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# White ready to play for Spartans after bouts with injuries, agents

#### By RON MALY

#### **Register Staff Writer**

CHICAGO, ILL - Tailback Lorenzo White says he'll be back in a Michigan State football uniform during this season because his only dealings with two New York-based agents coulsisted of talking with them for 20. minutes.

contacted me following ny sopho- football." more season," the 211-pound Heisman Trophy cand date explained at the Big Ten Con'erence's preseason meetings thi, weekend, "and I talked with them.

"But that's all there was to it. I talked to the n in East Lansing, and they told me what business they were in. I didn't sign anything with them and accepted no money. The matter of money never even came up.

"But the fact I did talk with Walters and Bloom was the reason my name kept popping into the news."

White said he had to answer questions from the Big Ten and NCAA over the matter, "but I felt comfortable doing it because I did nothing wrong."

Spartan Coach George Perles said because they are friends.

## **STEBOOK**/Big Ten Meetings

White is "clean of any wrongdoing, and if he wasn't clean he wouldn't be playing. He signed no contract and "Norby Walters and Llov's Bloom took no money. He's ready to play

White, heading into his senior season with Michigan State, and Ohio State's Cris Carter were among many college players contacted by Walters and Bloom.

Carter has been declared ineligible for the 1987 season by Ohio State after admitting he signed a contract with the agents, and accepted money from them. Big Ten coaches have urged the National Football League to not hold a special draft for the wide receiver.

The NFL has yet to rule on whether it would hold a supplemental draft for Carter similar to the one it had earlier for former Oklahoma linebacker Brian Bosworth.

White said he's sorry Carter won't be able to play for Ohio State in 1987

"It hurt me to see him declared ineligible," White said. "If I had to give any advice to players about agents it would be to play the season, then worry about agents later.

"I know I can't think about any agents as the season approaches. I've got to think about football."

White finished fourth in voting for the Heisman Trophy behind Auburn's Bo Jackson, Iowa's Chuck Long and Brigham Young's Robbie Bosco after rushing for 2,066 yards in 1985.

However, he was limited to 633 last season after sustaining a knee injury in the fourth game -a 24-21 loss to Iowa — and an ankle injury against Minnesota.

"I'm 100 percent healthy now," White said, "and I want to prove that the 1985 season was no fluke."

**NOT HAPPY.** Not everyone in the Big Ten is enthusiastic about Jeff George's decision to transfer to Illinois.

George is the quarterback who

Purdue last season, then decided to transfer after Leon Burtnett was fired as coach and Fred Akers of Texas got the job.

Akers uses a run-oriented offense that George felt was not suited to his passing talents.

At first, George said he planned to transfer to Miami of Florida, but then changed his mind last week and chose Illinois.

"The last look at this has not been taken." said Akers.

Other coaches are also less than thrilled that George transferred inside the conference.

"I'm flattered that George chose Illinois," said Fighting Illini Coach Mike White. "But he'll have to prove he can play with us.

"And I don't think we should have people transferring within the league helter-skelter."

It turns out Akers is able to joke a bit about the George situation.

"When I got to Chicago," he said, "a number of people stopped me and said, 'Gosh, we're sorry you've lost your quarterback.'

quarterback, I brought him along with me. That's Doug Downing sitting right over there."

**OLD FRIENDS.** With all of Akers' success at Texas, Iowa Coach Hayden Fry said he couldn't figure out how the Longhorn brass let him get away. Actually, Akers was fired after a 5-6 record last season. Texas, of course, isn't accustomed to such seasons.

"I've known Hayden a long time," said Akers. "But the last time he was so nice to me, he kicked my brains in at a bowl game."

Akers was referring to the 55-17 victory Fry's 1984 team scored over **Texas in the Freedom Bowl**.

The 5-6 record Akers had last season marked only the second time he has finished under .500 in his coaching career. The other time was 1975, when he went 2-9 at Wyoming.

**MATH CLASS.** Minnesota Coach John Gutekunst joked that he enrolled in a mathematics class in summer school at **Iowa** this year.

"I got an A-minus for a grade," said answered.

Gutekunst, "and I owe it to Fry."

Gutekunst's Gophers lost to Iowa, 30-27, on Rob Houghtlin's secondchance, 37-yard field goal as time expired.

"We had 12 men on the field, and Iowa got to re-kick the field goal," said Gutekunst. "Actually, it was Fry, dressed in a Minnesota uniform, masquerading as our 12th man.

"But what upset me the most was Fry thinking any of our players could look like him."

NO RESPECT. Don Morton, 39, is in his first season at Wisconsin after records of 6-5 and 7-4 the past two seasons at Tulsa.

"We scored a big upset over Oklahoma State," Morton said. "and I was feeling pretty good about myself.

