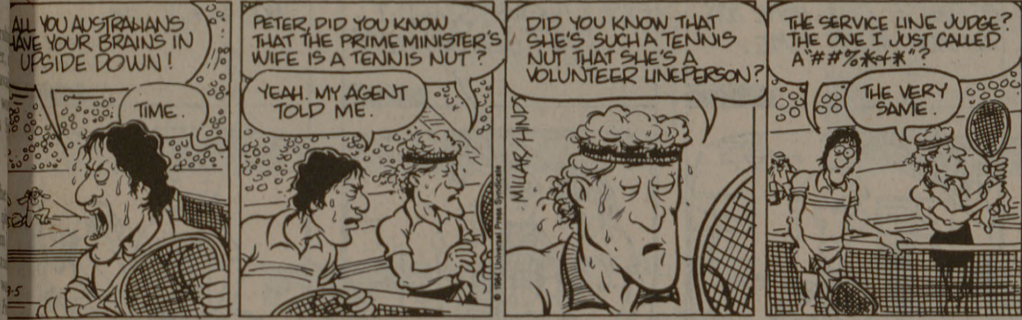


HANK McNAMARA*

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds

Kaat wants back after nap



United Press International
BRADENTON, Fla. — Left-handed reliever Jim Kaat, officially out of baseball for seven months, knows what he wants to do with the rest of his life — broadcast sports and breed horses.
Problem is, he's just not ready to do it.
That's why, at the age of 45, he has traveled south to Florida to attend the Pittsburgh Pirates' training camp hoping to find himself a major-league team so

he can play his 28th season of professional baseball.
Kaat thought his baseball career had ended for good — though he considered it premature — last July, when the St. Louis Cardinals gave him his outright release.
"I called a lot of teams, but I couldn't find a team that was interested at all," Kaat says. "So, by process of elimination, I figured if there was no one out there interested in me, then, obviously, I wasn't going to have a

chance to play.
"But the more I checked around during the off-season — I was at the World Series and I was at the winter meetings — and every club I heard talking about its needs for '84 said it was looking for left-handed pitching."
That talk made it hard for Kaat to forget baseball.
An offer by Pirates' executive vice president Harding Peterson to allow Kaat to attend

spring training was too good to pass up.
Kaat traveled from his home to Florida in January to see if he could get himself back into playing shape.
He was satisfied with the results, turned down the broadcasting job and accepted Peterson's invitation.
After a couple weeks of workouts with the Pirates', Kaat is confident he has made the right move.

Kuhn to remain in office till Oct. 1

Baseball commissioner named

By MILTON RICHMAN
Columnist for United Press International
TAMPA, Fla. — Baseball, which searched everywhere the past 16 months to find a commissioner, came up with two of them Saturday, a new one in Peter V. Ueberroth, who will take office Oct. 1, plus an old one in Bowie Kuhn, who agreed to stay on until then.
The dapper, 46-year-old Ueberroth currently serves as president of the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee. He agreed to a five-year contract making him major league baseball's sixth commissioner and calling for an estimated \$450,000 a year.
But he told newsmen he never would have even considered taking the job unless Kuhn — who has held the post since February 1969 — had agreed to remain in office until he can finish his work directing the Summer Olympic Games, which end in late August.
Ueberroth finally was chosen as baseball's

new head man by a special eight-man search committee headed by Allan "Bud" Selig, owner and president of the Milwaukee Brewers.
Selig, who had worked feverishly trying to find a successor to Kuhn, thrust his right hand up in the air in triumph, much as he does everytime his Brewers win a ball game.

Angeles that he would not accept the job unless the influence of the commissioner's office was broadened. Ueberroth pointed out that the question of his acceptance was still so up in the air Friday that he told his wife, "We may be only taking a plane ride to Tampa for the day."
But shortly before noon on Saturday, Selig, who had worked feverishly trying to find a successor to Kuhn, thrust his right hand up in the air in triumph, much as he does everytime his Brewers win a ball game.
"I am a big believer in a Yogi Berraism, that it's never over until it's over," Selig said. At the moment, baseball had a new commissioner, he said.
Key changes in the duties and powers of the commissioner will become effective when Ueberroth takes office seven months from now.
Under the new structure, the commissioner will be formally recognized as the chief executive office of baseball. All departments and activities will report directly to him. The National and American League presidents will report to Ueberroth on matters pertaining to the overall administration of baseball.

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It's finally official; Dupree's a Breaker

United Press International
NEW ORLEANS — Running back Marcus Dupree, who dropped out of two universities in the past five months, Saturday found a home with the New Orleans Breakers of the USFL — "the highest paid player in professional football."
Breakers owner Joe Canizaro said Dupree can earn more than \$1 million in each of the next five years by meeting performance incentives based on his ability to stay healthy and play, not his rushing statistics.
"He's the highest paid player in professional football," Canizaro said of the former University of Oklahoma star. "I call him my \$6 million man."
Dupree, 19, who dropped out of Oklahoma in October 1980, and spent a few weeks at the University of Southern Mississippi this winter, said he turned pro because of the money and because "I want to play ball in '84."
"I am very excited about being back in New Orleans," said Dupree, a 6-foot-3 man-child who combines blazing speed and raw running power. "I am very excited about being a Breaker."
"I'd like to thank the league for letting me be here."
Dupree was introduced to New Orleans amid pomp and ceremony, with cheerleaders, a fourth grade jazz band and hundreds of balloons lining the path down which he, his mother and a crippled brother were brought in a horse-drawn carriage.

With the Superdome in the background, Dupree was welcomed by team officials, New Orleans Mayor Ernest Morial and USFL founder Dave Dixon.
Breakers Coach Dick Coury said Dupree will travel with the team to Sunday's game at Oakland and will play in the following week's home-opener against Memphis.
Dupree said he has been running and working out with weights and could be down to his playing weight of 233 — seven pounds below his current weight — within a week.
Dupree, a highly publicized and glorified runner since he broke national scoring records as a prep star in Philadelphia, Miss., has been an enigma to coaches and associates during his two-year transition from high school to the pros.
He starred as a freshman for Oklahoma, but squabbles with Sooners Coach Barry Switzer over Dupree's lack of desire led the sophomore to transfer to Southern Mississippi.
After being told he would not be eligible to play until 1985, Dupree dropped out before ever carrying the ball for the Golden Eagles and announced he wanted to turn pro.
The Breakers courted Dupree for weeks and had to obtain permission from the USFL to sign the second collegian ever to turn pro. The New Orleans team also had to give a first-round 1985 draft choice to the New Jersey Generals, who held the rights to Dupree.

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