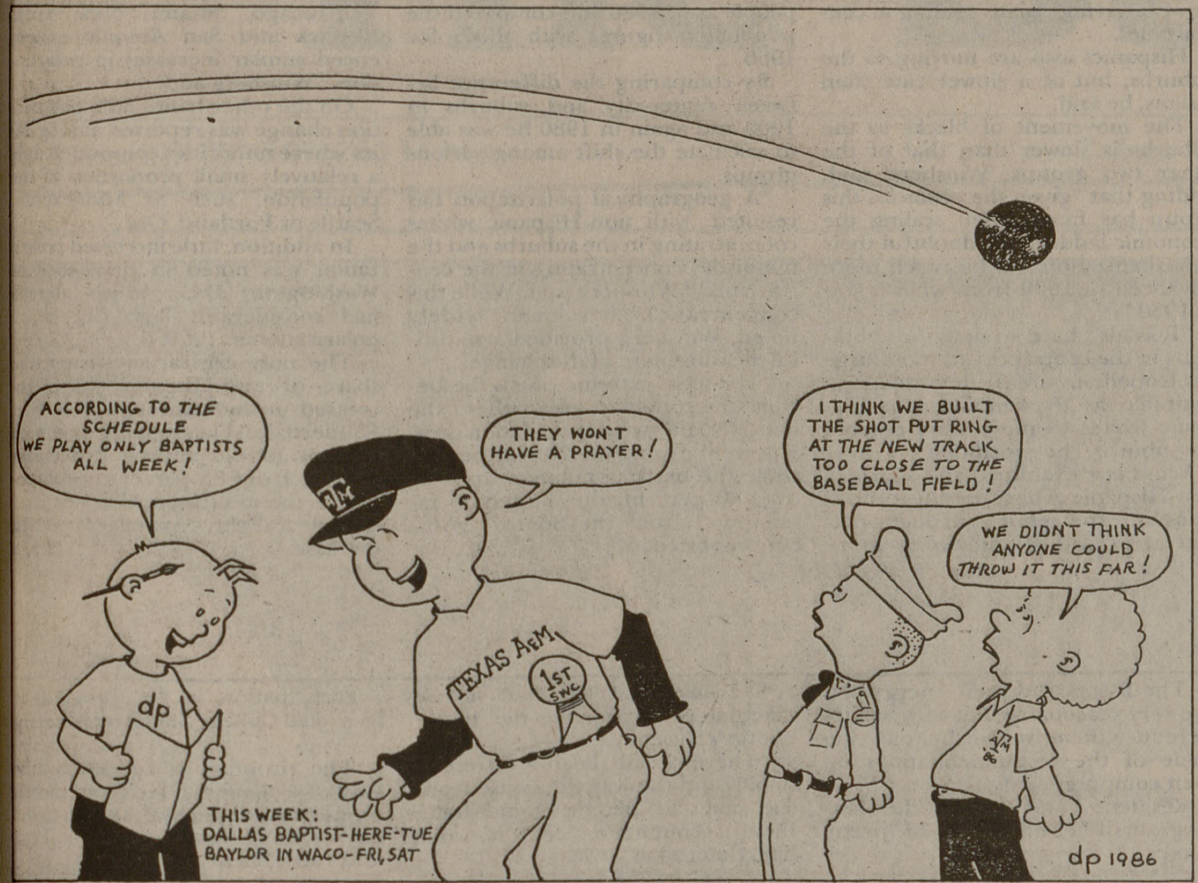
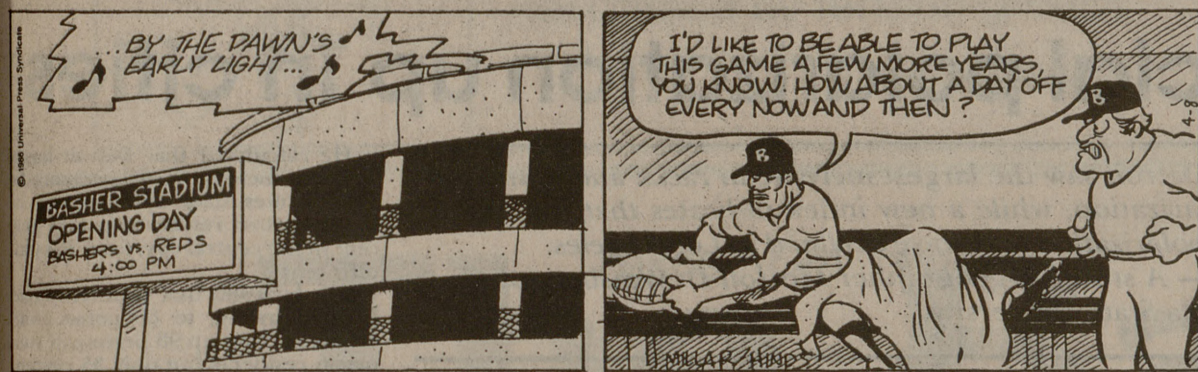


**TANK McNAMARA**



by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds **Becker among tennis' best at WCT finals**

DALLAS (AP) — Thanks to injuries, a vacation and a suspension, Wimbledon champion Boris Becker of West Germany will be the main attraction in the \$675,000 Buick WCT Finals that begin today at Reunion Arena.

Sweden's Mats Wilander is the top seed in the 12-man tournament, but Becker — the surprise winner at Wimbledon last year — is playing outstanding tennis.

At the Volvo Chicago Grand Prix event two weeks ago, Becker beat Jimmy Connors and Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia in the semifinals and final, respectively.

Lendl, the original No. 1 seed, plus Connors and John McEnroe are not in the tournament. Lendl is sidelined with an injured knee, Connors has been suspended from tournament play until June and McEnroe is taking a vacation from tennis.

"People in Dallas have never seen Becker play here," said Lamar Hunt, WCT founder and director. "He obviously is going to be one of the future stars of men's tennis. It think it's a good chance to come out and see a rising star."

The WCT is relying on Becker to fill the seats at Reunion, with the absence of Lendl, Connors and McEnroe. After Lendl withdrew, the WCT issued a press release concerning Becker's rise in men's tennis.

"The WCT is a very important tournament," said Becker, who is seeded No. 2. "It is all the winners of the big tournaments. It's a chance to show that you are one of the best."

The WCT is saving the best for last. Becker will not play until Friday night, meeting the winner of Tuesday night's first-round match between Czechoslovakian Miloslav Mecir and American Paul Annacone.

**Watson's determination returns for Masters**

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — There is a sense of purpose, a feeling of determination about Tom Watson this year.

His desire has returned. He's exhibiting the determination that made him — for several years — the dominant player in golf.

The intangible factors that contributed so much to the marvelous record he built during the late 1970's and early '80s are back.

All but the game. Watson, winner of five British Opens and a record six Player of the Year titles, comes into the 50th Masters as he did last season — a frustrated non-winner.

But there's a subtle difference. Last year, there was an anxiety about the frustration, a negative feeling. This year, the frustration is a spur, a whip driving him toward improvement.

It's been slow to come. Watson hasn't won in nearly two seasons, since the 1984 Western Open.

He's tired of answering the same question every week on the PGA Tour: what's wrong with Tom Watson?

"It's almost like it was 10 years ago when everybody was writing I was a choker," Watson said. He destroyed that image when he

faced down the great Jack Nicklaus, in Watson's first Masters victory in 1977.

It was the start of the Watson era, a period in which he was the game's outstanding performer. It lasted through 1984.

Then, last year, he failed to win for the first time in eight seasons. He dropped to 18th on the money winning list, his lowest spot in 11 years.

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