



Jim Murray

Los Angeles Times

A Black Hat

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MUNICH — It wasn't a victory, it was a heist.

The gold medal the East Germans won in pole vaulting should at least be wearing a mask and carrying a gun. Or have a bandanna around its mouth and be wearing a black hat.

My hustling Uncle Ed, who used to boil dice for a living himself, always told me "never play the other man's game."

Bob Seagren should have been listening. Ed also said "never get in a card game with a guy on a train and be sure you shower with your wallet in your hand in a strange rooming house."

Bob Seagren now knows what it's like to be standing on a corner with a bill of sale for the Brooklyn Bridge you just bought from a guy whose suit made your eyes hurt.

He knows what it's like to sit in a hand and lay down four fives and reach for the pot and have the dealer say "I'm sorry I forgot to tell you 5s are no good in this game," and you say "What is good?" And he starts to turn his cards over and says "just a minute, I'll tell you."

He knows what it is to get in a game where the other guy pulls out a deck from his breast pocket and says "let's play with these" and you suddenly know for the next hour you're going to be looking at handfuls of treys and busted straights.

He knows what it is to get in a fight and suddenly realize the guy holding your coat is the brother of the guy you're fighting. You know you're going to be walking funny and have this ringing in your ears before the cops break it up.

He knows what it's like to fade the shooter and suddenly notice what long sleeves he has and realize you're going to be looking at a tableful of boxcars all night long because you're going to get the pair he shakes out of his cuffs.

Pinochle Deck

The Olympic pole vault, it says here, was won by the East Germans and a guy named Wolfgang Nordwig.

Well, that's half-right. It was won by the East Germans, all right. They slipped Seagren a pinochle deck at the last minute.

First, you have to understand that East Germany is a nation of 17 million stiff-necked socialists. Which is okay. A man's religion is his own business. Personally, I'd rather be a king—but who's going to argue with a bayonet?

Anyway, the East Germans or the "GDR" (for "German Democratic Republic") pour almost a billion marks a year into their sports program. They comb the country for world class athletes and they even prowling the cribs and perambulators. They have 20 special schools where they stash promising young athletes.

Wolfgang Nordwig was a product of this intense training program. Kind of too bad because maybe he could have been Wolfgang Mozart if left to his own.

Shocking News

Anyway, the Germans had high hopes for Wolfgang in this year's pole vault until, suddenly, the shocking news that all three American pole vaulters went over 18 feet and Seagren went over at 18 foot 5 1/2 inches and every Hans and Fritz in Leipzig knew something would have to be done or all that loot would have been dumped in the Isar.

The East Germans went to the International Amateur Athletic Federation, a collection of septuagenarians who promptly outlawed the new pole Seagren and pals had been using. They didn't specify the sport go back to wrapped bamboo or fresh-cut saplings but they just said "whatever you were using at Eugene, don't." And then went back to nodding over their domino boards.

Now, you have to understand the Olympic and International athletic rules say you can pole vault with anything that isn't ticking or trailing smoke. The pole is the only Olympic implement which has no standard specifications, maximum or minimum. The javelin must be at least 8 feet, 6 inches long and weigh one and three-quarter pounds. The

shot must be 16 pounds or over. And so on.

The Rumor Mill

The pole became a catapult event a dozen years ago with the advent of the fiberglass and the vaulter was like the guy shot out of a cannon in the circus.

Naturally, Nordwig tried Seagren's new "Catapole," a green instrument lighter and skinnier than the standard fiberglass. Rumor had it, he couldn't get the hang of it and was vaulting poorly.

Now, the sporting thing to do is to shrug and say "Oh, well, there goes that ball game," but we're talking about socialists, not sports. Like I say, I'm not political but I get the feeling these guys are not about to let you draw first. If they can get you from behind the fence, they're not about to do a Gary Cooper. White hats are for decadent capitalists.

The IAAF, realizing its rules said the vault pole could be "made of any material, length or diameter," reversed itself. Seagren's poles were okay, they said. They let him go on practicing with it.

Then, the night before the pole vault event, they hustled some strongarms over to the Olympic Village to confiscate Seagren's poles (and all other American poles) for an "inspection." Presumably, they knocked on the door first or had a search warrant. They took the poles in for an interrogation but didn't pull their nails out.

They threw out five of Seagren's poles. They banned all of Jan Johnson's poles. He had to borrow one from a decathlete to qualify.

'Ghastly Joke'

Seagren was aghast. "The only way these guys could tell the Catapole is by color. They have no machinery to test it anyway. It's a ghastly joke."

It looked for awhile as if he would have to go downtown and pick up a broomstick and try to break 18 feet with that, but they did let him use one of his older poles, once he got the cobwebs off it. But, as his pal, Pole Vaulter Buddy Williamson said "you get your steps down, your pole plant down and all your physiological engineering for one pole."

