NFL Imposes 30-Day Minimum Suspension for Positive Steroid Test

DESERT, Calif. - Any NFL player who tests positive for steroids will be suspended for at least 30 days, commis- sioner Pete Rozelle announced Tuesday sioner Last year, the NFL began testing for steroids but delayed suspending players who tested positive until this year. A speWho tested positive until this year. A spe- cific length of suspension had not been specified until Tuesday.<br>At the same time, Rozelle gave notice to all current and potential NFL players 10 all current and potential NFL players which they will be tested over a seven-to-

10 day period during training camp. "I think this gives us the most strin gent drug program in any sport," he said. tests positive the first time will be sus tests positive the first time will be sus-
pended for 30 days, or until his tests come up negative, whichever is longer. The names of those testing positive will be
made pubblic the Wednesday before the final exhibition game, meaning they will miss that game and three during the regular season.
The playe The player would then become subject
to weekly testing and would be banned for to weekly testing and would be banned for
the season if they test positive a second

## Three More Players Cite

 Threats by Bloom, Walters> By Chris Mortensen Staf Writer
CHICAGO

- Prosecutors continue their attempts to link Norby Walters an Lioyd Bloom to organized crime when three
more football players testified Tuesday of threats they received from the two former The most se
> The most serious alleged threat was directed toward Dallas Cowboys wide receiv-
er Everett Gay during his senior season at Texas in 1986 .
> "He [Bloom] told me that they had a sitTim McGee when they had to send som people to the parents' house to collect som money owed to them," Gay testified. "He said, 'That's why we have friends in Califor-
nia, to make sure we don't get messed nia, to make sure we don't get messed
over." U.S. Attorney Anton Valukas then asked
Gay if he was aware of "who those friends were."
> "No, not then," said Gay
> W.S. District Coom are standing trial in teering, mail fraud, wire fraud and racketion for their involvement with college

> Former New York Colombo crime fam ily captain Michael Franzese testified las week that he was a silent partner of Walters and Bloom. Franzese moved to Los Angeles in late 1984 and testified that he gave
Walters permission to use his reputation a a crime figure to "settle disputes." However, Gay said he was never threatened personally by Walters, and he admit-
ted on the witness stand, "Il like Norby like him a lot... Im very impressed with Mr. Walters."
> Also testifying about threats were Gay's former college roommate, Edwin Simmons, and former Pittsburgh All-America line-
backer Tony Woods of the Seattle

Simmons first allegedly took over the
telephone the threat from Bloom on Nov. telephone the threat from Bloom on Nov.
13, 1986 that was directed at Gay, who was considering dropping the agents.
"He (Bloom] said "He [Bloom] said, No one does, Norby like that. If he [Gay] leaves, then we'll make
a phone call to some people in Las Vegas a phone call to some people in Las Vegas
who will come down and make sure Everett who will come down and make sure Everett
Gay doesn't play football again," Simmons testified.
Simmon Simmons added that he and Gay joked
about the threat about the threat because "we didn't take
Mr. Bloom seriously as far as him harming somebody."
Later, however, Simmons testified, "but I dider, perceive it as a threat because of I did perceive it as a threal
Gay said, "Edwin told me I shouldn't be going up for any passes, because I might
not come down. not come down. . . or come down with bro-
ken legs." ken legs.
Under cross examination, Gay also ad-
mitted that he did not immediately report mitted that he did not immediately report the threat to anybody, not even when ini-
tially interviewed by the FBI some tially interviewed by the FBI some six Woods, the first witness Tuesday, testified that Bloom and Walters threatened to expose his improper dealings with the agents to the NCAA and Pitt.
The jury then listened to a 30 -minute
tape-recorded telephone conversation tape-recorded
volving Whods, Bleopm, Walters and Terry
Bolar, who was hired Bolar, who was hired by Walters to retain disenchanted clients.
One recorded threat involved exposing
the fact that Walters and Bloom had providthe fact that Walters and Bloom had provid-
ed Darryl Woods, Tony's younger brother and then a sophomore player at Pitt, with a plane ticket to go home to New Jersey. "Norby says I have to do what I have to do now because he got the plane ticket," Bloom told Woods on the tape. "He wants
to give that (informationl to the NCAA so

