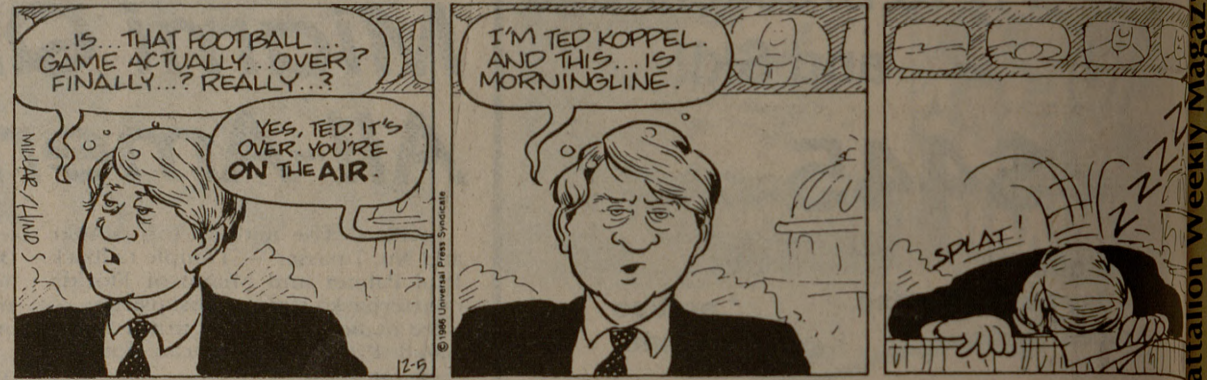


TANK McNAMARA®

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hines



Bennett receives Lombardi

HOUSTON (AP) — Linebacker Cornelius Bennett of Alabama Thursday night was awarded the 17th annual Lombardi Trophy honoring the nation's outstanding college football lineman.

The 17th annual award was presented at a benefit dinner is sponsored by the Downtown Rotary Club of Houston with proceeds going to cancer research.

Other finalists were University of Miami tackle Jerome Brown, Brian Bosworth of Oklahoma, and Ohio State's Chris Spielman.

"I really don't know what to say," Bennett said before the 1,200 guests. "I guess it's like being out on the field. My heart is all into it right now. "This is such an honor and priv-

ilege. I'd just like to thank God," said Bennett, the first player from Alabama to win the award and the second linebacker since the award was first given in 1970. Tim Stillwagon of Ohio State was the first linebacker and the first recipient.

Bennett, a 6-foot-4, 235-pound, outside linebacker, led the Crimson Tide in quarterback sacks even though he missed two games because of a pulled hamstring.

Bosworth, a 6-foot-2, 240-pound linebacker, made the All America team for the second year in a row. A junior, he led the Sooners in tackles with 136 and helped Oklahoma become the first team to lead the nation in scoring defense, total de-

fense, rushing defense and pass defense.

Brown, a 6-foot-2, 285-pound defensive tackle, received the Player Award voted by his teammates for outstanding leadership and spirit. In 1985, he was named second-team All-America.

Spielman, 6-foot-2, 230-pound side linebacker, led the Big Ten in 194 tackles and is one of the finalists for the second annual Player Award, which Bosworth won last year.

His Buckeyes will play Texas A&M in the Cotton Bowl on Jan. 12. The junior was an All-American honorable mention in 1985.

UT may announce coach today

AUSTIN (AP) — University of Texas athletic officials scheduled a news conference for today amid heavy speculation that Texas Tech football Coach David McWilliams was about to be named Longhorns head coach.

Bill Little, UT sports information director, announced the news conference Thursday. Little said he could not disclose what would be discussed.

The 3 p.m. news conference will end a week of speculation about a successor to Fred Akers, who was fired Saturday after completing a 5-6 season, Texas' first losing year since 1956.

McWilliams, a UT assistant coach before going to Tech this year, became a Lubbock hero by leading the Red Raiders to the promised land of

bowl play. But a Tech official said Thursday the football coach could become a Lubbock villain if he leaves town.

Lubbock loves McWilliams for what he's done for Tech football, said Joe Hornaday, Tech's sports information director. But, he said, the romance could turn into a bitter divorce if McWilliams returns to Austin.

