

Up, up, and away for NFL offense

(AP) — Air Coryell, it seems, was only the forerunner of Air NFL. Throughout the National Football League, teams which a few years ago were the very model of conservatism, are throwing, and throwing ... and throwing ...

NFL roundup

San Diego coach Don Coryell, who likes nothing more than to see Dan Fouts making like a rocket launcher, saw plenty of that last Sunday when his quar-

Ainge trial on — says he'll quit Blue Jays

NEW YORK (AP) — Danny Ainge, looking absolutely exhausted after taking the red-eye from California for the start of the Toronto Blue Jays-Boston Celtics court battle over his contract, said Monday he will retire from baseball regardless of the outcome of the trial.

"I have no intention of going back there (Toronto)," Ainge told The Associated Press while resting his weary head on one of the benches in Judge Lee P. Gagliardi's courtroom at the U.S. District Court. "I don't plan on returning to Toronto no matter the outcome. Toronto thinks if it wins the case I'll go home, change my mind and come back to spring training. But the way I feel now, I'm through with baseball."

Asked what he would do if the six-member jury selected Monday rules in favor of the Blue Jays, meaning Ainge can't play with the Celtics, he said, "I have businesses in Utah and I've been offered an assistant coaching job at Brigham Young. I'm pretty good at golf so maybe I can go on the pro golf tour. I have a lot of alternatives."

The 22-year-old Ainge, a 6-foot-5 All-American guard at BYU, signed a three-year contract with the Blue Jays last year calling for an average salary of \$75,000 a year. But the key to the contract, according to Blue Jays President Peter Bavasi, was a \$300,000 payment to Ainge which restricted him from playing pro basketball.

Timbers loan defender for indoor season

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Defender Willie Donachie of the Portland Timbers in the North American Soccer League has been loaned to Norwich City of the English 2nd Division, the Timbers announced on Monday.

Donachie, 29, will play for Norwich City through February and will not participate in the Timbers' NASL indoor season.

However, he is expected to return to Portland for the 1982 outdoor season.

The aerial game is more than just a passing trend

terback fired 47 passes. Fouts completed 26 for 298 yards and two touchdowns.

Unfortunately for the Chargers, San Diego's quantity was no match for Denver's quality. Craig Morton completed 17 of 18 passes for 308 yards and four TDs and teammate Steve DeBerg was 4-for-6 for 59 yards in the Broncos' 42-24 romp.

Cincinnati used to be the pro version of Ohio State (three yards and a cloud of dust). And the Buffalo Bills ... well, you remember when it seemed that Joe Ferguson's only job was sticking the ball in O.J. Simp-

son's ribs.

Sunday, Ken Anderson of the Bengals fired 40 passes, completing 28 for 328 yards and three touchdowns. And Ferguson threw 45 times (25 completions) for 287 yards and three touchdowns. The fact that the Bengals beat the Bills 27-24 on Jim Breech's overtime field goal seems almost incidental.

In New York, quarterback Richard Todd, a primary target of the fans' anger for what they perceived to be an overly cautious passing game, let loose with 39 passes against Houston, completing 25 for 312 yards and three touchdowns, two of them

bombs to Wesley Walker, one on a flea-flicker, in the Jets' 33-17 victory over the Oilers.

Even Kansas City, which a couple of years ago would have sooner tried a flying wedge or a Statue of Liberty play than throw the ball, is throwing it with regularity — and with success. Bill Kenney hit 16 of 25 passes for 239 yards in the Chiefs' 20-14 triumph at Seattle.

Passing doesn't always breed success, mind you.

