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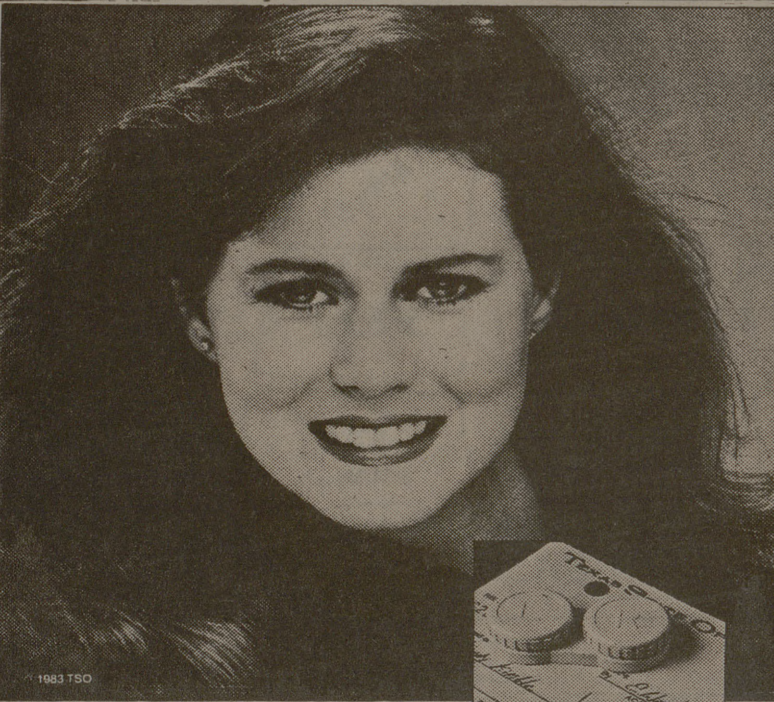
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## SPORTS

### Childress' mini-soap continues

Avid sports fans get 'inside look' at saga

By ED CASSAVOY  
Sports Writer

Ray, babe, tell me it isn't so. Sports fans and avid soap opera watchers must be equally engrossed with "The Saga of Ray Childress," the man who cannot get enough.

For those people who haven't followed every twist of Ray's negotiating plan, I've got the whole conversation down on tape.

"Hey dad," Childress yells, "um, do you still need someone to drive that construction truck for \$100,000 a year, plus a signing bonus?"

Papa Childress says, "What the hell are you talking about? Get me another beer and get yourself a real job."

"What do you think I sent you to college for, to play games?"

Childress answers with a slight whine in his voice, "Well dad, as a matter of fact, I was playing a little football in College Station, but, gee, those guys in the National Football League are kinda being mean to me."

"I was the Houston Oilers' first-round draft pick," Childress continues, "and I do deserve something for being their favorite guy of '85."

"All I asked for was a lousy contract that was better than Dean Steinkuhler's (he was the Oiler's No. 1 pick in last year's draft). He got \$2.6 mill over four years, so why can't I get a little more?"

"Listen son," says the elder Childress with a sigh, "just sign will ya."

"I'm getting tired of all those news guys writing all kinds of rotten things about you. Hey, where's my beer?"

Ray says, "Dad, my agent says I've got them where we want them and I'm asking for 20 percent more than Dean's contract calls for. Isn't it exciting?"

"Like, so what that I haven't played a down for the Oilers. I got my own poster at A&M and if that doesn't mean I'm hot stuff, I don't know what does."

Papa Childress retorts, "Listen son, first of all your mother has about 5,000 of those posters in our closet, so don't mention that around her, OK?"

"Second of all Ray, your agent (Joe Courage) just decide to take a vacation to god knows where. Doesn't that kind of concern you?"

Childress says, "Geez dad, Joe's tired. Don't you realized how much it takes out of someone to keep saying 'no way,' 'no comment,' and 'Ray can always work in construction' all the time? Joe's a sensitive guy and it hurts him."

"Son," Papa Childress says, "all I know is that your mother is kind of worried about the whole thing, because we're not sure you can handle all that cash. And we're beginning to think you like negotiating more than playing football. Your Uncle Jerry called you a wimp yesterday when we went bowling."

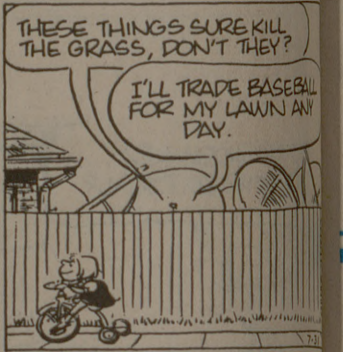
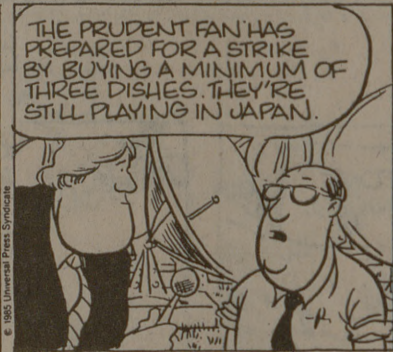
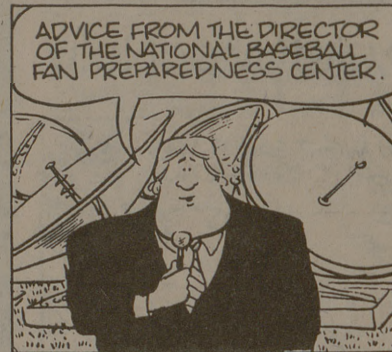
Childress reacts angrily, "I AM NOT!, I AM NOT!, I AM NOT!," stamping his feet on his hard hat until it looks like a shattered egg shell.

