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Thursday, Oct 14, 2004

Sports

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Posted on Fri, Oct. 08, 2004

Ditka, Mora take aim at 49ers owner York

By John Ryan
Mercury News

Put another 49er on the injury list. Owner John York is taking some big hits.

• Cigar-smoking, Levitra-pitching Mike Ditka told the Los Angeles Times he won't be inviting York into the Man's Man Club.

``You look at a team that was a great organization and a great team like the 49ers, and look what they've done with ownership and management," Ditka said. ``They've destroyed that organization. When Eddie D. had it, they were the best. You know why? The most important thing to Eddie was treating the players like family."

York, he added, ``knows nothing about football. Knows nothing about management, either. But he married Eddie's sister."

``Obviously Mike Ditka knows a lot about football," 49ers spokesman Kirk Reynolds responded to the Times. ``But his personal attack on John York is stunning and completely uncalled for. Mike Ditka doesn't even know John York."

• On a conference call with Detroit reporters, Atlanta Coach Jim Mora said it wasn't all that swell seeing his old team struggle.

OK, maybe a little.

``There are too many people I care about there," he said. ``The only level that it's gratifying on is they mistreated a very good friend of mine, Steve Mariucci. It has nothing to do with me or anyone else. One of the reasons I'm saying that, Steve has way too much class to say it himself. Sometimes his friends have to say it for him."

Mora had no bitterness about being passed over for a promotion when Mariucci left. But since the Lions and Falcons play this weekend, he and Mariucci will have a combined record of 7-2.

How 'bout them Niners?

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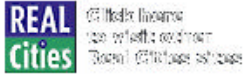
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