Like Fouts, the Seahawks' Jim Zorn threw a whopping 47 times (31 completions, 308 yards, one touchdown) but the result was the loss to Kansas

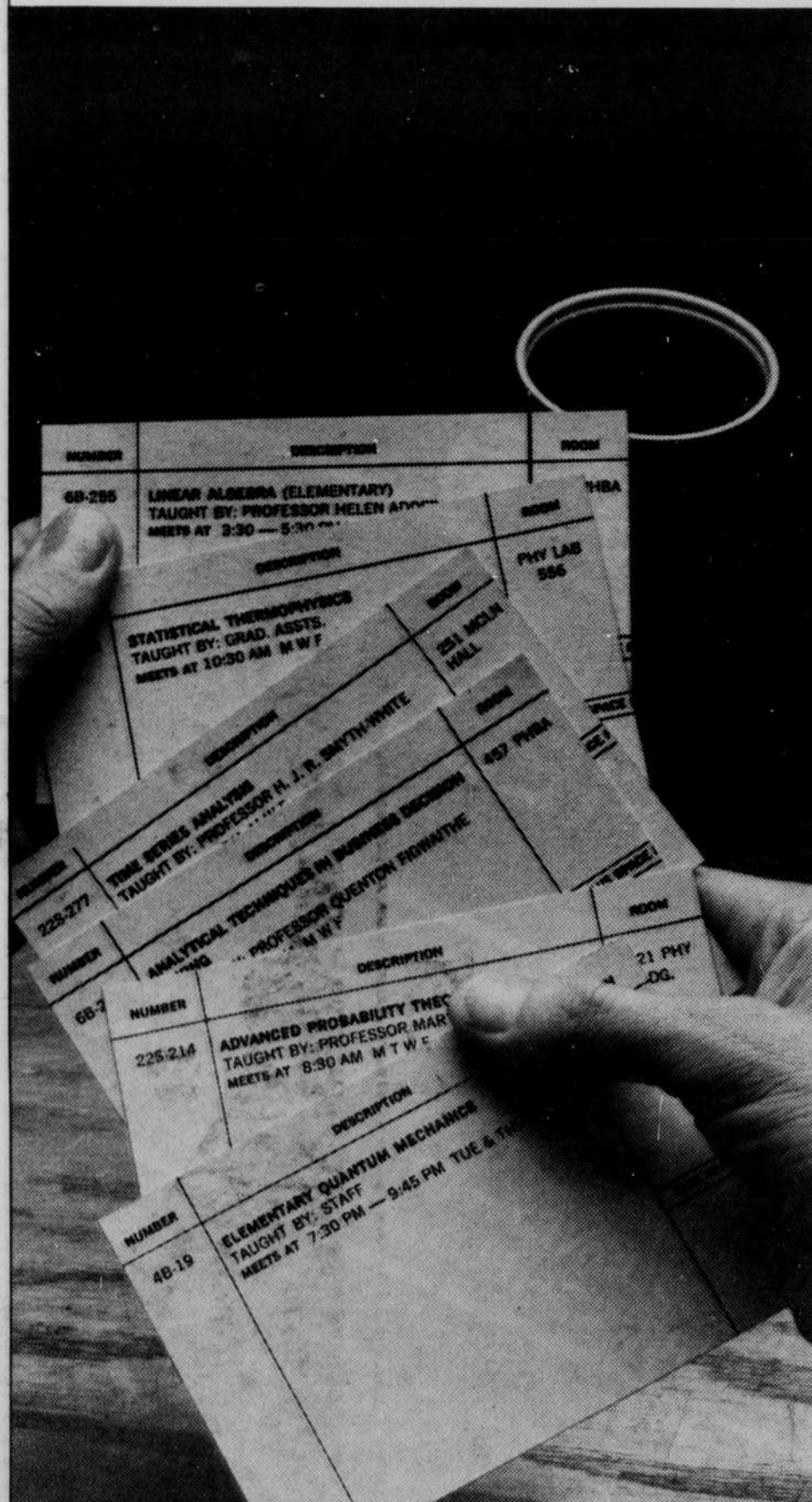
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Matt Cavanaugh of New England tried 42 passes (22 completions, 325 yards, one touchdown) but couldn't keep Pittsburgh from beating the winless Patriots 27-21 in overtime.

And no matter how often Joe Theismann puts the ball into the air, the Washington Redskins can't seem to put it into the end zone (or keep it out of their own) to give coach Joe Gibbs, a former assistant to Coryell, his first victory as a head coach.

Sunday, Theismann completed 22 of 32 passes for 265 yards. But the only time he got into the end zone, it was himself — tackled for a safety in Philadelphia's 36-13 victory. So much for Air Gibbs.

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