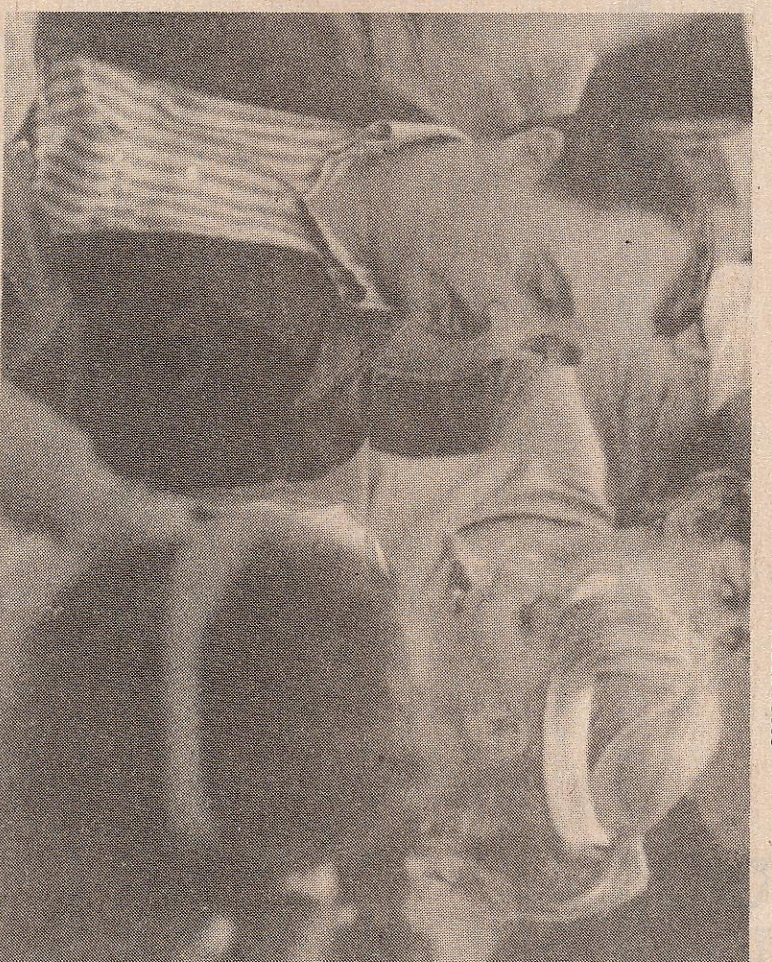


The scores



"Now my game is chess"



Tracking Tom

Part Three: The hero

From page A-1

But the look on the star's face after still another awkward attempt at the ball showed he did care about the way he played.

As he rose up from the floor once more you could see the determination in his eyes.

You could almost see him say to himself that he was better than this.

Then came the icebreaker. The six-foot, four-inch star was at the net.

His teammates, sensing his predicament, now did their best to play to his strength which he soon proved was in the territory about four feet above the net.

The perfect feed came, the star leaped and slammed home the ball. The USA coaches could not return it.

"KILL TOM SEITOK!" the announcer emphatically pronounced.

The crowd, in the midst of a frenzied cheer, almost drowned out the announcement.

Coming down from his leap, Seileck turned and looked over at John Hillerman (Higgins in Magnum) who was sitting next to Purcell on the team bench.

Hillerman urged him on in a very un-Higgins-like way.

The kill seemed to spark his team to rally back with a string of points.

Other evidence of Seileck's seriousness was now flowing forth.

Dioplets of perspiration began to pour from his person.

At one point, after a respectable dive for a ball toward boxes at his best rush, he wet spot he had treated.

He was, indeed, out of shape. Streams of sweat marked his hair and ran down his face.

All present sensed his desire to take this little exhibition game seriously.

He not only had to look respectable, but now he had put himself in the position of having to be on the winning side.

To do that his team would have to come back. The distractions of the opening hoopla had cost them the first game by a wide margin.

The "Outriggers," as one fan from Chicago called them on her "Chicago loves

Tom Seileck" sign, had a task before them.

A booster bunch made up of the Magnum, P.I. staff and crew and led by Roger Mosley (the show's helicopter-flying T.C.) started to root as the teams changed sides for the second game.

The homeowners got additional support from out-of-towners who thought they were here initially just to see Seileck.

Each point the "Outriggers"

scored got roaring approval.

In no time at all, the match stood two games to one for the "Outriggers."

Seileck's squad was scoring with regularity and the crowd's attention again began to drift, exemplified by Hillerman and Purcell who now were chatting away.

In the fourth game, the "Outriggers" jumped out to a small lead. But the USA coaches had not given up.

Scrambling back they made it two games apiece with a win.

The announcer explained the last game would be a seven-point tie breaker which could be won by only one point.

The coaches had the momentum and took a two-point lead.

The crowd suddenly sensed that Seileck could go home a hero. So did the star.

