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## SPORTS

# NFL players call last witness

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The method an economist used to calculate the money restricted free agents lost in 1989 and 1990 under the NFL's free-agency system was attacked again Wednesday by a lawyer for the league.

The economist, Michael Glassman, was the last witness called by the players in the five-week-old antitrust trial. He finished more than 15 hours of testimony, spread over three days, late Wednesday afternoon.

The NFL is to begin calling its defense witnesses Thursday, starting with commissioner Paul Tagliabue.

Glassman testified earlier this week that the eight players who filed the lawsuit against the NFL lost about \$4 million in those two years because they weren't allowed to negotiate with other teams.

The Washington-based consultant also said salaries for players restricted under the league's Plan B free-agency rules would have been an average 34.2 percent higher in 1990 had there been competition from another league.

NFL lawyer Frank Rothman spent two hours Tuesday and about five hours Wednesday picking at Glassman's method for devising his study of the effects Plan B has had on restricted free agents.

**'The NFL system does not reward today's excellence. It rewards seniority.'**

— Michael Glassman,  
Economist

Rothman also argued that Glassman's numbers included several mistakes and inconsistencies, and that all of them were made in favor of the players.

Glassman admitted to a handful of minor mistakes, but said some skewed his estimated damage figures in favor of the NFL. He also blamed some of the mistakes on the difficulty the players' lawyers have had in getting salary data from the NFL.

But throughout his testimony, Glassman stuck to his contention that his study shows that restricted free agents are paid less than if they could offer their services on an open market.

In general, he said, an NFL player's salary increases each year he's in the league, regardless of how well he has played.

"The NFL system does not reward today's excellence. It rewards seniority," Glassman said.

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## Viewers to get free try at troubled triplecast

NEW YORK (AP) — The troubled Olympic Triplecast of NBC and Cablevision will be given away for free to cable TV viewers for seven hours each in a truncated form on Thursday and Friday.

NBC announced Wednesday that the Triplecast would be shown on CNBC, its financial cable network, from 6-10 p.m. EDT on Thursday and Friday nights and 1-4 a.m. EDT on Friday and Saturday mornings. CNBC, carried as a basic service on most cable systems, will show all three channels at once on a screen divided into quadrants, but will not carry any audio of the events.

In addition, NBC cut the suggested retail price of single-day viewing from \$29.95 to \$19.95 and suggested cable systems offer a Saturday-Sunday special of \$29.95.

The Olympic Triplecast originally was priced at \$125 for all three channels, which broadcast live from 5 a.m. EDT to 5 p.m. EDT and then show the previous 12 hours on tape.

CNBC, available in approxi-

mately 47 million homes, will broadcast announcements along with the audio in an attempt to get people to purchase the Triplecast. The fourth quadrant of the CNBC broadcast will have graphics.

Television industry publications have estimated that about 250,000 homes have subscribed to the Triplecast thus far. NBC had hoped to sell the Triplecast to 2 million homes.

"The package sales haven't been what we expected," said an NBC official, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

NBC spokeswoman Betty Hudson said the network does not yet have subscriber figures available. However, NBC officials, speaking on the condition of anonymity, have said their guess is that the figure of 250,000 homes is accurate.

"We've found that once a viewer has the chance to actually see what the Triplecast is all about, they get excited about it and want to buy it," Cablevision executive vice president Jim Dolan said.

## Trail Blazers sign Adelman through 1994-95 season

PORTLAND (AP) — The Portland Trail Blazers announced Wednesday that head coach Rick Adelman has signed a contract extension through the 1994-95 season with an option for the 1995-96 season.

Adelman, 46, has guided the Blazers to the NBA Western Conference Finals for three straight seasons and took the team to the NBA Finals this year and in 1990.

He has posted a 193-88 record for a .687 winning average since he took over on Feb. 18, 1989.

"I'm really happy to have reached an agreement and am looking forward to continuing to build on the success we've had in the past three years," Adelman said in a statement. He was out of town Wednesday and could not be reached for further comment.

Adelman was runner-up for NBA coach of the year in 1991 and led the West All-Star team last season.

The contract amount was not disclosed.

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