NFL owners vote for playing through strike

Falcons Beat, Page 2-D Falcons must protect QB, Page 12-D By Glenn Sheeley

Staff Writer National Football League owners voted unanimously Thursday to continue play during the regular season in the event of a players strike and to use "whatever players are available" to field teams.

The owners also announced they had

been awarded a line of credit, reported to be about \$100 million, to keep them going if the NFL Players Association calls a strike.

Atlanta Falcons coach Marion Campbell had refused to go along with a plan in which 19 of 28 teams offered \$1,000 non-refundable bonuses to released players to return in case of a strike. With the vote by the owners, who assembled Thursday in Schaumburg, Ill., near Chicago, Campbell

indicated that his policy would change.

"Before, I had an option," Campbell said. "Now I don't have an option. If they tell us to field a team, then we'll just have to field a team.

"It's something I have no control over. All the coaches are in the same boat on this

The owners have said they will repay ticket purchasers seeking rebates. They also acknowledged that even if they do play, they will have to repay the television networks at least part of the \$473 million they will get for this season.

However, NFL Management Council executive director Jack Donlan said the networks had agreed to televise at least the early games. "After that," he said, "it's up to the advertisers."

Dallas Cowboys president Tex Schramm

said of the contingency plan, "I think we can put on quality football games."

Despite the reported unanimity, not all league officials present at the 2-hour, 15minute meeting were pleased with the decision.

"I feel personally that playing with free agents would be throwing kerosene on the

See STRIKE, Page 12-D



Kindred

Lendl ranks easy No. 1; no one else is even No. 2

NEW YORK - The intriguing aspect of Ivan Lendl's latest victory is not so much that it came easily. It's scarier than that. After losing to Lendl in straight sets the other night, John McEnroe sounded like a man who had looked into the face of death and smelled his foul breath. Now we have Ivan Lendl as the grim reaper, tennis division.

Not long ago, McEnroe's presence across the net caused men trepidation. They were put atremble by his quickness in combination with a slithering serve and groundstrokes veiled in wristy deceit. All that, plus the McEnroe intimidation fits.

The Lendl effect is more sinister. His physique is striking, 6 feet 2 and 180 pounds of tightly strung muscle; McEnroe is a pasty-skin bonebag. At his meanest, McEnroe wears a child's face of pouts; Lendl looks like a man whose jackboot is on your

All this would be only blather if Lendl were less a craftsman. The straight-sets victory over McEnroe, who came to the quarterfinals thinking he had a chance, was Lendl's 19th in a row at the U.S. Open. He is about to win the Open a third straight time, a symmetry pleasing to this man who lost the Open final the previous three years.

In those embarrassments, Lendl won only two sets. He lost a last set at love to Jimmy Connors in '83 and so began a debate as to which Lendl was, a choker or a quitter.

Neither, it turns out, for in 1985 Lendl won the Open with a straight-sets conquest of McEnroe and has been ranked No. 1 since. Even that is not the full story. Lendl is No. 1 and no one is No. 2. He's so good he can play less than his best and beat anyone.

McEnroe beaten with two hours to suffer

Against McEnroe, every shot Lendl wanted to hit, he hit. He won 20 straight service points. Once, chasing down a volley, Lendl hit a forehand topspin lob. McEnroe had been rendered helpless by lobs, and now he craned his head to watch the flight of this impossible try of Lendl's.

The yellow fuzzy spun to earth a foot to the good. McEnroe couldn't believe it. Again? How does he keep doing that? McEnroe's shoulders sagged. His chin dropped. He let his racket fall to his side. He walked away, beaten but with two more hours to

McEnroe has played only part-time the last year. "His second serve doesn't sting you as much," Lendl said, "and he doesn't get to balls like he used to. And he's low on confidence."

Of late, McEnroe got married, took six months off, became a father, hurt his back, hired a physical fitness guru, fired the guy, withdrew from Wimbledon, hurt his back again - and now his wife, Tatum O'Neal, is about to have a second child, causing Mc-Enroe to announce this week, "The first contraction,

I'm withdrawing." That is not the picture of obsession once drawn by McEnroe, the barbed-wire prodigy who won the Open at age 20 in 1979 and also won it the next two years. Now McEnroe looks across the net and sees in Lendl the obsession once his.

