

Sports fans brace for another strike; NFL players talk about walking out

Remember last year about this time when it seemed like all you ever read about was the baseball strike? Well, get ready, sports fans, because in a few months you'll be in for more of the same.

This time it's the NFL players who are going to be talking strike. And, considering how far apart the two sides are, chances are good that the players will walk out at some time during the season.

Of course, this is nothing new for the NFL. You might recall that the players walked out of training camp a few years ago. But they've learned something since then by



Jeff Goodwin

watching the baseball players' strike last year: If you're going to walk out, do it during the season when the owners are most vulnerable.

The football owners are vulnerable for a number of reasons. First of all, they can't afford a long strike. If the NFL is out of commission as long as the major leagues were last year, more than half of their season will be wiped out.

Of course, the NFL owners have said they would be willing to use non-union labor if it comes down to a strike.

Well, I don't know about you, but I'd like to know where the owners are going to find someone crazy enough to cross a picket line that has someone like Jack Lambert of Conrad Dabler on it. They'd have to comb every insane asylum in the country.

The NFL has another problem in the event of a strike:

NFL draft. . .

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19. **New York Giants** — Gerald Willhite, RB, San Jose State. Willhite could add a lot of spark to the Giants' "punt and pray for a fumble" offense.

20. **Denver Broncos** — Lindsay Scott, WR, Georgia. How can a team that needs so many players be drafting this low? Scott is good enough that they could be drafting this low again next year, too.

21. **Philadelphia Eagles** — Luis Sharpe, OT, UCLA. The Eagles draft Sharpe because their current tackles are getting old. How old? Hint: Their names are Cain and Abel.

22. **Buffalo Bills** — Emil Boures, OG, Pittsburgh. What the Bills really need they cannot draft. They need a warmer city. Boures will learn the rolling-bite block from Bills guard Conrad Dabler before he gets a starting spot.

23. **Green Bay Packers** — Bubba Paris, OT, Michigan. When you think of locations for professional sports franchises, you don't automatically think of Green Bay, Wis. Bubba Paris probably didn't either.

24. **New York Jets** — Bob Crable, LB, Notre Dame. The Jets are hoping that Notre Dame's 5-6 record last year was not Bob Crable's fault.

25. **Miami Dolphins** — Lester Williams,

DT, Miami, Fla. Some say this was an off year for defensive linemen. But the Dolphins will draft Williams, a hometown favorite, and he'll be in the Pro Bowl in a couple of years.

26. **Dallas Cowboys** — Rohn Stark, P, Florida State. A punter in the first round, you laugh? In the first place, Stark is to punting what Mercedes is to cars. In the second place, the Cowboys can no longer afford to risk Danny White as the punter. Remember, White is both punter and quarterback, so as long as he's back there on fourth down the Cowboys are a high snap away from a season of Glenn Carano at quarterback.

27. **Cincinnati Bengals** — Darrin Nelson, RB, Stanford. The Bengals get a modest revenge on the 49ers, who wanted Nelson badly. Of course, the Bengals would rather have drafted after the 49ers, because that would have meant the Bengals had won the Super Bowl. He who drafts last, laughs best.

28. **San Francisco 49ers** — Reggie McElroy, West Texas State. While the 49ers' offensive line should not be known as "The Golden Gate," don't be surprised if McElroy is the best player in the unit by the end of next season.

college football. Last year there were minor league baseball and soccer games to watch during the strike, and some people actually did. But neither of those sports has the support that college football has. Add the fact that, among a lot of people, college football is more popular than professional football anyway, and the NFL has a potential problem on its hands.

The main problem keeping the two sides apart is the issue of revenue. The players say they should get a share of the revenue from the games because, after all, it is their labor that is producing those profits.

The owners say: "Wait a minute. You guys get enough as it is. Those revenues are ours. We need them to show a profit."

And the fans say: "All we want to see is a football game."

At first glance it may seem ridiculous that someone who is earning an annual salary in the neighborhood of six figures is out walking a picket line.