My Uncle Ed could have told him. They used to have a lot of shaved cues in the pool hall where he operated, too. Never take a hit from a deck that might be all 10s. Never play in front of a mirror. Never raise a pat hand and, just because there are four aces showing doesn't mean there aren't four more in this deck.

Seagren made a point of handing his pole to the president of the European section of the IAAF after the final vault, and he refused to congratulate Nordwig. Uncle Ed would have dug that. Never shake hands with a guy who just shook you down. You might not get back all five fingers.



HEADS EAGLES — Veteran quarterback Ron Slater of North Olmsted will pilot the Ashland College Eagles Saturday when they travel to Franklin, Ind. The three-year letterman last year completed 65 of 151 passes for six touchdowns and 957 yards.

Cougars Get Big Bundle

GREENSBORO, N. C. (AP) — The Carolina Cougars of the American Basketball Association have

agreed to accept in excess of \$500,000 from the Seattle Supersonics of the National Basketball Association in settlement of a contract dispute involving player Jim McDaniels.

Rusty Staub Back With New Yorkers

HOUSTON (UPI) — Rusty Staub, the New York Mets' leading hitter, has been reinstated from the disabled list.

The Cougar's information director, Ted Malick, said agreement was reached Tuesday, freeing the former standout at Western Kentucky to play with Seattle.

Staub, who has been on the list since July 24 with a broken bone in the wrist, has a .297 batting average, nine home runs and 36 RBI's.

The settlement also means that a half dozen suits and countersuits involving the two teams and two leagues will be dropped, Malick said.

Plymouth Boasts Five Lettermen

PLYMOUTH — Last fall Plymouth High School came on to the high school cross country scene like a house of fire and before the 1971 season had concluded the Big Red had burned their way to a state Class A title.

Coach Bob James has a solid nucleus returning to make a shot at two championships in succession. Five seasoned veterans make the Big Red solid contenders for the upcoming campaign.

Heading the returnees are Seniors Mike Redden and Mike Adams. Junior Brad Buzard and Sophomores Ken Lucas and Steve Adams round out the quintet.

Also on this year's squad will be seven additional underclassmen, who make the future look good in the Plymouth camp.

1972 PLYMOUTH CROSS COUNTRY ROSTER
COACH — Bob James.
SENIORS — Mike Redden (X), Mike Adams (X).
JUNIORS — Brad Buzard (X), Ralph Noble, Richard Seymour.
SOPHOMORES — Steve Adams (X), Dave Holt, Ken Lucas (X), Ron Scarbo, Earl Strine, Mike Courtright.
FRESHMEN — Guy Flora. (X—Denotes lettermen.)

SCHEDULE
Sept. 7—Madison, 4:00 a.m.
Sept. 14—at Wynford
Sept. 19—at Ashland (junior varsity)
Sept. 21—at Crestline
Sept. 26—Crestview, 4:00 p.m.
Sept. 28—Clear Fork, 4:00 p.m.
Oct. 3—at Colonel Crawford
Oct. 7—at Ontario Invitational
Oct. 10—Hazelton, 4:00 p.m.
Oct. 17—Johnny Appleseed conference meet at Possum Run Golf and Swim Club, 4:00 p.m.
Oct. 21—Sectional
Oct. 24—at Loudonville
Oct. 28—District
Nov. 4—State

Slow-Pitch Tourney Set in West Salem

WEST SALEM — The second annual West Salem open slow-pitch softball tournament will be held Sept. 16-30.

Mike Bowersock or Harold Nichols of West Salem have additional information on the ASA sanctioned, double elimination affair.

Wilson's Victor in Title Test

Wilson's Carry-Out yesterday captured the championship of the International Slow-Pitch Softball League with an 18-8 victory over Fisher's.

In the Pony League, Holland Motors slammed Mathew's, 19-10.

INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP GAME AT TAPPAN FIELD
Wilson's 454 500 1-19 18 3
Fisher's 200 312 0-8 8 3
Hettinger and Metz, Jordan, Fahn, Greenfelder and Reiner.
D — D. Ward (W), Three Hits — E. Ward, Four Hits — Belcher (W), HR — Knackstedt (W).

PONY LEAGUE Cyclops Circle
Mathews & Sons 112 600 0-10 12 11
Holland Motors 340 741 x-19 20
Smith and Carter: L. Hart and D. Wolfe.
D — D. Wolfe (H), Walker (H), McClaran (H), Duke (S), Reynolds (S), J. Wolfe (H), Fick (H), Bosko (H), HR — Hart (H), Three Hits — D. Wolfe (H), J. Wolfe (H), Hart (H), Four Hits — Hess (S).

