

SPORTS

Dallas Cowboys: The Scandal Continues....

Owner Jerry Jones of the Dallas Cowboys brokered a high six-figure settlement between wide receiver Michael Irvin and guard Everett McIver following their recent scuffle, The Dallas Morning News reported Sunday.

A source close to the deal told the newspaper the agreement was reached to prevent McIver from pursuing criminal charges against Irvin or publicly discussing the July 29 incident that left McIver with a deep cut on his neck.

Previously, McIver, Irvin, Jones and coach Chan Gailey steadfastly refused to comment about the scuffle. Gailey would only describe it as "horseplay," adding, "We're handling it in-house."

Jones strongly denied any knowledge of or role in the reported settlement, according to the newspaper. He confirmed meeting with McIver's agent for several hours over two days last week, and said the two players met when McIver returned to training camp Wednesday.

"I was simply interested in making sure that the media speculation and media reports didn't affect their relationship as teammates," Jones told the newspaper. "They have basically confirmed that any negative feelings are behind them."

Irvin dismissed the report after Saturday's exhibition game against Oakland. "Are you crazy, man? Let it go, let it go," he told the newspaper.

McIver refused to discuss the incident, and other Cowboys players, coaches and personnel have been ordered not to comment.

The Cowboys were not immediately available for comment Sunday.

NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said, "We don't comment on specific things involving league security. It's a club issue."

The source told the newspaper Irvin wanted McIver's silence because he faces up to 20 years in prison if he is found to have vio-

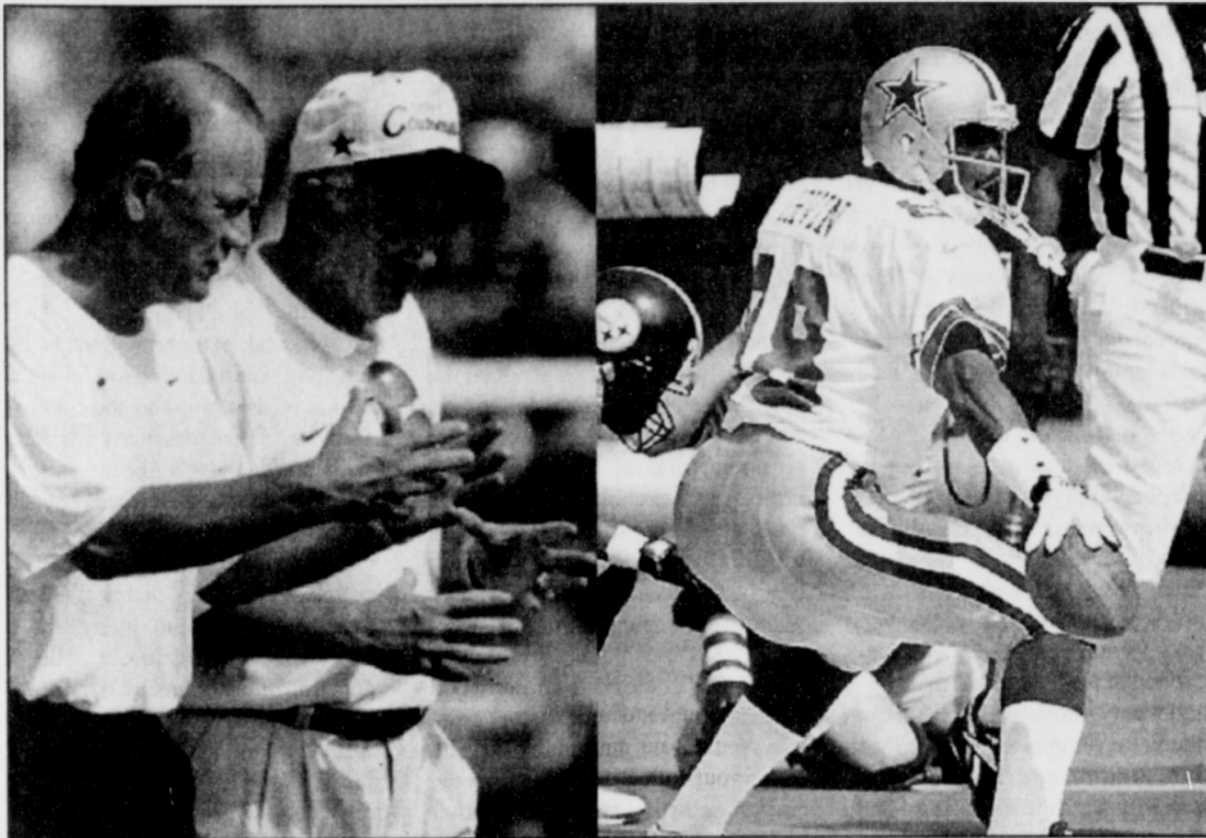
lated terms of his four-year probation. Irvin pleaded no contest to felony cocaine possession in 1996.

