

Robinson's Pact, Million by Million

No. 1 NBA draft pick David Robinson will earn \$3 million from the Spurs before he even starts playing for them two years from now. The San Antonio Light, quoting an unnamed NBA official, yesterday listed year-by-year figures the Navy ensign will receive from the contract he signed Friday in San Antonio.

As part of the richest deal in sports history, the 7-1 center will receive a \$1-million signing bonus and \$1-million salaries this season and next while he is still satisfying his two-year military obligation.

Thereafter, The Light reported, the \$26-million contract calls for:

- \$2 million in 1989-90, his first year in the NBA, and in 1990-1991 and 1991-1992.

- \$3 million annually in 1992-1993, 1993-1994 and 1994-1995.

- \$4 million in 1995-1996 and 1996-1997.

Dividing the full value of his contract over his eight years of service, Robinson will earn an average of \$3.25 million per season.

The package keeps him in San Antonio for 10 years, including eight seasons of basketball activity. A contingency clause is included should he be released from active duty before 1989.

NBA Crowds Set Marks

The NBA set attendance records for the opening weekend. The 22 games drew 327,635 spectators, an average of 14,893 per game. The figures represent an increase of 9.6 percent over the record total of 298,884 and average of 13,586 for the 22 games last season.

Each game on the weekend schedule drew at least 10,000 persons for the first time in NBA history. Fourteen of the 22 games were sellouts.

The largest crowd was on opening night, when 28,676 watched the Pistons beat the Knicks at the Silverdome in Pontiac, Mich.

Suns' Gilliam Out 3-4 Weeks

X-rays and a bone scan confirmed that Suns rookie power forward Armon Gilliam fractured the small bone in his left big toe during Friday night's opener against the Bulls. Club officials said he will be sidelined for three or four weeks.

Suns forward Larry Nance has been given clearance to begin practice shooting but will be out for two more weeks because of the fractured hand suffered in a preseason game last month.

Scrub Proves Costly

The West Virginia Conference has voided each football victory of league champion West Virginia State after the school reported it had used an ineligible player.

The Yellow Jackets, picked to finish near the bottom of the conference, had a 6-1 league record and an 8-1-1 mark overall, earning an automatic berth to the NAIA playoffs.

The ineligible player told the school when he

applied for admission that he had never attended college, acting athletic director Percy Caldwell said. The lie was uncovered when the student applied for financial aid, Caldwell said.

The player, whom Caldwell would not name, tried out for the team as a walk-on and was used primarily to shuttle plays from the bench to the huddle. The school has three days to appeal.

Younger Harmon Absolved

The NCAA and the Big Ten have cleared Iowa running back Kevin Harmon of any wrongdoing involving alleged payments made to him by sports agents Norby Walters and Lloyd Bloom, Iowa athletic director Bump Elliott said. Federal arbitrator John C. Culver reported last week that Harmon may have received \$350 and airline tickets from the two agents. In his report, Culver ruled that Kevin's brother, former Iowa running back Ronnie Harmon, does not have to repay Walters almost \$50,000 that was given to the Bills running back during his junior season at Iowa.

Mansdorf Will Defy Boycott

Amos Mansdorf, Israel's top tennis player, will compete in South Africa despite a protest by the Israeli Foreign Ministry, the player's father said. The 22-year-old Mansdorf, named the Grand Prix Player of the Month for October, is scheduled to play in the \$375,000 South African Open in Johannesburg next week. He is the tournament's defending champion.

Foreign Ministry officials said Mansdorf's plans violate the spirit of Israel's decision to sever ties with Pretoria because of apartheid.

NYU to Honor 5 Athletes

Jim Lancaster, captain of NYU's last unbeaten basketball team (1933-34), will be inducted posthumously into the NYU Sports Hall of Fame at the annual Varsity Club Dinner at the NYU Club Nov. 21. Also entering the hall will be Abe Becker, basketball captain who scored a then-record 35 points in a game at the Garden in 1951; Gil Eisner, NCAA epee champion in 1960, and Irv Kintisch, a track and field and football standout in the 1940s. The first recipient of the Sid Tanenbaum Award, named in honor of the all-time NYU basketball great who was murdered last year, is Terry Tarpey. Tarpey is the school's leading basketball scorer with 1,778 points during his four-year career.

Furthermore . . .

Baseball Hall of Famer Duke Snider, 61, is recovering from heart-bypass surgery in a San Diego hospital . . . Roger Laine scored 23 points and David Grady added 17 as Brooklyn College defeated Hogsbo of Sweden, 68-54, in an exhibition basketball game . . . Malcolm Campbell of England leads the Sri Chinmoy five-day race in Flushing Meadow-Corona Park. After 48 hours he has completed 178 miles. Suprabha Schecter of Washington, D.C., leads the women with 158.

Edited by Parker Smith

Fouts Still Great Bet In Clutch

Watching an old pro at work at quarterback in the NFL can be exciting, or painful, depending on whether you've bet on him or against him. Dan Fouts provided such an example Sunday, and it hurt, but only for a little while. Over the years, Fouts has been a quarterback to be admired.

