

Players tough out strike...

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. (AP) — While the nation's pro football fans found alternative ways of spending their game-less Sunday, Ed Garvey, Jack Donlan and their associates resumed negotiations in the player union's first regular-season strike in the 63-year history of the National Football League.

But even before the talks began for the first time since they broke off Sept. 17, there were signs that more than just this third regular-season weekend (14 games) would be affected.

Gene Upshaw, president of the union, said on one TV program both sides were "very, very far apart" and that the strike could be prolonged

because of the league's contract with the three television networks.

The networks will pay the NFL about \$30 million for this weekend's games and another \$30 million for next weekend's. The money will be refunded next year only if the game are eventually canceled.

Upshaw told his interviewers on "Face The Nation" that CBS, ABC and NBC are in an "untenable position... We feel the networks have to be investigated. There's no room in this for a third party."

"Something needs to be done. This has to be looked into," Upshaw said. "The networks' funding the strike puts us in a difficult position. All

they're doing is extending the time we'll be on strike.

"We're very, very far apart," he said. "It's really difficult for people to understand. We're reasonable people. We want to play football, but we won't go back under the system in place now."

Upshaw said he expects that within the next few days, "the owners will say to themselves, 'We're in an illegal position,' (because they have shut down their facilities), will open the doors and will try to bribe players, invite them in. But the players are too smart... I'm not saying no players will go in, but I'm saying enough will stay out that we'll hold together."

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... while football-less fans fret

Franco Harris, a Steelers running back, was cheered wildly by fans at Three Rivers Stadium in Pittsburgh on Sunday, as he has been on numerous other occasions in his pro football career.

But the thousands of fans were outside the stadium, not in it. And Harris was cheered not because he scored a touchdown or made a key gain, but because he showed up at a giant tailgate party that had been suggested by Pittsburgh radio personality Jack Bogut in lieu of a football game.

It was the first Sunday of the National Football League players strike, the first interruption in an NFL schedule in 63

years.

Other fans throughout the country adapted in various ways — those who adapted.

There were major league baseball games in several cities, and golf where weather permitted, even family outings — a chance to break away from what has become a Sunday routine.

Although many churches in the nation have reported increases in attendance since the strike began, Monsignor Leo McFadden of the Our Lady of Snows Catholic Church in the Reno-Sparks Area said there had been no attendance increase.

"Maybe they're still at home watching the rerun of last year's

Super Bowl," he said. "I know that's what I'm doing. I'm rooting for San Francisco, and they're way ahead, but Cincinnati is on the rampage. I'm watching the game between masses."

A rerun of the last Super Bowl, won 26-21 by San Francisco, was carried on CBS-TV. Other sports fare on television included baseball — ABC carried the Baltimore-Milwaukee game nationally — and a Canadian Football League doubleheader on NBC.

"I'm not going to watch that Canadian junk," said Janet Divers, a legal secretary from Fremont, Calif. "I don't even know the players. I keep up with all the NFL players, but Canadian football just isn't the same. It's Greek to me."

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