Irvin reportedly attacked McIver with a pair of scissors in a dispute over a haircut in a dormitory at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, where the Cowboys train. McIver needed stitches to repair a two-inch cut on the right side of his neck.

The source compared the incident to "a street fight."

Dallas County probation officials said they are monitoring the incident, but authorities in both Dallas and Wichita Falls say they are powerless unless McIver files a complaint.

The newspaper reported Irvin also may be in violation of the NFL's violent crime policy, instituted in March, which covers incidents involving the use or threat of physical violence to a person and the use of a deadly weapon in the commission of a crime.



Barry & Jerry

Michael Irvin

Golf tourney supports Coalition of Black Men, Bridge Builders

The Coalition of Black Men is promising a rewarding day of fun-filled golf and great food at its annual golf tournament and awards dinner on Friday, August 21. The fundraising events will begin at 9 am at the Glendoveer Golf Course in Northeast Portland and end with an awards dinner at Emanuel Hospital's Lorenzen Conference Center at 7 pm.

This year, the Coalition of Black Men is joined by The Bridge Builders Program in sponsoring the events.

"Our golf tournament is a major source of funding for the Coalition," said Bruce Watts, Coalition Executive Director. "The proceeds go back into our community through Coalition programs that are important to all of us. We're glad to help support Bridge Builders' scholarship fund this year."

The Coalition of Black Men, founded in 1988, is a community-based, non-political organization that works with government, business and community representatives to address critical issues. Currently, the Coalition is supporting several initiatives, including the Children's Lead



Lorenzo Poe (right), chairman of the Coalition of Black Men, is joined by Bridge Builders participant Dennis Lamber with the hole-in-one prize, a 1998 BMW Z3 Sports Convertible, for this year's Coalition Golf Tournament and Awards Dinner.

screening Program, mentoring students at Humbolt Elementary School, and assisting the Citizens' Monitoring Advising Committee to help strengthen Portland Public Schools.

"We work to improve the quality of life in the community through advocacy, empowerment, social education and economic programs that inspire and impact youth, families and institu-

tions," said Watts. For information about sponsorships, to register to play, or make a dinner reservation, call 503-286-2188.

NBA, Can You Say Refund

NEW YORK—The NBA sent out a strong signal Monday that the lockout could last for months, announcing that season ticket payments will be refunded with interest if the work stoppage forces the cancellation of games. Also Monday, the league gave the National Labor Relations Board its official response to the complaint filed last month by the players union, alleging the NBA committed an unfair labor practice by imposing a lockout before reaching an impasse in negotiations.

In Atlanta, union director Billy Hunter held a briefing for some of the locked out players, and attendees included Kevin Garnett and Stephon Marbury of the Timberwolves.

No new bargaining talks are scheduled. The last formal session ended abruptly last Thursday when owners walked out of the room after hearing the players' latest proposal.

"Regrettably, after last week's negotiating session there seems to be a greater likelihood that the season may not start on time," deputy commissioner Russ Granik said in a news release announcing the refund policy.

Season ticket holders, most of whom already have paid for their seats for the 1998-99 season, will receive 6 percent interest on their money if regular-season games, which are due to begin Nov. 3,

are canceled because of the lockout. Refunds would be made at the end of each month.

"Season ticket holders make substantial financial commitments to our teams and we think they should be treated fairly in the unfortunate event that games are missed," Granik said. "A refund policy that includes interest is the right thing to do in this instance."

Holders of single-game tickets will be entitled to a refund or a rain check.

Refund policies for holders of luxury suites, club seats and other premium seats will be determined on a team-by-team basis, the NBA said.

On the NLRB front, the next move will be made by Daniel Silverman, regional director of the New York

office, who must determine if the players' complaint has merit. He would then report to the full board in Washington, which would decide if the agency should ask a federal judge to issue an injunction restoring the old work rules that expired at midnight June 30 when the old collective bargaining agreement elapsed.

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