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## Rainess Vacates Position, Will Open His Own Firm In January

The Tufton Group President **IRA RAINESS**, who "assembled **CAL RIPKEN**'s vast commercial empire over the past decade, is leaving that job to establish his own firm to negotiate player contracts," according to Jon Morgan of the Baltimore SUN. Rainess said that he "has always wanted to spend more time representing athletes in their contract talks, and that will be the focus" of **RAINESS PLAYER MANAGEMENT** when it opens on January 1, 2002. Rainess, "working in cooperation with Ripken's agent, **RON SHAPIRO**, hopes to establish a niche representing baseball players, starting with young draftees." Rainess: "This has always been my goal." Rainess Player Management will be based in Baltimore with an office in North Palm Beach, FL. Rainess' client list includes **MICHAEL FLOYD**, who was drafted by the Phillies in the first round of this year's draft (*Baltimore SUN*, 11/15).



Ira Rainess