

## President: 'No football at Lamar?'

BEAUMONT (AP) — The president of Lamar University said he has discussed recently the possibility of dropping football at his school with some regents, but stressed that no decision has been made.

"We haven't even done the financial analyses yet," said Lamar President Bill Franklin.

Lamar System Chancellor George McLaughlin announced earlier that he plans to recommend the board of regents move to drop football unless \$400,000 in donations can be raised.

Two former presidents of the Cardinal Club, the school's athletic booster organization, announced Saturday that they have begun collecting money to meet McLaughlin's challenge.

One of the two men, Charlie Gibbs, said paid attendance at Lamar football game brings in less than \$1,000 a game. The team is averaging 6,911 home attendance this season.

"Things are not really turning around," Gibbs said. "I don't think that if we raise the \$400,000, it will rectify the program, just prolong it."

Lamar has been an independent since dropping out of the Southland Conference three years ago. This season, the Cardinals are 4-5, following a 42-33 loss Saturday night at the University of Southwestern Louisiana.

## All Pistons not firing after 2-3 road swing

MIAMI (AP) — The Detroit Pistons flew home Sunday after a road trip that Chuck Daly described as their worst in his seven years as coach.

"By far," Daly said. "We're struggling, and we'll keep struggling until we get back the killer instinct."

The defending NBA champions, 2-3 on the trip, blew an 11-point fourth-quarter lead Saturday night against Miami and lost 88-84.

The Pistons also lost at Indiana, where they scored only 74 points, and at Chicago. Their third defeat came 18 days earlier than last season.

"We've got great talent," guard Isiah Thomas said. "But right now we're not a good basketball team."

On Saturday, the Pistons played like an expansion team, while the second-year Heat played liked champs. Miami rallied from a 76-65 deficit with nine minutes left, then hit six consecutive free throws in the final 62 seconds to pull away from an 82-82 tie.

"This was the best win in team history," said Coach Ron Rothstein, a former Detroit assistant. "We have played this year better than I thought we were capable of playing."

Second-year players Rony Seikaly and Kevin Edwards led Miami with 21 points apiece. Seikaly said the game was one the Heat (2-4) would

not have won last season. "No way. We're a much better team than we were a year ago. We're more mature, and we're learning how to play with each other," he said.

"We cherish every win as we go along, but this one is sweeter than any other, because the Pistons are

**"We're struggling, and we'll keep struggling until we get back the killer instinct."**

— Chuck Daly, Pistons coach

the best team in the NBA." The league's best team wouldn't miss 17 of its final 21 shots, as Detroit did Saturday. Thomas and Joe Dumars were the only Pistons to score in the final nine minutes.

Center James Edwards missed two free throws with two seconds left when Detroit trailed 86-84. He missed all seven of his field-goal attempts and has hit only five of 24 in the past four games.

The Pistons were also hurt in the fourth quarter by forward Mark Aguirre's wild 3-point attempt and errant behind-the-back pass.

## Sewing in the NFL a job for her 96-year old mends Bears' uniforms after games

CHICAGO (AP) — Rose Ficarelli's concern with the Chicago Bears is not whether they win or lose, but how badly they rip their uniforms.

Mrs. Ficarelli — still working full time at 96 — mends the team's shirts and pants after every game.

"Oh, they were terrible," she said after Sunday's game against Green Bay. "All kinds of rips and tears... especially in the shoulders. When they fall down, they seem to throw themselves onto one shoulder, so you get this."

She held up Tom Thayer's game jersey, full of stitches and alterations.

"Look how beated up it is," she said. "Some of the guys are so superstitious they'll wear a shirt until it falls off."

Mrs. Ficarelli works with an old Singer sewing machine at the All American Co. athletic equipment reconditioning plant in suburban Franklin Park, peering through black spectacles with jewel inlays. She has been sewing team uniforms since 1938, and repairing Bears jerseys since 1951.

"By the end of the year I say sometimes that it's just my stitching that holds them together," she said.

Even though Mrs. Ficarelli is doubtless among the oldest full-time workers in the United States, "her attendance record is better than anyone's," said her boss, Ray Gluss. "We've practically got to chase her to get her out of here."

The company employs 30 and serves dozens of high school and college teams. But Mrs. Ficarelli takes primary responsibility for the Bears' jerseys.

