



## Sport Talk by Ron Sykes, Sports Editor

The National Football League players association angrily decided they no longer could put up with the status quo and went on strike Tuesday morning.

What are we going to do? How will the poor football freaks survive? The fans I mean.

When the players decided to strike did they really realize what it would do to millions of fans throughout the U.S.?

Did they stop to consider how poor Joe Blow will spend those cold Sunday mornings with no NFL football on the tube?

Did the striking players just once consider the wrist exercise poor Joe Fan will miss on those uneventful Sunday mornings? That exercise being the flipping of the TV knob from 6 to 8, and then back again. Well, anyway as glum as the situation may seem there is some brightness. That brightness being the eyes of the many wives across the nation who will now have their huddles for company on Sunday morning and again on Monday night. And wow! Won't we all miss Howie? With all the dickering and negotiating over 1.8 billion here and 55 million there, wouldn't it have been great if someone had only thought of the poor, lonesome fans?



MICHAEL SPINKS

It seems that every two months or so lighthheavy champ Michael Spinks bounces into the ring and belts some less-than-average challenger into

submission.

Spinks can't be blamed for being champion of a division that has very few worthy challengers. And one has to believe that it's hurting the champion by not meeting better competition. So, how can one fly like an eagle after setting with a bunch of Turkeys all day.

Michael does certainly run the risk of lowering his own abilities. If not lowering, then certainly not growing.

So, what does one do in Spinks' situation? Michael has yet to achieve his true potential. And in order to do so he must get in against some stiff competition.

Tough fights are what makes fighters grow, i.e., Ali-Frazier, Leonard-Hearns and Robinson-La-Motta. So far Mike Spinks has had nothing in this class. The closest being his championship victory over Eddie Mustafa Muhammad.

Last Saturday it was Johnny Davis. He became another in that long line of dubious challengers. Davis was tough, that is for three rounds, after that it was just a matter of time. His exit at 1:07 of the ninth was exactly the same route followed by Spinks' last opponent, Jerry Celestine, if you care to use the term "opponent" lightly. Celestine, another of those ex-cons that now choose to get rich quick through pro-boxing, made his exit at 1:58 of the eighth round exactly eight weeks ago. Spinks fought his usual lackadaisical style in the early rounds against Davis. Michael entered the ring weighing 173½, and during the first three rounds allowed Davis to push him around at will. In the third, Davis provided the only surprise of the afternoon when he caught Michael walking into a straight right hand that dazed the champion.

For just a second it looked like Davis might have a chance to finish him, but Michael's eyes soon cleared and Spinks boxed his way out of it. That was to be the only

highlight for Davis, a man who has the honor of being the only man ever to defeat Dwight Braxton in the ring. Spinks' next fight will hopefully be with the hard-pressing Braxton to unify the lighthheavyweight division. That one my friends will be a test for the hard hitting Spinks.

Promoter Butch Lewis has announced the signing of the event and the site will be announced at a later date.

Former L.A. Dodger Glenn Burke, featured in the October issue of *Inside Sports*, talked openly as being gay while a member of the Dodgers.

Burke, 29, who is black, who was also interviewed by NBC's Bryan Gumbel where he spoke openly of his affinity for men.

Burke was the 17th player drafted by the Dodgers in 1972, but played well enough to make it to the big team by 1976.

Burke revealed to Gumbel that he kept his sexual preference to himself while a member of the Dodgers. But during his off days he participated freely in the gay community. It is rumored that the soft-spoken Burke was very popular among his teammates, but was traded when the front office found out the truth. Burke was traded to Oakland in of cleats, just might be returning soon baseball Glenn became a member of Oakland's world champion softball team.

O.J. Simpson, one of the best running backs ever to lace on a pair of cleats, just might be returning soon to professional football. No, not as a player, but as a franchise owner in the new USFL.

Reggie Jackson, the one called Mr. October, but this year adding the titles of Mr. June, July, August and September, is certainly riding high. For every ticket sold in the remaining Angels games Reggie will receive 50 cents per ticket.

Jackson is expecting to tack on

another \$200,000 to his already earned \$900,000 salary this year. Very interesting.

And how about Raider rookie Marcus Allen? Everyone knew that the ex-Trojan back was good, but who could have believed *this* great.

In an impressive debut Marcus ripped off 116 yards and one TD rushing and another 64 yards pass receiving.

And all this against the world champion San Francisco 49ers.

Then last Sunday he erupted for 56 yards rushing against Atlanta, but most impressive of all was his pass receiving. Allen caught one touchdown pass, a total of four on the day. And to add insult to injury he threw a 47 yard pass to Clift Branch.

Experts are already comparing Allen as the next O.J. Simpson.



GAYLORD PERRY

Mariners announced that they have set Saturday, September 25th as their fan appreciation night.

As a special guest entertainer, the Mariners have arranged for the famed San Diego checker to fly in for an appearance for the fans.

The one millionth Mariner fan of 1982 will pass through the Kingdom turnstiles this weekend, and the Mariners will recognize that lucky fan by awarding him/her two season tickets for 1983.

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The average human has about 12 pints of blood in his body.

Oddly enough, the smallest U.S. state has the longest official name: The State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations.

Amazingly, there was once an iceberg found in the South Pacific Ocean that was bigger than the whole country of Belgium.

We do not do business with South Africa.

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