"I went home and asked my wife a question. 'How many great coaches do you suppose there are in this country. 25 or 30?" I asked her.

"One fewer than you think," she

## Iowans in Galifornia make Vlasic their hero

#### VLASIC

Continued from Page One ic finally got a chance to start as a fifth-year senior. But a shoulder injury limited his playing time to six games.

"I felt I really had to prove myself coming into camp because I didn't play a complete senior year," Vlasic

Still, Roger Theder, the quarterback coach of the Chargers, said he was impressed with what he saw in Vlasic, both in films, and at a workout he attended in Iowa City last spring.

'Mark definitely showed me something in that workout," Theder said. "He also displayed great poise and intelligence in the game films watched, particularly the Minnesota game and, at a game I saw, the Holid .y Bowl.

"Vlasic sits bravely in the pocket, he is not intimidated by the defensive lineman," Theder said. "I've really noticed a lot of Chuck Long in him with regard to his character.

"He's a good-sized quarterback, very strong. ... I think he has great potential to be a fine player in this league, and there's no question he has a very strong shot at making this

"Yeah, we were very, very competitive, Chuck and I." Vlasic said. "But it was never in a negative way. We never held anything back in practice, either of us. I was able to push him and push him, and he did the same thing to me. The result, I think, was that both of us got better."

Their styles of play differ significantly, however, Vlasic said.

"I throw a directly overhand ball, and Chuck's delivery is a lot more side-armed," he explained. "Because of that, we were never really able to help each other all that much with passing technique. But Chuck helped me tremendously in knowing how to find my primary and secondary receivers; how to come off the primary receiver and look for the secondary receiver. He also helped teach me how to read a defensive set-up, and how to anticipate a defensive player's next move."

#### Credits Long

The most important thing Long taught him, Vlasic said, however, was poise under pressure.

to get flustered in a game," Vlasic said. "When Chuck would blow a play, and that wasn't very often, either, he would come to the sidelines, and Coach Fry would really bawl him out for it. But Chuck had the ability to do it, but whether he matures into go back out on the field and do it right the next time."

"But, to prove I didn't lose my



Jim Walden signs an autograph for Brian Patterson while ISU Athletic Director Max Urick looks on

"Chuck really showed me how not o get flustered in a game," Vlasic aid. "When Chuck would blow a play. ISU fans are wild about Walden

## Rohrer spurns contract offer from Cowboys

From Register Wire Services The latest contract offer by the Dallas Cowboys to Jeff Rohrer has angered the linebacker and started him thinking about retirement.

Rohrer, a six-year veteran from Yale and the starting right outside linebacker, showed up Thursday night, then left after deciding he wanted more money. He is in the

### NOTEBOOK/NFL

option year of his contract and wants more than the \$192,000 the NFL team has offered. Rohrer faced \$1,000 daily fines, starting Friday, for missing training camp.

**Defensive back Ron Fellows also** was absent from camp in a salary dispute, but he can't be fined because he doesn't have a signed contract.

SORE SAINT. Running back Rueben Mayes, the 1986 rookie rushing leader for the New Orleans Saints, complained Saturday of soreness in the leg on which he had a tendon operation in preparation for the season.

Saints Coach Jim Mora said he didn't think the problem was serious, but the team sought a doctor's report after the morning practice. Mayes didn't start until his fifth game of his rookie season, but rushed 1,353 yards despite the tendon problem. He was the team's leading touchdown scorer with eight. Named to the Pro Bowl, he skipped the game for the operation on the Achilles' tendon.

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#### Advice From Fry

Coach Al Saunders said Vlasic "could be one of the fine quarter- take the coach's constructive critibacks in the future. He has the tools to cism, and leave behind the rest, and that, we won't know until we work with him a lot more. How fast he learns is important."

Vlasic said Iowa Coach Hayden Fry told him this summer "to just keep everything in its proper perspective, and to simply do what I had done all those years at Iowa He said he knew that I would make a fine professional football player.... It gave me some additional confidence to hear that."

day Bowl game last year that Vlasic out here. At their meeting, we all was one of the underrated college sang the lowa fight song together, quarterbacks in the nation, and that and I even got to be a judge in the he would be a sleeper in the draft.

"There's no reason to think that test." Mark would not have competed with Michigan's Jim Harbaugh for All-Big Ten honors if he hadn't been hurt," Fry said. "We watched him at Iowa City for four years while Chuck Long was here. We knew what he could do."

#### **Big Ten Statistics**

Vlasic completed the 1986 season ranked third in the Big Ten and fifth really could just be rumors. As far as in the nation in passing efficiency. He I'm concerned, he is this team's completed 93 of 152 passes for 1,234 starting quarterback, and Herrmann yards and nine touchdowns. Only four of his passes were intercepted.

But those statistics mean very little here.

