

Sports fan speaks out

# Stress says pro draft should be abolished

"I'm concerned that anybody in any industry can draft anybody to work," says Stan Stress, a 55-year-old real estate man in San Diego who is lobbying to end all drafting of college and high school athletes into professional sports. Twenty times in the last two years Stress sent 200 to 300 mailings urging that the draft be abolished. His mailing list included President Nixon, every member of the Supreme Court, all senators, many congressmen, major TV networks and wire services and some media members.

Why is Stress so critical of the draft system? "Because," he said in an interview, "it is the devil." Stress' concern was stimulated when he read of Duane Thomas' contract with the Dallas Cowboys denoting successive salaries of \$18,000, \$20,000 and \$22,000. In this he discovered that Thomas, who signed for a \$25,000 bonus, "had been placed in bondage." He began in January 1971 to send out letters. Some also came in. "Elroy Hirsch wrote and called me extremely stupid," said Stress. A representative of the President said it was a matter for Congress. Leonard Koppett (a New York Times reporter) said the pro draft clearly was illegal but had not been

tested. "A doctor, lawyer, teacher or businessman can practice where he wants and for whoever he wants. That is the case in all professions but pro sports. I don't see movie studios drafting Richard Burton or Rachel Welch." Stress said in an open letter to the people of the United States, "Pro sports are to sport what prostitution is to sex." He also wrote in an open letter to college presidents, "In the only court case (Spencer Haywood, a basketball player) challenging the college draft, the court ruled the four year rule to be illegal, period. To pervert the court ruling the Na-

American running back from Texas. He told Leaks in the letter that had he been eligible for the NFL draft last year he would have been a No. 1 draft choice. However, no football player can be employed until he has finished his college eligibility. Stress stressed that Leaks' knee

tional Basketball Association instituted a rule by which a superstar player who can prove 'poverty' can be an exception. In football there are no exceptions."

Last week Stress wrote an open letter to Roosevelt Leaks, the All-

injury made his career a huge gamble. He also suggested in the letter that Leaks sue the NFL and WFL for damages totaling two million dollars because his career could have been jeopardized by the pro draft rule.

Leaks could not be reached. There has been no information released stating whether any action will be taken or not.

Obviously, somebody has been listening to Stress' complaints. In December of 1973, Democratic

Senators Sam Ervin of North Carolina and John Tunney of California sponsored a bill to outlaw all player drafts held by pro sport leagues and to protect the constitutional rights of pro athletes.

The late Democratic Congressman Emanuel Celler of New York, sponsored a similar bill in the House of Representatives. Both bills have been examined by subcommittees, but with Watergate the prime issue of Congress there could be some time before action is taken.

## Mantle, Ford on roster Old-Timers get ready for game

Three names synonymous with New York Yankee baseball supremacy in years gone by—Mickey Mantle, Whitey Ford and Billy Martin—have agreed to play in the inaugural Old-Timers Game at Arlington Stadium on Saturday night, July 6.

The trio joins an illustrious group of former Yankees who will meet the Texas Stars, a squad of former major league players born or living in Texas, for the two inning contest to be played prior to the American League game between the Texas Rangers and the New York club.

Earlier invitations were accepted by Joe DiMaggio, Alie Reynolds, Bobby Richardson, Tommy Henrich, Ed Lopat, Gene Woodling, Joe Collins, Hank Bauer, Tom Ferrick and Gil McDougald.

Texas Stars in the fold include Jimmy Piersall, Solly Hemus, Bobby Bragan and Paul Richards.

Ticket demands to date indicate a huge throng will be on hand to witness the sparkling performers of yesteryear.

Mantle, Martin and Ford own a vast array of honors and records.

Mantle, who now lives in Dallas, won the American League Triple Crown in 1956 and was the league's most valuable player in 1956-57-62 and named Major League Player of the year in 1956. Mickey, who hit 536 home runs in his Yankee career, appeared in 12 All-Star Games.

He also played 65 games in 12 World Series and hit a grand slam homer in the 1953 series against the Brooklyn Dodgers. His records include most homers (18), most runs (42) and most RBIs (40).

Ford was the winningest pitcher in Yankee history with a 236-106 record and won the Cy Young Award in 1961, the American League Pitcher of the Year title in 1955, '61 and '63. His World Series accomplishments include total series (11), games pitched (22), innings (146), victories (10), strikeouts (94) and consecutive shutout innings (33.2), which erased Babe Ruth's record.

## WFL names local man to officiate

A good look at the new World Football League shows that it is striving to get the best of everything, including officials.

Among those chosen to wear the new blue, white and gold official's uniform is Bryan's own Dr. Jay Williams. He has served his community as the director of the Parks and Recreation Department of Bryan and is a local civic club leader as well as being active in the Baptist Church.

His qualifications stand out as he has received his bachelor's and doctor's degree from Texas A&M. He also has 18 years experience in officiating football and basketball on the college and high school level.

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## Staubach lengthens contract with Pokes

The Dallas Cowboys assured themselves Saturday of a first class quarterback for an unannounced number of years with the signing of Roger Staubach to a new contract.

Hank Schramm, president and general manager of the NFL club, said Staubach was signed to one of the longer multi-year contracts, but no length was specified.

Schramm said, "He's one of the players of our future and we're quite happy to have him under a new contract."

Staubach, 32, was out of big-time football for four years while serving in the Navy after graduating from Annapolis.

The announcement ended all rumors that Staubach might be one of the players negotiating with the new World Football League.

The WFL already has signed three of the Cowboy's top players and there have been hints that further signings would shock Dallas fans.


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