Lendl reaches for the unreachable

McEnroe doesn't say Lendl's aura is so powerful it bends all wills to his. McEnroe is too proud to admit that. Instead, McEnroe suggests that a man living a full life (husband/father McEnroe) doesn't have much chance against a monomaniacal robot (guess who?).

Of the loss to Lendl, McEnroe said, "He wanted it probably more than I wanted it. ... He's just more

into the sport. It's his whole life." McEnroe also was careful to point out that Lendl hasn't been injured lately as some people have been

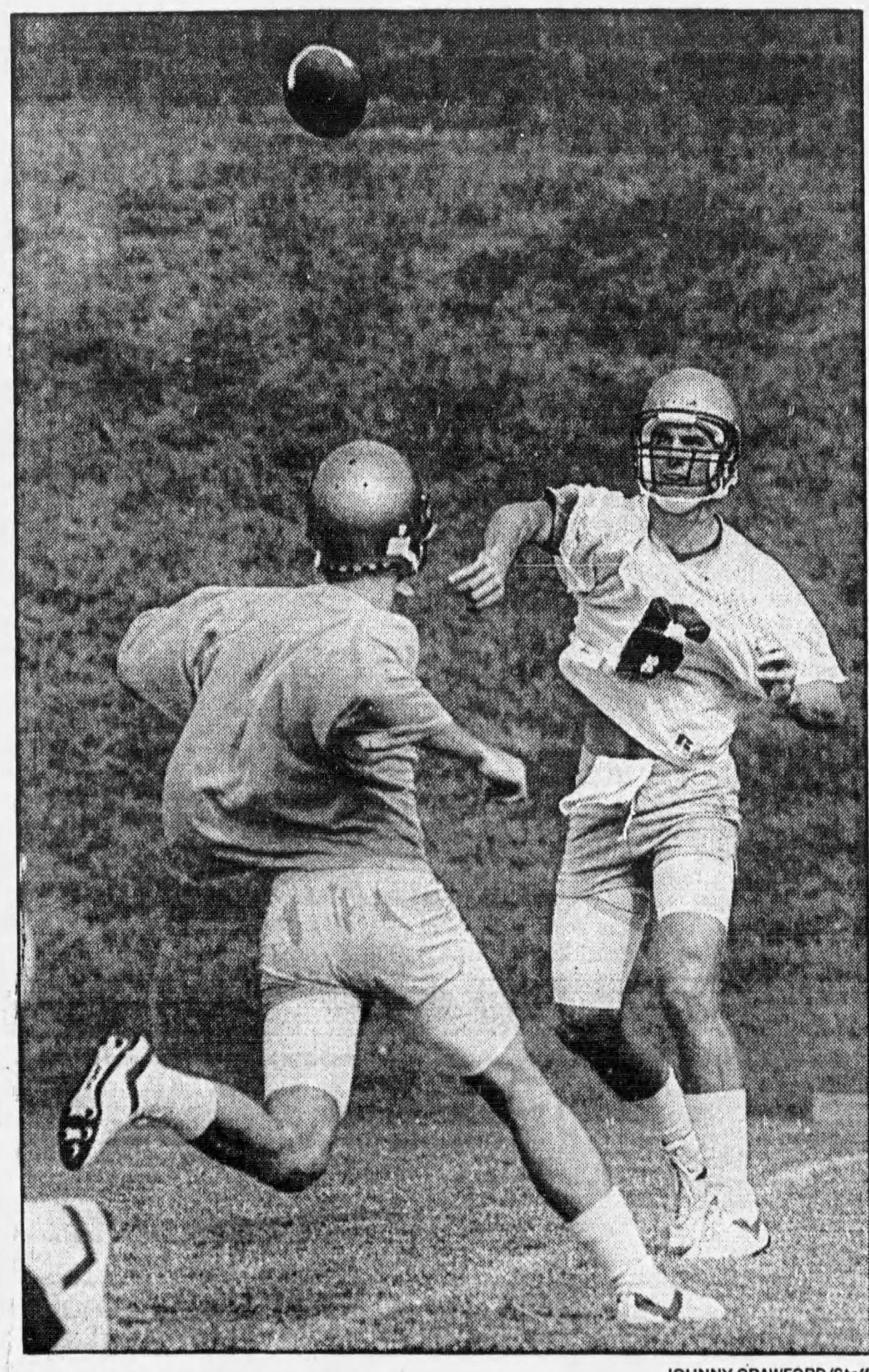
(guess who?). "He's improved his quickness," McEnroe said. "His confidence has come up. He studies his opponents. And if you're injury-free, that makes a

difference." McEnroe said he felt slow. He felt out of synch. He feels his game improving, but, he said, "Tonight I just didn't have it."

