

NFL Flattered By Presentations For Franchise

WASHINGTON (AP)—Seven cities flattered the National Football League Wednesday with attractive bids for a 16th franchise in 1967 as assorted governors, senators, congressmen, mayors and businessmen paraded into the league meeting.

When it was all over, Commissioner Pete Rozelle refused to single out any leader among Houston, New Orleans, Cincinnati, Seattle, Boston, Phoenix and Portland, Ore.

He would not say when a decision will be made.

"The most significant thing was the amazing enthusiasm, the caliber of the people and the polish of the presentations," said Rozelle. "We were most flattered."

"Our next move will be to begin to evaluate all the developments. We probably will coordinate the material at the league office and send a summary to the owners for a subsequent meeting, or meetings."

"It is possible we may call back various groups or visit the cities."

The presentations ranged from a proposed \$97.5-million sports complex in Boston to a \$2.5-million stadium in Phoenix.

Houston, of course, already has its Astrodome whose owner, Judge Roy Hofheinz, appeared at the meeting as a potential landlord. The Astrodome has a 52,000 seating capacity for football with an additional 12,000 standing room.

Gov. James Rhodes of Ohio offered a unique proposal on be-

half of Cincinnati. He said the new franchise owner would agree to pay the visiting team on the basis of a sellout of a 55,000-seat stadium to be ready in August 1968, while playing in an interim park with capacity of less than 35,000.

Until the park is ready, Cincinnati would play at the University of Cincinnati's Nippert Stadium or at Crosley Field. Sen. Frank Lausche, D-Ohio, also made a pitch for Cincinnati.

Seattle, represented by Sens. Henry Jackson, D-Wash., and Warren Magnuson, D-Wash., among its four-man group, said it had planned to build a 55,000-seat domed stadium at a cost of \$38 million pending a vote on a bond issue Sept. 20.

While a stadium is being built, the club could play at the University of Washington stadium, which has 55,000 seats.

Gov. John McKeithen of Louisiana spoke for the huge New Orleans delegation. He pointed out that New Orleans had the use of Tulane Stadium, home of the Sugar Bowl, with its 82,000 seats, until the proposed \$25-million domed stadium could be built.

Boston was the first group to make a pitch, in alphabetical order. Mayor John Collins said the city planned a \$97.5 million sports complex, including a 55,000-seat stadium with a dome, and could play in Fenway Park, home of the baseball Red Sox, until the Stadium is finished.

Strength Festival Set

A Strength Festival is set for 4:30 p.m. Saturday in Hensel Park. The event is free to the public.

The festival will include a novice power lift meet and a weightlifting exhibition which will start after the power lift meet.

The novice meet is open to A&M students and others who have not placed higher than third in an open meet. There will be four classes in the meet and each class will have three winners. An overall winner will receive an 18-inch trophy.

The weightlifting exhibition will feature some of the outstanding lifters in Texas, including A&M's Sid Robin who last week won second place at the Texas Open meet in Waco. He lifted 1090 pounds in three lifts.

Entry fee for the event is \$2 per contestant.



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