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Fri., Oct. 26
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Sat., Oct. 27
9:45 pm
Rudder Theatre
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McMahon risks injury by playing

United Press International
CHICAGO — When is it all right to play with a painful injury in the NFL? When is it better to avoid risking further injury and let the natural healing process take over?

That has been a dilemma for the Chicago Bears and quarterback Jim McMahon for most of the season. It has not only raised questions about the wisdom of playing with pain but some ethical considerations as well.

McMahon suffered a fractured bone on his right throwing hand in the second game of the 1984 season. That was coupled with a recurrence of a lower back injury.

For McMahon's part, there never has been a question of what to do. "I want to play. I know I can play. I intend to play," said McMahon, the former Brigham Young All-American.

But to play, he's had to take pain-killing shots.

"I think what aggravates it is the pounding on the hand from the ball," said Chicago coach Mike Ditka.

The spectre of taking injections during a game came to light Oct. 14 when McMahon had to take a shot from team doctor Clarence Fossier.

Only in this instance, McMahon took the shot before 49,000 fans at Busch Memorial Stadium. Players huddled around the area on the bench where McMahon took the shot.

"I don't think anyone wants cameras going when it's happening," said kicker Bob Thomas.

The pain-killing drug has been likened to Novocaine by General Manager Jerry Vainisi.

Ditka, once known for his hard-nosed style of playing with pain, said he knows how hard it is to play after having taken a shot.

"It's no fun," he said. "I did it several times when I was a player in the ribs and for hamstrings."

But Ditka has insisted he doesn't want to do anything that would harm McMahon's future.

"We went over this with Jim and the doctors," Ditka said. "Jim is a gutsy guy. I understand the question about sitting him out and letting it heal completely. But Jim already missed a game. There is no doubt we need him."

The Bears, without suitable backups, base much of their offense on McMahon's ability to start. In their worst loss of the year, Bob Avellini started in place of McMahon and the Bears were trounced 38-9.

McMahon started the next week. In the world of the NFL, playing with pain is usually publicly admired.

"It takes real courage to play like McMahon is doing," Dallas defensive end Randy White said.

Centipedes invade Aggie running event

By MARCY BASILE
Sports Writer

Small children, and apparently some Aggies, believe the term "presidential race" means just that — the President of the United States is the candidate who runs the fastest and wins the footrace.

Confused Aggies need look no further than the Texas A&M Roadrunners Club's Trick or Trot Presidential 5 Kilometer Race, and The Great Texas Centipede Classic.

The official Trick or Trot entry form has this to say about the Presidential Run, "the 1984 Presidential Election is coming Nov. 6. In honor of this important event, the first seven people indicating preference for a particular candidate in the election will score points for that candidate equivalent to their finish place. The candidate scoring the lowest number of points will be declared the winner and will be sent an official certificate."

"It (the presidential theme) was a spontaneous thing," said Race Coordinator Nelson Tubbs. "We thought we would honor the presidential election, since the election is only a little over a week after the race."

A special division commemorating past and future presidents has been included in this year's race called the Presidential Division.

According to race rules persons entering this division must have held the presidential or

chairperson office of a country, corporation or club within the past four years. (President Reagan and Presidential Candidate Walter Mondale were invited to participate. Unfortunately, they had prior commitments.)

Trick or Trot, the fourth annual and third consecutive race of its type, consists of a flat, winding 5 kilometer (3.1 mile) course through the main campus of the University.

"The race starts at Cain Pool," said Tubbs. "From there it goes past Duncan Hall and turns towards the Commons. Then it goes past the golf course to the Systems Building, makes a U-turn, goes past Heaton Hall and Sbis (Dining Hall), around the bell tower and to the catwalk of the MSC by Rudder (Tower)."

"This is a short race. Most people can finish three miles. Therefore, we can get quite a lot of participation from people just wanting to have fun."

"That's why we don't emphasize actual trophies. We don't go all out to please the people who win this race, but we do want to make it fun for people who enter."

True to Halloween form, the race includes something akin to a costume event.

The Great Texas Centipede Classic allows people to run, literally, with their buddies.

A centipede, by race definition, is a group of four or more runners connected by some common bond such as a rope, costume or balloons. All runners in a centi-

pede must remain attached over the entire 5 kilometer distance.

"Centipede came about in a race in San Francisco," said Tubbs. "There, people dress in all different suits — like Chinese dragons called centipedes."

