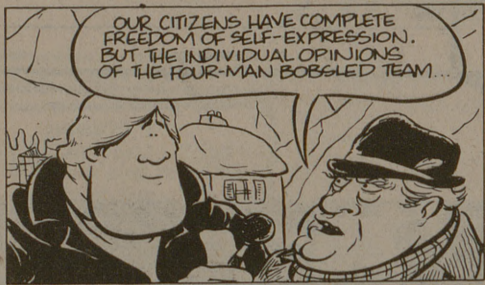


TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



Winter Olympics begin

United Press International

SARAJEVO, Yugoslavia — And so it begins...

Angry words among friends, dictionary definitions that remain vague and the restless anxiety of anticipation all are shuffled to the side today when the 14th Winter Olympics get underway.

Although the official opening ceremonies don't take place until Wednesday, the Games are assured of a rousing sendoff when the United States and Canada shift their battlefield from the conference room to the hockey rink. The game, which has taken on the aura of a blood feud and well can determine if the U.S. has any hope of repeating its spectacular success of Lake Placid, begins at 6:30 a.m.

The one thing the game won't decide is the issue that has been tormenting Olympic officials and tearing apart the friendship of sporting allies — the definition of an amateur. The U.S. started the controversy by threatening to protest the presence of professionals in the Canadian lineup, and the war of words has spread to touch West Germany, Finland, Austria, Italy and Norway.

Despite the fact that a hasty compromise agreement seemingly was reached by the International Olympic Committee Monday, the mechanism for protest exists at any time. This means that should the U.S. lose, it yet may decide to carry the issue further.

The IOC's Eligibility Committee ruled that each national committee should determine its own definition of amateur, but at the same time ruled out players who signed contracts with National Hockey League teams.

Canada, with a devil-may-care attitude, came to a compromise of its own but still left its net unguarded by dropping only two of five players who do

Meanwhile, the Canadians are blaming the United States for instigating the entire affair, which was brought to a head when Finland filed an official protest as the result of losing one of its key players, goalie Hannu Kampinari.

"The U.S. made the snowballs and the Finns threw them," Murray Costello, president of the Canadian Amateur

ager of the U.S. team, they had given information. Finland, Johnson also said previously, after roster submitted, "all the guys sit around and drink beer, time the Canadians submit their rosters and left."

The IOC ruling, which when they have or have contract with the National Hockey League, also other countries to adjust rosters. Among them, he withdrew Greg Holm, played with the New Rangers for a brief period, the Italians dropped players, Rick Bragnalo, former the Washington Capitals, goaltender Jim Corliss, played for the Edmonton ers.

Even with the results of the U.S. wasn't satisfied with the ruling of IOC, feeling it still was strict interpretation of prohibiting the use of professional. However, William, president of the Olympic Committee, had his organization would be the IOC's decision.

The Olympic Games begin at 8 a.m. with the playing Finland. Other on the opening day schedule include Czechoslovakia-Soviet Union, Italy-Sweden, West Germany-Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union-Poland.

Other than the hockey all was remarkably peaceful the eve of the Olympics.

"The U.S. made the snowballs and the Finns threw them," Murray Costello, president of the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association, said after submitting his team's roster at the Zetra Ice Rink, site of tonight's game against the U.S.

Hockey Association, said after submitting his team's roster at the Zetra Ice Rink, site of tonight's game against the U.S.

Costello then dropped such other tidbits as "the U.S. is hiding behind Finland's skirt" and "the Russians are walking around on roses."

Earlier, Alan Eagleson, chief negotiator for the Canadian team, said, "I don't understand the United States. Down the road they are hurting themselves and North American hockey in blocking a move to open hockey. We have evidence that they provided the Finns with the information needed in the Finnish protest of the various rosters."

Larry Johnson, general man-

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Payton denies he'll stay a Bear

United Press International

CHICAGO — Running back Walter Payton denied reports Monday he is about to sign with the Chicago Bears and said he will not be forced into accepting a new contract before a deadline set by the Chicago Blitz of the United States Football League.

Payton spoke with reporters after a televised appearance on the nationally syndicated Phil Donahue Show with Pittsburgh Steeler fullback Franco Harris and former Cleveland Brown star Jim Brown.

Payton said reports quoting his agent Bud Holmes as saying he intended to remain with the NFL team were taken from conversations that occurred "four or five weeks ago."

"That's what he told me," Payton said in conversation that was part of a newspaper was from the Senior Bowl. But that was or five weeks ago."

Last Friday, the Chicago bunc quoted Holmes as saying Payton would bypass a \$1 million a year offer from the Bears to stay with the Bears.

"Knowing what I know have no doubt in my mind he'll do; stay with the Bears," Holmes said. "Walter told me he wanted to stay with the Bears."

Holmes predicted Payton would be ready to announce his decision after his return from the Pro Bowl in Hawaii.

But Payton said he wanted to take his time making his decision — and that means would not abide by the deadline set by the Bears over the Chicago Blitz.

"No one is going to pressure me on making a decision," Payton said. "As far as a deadline, I don't see any deadline on my part."

Payton also commented on his contract talks during the Donahue program, which mainly devoted to Payton's intention to return to football at the age of 48 to prevent him from breaking his career-long record.

Payton was non-committal when asked by Donahue if he had made a decision.

"At this particular point, basically putting the financial burden on my accountant, my lawyer," the former NFL State star said.

Payton later said that special considerations could be made into his decision but maintained that breaking Brown's record of 12,312 yards would not be of them.

"Records are made by great players... I'm there to play and perform," he said. "Jim Brown is the greatest and he'll be."

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Bama star to QB Showboats

United Press International

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Alabama star quarterback Terrell Davis will make his professional debut Wednesday as a signal-caller for the Memphis Showboats, officials said Monday.

Lewis announced this end he had signed a \$1 million three-year contract with the Showboats and he will be the helm Wednesday during Showboats' practice, team officials said.

The next scheduled game is set for Saturday, Feb. 13, when the roster will be trimmed from 70 to 56 players.

The Showboats' first game is set for Saturday in Shreveport, La., against the Louisiana-Louisiana State University team.