Lendl wouldn't let him have it. Everyone feels slow when the other guy is too good, and Lendl struck winners from both sides from all over the court. At full-throttle, he hammered shots without

"I was solid," Lendl said, "but I don't think it was anything spectacular," a judgment his alone, for most witnesses considered the work without flaw.

But Lendl is a man made unhappy by Quixotic madness. He reaches for the unreachable star of perfection. Love, love and love is his idea of how he ought to win every match. Dedication is easy, Lendl said. In chilled tones: "As long as you don't think you have reached your potential and you haven't reached your goals, you can maintain it."



JOHNNY CRAWFORD/Staff

Georgia Tech quarterback Rick Strom gets pass off under pressure at Thursday's practice.

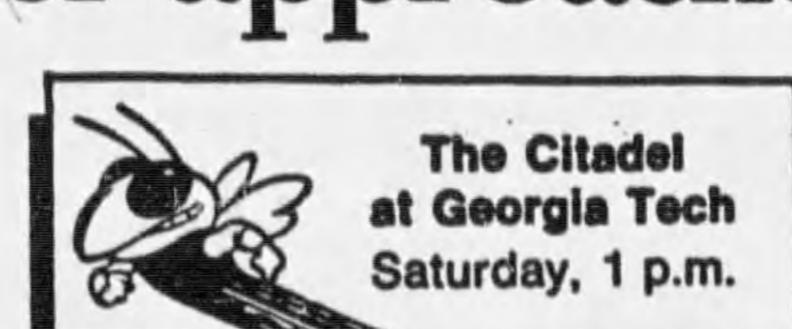
Only one of Tech's top backs healthy as opener approaches

By I.J. Rosenberg Staff Writer

Georgia Tech coach Bobby Ross faces a manpower shortage at running back for the team's opener against The Citadel Saturday at Grant Field. This morning, on the eve of Ross' debut at Tech, only one of Tech's top five running backs is healthy.

Starting tailback Alphanzo Thomas is at full speed. The same cannot be said of Malcolm King (leg), Darrell Edwards (shoulder), Terrence Curry (hamstring) and Nate Kelsey (back).

King, experiencing a tightened hamstring in his right leg, is expected to be ready for Saturday's 1 p.m. game. Ed-



wards, projected as the starter at fullback, has not practiced at full speed in 10 days because of a pinched nerve. He will play sparingly. Both King and Edwards can play either running back position.

Curry, a fullback, pulled a hamstring in practice Wednesday. Kelsey, also a fullback, has been hurt since the second day of

See TECH, Page 7-D

Carter sues agents for \$4 million, says he was threatened

By Chris Mortensen

Claiming he is one of several college athletes physically threatened by agents Lloyd Bloom and Norby Walters, former Ohio State University wide receiver Cris Carter filed a lawsuit Thursday seeking more than \$4 million in damages from the agents.

The suit filed in U.S. District Court in Columbus, Ohio, alleges Carter was induced into signing with the agents through an act of fraud and undue influence by his older brother, George Carter. The suit does not name George Carter as a defendant, but it alleges George Carter was paid by the agents to influence Cris Carter's

The suit seeks termination of Cris Carter's contract with Walters and Bloom and asks in excess of \$1 million in actual damages, alleging Carter would have been a firstround NFL draft pick next April rather than a fourth-round pick in last Friday's supplemental draft if he had not lost his senior season of eligibility at Ohio State. Carter was ruled ineligible for this season because of dealings with Walters and

Additionally, Carter's suit asks for more than \$3 million in damages under the federal Racketeering Influenced Corrupt Organizations (RICO) statute. The suit alleges Carter was a target of a scheme by the agents in violation of the RICO statute. Damages awarded in a RICO case are automatically trebled under federal law.

One of Cris Carter's attorneys, Jim Dittmar of Boston, said: "The complaint alleges and we intend to show that Walters and Bloom engaged in a scheme, a pattern of signing various college athletes to representation agreements, and to enforce adherence to agreements through conduct that was deceitful, with undue influence and threats of physical violence. The complaint identifies a number of other players and instances. We do allege that

Cris Carter was threatened." The complaint reads: "In August, 1986, after Cris signed the representation agreement and at the start of his junior year and season, Walters suggested, by reference of Walters' ability to have a recalcitrant player's legs broken, that Cris would suffer physical harm if he did not adhere to the agreement."