Bar-N defeated Subway Inn by forfeit.
GAMES TODAY
BUCKEYE LEAGUE — Julie's vs. Cardinal Vending, Cyclops, 6 p.m.; Bale's vs. Weidell's, Cyclops, 6 p.m.; Guarino's vs. Bob Ohi, 6 p.m.; Bob Ohi vs. Julie's, Cyclops, 7:15 p.m.

Plymouth Cops Opener

PLYMOUTH — Plymouth's Ken Lucas eclipsed the school record by turning in a 9:56 to lead the Big Red to an opening cross country victory over Black River, 18-41.

Lucas' clocking knocked three seconds off Tim Nesbitt's former standard of 9:59.

HIGH SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY

SCORE: Plymouth 18, Black River 41.

PLYMOUTH — 1, Ken Lucas, 9:56; 2, Mike Adams, 10:14; 3, Ralph Noble, 10:29; 4, Brad Buzard, 10:30; 5, Steve Adams, 11:00.

BLACK RIVER — 5, Stine, 10:33; 6, Snoddy, 10:43; 7, Adamson, 10:47; 9, Braffe, 11:00; Meinnell, 11:33.

Firpo Wins On 'Forfeit'

Haystack Calhoun, out of the ring temporarily, failed to go back within the proper time length, giving Pampero Firpo a professional wrestling decision yesterday at the Local 711 hall.

In other pro matches yesterday, Zulu defeated Von Stroheim in 13 minutes, Dan Miller and Don Kat wrestled to a draw and Ben Justice, The Stomper and Tony Marino won over Killer Brooks, Tokyo Tom and Mitsu Arakawa.

The next wrestling program is set for Sept. 19.

Richey Eliminates Laver in Tennis

FOREST HILLS, N. Y. (AP) — "If you're unfit, don't go on the court because if you're on the court, you're fit," says Australian tennis pro Roy Emerson.

Countryman Rod Laver failed to heed the advice Tuesday and was eliminated from the U. S. Open Tennis Championships.

Cliff Richey of Sarasota, Fla., beat Laver, the third-seeded 1969 and 1962 title holder, 3-6, 7-6, 7-6, 6-3. But Richey seeded 12th, was not happy about the victory.

"What can you say about beating a guy with a bad back," Richey said.

Laver's back, a problem for him over the years, "went out" during the third set. "I think I could've made a better show of it if my back was all right. I felt good overall, but I just couldn't stretch. I kept getting spasms."

NO EXCUSES

But if Laver lost because of his back, other seeded players had no excuse. Arthur Ashe of Miami, seeded sixth, ousted Bob Lutz, the

13th seed from Sausalito, Calif., 5-7, 7-5, 6-4, 6-3; and topseeded defending champion Stan Smith beat Andres Gimeno of Spain, seeded 14th, 2-6, 7-6, 6-4, 1-6, 6-3.

Frank Barnet of Columbus, Ohio, was eliminated from further play in the U. S. Open tennis championships here Tuesday. Barnet lost to Sidney Schwartz of New York 6-2, 6-4.

Niskanen Leads With 38 Shots

Norma Niskanen fired a one-over par 38 to take honors yesterday in the Ladies' Tuesday Afternoon League at Possum Run.

IMPERIALES LEAGUE At Imperial

No. 1 — Helen Gamble, 33; Jo Rhoades, 33; Marilyn Stevick, 32; Catherine Gausatz, 34; No. 2 — Audrey White, 35; Mary Ann Kirek, 37; Helen Hallabrin, 38; Mary Disanzo, 38; Trudi Eichler, 38; NO. 3 — Ruby Ohly, 38; Maxine Bancro, 39; Alice Dickson, 40; NO. 4 — Marlene Pschirer, 42; Jenny Hale, 43; Jean Ashley, 44.

LEADERS — Jim's Sohio, 184; Aristocrat Beauty, 171; Saltzgeber's, 170; TUESDAY AFTERNOON LEAGUE At Possum Run

LOW SCORES — Norma Niskanen, 38; Beverly Adams, 46; Melva Connor, 46; Mary Ann Hollingsworth, 46; Marne Carlson, 47; Claire Carrow, 47; Pauline Munton, 47; Pat Menzetti, 48; Jo Rhoades, 48; Jane Marion, 49.

Center Signs Pittsburgh (UPI) —

Center Ron Schock signed a one-year National Hockey League contract with the Pittsburgh Penguins.

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E78-14 or 8.25x14	28.02	30.82	\$2.93
E78-14 or 8.55x14	—	33.35	\$1.59
I78-14 or 8.55x14	22.62	25.69	\$2.78
5.60x15	28.97	31.85	\$3.01
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