But when you stop to consider the NFL's latest television contract with the three networks, it doesn't seem that odd.

The contracts call for the NFL to receive more than \$1 billion for the rights to its games. We all know who's going to be playing those games. And that \$1 billion doesn't even include the revenue teams get from local radio and television, all the products the teams market and all that beer they sell on Sundays.

It's anybody's guess what will happen, but at this point, a strike seems inevitable.

If a strike occurs it probably would be during the season as that would have the maximum impact.

Maybe the most frightening aspect of the whole thing is a question that no one really wants to think about. What will America do on Monday nights without Fearless Frank, Humble Howard and Dandy Don?

Sports Shorts

Radio station KBHL-FM will provide live coverage of the NBA play-offs and championship series which began this week.

A minimum of 19 games will be broadcast over the Mutual Broadcasting System. Announcer Tony Roberts will do play-by-play announcing for Mutual, along with Hubie Brown, former Atlanta Hawks coach, John Kerr and Tom Hawkins.

The spring sale of 1982 student football tickets begins Monday at the Athletic Ticket Office, South Stadium 117.

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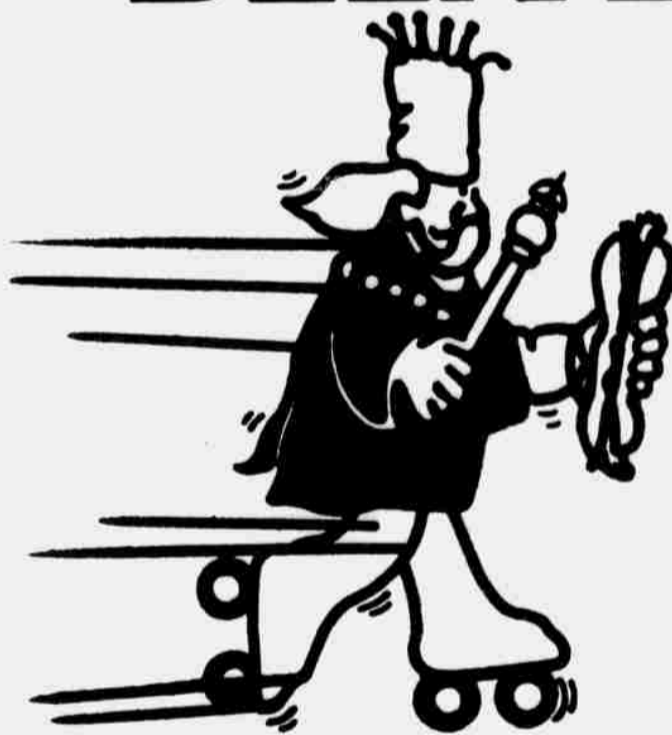
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Track teams to vie at Drake

Don't blame Gary Pepin if he tells you he thinks somebody up there doesn't like him. The women's track coach said an accurate way to look at the injury situation of his team, heading into today's Drake Relays in Des Moines, would be to compare it to the healthy list.

"The healthy list would be shorter," he said.

Pepin said bad weather at meets has caused many of the mishaps but said bad luck has also played a role. What else can it be called when team member Nancy Kindig is injured when she gets hit by an errant javelin throw?

"We're just trying to get the team healthy again," Pepin said. "Anyone who has magic potions or knows some witch doctors is welcome to help us."

Pepin said his squad will have only seven or eight entrants in the relays, far fewer than he would like to have entered. He said he is hoping just to get his team back together again, saying the scant representation at the Drake Relays will not achieve that. Injuries have hit too hard.

On the men's side, the situation is looking good. Fresh off an impressive outing against Iowa State, Frank Sevgine said the quality of the Drake Relays should be a boost to his squad.

"It's a national meet of national quality and is very meaningful as far as the kids competing in it are concerned," he said.

In the Huskers' win against Iowa State, several athletes set personal records. Eleven members of the squad achieved career bests.

Mark Fluitt, a men's assistant coach, said more personal records could be set in Des Moines. The Huskers will be concentrating mainly on the relay events, the featured events of the meet.

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