The suit cites four other alleged incidents of threats by the agents to players. The suit identifies the play-

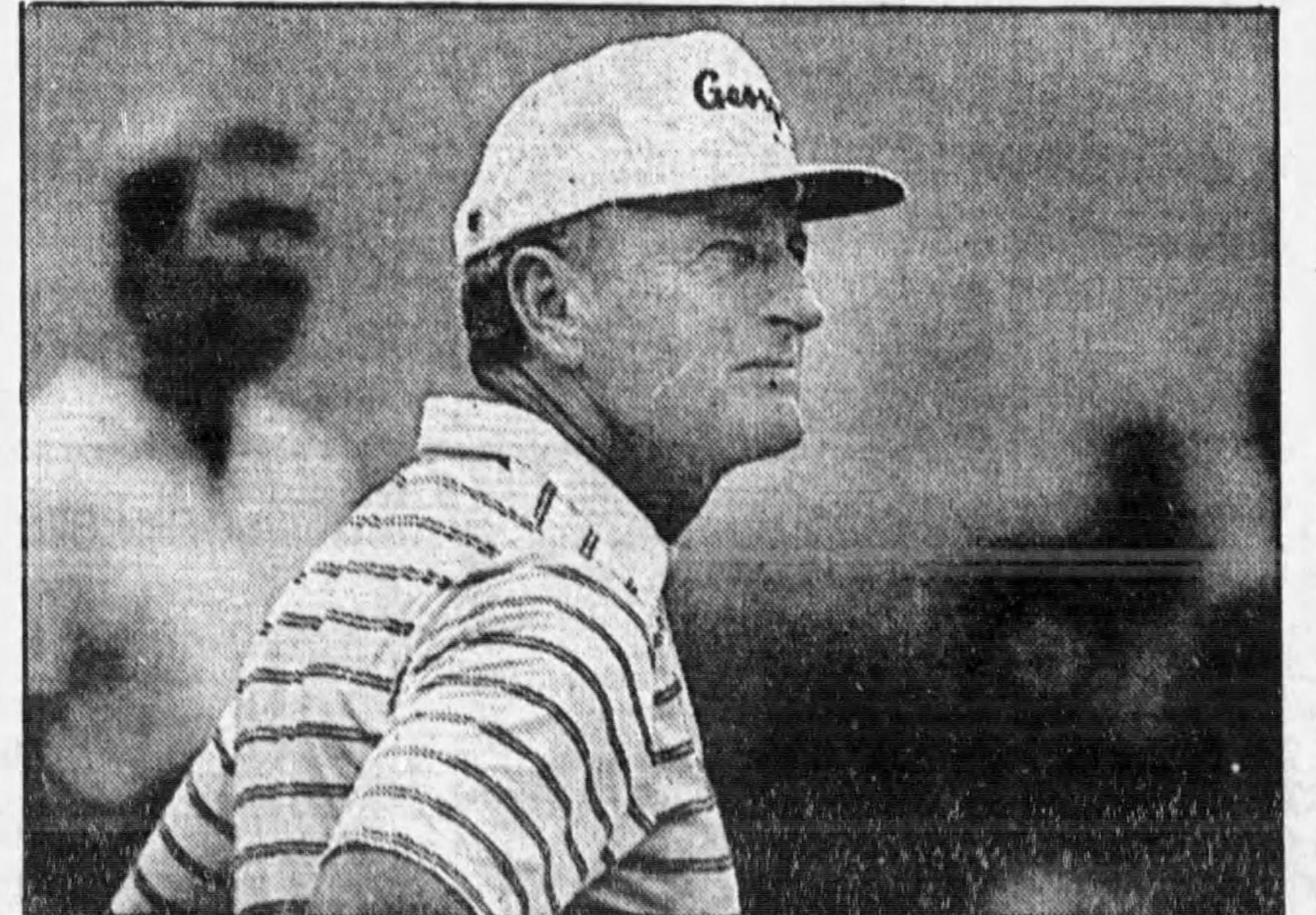


Joe Paterno

Inside colleges

- Penn State coach Joe Paterno still has questions about his team going into Saturday's game against the Alabama Crimson Tide. Page 5-D.
- Crimson Tide offensive coordinator Rip Scherer, who left Georgia Tech with coach Bill Curry, says his job is a week-to-week proposition. Page 5-D.
- A daily update on college football throughout the South. Page 6-D.
- Freshman fullback Alphonso Ellis will be in the starting lineup for the Bulldogs Saturday. It marks the earliest time in the season a freshman has started since Tony Flack in 1982. Georgia notebook, Page 6-D.
- Coach Bobby Ross is stressing the mental aspects of the game as the Jackets prepare for their game against The Citadel Saturday. Georgia Tech notebook, Page 6-D.
- Scott Thompson, a graduate of Riverdale High School and an All-America defensive tackle at The Citadel, has his military drilling behind him and can now concentrate on football. Page 7-D.
- Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference powers Savannah State and Tuskegee meet Saturday In one of the state's top games. Page 7-D.

See CARTER, Page 12-D



Georgia's Vince Dooley wasn't pleased with secondary against Virginia.

Dooley shakes up detense for game with Oregon State

By Thomas O'Toole Staff Writer

ATHENS - Georgia's defense will use three new starters and even a new huddle against an anticipated Oregon State passing attack Saturday afternoon in Sanford

Coach Vince Dooley on Thursday made official what had been building since early in the week, saying cornerback Ben Smith and safety Rusty Beasley will be inserted into the starting lineup. Senior defensive guard Larry Brown also will start, replacing the injured Andy Dotson.

The secondary moves were made following a performance last week against Virginia that was so poor it caught even



Oregon State at Georgia Saturday, 1 p.m.

the coaches by complete surprise.

"There was not a defensive coach in Sanford Stadium who was not shocked," defensive coordinator Bill Lewis Thursday afternoon. "We thought we had a good preseason. We thought we had gotten better. We thought we had done a good job of preparing them. In the span of two or three series, all that explodes in your face."