When the plant was in Chicago, players used to drop by, and Mrs. Ficarelli would write inspirational notes and stuff them inside the jerseys.

"I'd put, 'Take care, don't get hurt, I hope my prayers will be answered this week,' things like that," she said.

But when the company moved to the suburbs, personal contact ended and she stopped writing the notes. On her recent birthday, however, she visited Halas Hall at the Bears' training camp.

"This is me with Richard Dent," she said, pulling out a photograph of her talking to the defensive end from her black, snap-close purse.

"I'm telling him to stop tearing his shirt," she said.

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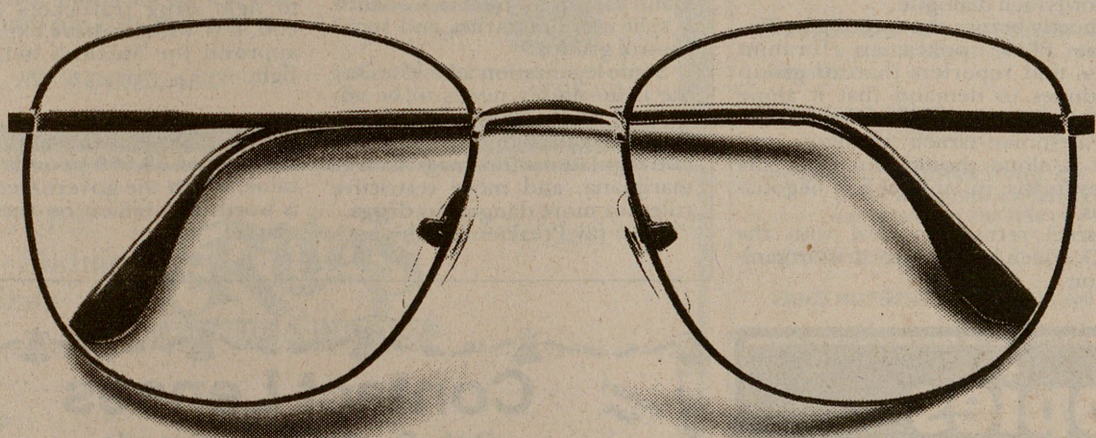
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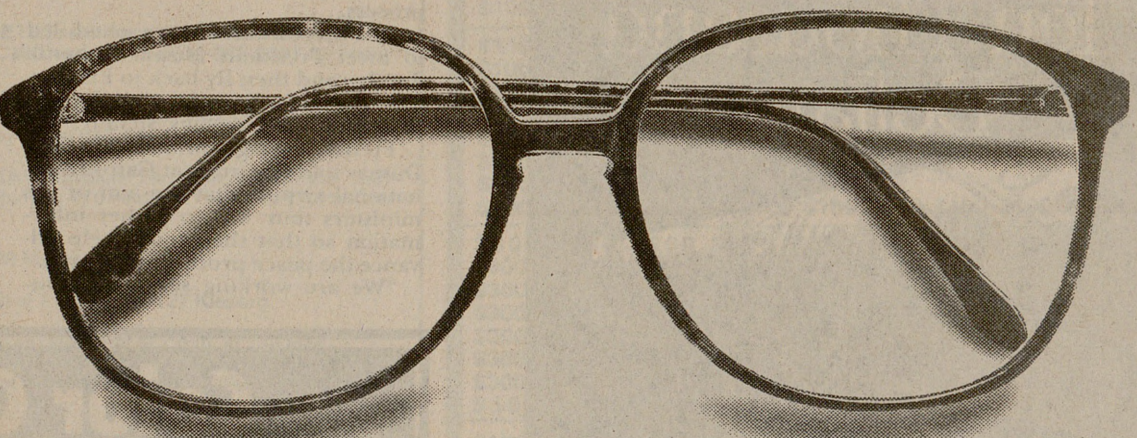
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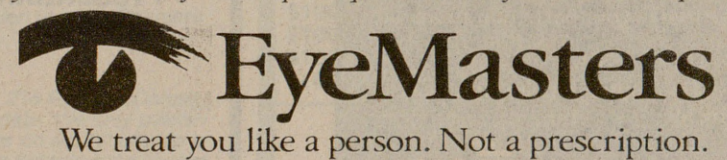
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