"One of the things I like about training camp is that everyone out here has a real equal shot at making

Vlasic picked up a fan club as soon as he arrived here. Members of the Iowa Club of San Diego, which boasts a mailing list of more than 2,500, invited him too one of its functions in May.

"It was nice to come out here, not knowing anyone, and have so many people cheering me on to make this team," said Vlasic. "Iowa is like a second home to me now, and it felt Fry told reporters before the Holi- good to be greeted by so many lowans semifinals of their Beef Queen Con-

> The Chargers had a 4-11 record last season, and Saunders has said than no player is assured of a job.

Fouts is 36 years old and, according to a rumor, has a back problem. **Fouts Helps** 

"I haven't heard anything about Dan's back," said Vlasic. "I think that is the top reserve quarterback. I just want to make this team. I'm not really thinking in terms of seeing any great amounts of playing time." Vlasic said he met Fouts briefly

"Dan was really nice to me," Vlasic said. "He expressed a real willingness to help me learn the Charger offensive system. He's one of the best quarone wants to avoid getting cut. But terbacks of all time. I would not at all there is also a real camaraderie be ashamed to wait a few years, learn

last May.

#### **By RICK BROWN Register Staff Writer**

For a guy who has yet to coach Iowa State to a football victory, Jim , I'm fired up about football." Walden has become an immensely popular man in Cyclone country.

'Football would be a heck of a sport if it weren't for the games or the players," joked Walden, who left Washington State to replace fired Jim Criner.

Walden's arrival, buoyed by his easy-going personality and down-home humor, has brought overwhelming enthusiasm to a program that was buried under controversy during the end of Criner's reign.

"There is a real difference in attitude these days," said Tim Pearson, president of the Des Moines Cyclone Club. "People are very upbeat, enthusiastic and positive. We've gone through such a period of negativism that it's nice to see this."

#### "A Carrier Myself"

Iowa State Athletic Director Max Urick. "In all due respect to everyone, I'm a carrier myself. I feel very strongly about Jim. I've never felt as good about our athletic department - in every respect - as I do now." A record crowd of 600 people, 200 more than the previous year, showed up at the Val Air Ballroom in West Des Moines Thursday night to hear Walden, basketball coach Johnny Orr and wrestling coach Jim Gibbons speak. It was the 23rd "Meet the Coaches" outing of the year, and the increased attendance was nothing

"I would say that at two-thirds of our outings, we've had over 100 people more than the previous year,' said Rod Wilson, field secretary for the Cyclone Club. The appeal carries far from traditional Iowa State strongholds. Over 500 people showed up at both Cedar Rapids and the Quad Cities. Wilson credits both Walden and Orr for the increased numbers.

go. I've got real confidence in him.

After 25 percent decreases in season ticket sales the past two years, ticket manager Larry McLaine predicts this newfound enthusiasm will reverse the trend. Season ticket sales are currently down 9 percent from last year's 27,000, but he expects that to evaporate with strong student ticket sales.

#### "Hit the Brakes"

"I compare our situation to a car speeding down a hill," said McLaine. "We've hit the brakes, but it takes a while to stop before you can put the car in reverse and go back up the hill.

Walden and Orr were paired in a special promotion that also took off with flying colors. They posed for posters and made television ads in a "I sense that enthusiasm," said takeoff of the Bartles & Jaymes wine cooler ad campaign. A fourth poster, which included Gibbons, was shot Thursday. There were 15,000 copies made of each poster. The first is a sellout. The second and third have sold 7,500, and Wilson predicts they'll also be sold out shortly after students return back to campus later this month.

> As a way of increasing student interest, a Walden and Orr look-alike contest will be held the morning of the Iowa game Sept. 19. Prizes include traveling with the team for a road game and serving as an honorary coach at a home game. Urick said there's been a big de-

mand from entrepreneurs who wanted to used the Bartles & Jaymes takeoff on merchandise like T-shirts and caps. Rights will be granted after a contract is signed that agrees to give the university's athletic department 20 percent of the proceeds. All of the money the athletic department receives will be put into two scholarships, named after Walden and Orr,

that will go to minority students at lowa State.

#### **Feels Like Star**

All the adulation is old hat to Orr, but it's new to Walden.

"I was talking to Jim on Thursday, and he told me he didn't feel like a football coach," Wilson recounted. "He said that at Washington State, he was just another guy on the street. Now he feels like a celebrity ... a movie star or a rock singer. He hopes that the fans don't associate this excitement with instant success on the football field. It's making him a little nervous."

Walden is uncomfortable with his celebrity status, and said that if people expect the Cyclones to go 7-4 of 8-3 in his debut they'll be disappointed. But he appreciates the response he's received.

