

SPORTS BRIEFS

Baseball talks resume today; both sides optimistic

On the second anniversary of the start of the longest strike in baseball history, labor peace may finally be in sight.

Round-the-clock negotiations between representatives of the players and owners through the weekend produced considerable progress as both sides attempt to reach a collective bargaining agreement for the first time in three years.

Mariners hope to activate DH Edgar Martinez today

The Seattle Mariners, in the throes of their worst losing streak of the season, may have the services of designated hitter Edgar Martinez today for the opener of their three-game series against Kansas City.

Bullets' Juwan Howard to meet with media today

All-Star forward Juwan Howard, who officially re-signed with the Washington Bullets over the weekend after the league disapproved his contract with the Miami Heat, will meet with the media today at 4:30 p.m. EDT at the USAir Arena. The NBA's first \$100 million man returned to his previous team Saturday after the league, the Players Association and the Miami Heat reached agreement in a case that overshadowed the biggest free agent frenzy in NBA history.

Redskins release veteran safety James Washington

The Washington Redskins today released eight-year veteran safety James Washington. The 31-year-old Washington signed as a free agent with the Redskins last year and recorded 90 tackles and two interceptions in 12 contests. Washington played his first two seasons in the league with the Los Angeles Rams (1988-89) before joining the Dallas Cowboys for five years. He led Dallas in interceptions three times and helped the club to back-to-back Super Bowl wins.

Sampras, Ivanisevic, Agassi top seeds at RCA Championships

Pete Sampras and Andre Agassi, two of the top American players in the world, headline the \$915,000 RCA Championships which get underway today at Indianapolis, Indiana. Sampras, the top seed, is coming off a straight-set loss to Thomas Enqvist of Sweden in the quarterfinals of last week's ATP Championship in Cincinnati. Sampras has captured four titles this year, but none since April's Japan Open.

Costa, Berasategui top seeds at Croatia Open Umag

Alberto Costa and Alberto Berasategui of Spain headline the field at the \$400,000 Croatia Open Umag, which gets underway today at Umag, Croatia. Costa, who earlier today captured his second claycourt title of the year at the San Marino International in Italy, is the top seed and will face Omar Camporese of Italy in his first-round match Tuesday.

Berasategui, the second seed, will be seeking his third title of the year on clay, having prevailed at the Tennis International in June and the EA Generali Open three weeks ago. He takes on Brazilian Gustavo Kuerten in the opening round.

SPORTS

COWBOYS DE CARVER SUSPENDED FOR SIX GAMES

Dallas Cowboys defensive end Shante Carver was suspended Friday for six games for violating the National Football League's substance abuse policy.

The 25-year-old Carver left the team's Austin, Texas training camp July 20 for what head coach Barry Switzer termed "personal reasons."

The NFL would not disclose specifics of the suspension, but various published and broadcast reports claim Carver was penalized for repeated violations of the NFL's substance and/or alcohol abuse policy.

Carver, a 1994 first-round draft pick, was expected to serve as Charles Haley's backup at right end. Carver has only two sacks in two seasons.

Kavika Pittman, a 1996 second-round pick, likely will emerge as the

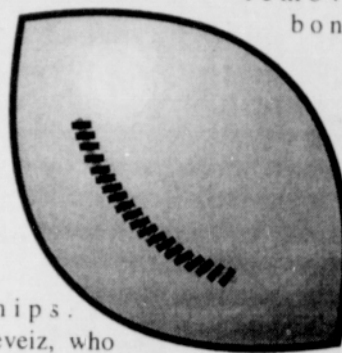
Cowboys' backup to starting ends Tony Tolbert and Haley.

Former Cowboys defensive back Clayton Holmes was suspended for the entire 1995 season and defensive tackle Leon Lett sat out four games last season for substance abuse. All-Pro wideout Michael Irvin will miss the first five games this season after pleading no contest to drug possession charges.

Carver and Irvin can practice with the team in camp and play in pre-season games, but cannot be with the Cowboys during the season until their suspensions end.

In Other News: Minnesota Vikings kicker Fuad Reveiz announced his retirement after 11 National Football League seasons due to an ankle injury.

The 33-year-old Reveiz has been bothered by an injury to his left ankle and he underwent offseason surgery to remove bone



chips. Reveiz, who was on the physically-unable-to-perform list, was told by doctors that he risked more serious injury if he continued kicking.

Reveiz set an NFL record by converting 31 straight field goals attempts,

a streak that ended early last season. He made 26 of 36 field goals in 1995 and all 44 of his extra points for 122 points last season.

Reveiz has made 188 of 250 field goals for 931 points in his NFL career with Miami, San Diego and Minnesota.

The Vikings recently signed kicker Lin Elliott, who was released after missing three field goals in Kansas City's 10-7 playoff loss to Indianapolis last January. Elliott is competing with Scott Sisson for the starting job.

Chicago Bears cornerback Donnell Woolford, who last month was found guilty of driving under the influence of alcohol, will reportedly be fined more than \$400,000 for violating the National Football League's substance abuse policy and could face a suspension.

The Chicago Tribune and Chicago Sun-Times, citing unidentified sources, reported Friday that the fine was equivalent to four games' pay (\$412,500). NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue is expected to decide next week whether to suspend the 30-year-old cornerback.

The league office and Woolford's agent, Steve Zucker, confirmed to the Tribune only that Woolford had been fined. The Bears declined comment.

Woolford was convicted of driving under the influence following a May 18 incident in the Chicago suburb of Lincolnshire. It was the second such conviction for Woolford, who was involved in a 1994 drunken driving incident.