See GEORGIA, Page 7-D

Stability at QB gives Giants edge over Bears

By Chris Mortensen Staff Writer

If the season lasted only one game, the NFL could declare its champion Monday night when the New York Giants play the Chicago Bears.

Come Jan. 31, 1988 in San Diego, either the Giants or Bears will win Super Bowl XXII. The only drawback is they cannot be Super Bowl opponents because they each play in the National Football Conference.

The Giants and Bears were dominating winners of the past two Super Bowls. The Bears can tell the Giants what to expect this season.

The Giants get the edge over the Bears again for the same reason they had the edge in 1986: Chicago's uncertainty at quarterback. Jim Mc-Mahon starts the season on injured reserve, and Mike Tomczak starts Monday's game. Giants quarterback Phil Simms will be the difference.

There will be challengers for the NFC championship: The Los Angeles Rams, Minnesota Vikings, San Francisco 49ers and Washington Redskins.

In the NFC East, the Redskins are the only team capable of pushing the Giants. But the Redskins were 0-3 against New York last year, including a playoff loss, and they'll still be short in '87. The Dallas Cowboys have slipped. The St.

Louis Cardinals and Philadelphia Eagles haven't made up much

The NFC West had the conference's best record last year. The division was won by the 49ers (10-5-1) with the Rams (10-6) just behind. The surprise teams were the Atlanta Falcons (7-8-1) and the New Orleans Saints (7-9).

The Rams should overtake the 49ers this year because they finally have a big-play quarterback in Jim Everett. Whether conservative head coach John Robinson will allow his offense to become great is another question. The Rams have a physical team, but they are not as intimidating as the Giants or Bears.

The 49ers are a team that always could return to Super Bowl status, but their offensive line still can't get physical when necessary. There is one scenario in which the 49ers could reach the Super Bowl. If the players have a season-long strike, the owners continue the season with teams equipped by free agents and 49ers quarterback Joe Montana keeps his word that he won't strike, San Francisco could make it to San Diego.

