



AP Photo

The NHL condemned pregame brawl with postgame sanctions against both Flyers and Canadiens

## \$24,500 Brawl

### Hospodar banned from NHL final; 35 fined

Combined News Services

Montreal — Philadelphia defenseman Ed Hospodar yesterday was suspended for the Stanley Cup final because he instigated a brawl before Thursday night's playoff game against Montreal.

The NHL also levied a total of \$24,500 in fines against the 35 players involved in the fight, which occurred before the sixth and deciding game of the Wales Conference final, which the Flyers won, 4-3.

Hospodar, who skated in the warmups but was not scheduled to play — he has dressed for only five playoff games, getting no goals or assists — was fined \$1,500 for instigating the incident. Montreal forwards Shayne Corson and Claude Lemieux also were fined \$1,500.

Goaltender Glenn Resch, forwards Dave Brown, Rick Tocchet and Don Nachbaur and defenseman Daryl Stanley of the Flyers and forwards Chris Nilan and Mike McPhee and defenseman Larry Robinson of Montreal each were fined \$1,000.

Twenty-four players were fined \$500 apiece.

"It is acknowledged that the entire affair was

started by the actions of Philadelphia's Hospodar," NHL executive vice president Bryan O'Neill said. "But thereafter, the players from both teams were equally responsible for the continuation of the altercation. The actions of the players in this affair brought dishonor to the league."

Ironically, 24 hours earlier in a televised interview, NHL president John Ziegler said the league was contemplating no steps to control fighting.

"What matters to me is providing a product that people enjoy and want to go see . . . because I am in the entertainment business and the measure to me is are people going to pay money to see this entertainment and they are saying yes to it. So if it ain't broke, don't fix it."

The brawl began after Lemieux, following his pregame habit, returned with Corson after the warmup, to shoot pucks into the Flyers' goal.

Resch, who returned to the ice with Hospodar, threw his stick at Lemieux. Hospodar then intercepted Lemieux and began punching him.

Montreal police, meanwhile, have begun an investigation that could result in criminal charges.

## 2 ADs Called In Probe

### Grand jury asks about NY agents

By Manny Topol

A Chicago federal grand jury has subpoenaed two college athletic directors and their schools' athletic department records in its investigation of the business practices of two New York-based sports agents.

The grand jury has subpoenaed several current and former college athletes as well, in its broad investigation into the business activities of agents **Norby Walters** and **Lloyd Bloom**. The panel is investigating charges of mail fraud and extortion, sources said.

**Walters** and **Bloom**, who are associates in World Sports and Entertainment Inc., have been accused of paying players to sign with the firm before their college eligibility expired — a violation of NCAA rules — and with threatening players who allegedly sought to back out of their World Sports contracts. **Walters** and **Bloom** couldn't be reached for comment.

Ohio State athletic director Richard Bay and University of Pittsburgh athletic director Ed Bozek have confirmed they have been subpoenaed. A source familiar with the grand jury investigation said the panel is interested in scholarship and financial-aid records of athletes who had dealings with **Walters** and **Bloom**. The source said the records of other colleges probably will be subpoenaed.

Bay said, "The subpoena asked for certain information. I sent the information, and it is my understanding that it is sufficient . . . I won't have to appear personally."

"It is fairly straightforward and mundane [information], or at least information we have given them is in that regard. Obviously, if I had damaging information about someone who coaches for me or plays on a team here, I would take immediate action. From a non-criminal standpoint, I don't need a court in Chicago to spur me to action."

Wide receiver Cris Carter, with a year of eligibility left, has been linked to World Sports Entertainment. Bay said he conducted an investigation of the situation and would have declared Carter ineligible had he found any impropriety.

Danny Robbins contributed to this story.

## Payton Seeks NFL Expansion Team

By Peter King

Race, a volatile issue in sports these days, was not the topic when National Football League commissioner Pete Rozelle and Walter Payton, the league's leading career rusher, met for one hour in Manhattan yesterday.

Expansion was. Football was. The issue of skin color surfaced only briefly as Payton, the Chicago running back who wants to be the majority owner of an expansion franchise, was briefed by Rozelle on the status of expansion.

"Walter told me, 'I don't want to approach this on the basis of being black,'" Rozelle said. "He said, 'I want to approach this on the basis of being a former football player.'"

Payton said he got a "really good gut feeling" about his chances of owning one of the two expansion franchises the NFL is expected to award for play in the 1989 or 1990 season. A new franchise would cost an estimated \$70 million.

"I've had a desire to do this for a long time," said Payton, who was accompanied by his agent, Bud Holmes, and an unidentified accountant.

Payton refused to name his backers but said, "We are for real. We do have the finances. The finances are the least of my worries."

Payton's biggest task, of course, will be to persuade a city vying for an expansion team — Phoenix, Memphis, Baltimore and Oakland are the top four contenders — to make him the majority owner. Phoenix, led by former NFL quarterback Bart Starr, and Memphis, led by Federal Express chairman Fred Smith, each have solid ownership groups lobbying for teams.

The NFL prefers that one person hold at least 51 percent of a team's stock; 30 percent is the minimum. Payton, to be a majority owner, would have to invest at least \$20 million. He had no comment on the size of his fortune yesterday.

Said Rozelle: "If he can come up with the financ-

ing, I'd say his chances are as good as anyone's. Lots of owners would like to see a great former player involved in ownership."

There are no black owners, general managers or head coaches in the NFL, though 55 percent of the approximately 1,500 players are black. Last week, the Rev. Jesse Jackson met with Rozelle to urge the commissioner to push teams to hire more blacks in coaching and management positions.

Rozelle's stance has been that he can lobby for, but not force upper-management integration, that team owners are independent businessmen. But it was clear yesterday that Rozelle was eager to have Payton become a serious candidate to own a franchise after his playing days end. Payton, who will be 33 in July, probably will play one or two more seasons.

The NFL will appoint an expansion committee by next spring. Ownership "usually comes last" when choosing the cities, Rozelle said.