"This is the third year for the centipede race. Last year we had six people dressed-up as a snail pack and we also had four or five guys with twisted balloons which they wore on their heads like antennae."

"Finish time for one centipede is when the first person of the centipede crosses the finish line. Eventually, the rest of the centipede must finish the race, but that usually only means a matter of seconds."

Over the past two years, the number of entries has averaged about 215 people. In this race though, numbers can be deceiving.

"Usually over half our runners sign-up the day of the race," Tubbs said. "The last two years we had about 210 entries and last year we had 220 people sign-up, but centipedes count as one person."

The Trick or Trot Presidential 5 Kilometer Race and The Great Texas Centipede Classic runs Sunday, Oct. 28 at 2 p.m. beginning in front of Cain Pool. The entry fee is \$6 before Oct. 27 and \$8 the day of the race. People wishing to enter the race Oct. 28 should plan on a 12-30 p.m. check-in at the Kyle Field North End parking lot.

Meyer disenchanting with dismissal from Pats

United Press International

FOXBORO, Mass. — Deposed New England Patriots head coach Ron Meyer said Thursday he was not bitter. But team owner Billy Sullivan's perspective had a sour tinge to it.

"I'm unemployed now," Meyer said. "Yesterday I was a Reagan fan, today I'm a Mondale fan."

Owner Sullivan said after a news conference to announce the appointment of Raymond Berry as Meyer's replacement, "We made lemonade from a lemon."

The New England position was Meyer's first job in the NFL, which he finished with an 18-16 record over 2 1/2 seasons. It was the first job anywhere from which Meyer had been fired.

"When I came here the team

lacked direction and I am proud of what we have done," said Meyer, 43, who left Southern Methodist University in January 1982 to take over the Patriots team. Prior to that Meyer had been head coach at the University of Nevada-Las Vegas, a scout for the Dallas Cowboys, and an assistant coach for Purdue, his alma mater.

"I think I'm a good coach and good for a football team," Meyer said.

"I don't feel bitter or cheated, but I'm disappointed. I was really having fun with this football team."

"I love the NFL and my association with the Patriots, but I regret that I can't feel fulfilled or content, because I feel like I left something undone. I felt we were on the verge of something."

Meyer's firing came one day after

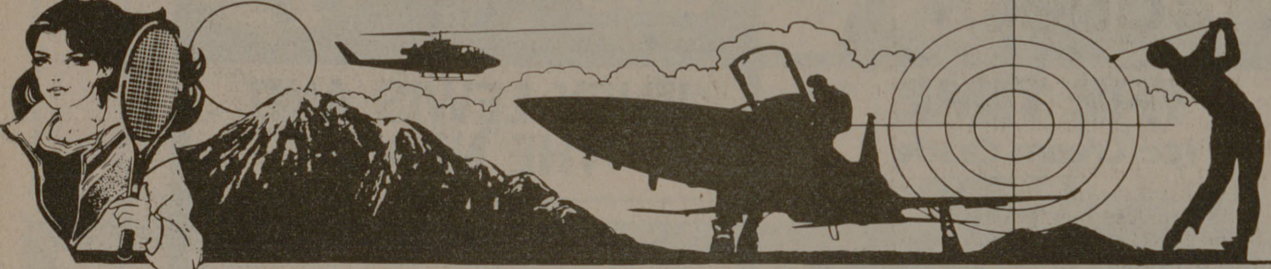
he dumped defensive coordinator Rod Rust, citing "philosophical differences." But Meyer denied that he had made a mistake by firing Rust, who was reinstated by Berry.

"As a head football coach, I'm absolutely the right thing," Meyer said. "But in the world of the NFL, you make too many wrong moves in the eyes of management, you will be removed."

The Patriots' eighth coach last year and a half left on his fourth year, worth a reported \$750,000.

Meyer did not say good-bye to his former team. "I didn't feel it was right, it was not my place, but I had three players stopped by me something."

He claimed to feel no ill will toward the Patriots, who are 5-3 into Sunday's game against the New York Jets at Sullivan Stadium.



Graduating Engineers December 1984 Sperry will be on campus Monday, November 5. See Brandon Harwood.

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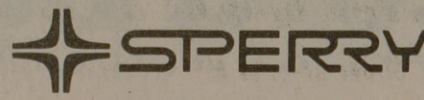
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