Fouts is 36, in his 15th NFL season, and the reflexes might not be quite as sharp as they once were. But don't bet against him if the Chargers have a chance to make that final, game-winning drive. The man's a winner.

Indeed, Fouts has played well enough to win throughout most of his professional career. As the pilot of Air Coryell, blessed with an outstanding corps of receivers and a great wall of pass protection, Fouts repeatedly put enough points on the board for any ordinary team to win. Unfortunately, the Chargers under Don Coryell weren't an ordinary team. The defense was terrible. Fouts and friends would score 42 and lose by two, or more.

Injuries slowed Fouts the past two seasons. Now, however, San Diego is playing respectable defense under Al Saunders, and Fouts appears to have enough left to get the Chargers to the playoffs. They are 7-1 and atop the AFC West — thanks in no small part to the strike team's 3-0 effort — and the schedule the rest of the way is not too difficult.

San Diego was a little lucky to win Sunday, 16-13, at Indianapolis. The Colts intercepted Fouts three times in the first half, holding the Chargers to four first downs and 101 net yards while moving out to a 13-0 lead.

Fouts brought his team back, with help from Indianapolis coach Ron Meyer and running back Eric Dickerson. Midway through the third period, with the Colts leading 13-3 and facing fourth-and-1 on their own 40, Meyer called for a fake punt. The call would have made no sense even if it succeeded.

Indianapolis is a ball-control team with a solid defense. There was no reason to take such a gamble (with my money), particularly with the defense playing with so much spirit. Fouts turned Meyer's stupidity into three points, making the score 13-6, then tied the score early in the fourth quarter with a 5-yard touchdown pass to Lionel James.

Monday's sports sections emphasized Dickerson's fumble into the end zone with four minutes left, when a touchdown would have given the Colts a 20-13 lead. Dickerson, for all his ability, refuses to give the ball extra protection when he's asked to use more power than finesse inside the 10. He's fumbling more each season, it seems, or at least he's fumbling more in critical situations.

But even had Indianapolis gone ahead by seven with four minutes remaining, I would not have counted my money and put the game in the "covered" column. The spread was even.

Too often I've seen Fouts, against better defenses than Indy's, move his team the length of the field in less time than four minutes, although I wish Dickerson's fumble had been recovered by the Chargers at the 1, where Dickerson went down, instead of in the end zone. Because it wasn't, the ball was brought out to the 20, giving Fouts operating room. He made it look easy, taking the Chargers 59 yards in 11 plays to set up the winning field goal. He still is quick enough to elude the first blitz, and he never panics. Had the Chargers needed seven points to tie, instead of three to win, there's a good chance he would have delivered the seven.

My last recollection of Fouts in the playoffs has him in Cincinnati, where the wind-chill factor must have been minus-40. His passing game had no chance and the Bengals advanced to the Super Bowl. This year, if San Diego can stay ahead of Seattle and Denver, the Chargers will probably have the home-field advantage throughout the AFC playoffs and, if they get that far, in Super Bowl XXII.

I'm not at all sure that will happen. For Fouts' sake, I hope it does. He deserves to play in at least one Super Duper. Flamboyance has never been his thing. Consequently, other quarterbacks with half his talent as a passer have received more attention. For the QB who made the 300-yard passing game routine, it's time he got a chance to take one big, final bow.

PLAYING FOOTBALL

Gerald Strine

3 Drug Positives Confirmed

By Paul Moran

The State Racing and Wagering Board announced yesterday it has received confirmation of its original findings that two more post-race urine samples taken at Aqueduct last week from horses trained by Peter Ferriola were positive for the prohibited medication Lasix. Confirmation of the first positive test was received Saturday morning from the racing laboratory at Cornell University and was made public yesterday.

Lasix commonly is used to inhibit pulmonary bleeding resulting from the stress of training and racing, and is legal in most racing jurisdictions. All medication, however, is prohibited for racing purposes in New York.

The board's finding of three positive tests in as many racing days last week is expected to result in a long suspension and fine for the trainer, who has said he will appeal any unfavorable ruling. The

board said yesterday it will announce its position in the matter by Thursday, after completing its investigation and holding the required hearings.

Stewards at Aqueduct, under direction from the racing board, ordered 10 Ferriola-trained horses scratched from races on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, and also ordered a search of his barn on Saturday. Ferriola, 45, has denied any knowledge that the horses were administered Lasix within 48 hours of the races in which the illegal substance was found in their systems.

At the time the first of the three positives was reported, Ferriola was leading Aqueduct's trainer standings, having won races with 16 of his first 31 starters at the meeting — 51.6 percent. Only one of the three horses that tested positive, however, was a winner. That horse, Star Brilliant, won the fifth race last Monday. Sea Quail finished fifth in the third race Sunday, Nov. 1, after which he tested positive, and Chyonofuji ran third in the seventh race Thursday.