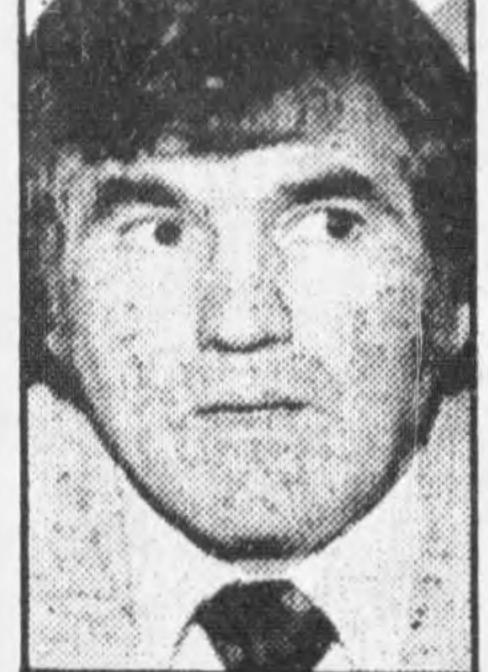
The Falcons were making strides, and the '87 schedule is not as grueling, but the firing of head coach Dan Henning put them in transition again. The Saints got over their transition year with coach Jim Mora, but they also learned it



Jim McMahon



Jim Everett



Forrest Gregg

interesting two-team race if Minne-

Charting the National Football Conference

EASTERN DIVISION			
Team	1986	Comment	Pick
N.Y. Giants	14-2	Unless somebody spikes Gatorade	13-3
Washington	12-4	Jack Kent Cooke will steam	12-4
Dallas	7-9	Cowpokes nothing but slowpokes	7-9
St. Louis	4-11-1	It's not in Cards again	6-10
Philadelphia	5-10-1	Button up, Buddy boy	5-11
		CENTRAL DIVISION	
Team	1986	Comment	Pick
Chicago	14-2	McMahon is still the ticket	13-3
Minnesota	9-7	Vikings might make a run	11-5
Detroit	5-11 .	They call them Lions?	5-11
Tampa Bay	2-14	Progress will come slow	4-12
Green Bay	4-12	Gregg won't save his job	3-13
		WESTERN DIVISION	
Team	1986	Comment	Pick
LA Rams	10-6	Everett, Dickerson too much	12-4
SF 49ers	10-5-1	Montana needs super season	11-5
Atlanta	7-8-1	How much will the birds score?	6-10
New Orleans	7-9	Schedule is too tough	6-10
	STEEL MENT OF THE		

doesn't pay to finish in last place. The NFL's schedule formula penalized them with a tough schedule.

sota is up to it. The Bears' offense is just unpredictable enough to allow the Vikings a shot. The NFC Central could have an

Judge refuses to block Irwindale's bond plan

The Associated Press



LOS ANGELES — A judge refused Thursday to grant a temporary restraining order which would block Irwindale's sale of \$90 million in bonds to finance a new stadi-

um for the Los Angeles Raiders. Superior Court Judge Ricardo A. Torres said he believed at this time that there was "no giving away of

public funds" and "no violation of environmental codes" that warranted issuing the order. Los Angeles City Councilman Ernani Bernardi, who has sued Irwindale and the Raiders over the \$115 million deal that would move the NFL team out of the LA Colise-

um, sought the restraining order to

block the bond sale. Xavier Hermosillo, a spokesman for Irwindale, said the bond sale could begin today. He also said the entire \$90 million would probably be bought by one buyer, whom he would not identify.

Reasons ends holdout, re-signs with Giants

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. -New York Giants linebacker Gary Reasons ended a long and sometimes bitter holdout Thursday by signing a contract with the Super Bowl champion New York Giants.

Reasons, who last week accused the Giants of treating him as a second-class citizen, signed the contract at noon and then went out and

practiced with the team.

Reasons had begun the negotiations seeking \$1.5 million for three years and reportedly had come down to \$1.2 million last week. The Giants had offered \$900,000 for three years.

A starter since the middle of his rookie season, Reasons has been the overshadowed linebacker of the Giants' 3-4 defense. He earned about \$180,000 last year. Lawrence Taylor reportedly earns \$900,000; Carl Banks is in the \$650,000 range, and Harry Carson earns about \$400,000.

Briefly ...

The Associated Press

The NFL has refused to let Bri-

an Bosworth, the Seattle Seahawks' \$11 million rookie linebacker, continue wearing his college No. 44. NFL rules say linebackers must wear numbers in either the 50s or 90s. Bosworth wore No. 55 at practice Thursday. The Seahawks will play the Broncos Sunday in Denver. ... The Houston Oilers would consider moving to San Antonio if the city comes through on a plan to build a domed stadium, owner Bud Adams said. The Oilers currently are trying to resolve a lease problem with the Houston Sports Association, which leases the Astrodome from Harris County and then rents it to the NFL team. The Oilers also

have investigated the possibility of

moving to Jacksonville, Fla.