"LET'S GO TOM," a woman stood up and shouted.

Seileck started at the scoreboard above and headed back to serve the ball, cheering his team on.

The rotation had brought him to the back court, not his strength.

His first service brought his team a point to a thunderous roar. His second service lost his team the serve to a chorus of "Ohs."

Then, as if someone had written a script for this drama, Seileck flung his body forward, stretched out his arm and saved a ball at the last moment from hitting the floor.

It was a sparkling play that erased the memory of all those first game unsuccessful attempts.

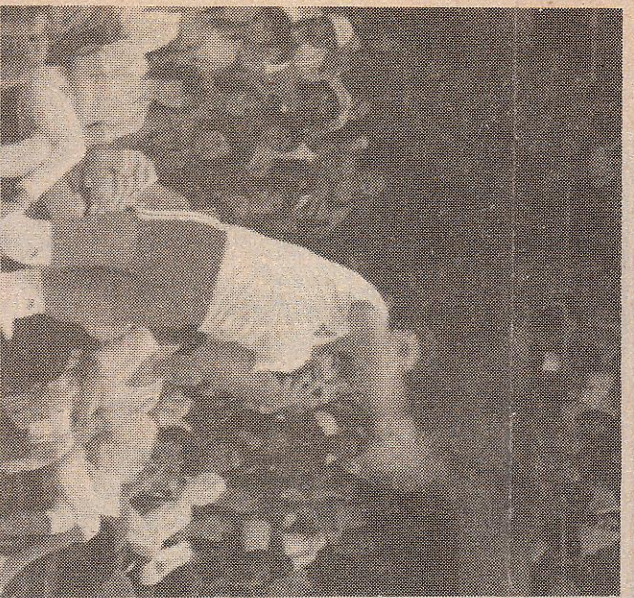
As he rose from the floor and turned to his teammates, you could see this was all the inspiration they needed to take the match.

The star was a hero. The fans in the crowd could go home knowing their idol was the winner, they always thought he was while others were shown the stuff it takes to be a star.

In Tracking Tom, Part Four (of a five-part series): "A Dream fulfilled," a woman tells of her encounter with the star after a two-year, dream-filled search.



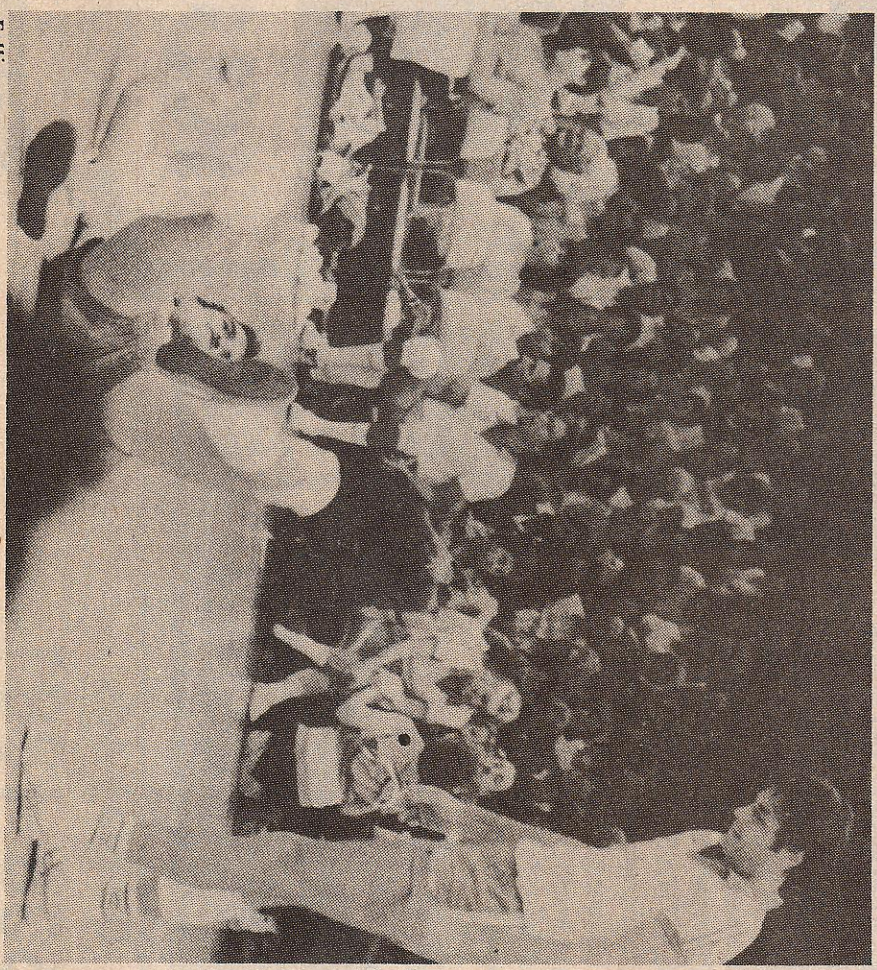
Loosening up to looks



"Service Tom Seileck"



