

Sports

McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds

Erxleben keeps confident

...executed...  
...the people...  
...my was...  
...15-year-old...  
...never...  
...he added...  
...our...  
...they feed...  
...they have...

IF WE USE JOCKS, EVEN  
WASHED-UP JOCKS, TO  
SELL BEER... CHILDREN  
EMULATE ATHLETES, AND  
ADOLESCENT ALCOHOLISM IS—

KID, YOU'RE SOMETHING  
WE DON'T SEE MUCH OF  
IN THE ADVERTISING GAME.

YOU'RE PRINCIPLED.  
YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE.  
YOU'RE LOOKING BEYOND  
THE PRODUCT TO SEE  
WHAT'S MORALLY RIGHT.

NEW ORLEANS — Russell Erxleben, the New Orleans Saints punter who missed two short field goals in Sunday's loss to the San Francisco 49ers, says he has not lost confidence in himself.  
Erxleben, who cried in the locker room after the game and refused to talk to reporters, early this week said he was upset by his miss on a 34-yard field goal try in the final seconds of the game that could have tied the score at 26.  
"There's nobody Sunday who wanted to make that field goal any more than I did. You know, I'm 23 years old now and I never thought I could cry. I cried like a baby yesterday. You know, I wanted to win that game so bad and, well, it's one of those things that happened in this game," Erxleben said in an interview with WVUE-TV.  
Erxleben, the former University of Texas punter and kicker who was chosen last year as the Saints' top draft pick, said he knew his teammates and "the whole family

of the New Orleans Saints" were behind him.  
"That's something that's going to carry along more than the way I feel now," he said. "All you can do is, you know, keep your head from falling down and move on and, you know, hope for better things this week."  
Erxleben also missed on a 30-yard chip in the first quarter and fumbled a snap on a punt in the third quarter.  
"This is really the first time in my life that I've been down," he said. "I missed a couple of field goals last year and I credited it to really being nervous. I'm not nervous this year. This is just something that just happened."  
"I had a bad game yesterday — I had a very lousy game — and there's no excuses for what I did. I can't say 'Everybody, yeah, I'm going to come back, I'm going to promise you all this and that.' I'm just going to go out and do the best that Russell can do."  
Erxleben said he has not lost confidence in himself and "I never will."

Richard visits with Astros; looks better

United Press International  
HOUSTON — Houston Astros pitcher J.R. Richard, fighting to recover from a life-threatening stroke, made sure he was allowed to leave the hospital for short visits and soon may be able to return to the field.  
"We're going to have a meeting this week to determine when he'll be able to be released," Dr. Harold Conners said before Tuesday night's game with the Los Angeles Dodgers.  
Richard, who was 10-4 before coming to the Astros during a light workout at the Astrodome July 30, underwent surgery to remove a neck artery clot and a blood vessel that was blocking the flow of blood to his brain.  
"He's been at Methodist Hospital ever since," Conners said.  
On Monday, Richard spent some time at the hospital at a gathering with his teammates. Richard went to the home of team ownership partner J. Paul Sanders to eat Mexican food and watch some tennis.  
He did not talk to reporters but was observed to suffer continued weakness in his left arm and leg, though he was walking and friends said he was talking more clearly and seemed in good spirits.  
"He had more on his plate than anybody," outfielder Terry Puhl said. "And he had that glitter in his eyes. He knows he's still part of this team."

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...ore...  
...settling...  
...the...  
...er. Hollywood...  
...h. He said something like that will...  
...humble you, or words to that...  
...effect.

...He came over to my house after...  
...but the...  
...Moriarty. In fact...  
...he is his funny self again."

...Manager Bill Virdon said he told...  
...the 6-8 righthander he would like to...  
...him suiting up to play against the...  
...Dodgers.

...He said, "Yeah, I'm dying to get...  
...out of here." Virdon said.  
...Batting coach Deacon Jones said...  
...seemed weary of everyone...  
...ing "How are you?" and stuff like...  
...collapse and...  
...even though he knows they...  
...can well.

...I think he looked absolutely...  
...and the...  
...at. He was recounting with me...  
...exactly what happened when he...  
...passed. He knows how serious it...  
...is. He said something like that will...  
...humble you, or words to that...  
...effect.

...We talked about how he was feel-...  
...ing and when he'd be discharged,"...  
...Nolan Ryan. "But we didn't...  
...talk about baseball. We talked a little...  
...about hunting and I got the feeling...  
...plans on resuming his activities...  
...this winter."

...tower in New...  
...ps to Sweetwater...  
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...ure — perhaps...  
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...at Baylor...  
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...materials...  
...at "The Wind...  
...een of stick...  
...about Sweet...

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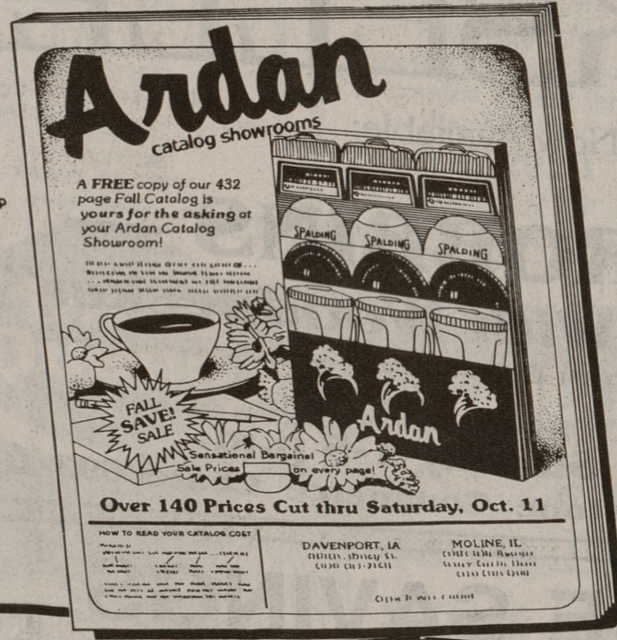
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