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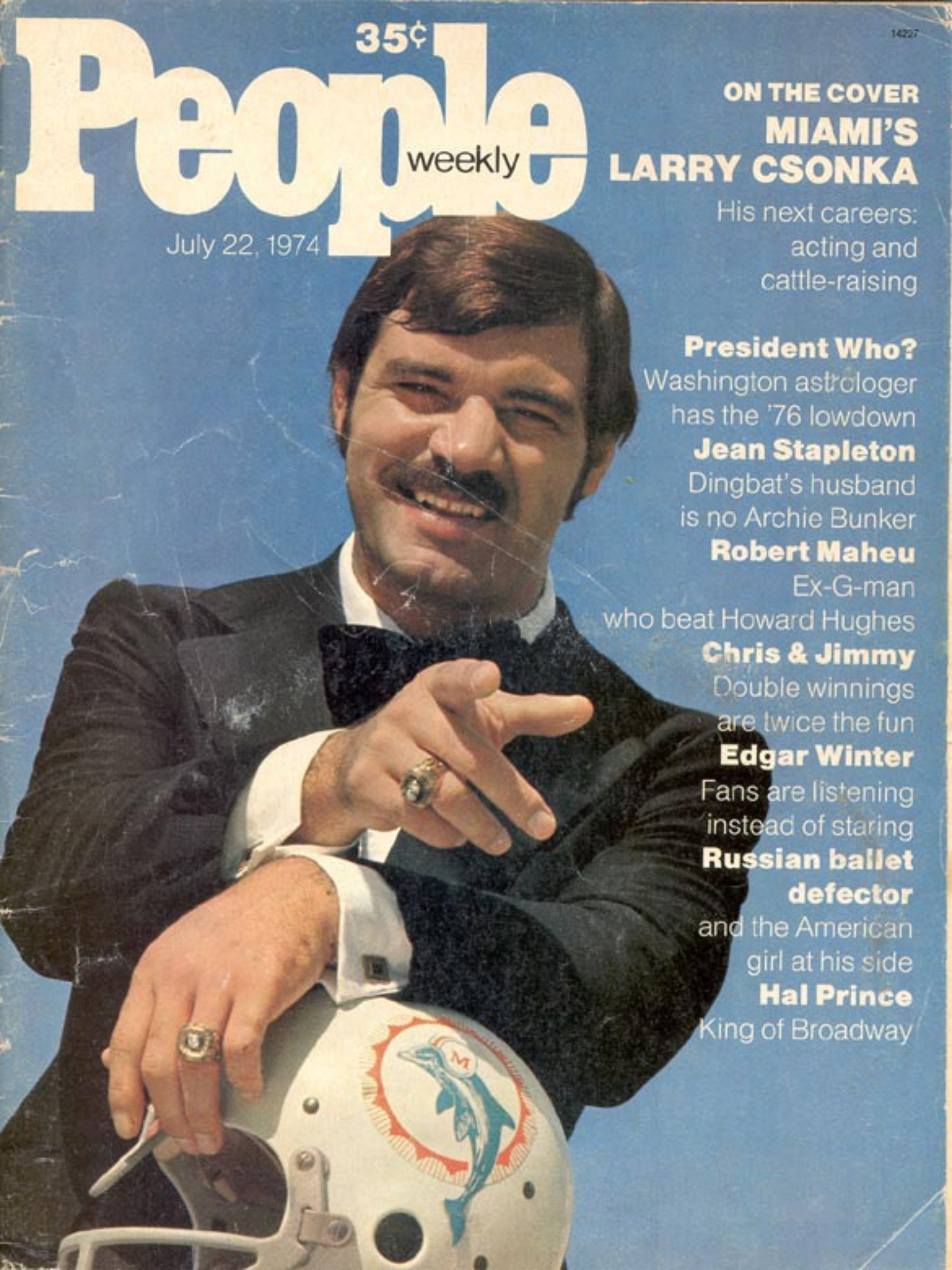
People weekly

July 22, 1974



ON THE COVER

MIAMI'S LARRY CSONKA

His next careers: acting and cattle-raising

President Who?
Washington astrologer has the '76 lowdown

Jean Stapleton
Dingbat's husband is no Archie Bunker

Robert Maheu
Ex-G-man who beat Howard Hughes

Chris & Jimmy
Double winnings are twice the fun

Edgar Winter
Fans are listening instead of staring

Russian ballet defector
and the American girl at his side

Hal Prince
King of Broadway

A 'FIX' OF LIFE FOR A HEMOPHILIAC

Because of the needle marks that dot the inside of his arms, 12-year-old Clifford Watson Jr. of Saugus, Calif. is often called "The Junkie" by schoolmates. But the 50 ccs of a blood coagulant known as Factor VIII which he mainlines every few days are saving, rather than destroying, his life. Cliff was born with hemophilia, "The Disease of Kings" (notable victims included Spain's last crown prince, Alphonso, and Russia's last czarevitch, Alexis Romanov). Without his shots, Cliff could die from a simple bruise.

When Cliff was only nine months old, a routine inoculation provided the first evidence that the child was one of 25,000 American hemophiliacs: he turned black and blue from his hip to his knee.

Surprisingly, none of Cliff's ancestors were known to have had the disease. Although hemophilia is hereditary, each male offspring of "carrier" mothers like Mrs. Watson has only a 50-50 chance of inheriting it. Cliff's 9-year-

Cliff Watson (left) injects coagulants which will protect against uncontrolled bleeding should he fall off his bike.

MEDICS

Cliff's mother is a carrier of hemophilia; his sisters Deanna (left) and Deborah, who is married and lives away, may be. Brother Chris and sister Darlene are not.

old brother Chris, for example, is not afflicted. Female children in hemophiliac families, though usually spared the disease, are frequent carriers of it. Cliff's two older sisters Deborah and Deanna are suspected carriers, but 6-year-old Darlene is not.

Cliff's early years were harrowing for his parents. His father, Clifford Sr., a repairman for the telephone company, accepted his son's illness more easily than Mrs. Watson, who recalls those years only as a time when "we lived from bleed to bleed." When he was 2 Cliff fell and bit through his tongue. It tooks nine days and 14 units of plasma to stop the bleeding. When he was 6 he jumped off a room divider and severely wrenched his knee. During the five-month hospitalization that followed, Cliff got his first injection of an early form of Factor VIII—which Dr. Judith Pool of Stanford Medical School isolated from human blood in 1965 and which other scientists succeeded in freeze-drying. Until Pool's discovery, the only treatment for the bleeding hemophiliac was massive transfusions.

Since 1969 Cliff has been taking the formula an average of twice a week as a precaution, or when he hurts himself. Cliff was trained to administer the medicine himself, like a diabetic, but he is squeamish about putting the needle in, so an adult does that. As assistant patrol leader in his Boy Scout troop, Cliff goes on overnight camping trips—carrying his Factor VIII in an ice chest—and he is a member of the community swimming team.

Despite absences from school caused by occasional injuries, Cliff has maintained a B average, and he will enter the eighth grade on schedule next autumn. Through his family's vigilance and his own common sense, he manages to enjoy an almost normal life. But the danger is always there. Before he dares engage in any activity that could easily lead to an injury —such as baseball, or even bike riding —he must always retire for another life-preserving injection.

In a vacant lot near their home in Saugus, Calif., Cliff and his father enjoy a game of catch with a Frisbee. Cliff plays with all the vigor of an ordinary 12-year-old.

Photographs by John R. Hamilton/Globe