Woolford played only nine games last season, but led the Bears with four interceptions.

EMMIT SMITH GETS NEW DEAL

Four-time NFL rushing champion Emmitt Smith, who was eligible for free agency after the 1996 season, reportedly has agreed to a new contract with the Dallas Cowboys.

ESPN's Chris Mortensen reported Monday morning on "The Fabulous SportsBabe" show on ESPN Radio that the Cowboys will announce they have agreed to terms on a new contract with Smith at a Monday news conference.

The 27-year-old Smith has become one of the all-time great run-

ning backs in his six-year NFL career, rushing for 8,956 yards and 96 touchdowns. He has 100 touchdowns overall, tied for ninth on the all-time NFL list with Franco Harris.

The Cowboys had been negotiating with Smith off-and-on since the team won its third Super Bowl in four years last January. Smith was entering the final year of a four-year contract worth \$13.4 million.

Smith rushed for a career-high 1,773 yards and an NFL-record 25 touchdowns last season.

JETS FINALLY SIGN KEYSHAWN JOHNSON

The New York Jets on Tuesday finally signed wide receiver Keyshawn Johnson, the top overall pick in the 1996 NFL draft who had been holding out during contract negotiations.

The three-year, \$15 million contract includes a \$6.5 million signing bonus and \$2 million in incentives, the team announced.

"I'm finally here now, so it's time to get down to business," Johnson

said at a news conference.

"I'm excited, I'm happy about the deal that the Jets and my two attorneys put together for me," said the former USC star, adding he "was anxious to get into camp."

Johnson was the first wide receiver chosen with the number one pick since New England selected Irving Fryar in 1984.

Without Johnson, the Jets lost their exhibition opener Saturday, scoring

only one touchdown in a 31-13 defeat to the Houston Oilers at Jackson, Mississippi.

Johnson's signing leaves only four first-round picks unsigned — defensive end Simeon Rice of the Arizona Cardinals, running back Tim Biakabutuka of the Carolina Panthers, guard Jeff Hartings of the Detroit Lions and safety Jerome Woods of the Kansas City Chiefs.

CRAVING FOR THE GAMES

With the conclusion of the Atlanta Summer Games, Oregonians can begin to anticipate the same thrill and drama to unfold here in Oregon.

In 1998, Portland will host the World Masters Games attracting athletes from around the world.

The competition will include traditional Olympic disciplines such as track and field swimming, basketball, volleyball, as well as less-traditional events as wind surfing and rugby. The host nation may choose some of the non-traditional events that it would like to have.

"The World Masters Games in the Olympic equivalent for older athletes, embracing the same spirit of competition and drama that we watched unfold on TV the past couple of weeks. These Games are also an occasion for Oregon to highlight its internationally recognized scenic beauty and diverse recreational opportunities, and demonstrates Portland's ability to compete for world class events," said State Treasurer James Hill.

The 1998 World Masters Games, sponsored by NIKE, is the single largest multi-sport event in the world

and is expected to bring 25,000 athletes from more than 100 countries to Oregon. Brisbane, Australia, hosted the 1994 Games and brought an estimated \$30 to \$40 million to the local economy.

Due to increased popularity and more world-wide notoriety, the Portland Games are estimated to generate between \$50 and \$100 million in economic stimulus to the State of Oregon.

Tourism dollars in every region of the state are expected to increase during the Games because participants and spectators typically make the Games part of a larger trip. Further, events like wind surfing will be held in Hood River.

Treasurer Hill was the senior elected official in the delegation responsible for bringing the Games to Oregon. Hill, along with officials from Nike, Inc. and the Portland Metropolitan Sports Authority, traveled to Australia in 1994 to make the successful pitch for the 1998 Games.

The World Masters Games are held every four years for participants 30 years of age and older.

The road to recovery following surgery may include a stop in the pool.

"Swimming pools can provide a gentler, less intimidating environment for rehabilitation," said David Brennan, an exercise physiologist at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. "Patients, who have undergone major surgery on the knee, hip or foot, can begin pool rehabilitation sooner than traditional physical therapy."

A Healing Sport

Water is therapeutic and improves circulation to injured areas. Patients often stay motivated since they can begin rehabilitation as soon as the stitches have been removed.

By using a flotation device patients have complete range of motion, without placing weight on injured limbs or joints. Water-based exercises include jogging and pushing the water in various directions with the arms.

"The pool is an excellent environ-

ment for getting people back in touch with how their bodies move," said Brennan.

"They don't have to worry about falling down or putting too much pressure on an injured joint. The water helps patients relax."

Water rehabilitation not only works on the injured body part, it also builds overall fitness, benefitting patients when they begin their normal physical therapy.

Tuinei Injured

Pro Bowl offensive tackle Mark Tuinei will be out two to four weeks after rupturing the medial collateral ligament in his right knee, Dallas Cowboys trainer Jim Maurer said Tuesday. Tuinei was injured Monday night in a 31-7 exhibition loss to New England as backup receiver Orande Gadsden.

Coach Barry Switzer said Gadsden is out indefinitely and may need surgery after fracturing an orbital bone surrounding his right eye.

Gadsden had performed well in training camp and preseason, making catches of 40 yards or more in two exhibition games and shining on special teams.

Switzer said Tuinei's injury forces Pro Bowl right guard Larry Allen to replace him at left tackle. Third-year backup offensive lineman George Hegamin will replace Allen at right guard.

Hegamin has been inconsistent and didn't receive much praise from Switzer. "Sometimes you've just got to play the default and hope they play well," Switzer said.

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