Carter

From Page 1-D

ers as Brent Fullwood of Auburn, Timothy McGee of Tennessee, William Harris of Bishop College and

Ron Morris of SMU. Bloom's dealings with college ath- of three years worth \$402,000. letes since May. Among the charges "The association he (Carter) the RICO statute, according to rect economic harm," said Dittmar. sources close to the investigation.

consistently denied making any threats of physical harm.

Bloom said Thursday he is undaunted by the suit.

"It's meaningless," he said. "It's until Jan. 1, 1988. another episode to be continued to the soap opera. I'm the guy who was damaged. He (Carter) got me."

About the alleged threat against Carter, Bloom said, "That's a crock."

payment of some \$13,000 the agents and unenforceable.' say they paid to the player during his junior season at Ohio State. Car-

ter maintains he received \$6,800. Bloom also said that in a cross complaint against Carter he will claim the NCAA and Ohio State, not suits against players.

the agents, damaged Carter. "(Ohio State coach) Earle Bruce should be the one Carter sues," Bloom said. "Bruce told everybody that if anybody picks Cris Carter in Ohio State and the NCAA declared him ineligible with rules they're even questioning. They damaged him. He damaged me and Norby by breaking our agreement. Got that?"

Walters is unavailable for comment, according to his son Gary

Strike

From Page 1-D

fire," Jim Finks, general manager

of the New Orleans Saints, said be-

Mick Luckhurst, who had just fin-

opments, said "the players found it

the owners were serious with the

go down to Piedmont Park and

watch the same people they're going

to be putting on the field," Luck-

hurst said. "Why pay \$17 when

can watch that for nothing? I enjoy

watching guys with a Michelob in

that the owners would implement

their plan to continue the games

during the second week of the strike

"because they need time to orga-

nize." He said the players had pur-

posely picked Sept. 22, following the

second weekend of the regular sea-

son, as their strike date because the

owners were expecting a strike to

occur after three games, when play-

"We threw their schedule off,"

With Falcons owner Rankin

ers gain an official pension year.

It is Luckhurst's understanding

their hand play ball."

Luckhurst said.

Luckhurst questioned whether

"Can they field a team? I could

fore the meeting.

slightly humorous."

Walters, a member of the agents' legal team.

Dittmar said, "If the agents never enter into the picture, Cris Carter would have played his senior season, and we believe he would have been a high first-round draft choice next year."

The average contract for a firstround draft pick is four years for A federal grand jury in Chicago about \$1.55 million. A fourth-round has been investigating Walters' and pick can expect an average contract

they are considering is violation of was lured into has caused him di-

Dittmar said he will seek termi-Both Bloom and Walters have nation of the contract Carter signed with Walters and Bloom because it gives the agents exclusive power of attorney. The contract, which was postdated, does not go into effect

"Irrespective of any other development, this contract gives the agents power of attorney, the ability to manage finances, cash checks, hire accountants, lawyers, and do virtually everything for the player," Bloom said he will sue Carter explained Dittmar. "We want the for breach-of-contract and for re- court to declare the contract void

> Carter's suit is the third filed against Walters and Bloom by players they allegedly signed to contracts of representation. The agents have filed six breach-of-contract

Reggie Rogers, a former Washington University defensive end, has filed a suit against Walters and Bloom, asking for more than \$1 million in damages. But he played the draft, then he's banning them his senior season and also was an from the school. That's why Cris NFL first-round draft choice, the Carter went so low in the draft. No. 7 pick by the Detroit Lions in

> Two former Florida players, defensive back Adrian White and wide receiver Frankie Neal, have filed a lawsuit asking for termination of the contracts they signed with Walters and Bloom.

dent Rankin Smith Jr. in Alaska, the team was represented by executive vice president Taylor Smith

and chief financial officer Jim Hay. Following the vote, the Management Council's Donlan stressed that a strike and a strike contingency plan are "not our top priority. ... Our top priority is reaching an agreement with the union."

Falcons player representative Donlan said negotiations with the players union will resume Saturished a union meeting with his day at a site not yet determined. teammates to brief them on devel-

He also disclosed that Gene Upshaw, executive director of the NFLPA, had met Wednesday night with Commissioner Pete Rozelle and flew to Chicago Thursday mornplan, the vote notwithstanding, being to meet with the Management cause of the dropoff in quality of Council's executive commmittee.