"I love to see people enthusiastic, and I'm glad to see them willing to get behind us," Walden said. "The fact that I'm out promoting Cyclone football is part of what I accepted as my job. I don't accept this celebrity thing. What people make you out as is up to them. I'm just a guy hoping to build enthusiasm and fun back into Iowa State football. This summer has been marvelous for me. There's an enthusiasm I've been missing and an appreciation I'm enjoying."

#### **Temper Enthusiasm**

At the same time, Walden admits the difference between enthusiasm and reality is often a fine line. With just 65 scholarship players instead of the allowable 95 to work with this fall, Walden is trying to temper that enthusiasm. "We've got some limitations," Walden said. "I'm glad these people are enthusiastic, and I'm excited of 36,000 plays. Of the 36,000 plays, about the reception we've had. But I hope they can all keep their wits about them. There comes a time when we've got to line up and block and tackle someone."

FORGET RETIREMENT. At an age when most guys who play his position are thinking about retiring. Raymond Clayborn, the Patriot's All-Pro cornerback, has a two-step, 10-year plan. The first move is to play five more years and win at least one Super Bowl. Then, five years later, he wants to be enshrined in the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

"When you first come into pro ball, you just think about making the team, playing and making some money so that you can have a better life for yourself," said Clayborn, who is checking into his 10th season. "I know I am 32 years old, but I also know I can play at a top level for five more years. I feel like I am a better player now than I ever have been."

**INSTANT REPLAY.** Instant replay will be different this season, but the changes will not be obvious. However, the results could be a lot better.

Commissioner Pete Rozelle has approved the hiring of six people to help in the press boxes. They all come from football backgrounds, either as former game officials or management people with a knowledge of the game. This will allow Art McNally, chief of officials, to have a crew of five assistant supervisors, and each

this football team," Vlasic said.

"I mean, there's a heck of a lot of tension on that field, of course; everyamong these guys that I thought was the ropes from him, so to speak." sort of surprising. We're all sort of pulling for each other to make this team."

Kind of like the relationship here. between Vlasic and Long?

Vlasic is used to waiting for his turn. It took him four years at Iowa to get a chance. It could take longer

"Only time will tell," he said.



#### **Endorsement Helped**

new.

"I think Iowa Staters were really ready to grab hold of a guy, and Walden's that guy," said Wilson. "I also think the way Johnny Orr has endorsed him has really helped."

Orr, who received a similar reception after taking the Iowa State job in 1980, has joked on the banquet circuit that if Walden can't bring home a winner in football, the school should drop the sport and save \$3 million.

"This is the most enthusiasm I've sensed for football since I've been here," said Orr. "Walden's a good guy, and I like his coaching staff. I this spring. Coach Ray Perkins that will make the football program



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assistant will monitor three officiating crews throughout the season.

In 1986, the initial season of instant replay usage, only 38 calls made on the field were reversed out of a total approximately 3,500 were reviewed. Roughly one of every 100 plays was subject to an instant replay review, and about one in every 1,000 decisions was changed.



TAMPA, FLA. (AP) - As a 12thround draft choice Mike Shula would be a long shot to make any National Football League team, let alone a squad that has an 11th-year pro as its No. 1 quarterback and most recent Heisman Trophy winner behind him on the depth chart.

Nevertheless, the former Alabama star was happy to receive a late-night call from the Tampa Bay Buccaneers couldn't guarantee him the Bucs would carry more than two quarterbacks this season, but it didn't matter.

"Going into the draft all I was hoping for was just a chance, regardless if I got drafted, or where, or if I had a chance to be a gree agent," Shula said during a break last week in three-aday practices at the University of Tampa.

"I just wanted to have an opportunity to play in the NFL," said the son of Miami Dolphins Coach Don Shula. "Now I have that opportunity. Now I feel like it's up to me to do the best that I can with that chance."

Two weeks into training camp, Perkins is no closer to deciding if he'll carry two quarterbacks or three. He left Alabama in December to take over a team that has lost 52 of its last 64 games, and says he doesn't know if his rebuilding project can afford three quarterbacks this year.

Veteran Steve DeBerg is No. 1 on the depth chart, and rookie Vinny Testaverde, the franchise's hope for the future, is second.

Geoff Torretta, Testaverde's college backup, is battling Shula for the No. 3 job that Perkins could decide to eliminate because Don Smith, a college quarterback drafted as a running back, could be moved behind center in an emergency.

Under Perkins, Shula developed into one of the top quarterbacks in the Southeastern Conference at Alabama. He passed for 3,881 yards, 33 touchdowns and 30 interceptions.

The 22-year-old feels right at home in training camp. The Bucs practice sessions are similar to the workouts Perkins conducted at Alabama, plus Shula was a fixture at Dolphin camps as a youngster.

"This is a neat experience for me because I've always seen it from the other side as a person who's been a ball boy or doing laundry," he said. "Now I'm getting to see it from the side of a player. Hopefully, I'll continue that for a while."