during the last two seasons showed positive for steroid use.
Earlier Tuesday, the NFL owners apEarlier Tuesday, the NFL owners approved a series of rules changes, includ-
ing one that allows a referee to impose ing one that allows a referee to impose
penalties for crowd noise - eliminating what some coaches think of as "the Dome-
field advantage." The new steroid policy was the highThe new steroid policy was the high-
ght of the day.
Rozelle released a letter that will be Rozeile reeased a letter that will be
sent to all NFL players and prospective rookies outlining the policy. He said he had been informed by Dr. David Black of
Vanderbilt University, who will run the
program, that it will serve as sufficient
notice "in 95 percent of the cases" for players to get steroids out of their system. Rozelle said that Gene Upshaw, exec-
utive director of the NFL Players Union utive director of the NFL Players Union,
had agreed "that something had to be had agreed "that something had to be
done." Rozelle didn't say whether Uphaw went along with the disciplinary action, but said the union head had a copy of the
letter, which will be mailed to players within two weeks.
Dick Berthelsen, the union's chief
counsel, said if Rozelle thinks the counsel, said if Rozelle thinks the NFLPA
agrees to the plan, "he is misreading the agrees to the plan, "he is misreading the
situation."


Sports agent Lloyd Bloom, along with fharges of raciate Norby Walters, faces wire fraud and extortion.

## your brother can't play football for the next three years." On the tape, Walters later came to the phone and told Woods that a lawsuit he filed would be terrible for his reputation. There was considerable dispute between defense attorneys and prosecutors on defense attorneys and prosecutors on whether the tape recording was made before or after Walters filied a $\$ 500,000$ breach-of-contract suit against Woods. "This is my life on the line; now it's your life on the line," Walters said on the your life on the line," Walters said on the tape. "Io me, I say you have to examine it because it is your life, your reputation, your business, your family, your brother, Every., woods testified that he dropped WalWoods testified that he dropped Walters and Bloom because of rumors that linked the linked the agents to "the Mafia and cocaine selling." No evidence has ever come forseling. No evidence has ever come for- ward that Walters and Bloom have been involved with drugs. <br> Gay, Simmons and Woods each testified that they signed with Walters and Bloom in early 1986, several months prior to their senior seasons.

## Zane Smith Gets Call To Pitch Opening Day

| ㅁ The Exhibition Report, Page 5D By Joe Strauss Staff Writer | 'To tell the truth, I really don't |
| :---: | :---: |
| CLEARWATER, Fla. - Convinced by | have that many |
| another in a line of impressive spring per- | feelings abou |
| formances, Atlanta Braves manager Russ |  |
| Nixon decided Tuesday that Zane Smith | opening.day. 1 |
| will be the club's opening-day starter | guess some- |
| April 4 in Houston. | body's got to |
| Nixon strongly hinted that Smith will be followed in the rotation by Peter | do it.' |
| Smith, John Smoltz, Tom Glavine and the | -Zane Smith | undetermined fifth starter. Glavine's first start would be in the April 7 home opener against the Los Angeles Dodgers. opening-day start. It also represents a milestone for the lefthander, who under went arthroscopic surgery on his leffer-

bow last Sept. 1 and was considered a bow last Sept. 1 and was considered a
question mark upon entering camp after a question mark upon
$5-10$ season in 1988 .
"The way he's pitched, he has to be Tuesday's 7-2 loss to Philadelphia in which Smith allowed two runs, both unearned, in six innings. "In all fairness, he
should be the game for the guy who starts the first and the way he's pitching. There's no rea son not to."
Smith lowered his exhibition ERA to 1.35 and would have escaped unscored upon Tuesday if not for a pair of errors
with two outs in the sixth inning with two outs in the sixth inning. In five
starts worth 20 innings this spring has 12 strikeouts while allowing only 24 baserunners.
Smith expressed little emotion over
Nixon's decision. Nixon's decision.
"To tell you the
"To tell you the truth," said Smith, "I
opening day. I guess somebody's got to do
Smith was considered the likely open-ing-day starter last year following a $15-10$ ecord in 1987. However, bone chips in his elbow made every outing a struggle last
spring. Persistent pain flattened his pring. Persistent pain flattened his
curveball and he went on the disabled list
lis. Aug. 25.
"Starting opening day is nice, but I'd
rather make sure I get 35 starts this searather make sure I get 35 starts this sea-
son," said Smith, who never won two conon," said Smith, who never won two con-
secutive starts as last year's No. 2 man in "I just wanted to show everybody that " m healthy."
Nixon had hoped to give the first start Pete Smith, allowing for alternating Zane Smith, a and left-handed pitchers. No. 4 pitcher under such a scheme combination of Pete Smith's spring difficulties and Nixon's desire to have a lefthander begin the series against Los Angees prompted him to schedule Pete Smith nd Smoltz, both righthanders, on consecitive days.
Braves Not


