

Two sides talk, leave hope NHL will play next month

NEW YORK (AP) — Hopeful signs of ending the NHL lockout emerged Wednesday, with one management source telling The Associated Press it's possible the hockey season could resume next month.

"If the talks continue this way, they could be playing hockey by the first of December," said the source, speaking on the condition he not be identified. "A lot will hinge on tomorrow's meeting."

Others were not as optimistic, but no one dismissed the possibility completely.

NHL commissioner Gary Bettman and union head Bob Goodenow met for seven hours Monday and players have softened their stance against a rookie salary cap, the source said.

They are to meet Thursday, possibly in Buffalo, N.Y. This marks the first time the sides talked twice in one week since Oct. 4-5.

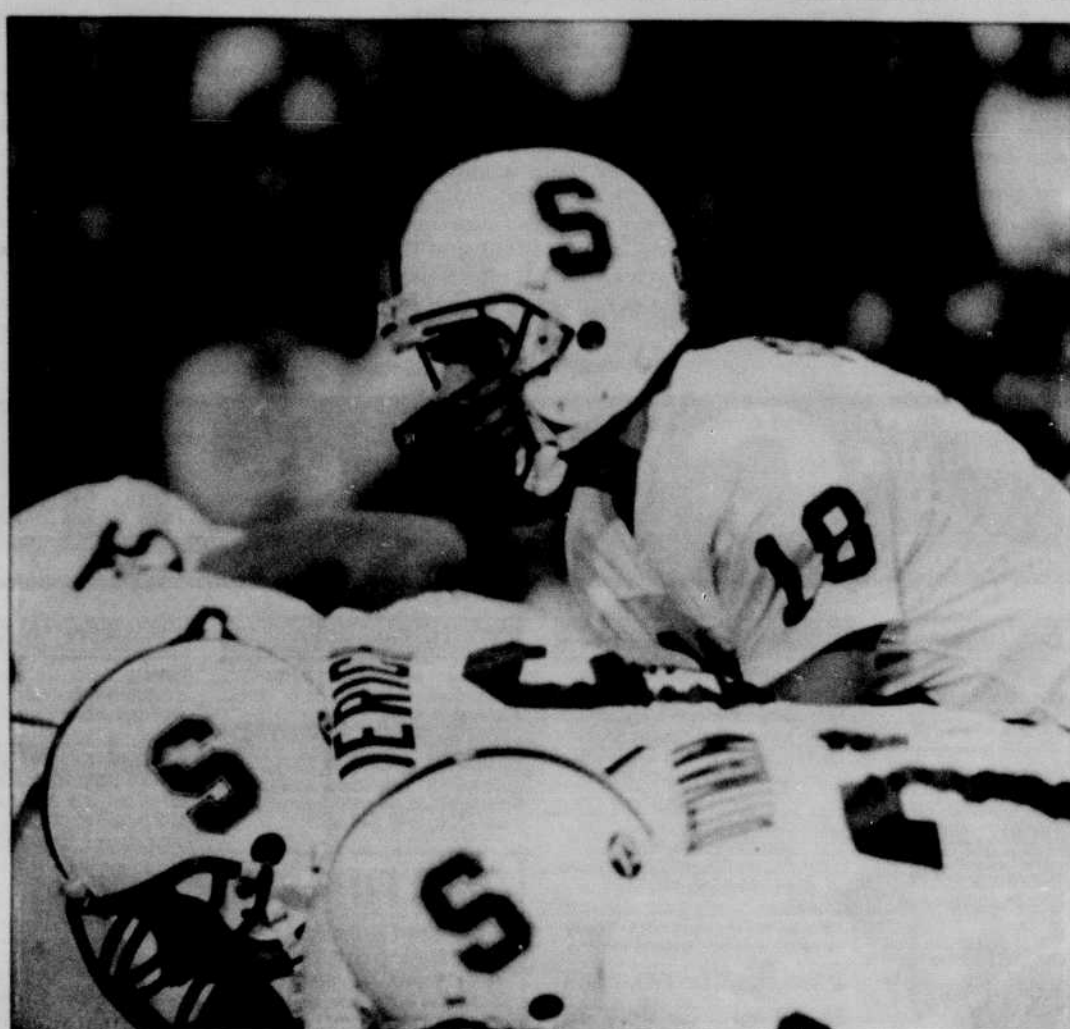
"There are still a lot of issues on the table," the source said. "Everything depends on how well the meeting goes Thursday. But the fact that they met Monday and are meeting again Thursday is a major breakthrough. They did make some headway (on Monday)."

In an ESPN radio interview Wednesday, Brian Burke, vice president in charge of hockey operations for the NHL, said, "I am optimistic that a deal can be worked out in time to save the season."

It was a direct reversal of Burke's position last week when he said he believed the NHL was at risk of losing the season.

"We will find out in the next couple of days whether there is momentum or not," Burke told The Canadian Press. "I think it is a real good start. It was the best discussion we had in months."

"The next meeting is key in my mind because that good start could turn into momentum or it could grind to a halt and that, to me, is going to be the key of whether I am optimistic or not."



Stanford quarterback Steve Stenstrom shredded the Oregon defense last year, going 28-37 for 407 yards in the 38-34 Cardinal win. Stenstrom is questionable for this year's game with a broken finger.

Ducks take their show on the road

Chris Metz
Oregon Daily Emerald

As the Oregon Ducks prepare for their two biggest road games in quite some time, they do so with an ever-growing posse of Duck fans as well as an emerging group of skeptics that would like nothing better than for the Ducks to falter in their improbable bid for the Pac-10 title.