"I would think there would be a lot of animosity because of the commitment he made and the opportunity (Tech) gave him," he said. "I feel like people around here feel they made a commitment to him and it should be reciprocal."

Under his leadership, the Red Raiders went 7-4, including a win over Texas, and are headed for an

Independence Bowl matchup with Ole Miss.

"I honestly believe he hasn't made a decision yet," Hornaday said.

McWilliams was unavailable for comment Thursday, school officials said.

Wednesday night, after speaking at a high school football banquet in Pasadena, McWilliams said he had made no decision.

"The job has not been offered. We've talked. We have nothing to announce. I'm going to make a decision and try to do what's best for my family," said McWilliams, who spent 19 years as a UT player and assistant coach.

McWilliams confirmed he met for three hours Wednesday with Texas Athletic Director DeLoss Dodds in Dallas.

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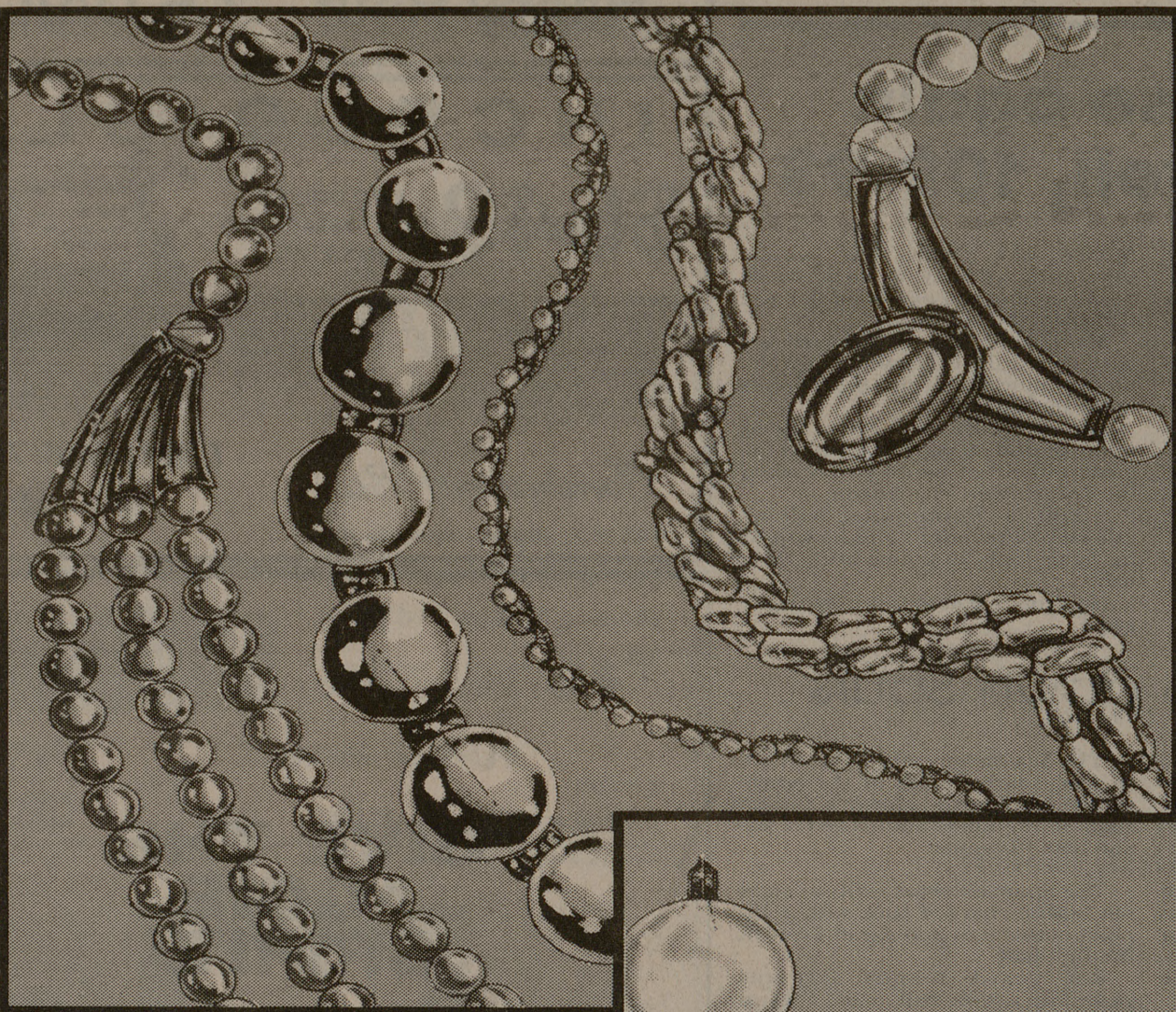
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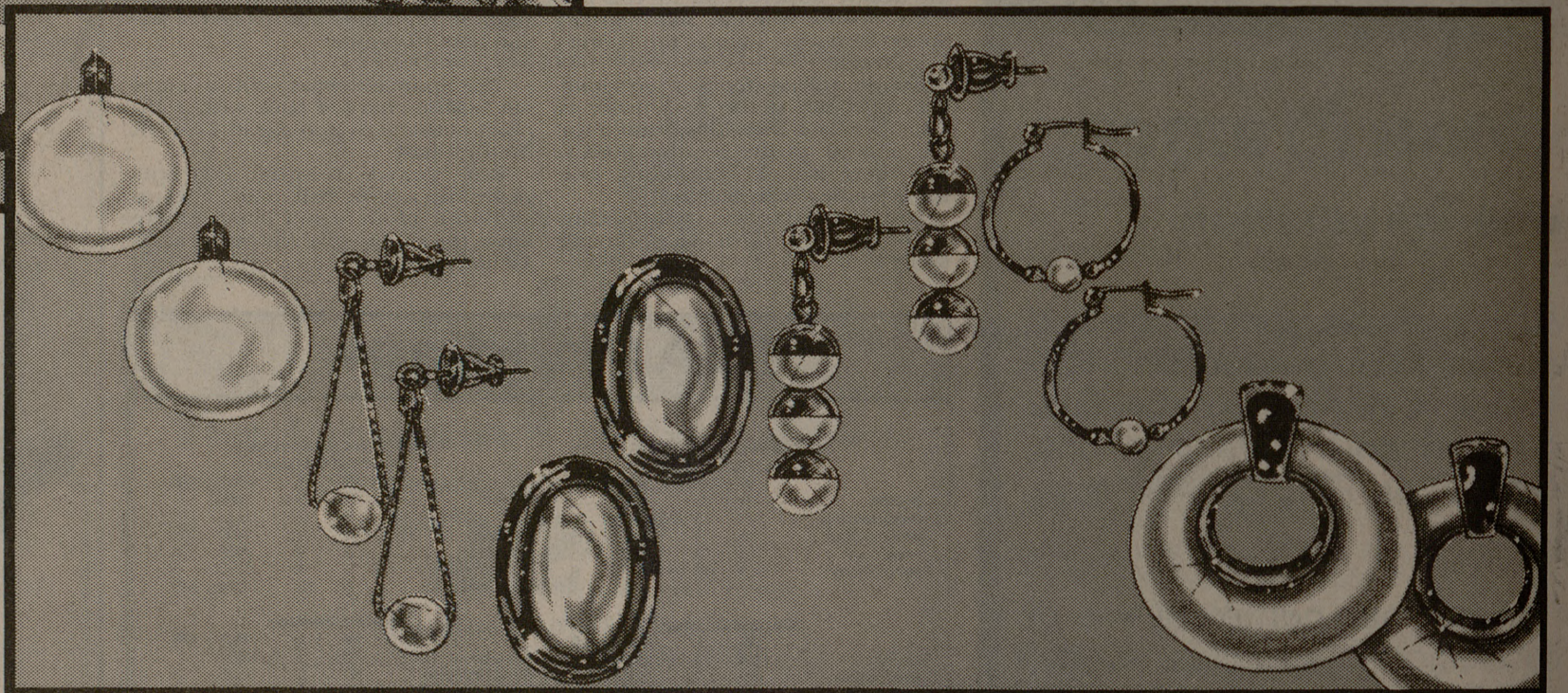
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