

No tears shed for Jim Brown comeback

Don't tell him I said this, but Jim Brown is a cry baby.

Really, he is.

Eighteen years after he retired, Brown is threatening to return to the National Football League. Jim Brown is 47 years old. He has been out of the game since before some UNL students were born.

Why on earth would he want to return?

Jim Brown retired with 12,312 yards rushing to his credit in nine NFL seasons, a truly remarkable achievement. In that nine-year career, he led the league in rushing an incredible eight times. His 1,863 yards in 1963 was the league mark until O.J. Simpson's magical 2,003-yard 1973 season.

No question about it, Jim Brown was one of the greatest pro football players in history. So why

would he want to return to the game a generation after he left it?

The reason is that the big meanie in Pittsburgh, Franco Harris, is bearing down hard on that 12,312-yard rushing record. Brown accuses Harris of staying in the game only to break the mark, and if Harris does surpass the total, Brown says, he'll return to the gridiron to pad his stats and reclaim the record.

Jim, when are you going to wake up? Admittedly, Harris has logged more than nine pro seasons, and perhaps you are right in saying that he's only playing for the record.

So what? The record says "Most yards rushing — career," not "Most yards rushing in a nine-year career." I think Mr. Brown is forgetting that he left the NFL on his own in 1965, at the peak of his career. He could have played five or ten more years and established a mark far out of Harris' reach. But he didn't. He left the game voluntarily. Nobody forced his retirement.

And so what if Jim Brown's name is replaced on that career rushing record? Folks will still remember him as one of the true greats of the game, just as

much as Babe Ruth is still remembered as one of the best baseball players of all time ten years after Henry Aaron broke Ruth's mark of 714 home runs. The many achievements of Jim Brown will be remembered.

A couple weeks ago, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar scored his 31,421st career point, breaking the legendary Wilt Chamberlain's NBA mark. How did Wilt react? Is he planning a comeback to reclaim the record?

Hardly. In fact, Chamberlain has lauded Abdul-Jabbar for his new record. No longer will the name of Wilt Chamberlain appear under the heading, "Most points — career," but Wilt knows that he will still be remembered as one of the best ever.

The old adage says that records are made to be broken. No doubt, somewhere down the line, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar won't hold the NBA career scoring record, and Franco Harris won't hold the NFL rushing mark. And when that day comes, I hope Harris and Abdul-Jabbar will behave like Wilt Chamberlain, and not like that (please don't tell him I called him this) cry baby Jim Brown.

Rec Scoreboard

(Sportsmanship ratings in parentheses)

Men's Soccer

Fraternities A

Delta Tau Delta def. Sigma Alpha Epsilon by forfeit

Phi Kappa Psi (3.3) 4, Lambda Chi Alpha (3.3) 0

Acacia (3.4) 5, Alpha Tau Omega (3.4) 1

Sigma Nu (3.0) 1, Sigma Phi Epsilon (3.4) 0

Fraternities

Sigma Alpha Mu C def. Tau Kappa Epsilon C by forfeit

Sigma Alpha Epsilon C (3.3) 1, Phi Kappa Psi C (3.0) 0

Alpha Tau Omega C (3.3) 2, Theta Xi C (3.3) 0

Alpha Tau Omega B def. Delta Sigma Phi by forfeit

Phi Delta Theta B (4.3) 4, Sigma Alpha Epsilon B (4.3) 0

Delta Tau Delta B def. Chi Phi B by forfeit

Tau Kappa Epsilon B def. Alpha Gamma Rho B by forfeit

Delta Upsilon B def. Sigma Phi Epsilon B by forfeit

Co-Rec Softball B

DSBs def. Theta Chi by forfeit

Cather Three/Pound Eleven 16, Sandoz Five/Abel Eleven 15

Bang Gang def. LXIXERS by forfeit

Smith Five/Schramm Six 19, Don Hos 11

Abel Twelve 19, Food Science 15

Architorture 17, Cather Four/Pound Thirteen 16

Herper Six/Schramm Seven 16, Beta Sigma Psi 10

Ag Men def. Team #3 by forfeit

Schramm Two 16, Alpha Gamma Sigma 15

Burr One East/Love Hall def. I Tappa Keg

Eliminators 19, Where's the Beef 15

Soupbones 23, TKE/Little Sisters 14

Something Wicked def. Team #2 by forfeit

Bison Rangers Abel Three 11

Jesus is Lord 17, Alpha Gamma Rho/Little Sisters 13

No Names 11, Delta Upsilon/Gamma Phi Beta 7

NAYC 17, Cather Three/Pound Seven 16

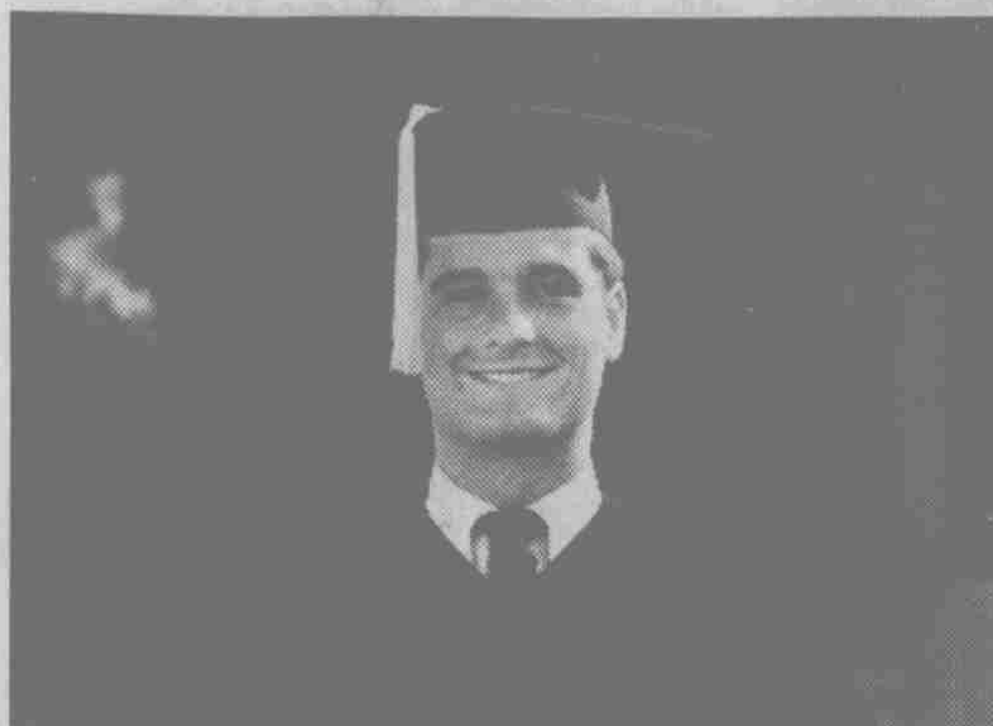
Jamokes 15, KKG/Hashers 11

Delta Gamma/Sigma Chi 12, Raymond Rangers 7

Sigma Chi/Phi Kappa Psi 25, Towne Club/Cather Four 9

Suds & Such 16, Triangle 12

Fig Mutants def. Quotation Marks by forfeit



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