

Walton is sure he'll not play

United Press International
LOS ANGELES — Basketball center Bill Walton, who blazed out of UCLA into what might have been a long and brilliant NBA career, knows now he'll never again play professionally.

Walton admitted Wednesday night his career has ended. There is no more hope. No more dreams of making one more comeback attempt.

His comments came just hours after an announcement by the Clippers that Lloyds of London had agreed to pay them \$1.25 million on the permanent disability insurance policy carried on Walton.

The out-of-court settlement reached in Los Angeles was the final chapter in the controversial, injury-marred career of the NBA's one-time Most Valuable Player, who played in just 14 games for the Clippers after signing a seven-year, \$7 million contract with the team.

"Realistically, the odds and physical problems are all against my ever playing again," Walton told ABC radio sports from his home in La Jolla, Calif.

TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



Arkansas defeats Mercer, 73-67

United Press International
AUSTIN — Reserve forward Darrell Walker came off the bench to score 19 points and spark the struggling Arkansas Razorbacks to a 73-67 win over the Mercer Bears, a win that advances the Razorbacks against defending national champion Louisville in the NCAA Midwest Regional.

Earlier in the evening the Lamar Cardinals upset the Missouri Tigers, 71-67, to move into a Saturday match against fourth-ranked LSU.

Louisville and LSU had drawn byes past the first round Thursday.

Arkansas, a heavy favorite to beat Mercer, a Macon, Ga., team making its first NCAA tournament appearance, did not take control of the game until the final seven minutes.



The Razorbacks missed 20 of 39 free throw attempts, with Walker leading the misfiring hogs by making only 3 of 13.

His play leading the Razorbacks fast break and on defense, however,

er, gave the Razorbacks a they sought to overcome the Bears, 19-13, and a host in the arena of the University of Texas.

Mercer guard Darter scored 22 points and center Gattis added 14, but they were hurt down the stretch leading rebounder Benton fouled out with 6:52 to play. Arkansas' U.S. Reed scored 18 points and center Scott scored 18 despite missing a of his field goal attempts in the second half.

In the first game Thursday Mike Olliver and Terry bombed away from long range combine for 41 points and Lamar Cardinals to their winover the Missouri Thursday night in the NCAA west Regional first round.

Owls host A&M at 3 p.m. in nine-inning contest

By RICHARD OLIVER
Sports Editor

Preseason is over for the Texas Aggies.

With a 7-3 record and a No. 28 ranking under their belts, the Ags travel to Houston today to start off the 1981 Southwest Conference schedule against the Rice Owls. And there could be no better place to start it all off.

The Owls are a surprising team. Their hitting thus far has been well above initial expectations, and their pitching has been excellent.

Ditto for the Aggies. Tuesday, the Aggies were defeated by St. Mary's Wally Perez, 3-1, on a two-hitter, and then erupted for 18 hits and 14 runs to

thrash the Rattlers, 14-4 in the nightcap during windy, rainy conditions.

Texas A&M has thus far been led by two pitchers who were not expected to produce great seasons. Steve Davis and David Flores, 2-0 and 1-1 respectively, pitched excellent ballgames their last outings, and Head Coach Tom Chandler is looking hard at their future as starters.

On the other hand, Robert Slavens, 11-1 last season and looked upon as the crux of the Aggie hopes, has looked sluggish in the early going but has improved.

Rick Luecken has silently compiled a 2-0 record and may be the

starter in the nine-inning opening game today against the Owls at Cameron Field at 3 p.m.

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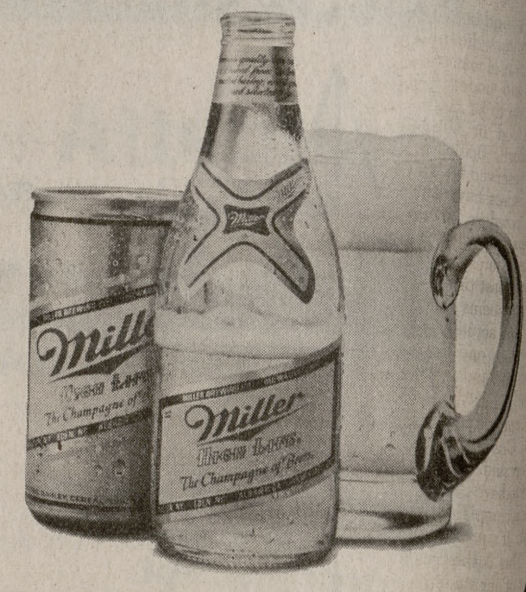


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