



Herschel Walker and Cowboys coach Tom Landry hold the jersey the former Generals running back will wear if and when he comes to terms with Dallas. Landry said Walker conceivably could play in the same backfield with Tony Dorsett in the Cowboys' regular-season opener against the Giants.

UPI Photo

Bryant Talks Stalled

Combined News Services

The Washington Redskins' negotiations with running back Kelvin Bryant have stalled because of a controversy over his USFL contract.

Bryant received a sizable bonus when he signed with the then-Philadelphia Stars in 1983. Part of that bonus, \$400,000, was deferred, and the Stars want Bryant to forfeit that bonus before they will release him to play in the NFL, a team source said.

General manager Bobby Beathard said the Redskins have come to terms with quarterback Doug Williams, who played two seasons in the USFL after five in the NFL with Tampa Bay.

Walker Meets With Cowboys

Running back Herschel Walker made his first appearance at the Cowboys' training camp with his agent in tow, and said he will be back to play soon. "I'd like to get everything under way right away. I'm ready to play," Walker said at a news conference in Thousand Oaks, Calif. "I can't use my ability sitting at home. I'd like to be here as soon as possible."

Both the Cowboys and Walker's agent, Peter Johnson, said they expect to begin discussing a contract immediately.

Kelly, Flutie Talks Can Begin

The Bills received permission from the NFL to start contract talks with Generals quarterback Jim Kelly. General manager Bill Polian said he will begin preliminary meetings "shortly" with Greg Lustig, one of Kelly's two agents.

Contract talks involving quarterback Doug Flutie also can begin today, one day after Generals owner Donald Trump officially gave Flutie permission to join the NFL. But the Rams, who hold the NFL rights to Flutie, apparently aren't interested in him.

The Rams received good news when arthroscopic surgery revealed only minimal damage to quarterback Dieter Brock's knee. He probably will be able to

play again in four weeks.

The Chiefs signed Irv Eatman, an all-USFL offensive tackle.

Rutigliano: I Was Misquoted

Former Browns coach Sam Rutigliano returned to his Ohio home from a coaching trip to Australia and New Zealand, claiming he was misquoted concerning a story about the cocaine-induced death of Browns free safety Don Rogers.

In the July 27 editions of the Sacramento Bee, Rutigliano was quoted as blaming Cleveland's management for "having their heads in the sand about drug use," adding it was "absolutely certain" Rogers was introduced to drugs after he joined the Browns. Rutigliano denied making those statements, but reporter R.E. Graswich stood by his story.

In a related story, defensive tackle Reggie Rogers, Rogers' brother, said he will submit to drug tests while playing football at the University of Washington. "I'm doing this to make sure my mother and sister can hold their heads high," he said.

Broncos' Chavous Retires

Defensive end Barney Chavous, who played in more games than any player for the Broncos (182), retired after 13 seasons. . . . The Raiders released veteran safety Odis McKinney. . . . Colts safety Anthony Young, a starter in 12 games as a rookie last year, retired because of a spinal injury. . . . The Cowboys lost defensive tackle Kevin Brooks, who underwent arthroscopic surgery for a dislocated kneecap, for six to eight weeks. The Cowboys signed former Generals tight end Jeff Spek. . . . The Bills signed their first-round draft picks: offensive tackle Will Wofford and running back **Ronnie Harmon** of Queens. **Harmon**, who played for **Iowa** and was the 16th pick overall, signed a series of one-year contracts. . . . The Steelers signed first-round pick John Rienstra, an offensive guard.

Rosters Likely to Stay at 45

By Peter King

The hottest issue at today's long-delayed National Football League summer meetings in Manhattan is roster size, and the faction favoring the 45-man roster seems to have an edge.

At least 16 teams favor an expansion of the rosters from 45 to 49 (or anything higher than 45) for the 1986 season, but the league requires a three-quarter vote of its membership to enact a rules change. So at least 21 of 28 member clubs must vote to increase team size for a change to be made.

"Informally, I still count at least eight [teams] who will vote against an increase," said Cleveland president Art Modell.

Last fall, the vote was 16-8 in favor of returning the rosters to 49 men, the level used from November, 1982, through the 1984 season. Four teams abstained. Now NFL teams face an influx of 600 prospects from United States Football League rosters, with so little time to judge the players before the Sept. 7 opening of the season. At least one team, Atlanta,

will vote to keep rosters at 45 while urging for passage of a two- or three-week roster exemption for former USFL players arriving in training camp late.

It's likely that the pro-49 forces will not propose a vote on 49-man rosters if the opposition looks overwhelming; they may instead compromise and ask a vote on 46- or 47-man rosters. One team that wants 49 is Cleveland, which voted for 45 a year ago. Most clubs saw the reduction as a way to save money, but the cost-saving was minimal: In 1984, teams carried an average of 58 players, including those on injured reserve; in 1985, the average was 56.

"I think it was the biggest mistake I ever made in my life," Modell said. "I thought it would be a smart economic move and save us some money, but I saved nothing. I was paying 16 players on injured reserve. Then they got healthy and I couldn't play them because the rosters were 45."

Also at today's meeting, postponed from June 4-5 in Kansas City because of the NFL-USFL trial, the teams will be briefed on the outcome of the trial and on taking in USFL players.

BARTH on BARTH



"Like you, I read or watch the news and puzzle over what it means.

I ask myself what the headlines have to do with me, my husband and our two small children. And how, I wonder, does 'the news' connect to the lives of our friends and neighbors, to all of you out there who are Newsday's readers?

When I find connections I write a column.

You could say I get paid to worry, although I'd probably do it for free.

When it was announced that many foodstuffs contained 'unacceptable levels of EDB' I realized I'd poisoned my kids at breakfast that very day. Like many of you, I suspected there was nothing safe left to eat.

When I saw TV footage of dead Iranian soldiers, aged 9, 10, 11 and 12, I was outraged. How dare the world's politicians talk about the Iraq-Iran war only in terms of oil? I do not believe that Iranian parents love their children less than you or I love ours. That week's column set out to challenge the life-is-cheap assumption of so-called statesmen around the world.

Some columns start with the personal. We all have friends looking for Mr. or Ms. Right. And I bet you've heard, like I have, the plaint: there are no men out there. I decided to see if the most recent census revealed a man shortage. The news is it does — in minority communities and in the suburbs. But there are more unattached white men than white women living in the city of New York.

My Ideas section column is full of surprises — even to me. So relax on Sundays and let me do the worrying for you."

Read Ilene Barth's column every Sunday.

Newsday