"I just want what I deserve."

Papa Childress says with another deep sigh, "Son, I have a feeling that you might just get your wish."

"And, hey, where's my beer?"

### TANK McNAMARA®



by Jeff Millar & Bill Hind

## SMU's football fate still in NCAA hands

Associated Press

DALLAS — Southern Methodist could receive a crippling blow to its football program if the NCAA takes away the Mustangs' scholarships, Head Coach Bobby Collins said Tuesday.

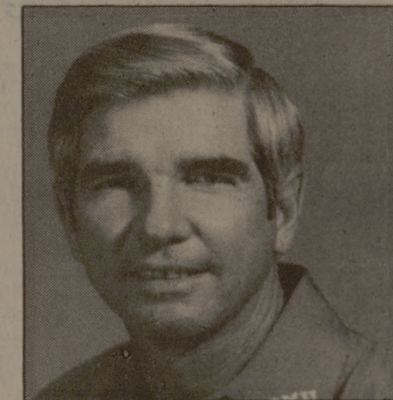
In an interview at the Texas High School Coaches Association, Collins said, "A loss of scholarships could be devastating."

A 26-month investigation into the Mustangs' football program is now in the appeal stage with the full NCAA Council weighing the evidence. The panel meets in mid-August in Boston with a verdict expected by early September.

A "worst case" scenario for the Mustangs would include loss of scholarships for a year and no television or bowl appearances.

"SMU has been under a fine looking glass now for a number of years and it has definitely hurt our program, but there's no way we'll ever know how much," Collins said.

Collins said he wouldn't comment



SMU's Bobby Collins

on the specific NCAA charges, but admitted "it doesn't look favorable." He said he would feel "directly responsible," if something happens to the Mustang program.

"I'm responsible for the football program at SMU and whatever happens is a reflection on me," Collins said. "I've never tried to duck that

(responsibility) and I never will." Collins wouldn't comment on a possible suit by SMU against the NCAA, other than to say "SMU has some decisions to make. All us will in the SMU family."

He said the Mustangs could be one of their best football teams this fall, but added the NCAA investigation "has the potential to be a disruptive problem. The only thing our favor is that we've been under this cloud for two or three years and we've handled it so far."

"If we let (the NCAA investigation) consume us, our school and football will suffer," he said.

Collins said SMU could still be an excellent team.

"We've been picked high in the Southwest Conference and nationally, but just being picked isn't an answer. You have to produce," said. "I'm excited about the prospect of the season. If the players come in the right frame of mind, we can be good."

## Baseball Strike?

### Players expecting to take brunt of blame

Associated Press

Bill Madlock says fans, at least the ones in Pittsburgh, won't care if major league baseball players go on strike. Dale Murphy says fans will be upset. And Jack Morris says the fans just don't understand.

With the strike deadline seven days away, set for Aug. 6, some players say a walkout could be a double-edged sword — something they need to do but something that could hurt them in the long run.

"The fans will definitely look at the players for the blame," said Tom Brunansky of the Minnesota Twins. "We're in a no-win situation."

"If we end up striking, for what we feel we deserve, the fans will hate us but at the same time we end up cutting our own throats if we don't strike. We have to protect ourselves."

"I feel sorry for the fans. They want to see baseball and we want to play for them."

Madlock, of the Pittsburgh Pirates, agreed that a strike would give the players a black eye.

"There will definitely be some negative backlash," Madlock said. "Some fans don't think of us as heroes anymore. We're thought of as money-grubbing drug users."

"In Pittsburgh, the Steelers have started already, so they don't care if we strike."

Several players said they know how fans would react if there was a strike, such as the one in 1981 that interrupted the season for seven weeks. They predict fans will not be very tolerant if the players, whose average salary is around \$350,000, go on strike.

"They'll be upset and I don't blame them," said the Atlanta Braves' Murphy. "It's ridiculous. If we don't work it out, I'll be very upset because I'm a fan, too."

Morris, of the Detroit Tigers, said he thinks the players will unfairly shoulder the blame, if there is a strike.

"The majority of the fans, who don't understand the issue, will think the players are at fault," Morris said. "That's the bottom line — the fans don't understand the issues."



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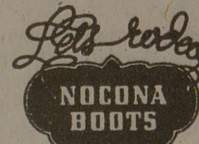
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