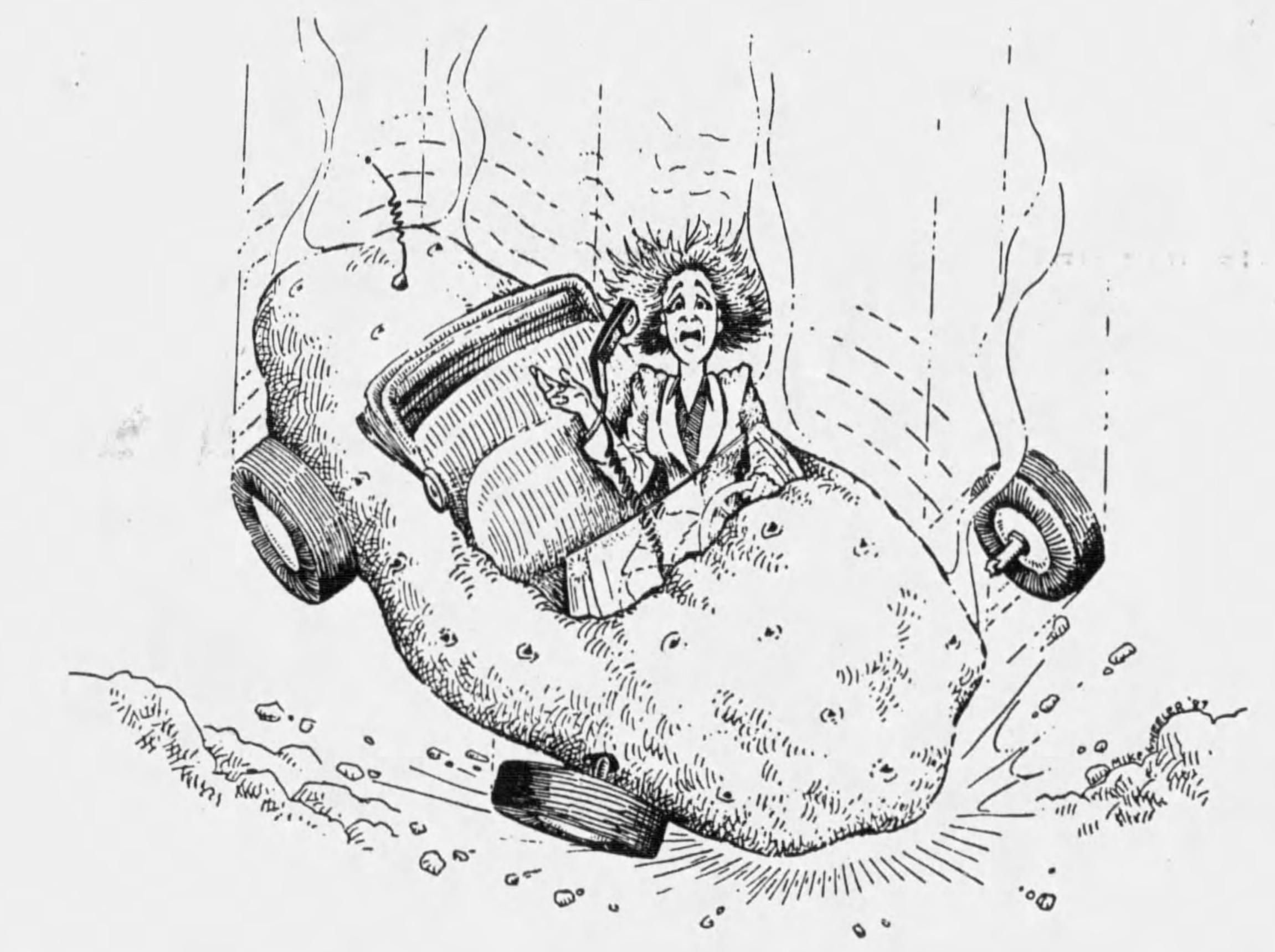
The major difference betwen the two sides is free agency. The players want the right to move from team to team without compensation or right of first refusal. The owners have offered to liberalize the current system, in which one player has changed teams in 10 years.

Falcons offensive tackle Mike Kenn, a member of the union's nineman executive committee, said he does not foresee the owners trying to field teams and play games during a strike.

"I don't believe it," Kenn said. just think there's no way they could accumulate that amount of players in that short of a time, let alone put together a quality product. I don't think (the vote) will have any affect on the players at

The Associated Press contribut-Smith Sr. in Europe and team presi- ed to this report.

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