old country boy." But listen carefully to the words he uses and to the way he uses them, and soon you realize the country boy is a country fox — one who is trying to talk his way into the henhouse.

Speaking at a news conference for the Fifth Annual Kickoff Classic, which matches Iowa and Tennessee at 1 p.m. tomorrow in Giants Stadium, the Iowa football coach explained to a crowd of reporters why he was leery about the game.

Fry talked about how playing such a tough opponent so early in the year — Tennessee is ranked No. 17 in The Associated Press preseason poll; Iowa is No. 16 — could set the wrong tone for the rest of the season. He talked about how his team had 14 new starters. Mostly, though, Fry talked about why he would not allow his quarterback, Dan McGwire, the younger brother of Oakland Athletics rookie sensation Mark McGwire, to play "Meet the Press."

"I had one quarterback once, and I made the mistake of letting him be interviewed, even by TV on the sidelines just before a game," Fry said. "I was like, 'Hey, this is great

exposure.' But, so help me Hannah, he got so nervous, he lined up with his hands under the right guard's rump. The center didn't realize it, and on the proper cadence, he snapped the ball 15 yards straight up in the air. Fortunately, the quarterback caught it."

So now the quarterback about whom Fry said "I've never had a guy like this" suddenly became an underdog.

This Iowa team may be as good as the best Fry has had, a 10-2 squad that lost in the Rose Bowl against UCLA two years ago. But who knows? Fry won't say, except to tell people, "With a good showing against Tennessee, these boys could get hot." Of course, in another breath last week, Fry told reporters that for the Hawkeyes to win games early in the season, they would have to "outscore our opponents."

Iowa will have to rely heavily upon McGwire if it is to "outscore" and defeat Tennessee. The 6-8, 235-pound sophomore threw only 12 passes last season but completed six for 174 yards and two touchdowns, and Fry has said McGwire can throw the ball 90 yards with "the flick of a wrist."

Running back Rick Bayless

gained 1,150 yards with 10 touchdowns and also led the Hawkeyes with 30 receptions. Kevin Harmon, the former Bayside High School quarterback and younger brother of Derrick and Ronnie Harmon, returns from last season.

Tennessee coach Johnny Majors soon caught on to the psychology of heaping praise on the opponent. He downplayed the ability of quarterback Jeff Francis, a junior, who has a potent arm and was ranked the seventh-leading passer in the nation last season as Tennessee finished with a 7-5 record. He downplayed the ability of his receivers — Anthony Miller, Terence Cleveland, Thomas Woods and Alvin Harper — and said he believed his team's biggest advantage was that it had "depth at running back." The Volunteers have six backs capable of starting.

"But I don't know if we can score a point against anyone because we haven't played anyone except ourselves," Majors said.

He was beginning to sound a bit like Hayden Fry.

Meadowlands officials said more than 56,000 tickets for the game had been sold as of yesterday morning.

## Buckeye AD Won't Appeal

Combined News Services

Ohio State athletic director Rick Bay said yesterday in Columbus that he would not appeal the ineligibility of all-America wide receiver Cris Carter, thrown off the team for accepting money from and signing with two agents.

Bay declared Carter ineligible last month after the Buckeyes' all-time leading receiver admitted, after numerous denials, dealings with agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom.

"We think it's so serious, we're not even going to appeal, because even if we won the appeal on some technical basis, we'd have a tough time looking our colleagues in the face," Bay said. "It's pretty easy to be brave when you think your options are closed out, anyway. Now the door's open again, or appears to be, and our principles are being tested."

Thursday, NFL commissioner Pete Rozelle delayed the participation of Carter and University of Pittsburgh running back Charles Gladman in the supplemental draft for one week to give them a chance to appeal their loss of eligibility to the NCAA.

In the draft, NFL teams passed on Miami (Fla.) defensive back Dan McFadden, Southern Methodist wide receiver Marquis Pleasant, Nicholls State defensive back Chester Savoie and Paul Miller of Illinois Valley Community College.

Gladman has given no indication he wants to return to school, Pitt athletic director Ed Bozik said.