

Bob Hayes charges discrimination in Pro Bowl selections

By WILL GRIMSLEY
AP Special Correspondent

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Bob Hayes isn't sore at all the attention being focused on his Super Bowl rival, Paul Warfield, but that doesn't mean he isn't seething.

He claims he is being discriminated against—for personal or political reasons—in being left off the squad for the National Football League Pro Bowl game in Los Angeles Jan. 23.

"I've been out of favor since I refused to run a 100-yard dash at half time in 1968," the former Olympic sprint champion, wide receiver of the Dallas Cowboys, complained Tuesday.

"I have the best record in the National Football Conference. But

do I get any recognition? No, sir, they passed over me again—just as they have for the last four years."

The 29-year-old seven-year veteran from Florida A&M is Dallas' long-ball, game-breaking threat in the Super Bowl next Sunday against Miami. But he has been virtually overshadowed by the Dolphins' fleet Warfield. "That doesn't bug me at all," Hayes said Tuesday in a pre-practice interview. "Warfield and

I have been rivals ever since he played for Cleveland. One year he may have the best record, the next year I might have it.

"Warfield runs great routes. He hustles all the time. He is a fine player. I'm honored to have the chance to compete against him in the Super Bowl.

"What really bothers me is that I haven't been given recognition for the season I've had, especially in the selection for the Pro Bowl."

The Pro Bowl is a contest be-

tween all-stars of the American Football Conference and National Football Conference, with squads chosen by vote of the coaches. There have been charges that the squads are sometimes chosen with political considerations.

"I think I've been given the zinger by Glenn Davis," Hayes said, referring to the former Army backfield star who directs the Los Angeles attraction. It dates back to 1968.

"That year Davis asked me

to run a 100-yard dash against Homer Jones at halftime. I refused. Since then, I haven't been on a Pro Bowl squad.

"Look at the guys picked over me—Gordon, Grim, Jefferson and Washington. Not a one had as good an average as I did."

Statistics back Hayes.

The Cowboy wide receiver caught 35 passes for 840 yards and a 24-yard average, the best in the NFC. Dick Gordon of Chicago had a 14.2 average and five

touchdowns; Bob Grim of Minnesota, 15.4 and seven; Roy Jefferson of Washington, 14.9 and four, and Gene Washington of San Francisco, 19.2 and four.

Hayes' percentage even tops that of Warfield, who led the AFC with a 23.2 average. Warfield caught 43 passes for 996 yards and 11 touchdowns, exceeding Hayes in these categories.

Warfield's longest pass play was 86 yards. Hayes had one of 85.

However, Hayes sees the of the big bomb in pro football diminishing because of the involved zone defenses.

"They're going more for short over-the-middle and side passes. So the wide receiver doesn't have as much of a chance to shine," he said.

"It's too bad. The bomb is excitement to the game. They don't pay their money to see a defensive game. They want big strike."

Ali to fight more before rematch

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Muhammad Ali said Tuesday he needed four or five more tuneup fights before the rematch with heavyweight champion Joe Frazier. He said he expected to fight Frazier again in six or seven months.

In Beirut for a rest on his two-week tour of the Middle East, Ali told a news conference there were no definite arrangements for his next bout and rejected a suggestion he was choosing easy opponents on his way to the Frazier fight.

"I fight them as serious as they can be," he said. "I came back after exile to fight Jerry Quarry and Oscar Bonavena and didn't have to. Since the Frazier fight, which seems like just yesterday, I've had three fights."

Ali said he was confident that he will win the rematch with Frazier.

About the last fight on March 8, he said, "I played with him for three rounds, gave them away. I stood in the corner and didn't move just to show him and his fans—which I shouldn't have done, it was silly—to show him his body punches couldn't hurt a great fighter like me.

"Talk before the fight was that he would hurt me with body blows. There was none of that after the fight and which one of us had to go to the hospital for a month?" he asked.

Recruits here for SMU game

Fans at Saturday night's basketball game with the Southern Methodist Mustangs will be treated to the halftime introduction of this year's football recruits.

Coach Emory Bellard's staff will bring to A&M for the first time the high school seniors they are trying to sign to scholarships for next year's Aggie team.

The visit will mark the first time the group has been together here. The prospects have been recruited since Bellard and his staff started talking to the athletes after all the assistants were named New Year's Day.

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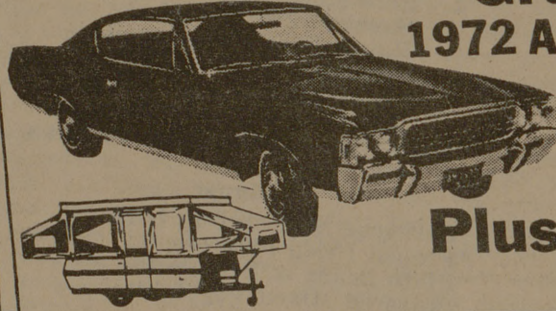
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