# **Bo** Getting Tackled From All Directions

Everywhere Bo Jackson turns, he finds resentment.

Since Jackson announced plans last week to play football for the Los Angeles Raiders as a hobby after the Kansas City Royals' baseball season ends, his future Raiders teammate Howie Long has said Bo needs frontal and rear lobotomies, Royals teammate Willie Wilson suggested the front office has no respect for every other player on the team by making a special case of Jackson, and the Kansas City fans have ridden him mercilessly.

Thursday night, in his first game at Royals Stadium after making his pro football intentions known, fans: Booed him while lineups INSIDE were introduced.

PRO

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FOOTBALL

worth is playing Bozworth. "He has a presence," said executive producer Peter Locke. "I think the guy has an outstanding chance to be an actor."

But does he have an outstanding chance to be a Seattle Seahawk? As of Friday, the two sides were still trying to talk about the initial proposal from agent Gary Wichard to the Seahawks.

While Bosworth is making \$3,000 per episode with HBO, other football players are making scale - \$376 per show. They include Dallas' Mike Sherrard, Kansas City's Brian Jozwiak and St. Louis' John Lee. O. J. Simpson plays Bozworth's GM.



 Booed him louder before his first at-bat.

• Threw plastic footballs at him with "It's a hobby" written on the balls.

Now let's get a few things straight about Bo Jackson. He is

a self-centered person. He has been misleading in his public statements about his future in sports, consistently spurning football and saying he's a baseball player. He didn't speak of "his dream" - playing baseball and football in the same year — until the Raiders said he could be a part-time player for them, raising questions about something that sounded like a manufactured dream. He is not serving either prospective employer faithfully by risking his body for 10½ months a year instead of six or seven.

Now let's get something else straight about Bo Jackson. He has every right to sign with the Raiders. Where do his teammates in Kansas City get all this bitterness? Any player - well, perhaps 90 percent of them — in Jackson's cleats would do the same thing. Superb athletes with a chance to supplement their income with a five-year, \$2.6-million contract (or whatever it is) don't say, "No, I think I'll take five months off." They say, "Where's the dotted line?"

### Around the Giants

The Giants are so pleased with the rehabilitation of safety Terry Kinard (knee surgery, Dec. 10, 1986) that they think he'll be able to join the team for the start of veteran workouts July 31. . . There's been a strange silence about the contract that Bill Parcells has not signed to continue to coach the Giants. But the deal is done, and all Parcells has to do is sign it. It should happen this week or next. The deal: approximately \$3.75 million over five years . . . The Giants almost certainly will train in northern New Jersey soon, but how soon is the question. It appears that the site in Livingston, 18 miles west of the Meadowlands, will be ready for the summer of 1990 if civic leaders can mollify the anti-development faction there. "Right now, the possibility is good, but I must say it's not certain," general manager George Young said of the move from Pleasantville, N.Y., to north Jersey.

#### Around the League

Brad Van Pelt, 36, the oldest linebacker in pro football has been released by the Browns. His career is probably over. . . College coaches Tom Osborne of Nebraska, Joe Paterno of Penn State and Jackie Sherrill of Texas A & M met with NFL commissioner Pete Rozelle, George Young of the Giants and New England director of player development Dick Steinberg last week to discuss excessive on-campus trips by NFL teams. The coaches say NFL teams make it difficult for top prospects to be students as seniors because of continual scouting trips in the winter and spring. The NFL probably will adopt some policy to cut back on identical time-and-testing sessions run by club after club. "A kid goes to the postseason scouting combine and tests well," said Steinberg. Then five or six teams come in and do exactly the same tests. I think that's excessive.". . . The NFL would prefer not to hold a special supplemental draft for Ohio State wide receiver Cris Carter, who is alleged to have taken money from New York agents Lloyd Bloom and Norby Walters. Carter might have been the top wide receiver taken in the 1988 draft.

Jackson has power. Jackson is using it. Jackson is every jock.

Most of Jackson's teammates don't like him. Many football players probably resent him, too, for treating football cavalierly. There is one thing that all of them should try to do, though. They should all try to walk in his cleats.

## Actor of the Week

It's the Brian Bosworth Show! HBO is taping "First and Ten," its dramatic football series, in Los Angeles and linebacker Brian Bosworth is making \$3,000 per episode to play running back Brian Bozworth of the California Bulls. That's correct. Bos-



The draft-choice signing scoreboard: July 18, 1986 — 166 rookies signed. July 17, 1987 — 56 rookies signed.

"Management again has a cutback philosophy," said agent Ralph Cindrich, who has one of nine 1987 clients signed. "Plus, no one wants to set a market. I've kind of learned since I negotiated Al Toon's first contract with the Jets a couple of years ago and their negotiator went on vacation for all of June, that things don't get very serious until the end. Now I've just blown June away too." Management seems most intent this year on cutting signing bonuses for rookies. Agents, in general, are willing to see small cuts in the bonuses from 1986 — if the money is placed somewhere else in the contract. But teams aren't doing that as a rule, not even in fattening up incentive clauses. "We want to be careful about signing bonuses," Giants general manager George Young said, mindful of the current collective-bargaining negotiations. The CBA expires Aug. 31. "We don't want to be funding a strike." Look for a clot of signings late this week. The Jets welcome rookies to camp Friday, the Gi-- Peter King ants July 27.



"This is the slowest year I can remember," Cleveland vice president and chief negotiator Ernie Accorsi said Friday.

What does it mean that 16.7 percent of this year's draft picks are signed, compared to 49.8 percent a year ago at this time? Not as much as you might think.

The National Football League is a deadline league. Most of the 335 draft picks from the April 28 player lottery will be signed within a week of the start of training camps. Camps are starting about a week later this year because the season begins on the weekend of Sept. 13. Last year, games began on Sept. 7.

One NFL club's negotiator said Friday the late signings are a result of teams wielding power that agents used to have when the United States Football League posed a bargaining alternative. "They had the power four or five years ago," the club official said. "Now we're in the power seat."

# HOMES

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