Stanford head coach Bill Walsh falls somewhere in the middle, pulling for the underdog Ducks in the long run, just as long as they don't plan on winning Saturday's contest in Palo Alto.

"It's great to see an Oregon or a Stanford go to the Rose



Bowl," Walsh said. "We're pulling for them on that basis. On the other hand, we have our own agenda."

Stanford is out of postseason consideration with a 3-5-1 record. A season that was supposed to be a turning point for the Cardinal program has been a big disappointment, made even more painful by two one-point conference losses.

Oregon head coach Rich

Brooks knows just how tough Stanford can be and is taking nothing for granted as the Ducks head into their first road game in over a month.

"Obviously if we want to achieve what we want to achieve," Brooks said, "we have to win on the road this week and on the road next week."

"The margin separating a team from the top and bottom of this league is very minimal. The difference between Stanford and Oregon is very, very minimal."

Stanford is coming off a 46-28 upset win over Washington

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Oregon tennis teams return to action over weekend

Mark McTyre
Oregon Daily Emerald

The Oregon men's and women's tennis teams will hit the courts this weekend at regional individual championships in Berkeley and Moraga, Calif.

The men are sending six players to the Region Eight Division I Individual Championships, to square off against the likes of Stanford and California. The number one to six seeds are newcomer Hans Forsberg, John DeVorss, Josh Prager, Dougal Williams, Dara Partovi and Delbert Riodil.

"Hans has been improving steadily," men's head coach Buzz Summers said.

For the doubles competition the pairing will be Forsberg and Williams, DeVorss and Riodil and Prager and Partovi.

Summers anticipates that his team will do well at the championships, but he knows that

the competition is strong.

"I anticipate that we'll do good," Summers said. "(It's possible) we could be coming home early or late."

The only bad news to come from the squad is the injury of Matt Cobo. Cobo, one of the top-seeded members of the team, hasn't played in two weeks, and it is possible that he will need an operation to repair loose cartilage under one of his knees.

The women, in the midst of a rebuilding year, are sending four players to the Rolex Regional Championships, and will play against many of the top-10 schools in the nation.

This is the first time the Ducks have gone to the Rolex tournament and women's head coach Wade Judy feels this will be a challenge for the young Oregon squad.

"This weekend will be a nice warm-up

for us," Judy said. "It's a good way to see what we have to go up against."

The four players that the team is sending to the championships are co-captains Elise Adams and Kara Yoshida, and freshmen Caryn Coyle and Allison Sosnow. The pairings for the doubles competition will be Adams and Coyle and Yoshida and Sosnow.

"I'm pleasantly surprised with the freshmen," Judy said. "They want to make an impact."

"Our goal is to be the hardest working team. We hit the weights two days a week to get stronger."

He believes much of the success is due to the leadership that Adams and Yoshida provided for this inexperienced team.

"Elise and Kara are helping out great with their leadership roles," Judy said. "I take my hat off to them."

THURSDAY

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Scoreboard

NAIA FOOTBALL POLL

Division I	RECORD
1. Central State, Ohio	7-1-0
2. Glenville State, W.Va.	8-1-0
3. Langston, Okla.	8-2-0
4. Northeastern State, Okla.	7-2-0
5. Southeastern Oklahoma	7-2-0
6. Moorhead State, Minn.	6-2-1
7. Western Montana	7-2-0
8. West Virginia Wesleyan	7-3-0
9. Arkansas-Pine Bluff	6-3-0
10. Arkansas Tech	6-3-0
11. Iowa Wesleyan	7-3-0
12. West Liberty State, W.Va.	6-3-0
13. Shepherd, W.Va.	6-4-0
14. Western New Mexico	4-3-0
15. Harding, Ark.	4-4-1

Division II	RECORD
1. North Alabama(4)	8-1-0
2. Texas A&M-Kingsville	8-1-0
3. Pittsburg State, Kan.	9-0-0
4. Portland State, Ore.	7-2-0
5. Ferris State	9-0-0
6. Valdosta State, Ga.	9-1-0
7. New Haven, Conn.	7-2-0
8. NE Missouri St.	8-1-0
9. Indiana, Pa.	7-2-0
10. West Georgia	7-2-0
11. Albany State, Ga.	9-1-0
12. North Dakota	7-2-0
13. Angelo St., Texas	6-3-0
14. Western State, Colo.	8-1-0
15. North Dakota State	7-2-0
16. Carson-Newman, Tenn.	8-2-0
17. Edinboro, Pa.	7-2-0
18. Grand Valley State	7-3-0
19. South Dakota St.	7-3-0
20. Central Oklahoma	6-3-0

PLAYERS OF THE WEEK

NEW YORK (AP) — Quarterback Warren Moon, who engineered a Minnesota Vikings' winning drive with time running out, was the NFC Offensive Player of the Week.

In other honors announced Wednesday, safety Kevin Ross of the Atlanta Falcons was named Defensive Player of the Week and Dexter Carter of the San Francisco 49ers was named Special Teams Player of the Week.

Moon completed 33 of 57 passes for 420 yards and three touchdowns in the Vikings' 21-20 victory over New Orleans Sunday. In winning his second weekly honor of the season, he beat out Dallas running back Emmitt Smith, Chicago quarterback Steve Walsh and Minnesota wide receiver Cris Carter.

Jeff Blake was the AFC Offensive Player of the Week for leading the Cincinnati Bengals to their first victory of the season.

The week's Top Special Teams Player was another Bengal, kicker Doug Peffrey, while New York Jets linebacker Mo Lewis was the Best Defensive Player, it was announced Wednesday.

Blake completed 31 of 43 attempts for 387 yards in the Bengals' 20-17 overtime victory over Seattle on Sunday. Peffrey kicked six field goals, including the winner.