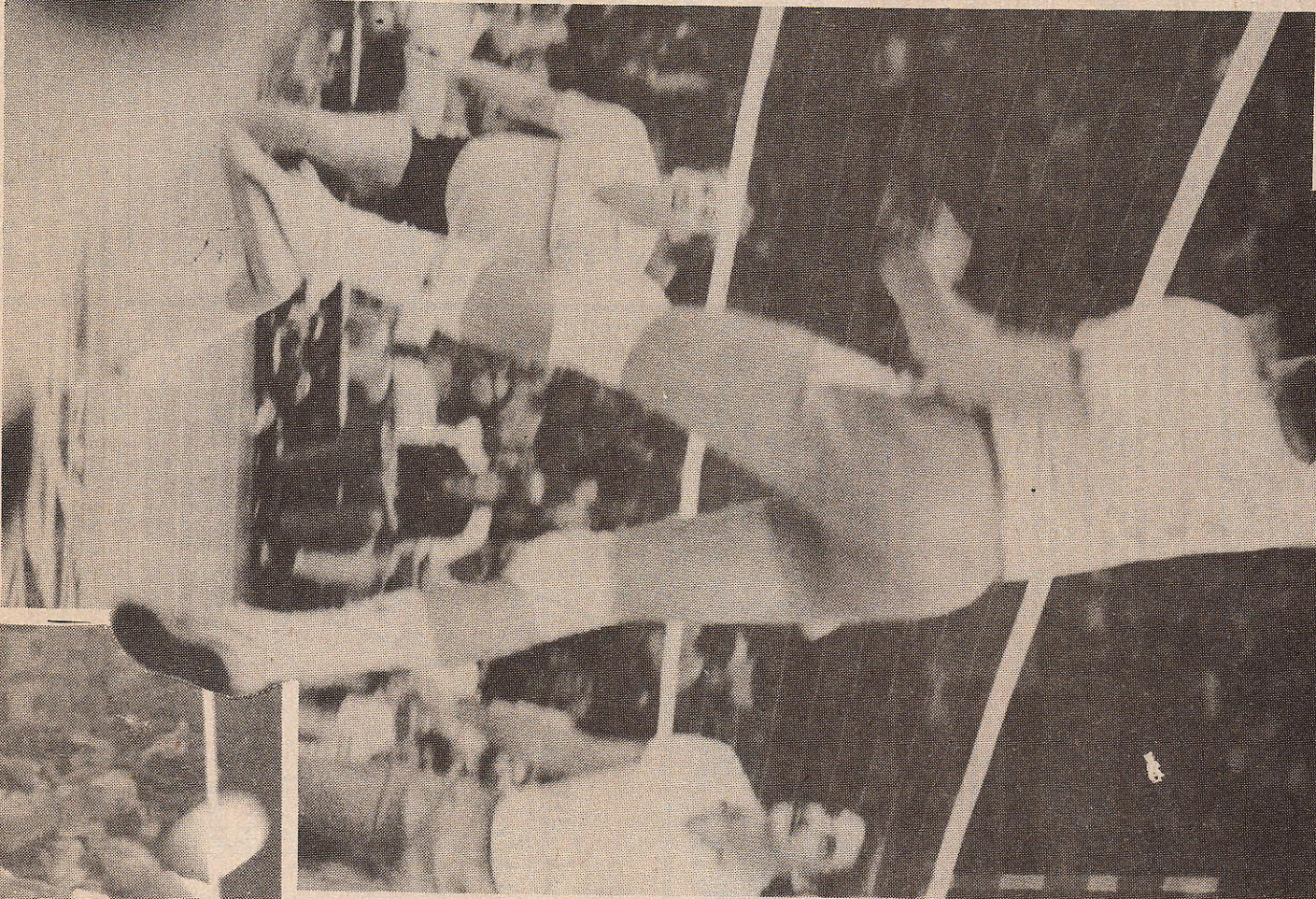
Talking to himself



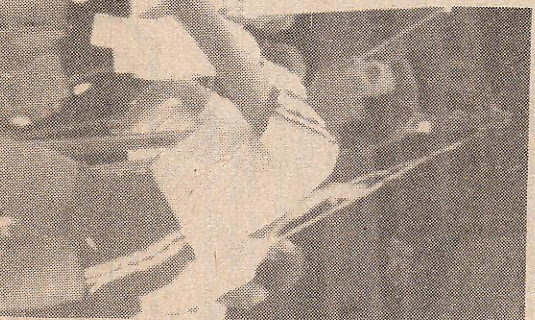
Falling star



Guarding the net



"Kill, Tom Seileck"



Getting under it

In Tracking Tom, Part Four (of a five-part series): "A Dream fulfilled," a woman tells of her encounter with the star after a two-year, dream-filled search.