

presented by  
**The Shape of Things**  
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### Will Namath join?

## World Football League hopes for better tidings

NEW YORK (AP) — The World Football League's coming-out party is at 10:30 Wednesday morning. The trappings will include promises of better times, pledges to repay

past debts and a hint that Joe Namath might be around.

Things can only get better for this league, which is expected to announce that between 8 and 11 teams will make another run at respectability and profitability — two factors it has thus far lacked.

League officials have huddled in day-long meetings for three days, and a source who sat in on the sessions said that by Tuesday afternoon no one was sure just how many teams would compose the WFL, Part II.

These teams are set: Hawaii, Southern California, Shreveport, La., Philadelphia and Memphis. Teams considered nearly ready to play are San Antonio, Birmingham and Chicago. Possibilities include Charlotte, N.C., and Portland, Ore.

Whatever the WFL announces Wednesday, it will do it with an all-star lineup including Larry Csonka, Jim Kiick, Paul Warfield and Calvin Hill, all of whom plan to play in the league next season.

At the same time, a league source was being careful to spread the word that the WFL had offered something like \$2 million to Joe Namath to bring his right arm, battered knees and immense ticket-selling ability to the organization which vows it has changed its ways.

There was no comment from Namath concerning the leaks, all of which surely cannot harm his bargaining position with the New York Jets.

The league would love to have Namath play for it in Chicago, where the WFL is trying to build a flagship franchise to attract television money and compete against a

National Football League franchise which has not made a habit of winning lately.

League President Chris Hemmeyer, who has almost singlehandedly rescued the WFL from what seemed a certain death, has outlined a reorganization plan under which most league players will get less salary than last year. But since many of them weren't paid most of last year, a guaranteed check in 1975 might be considerably better.

Under Hemmeyer's plan, those not in the Namath-Csonka-Hill class will get a percentage — usually one per cent — of their team's gross revenue, with a \$10,000 salary guaranteed if the club fails to take in \$1 million.

The teams will be required to place all operating funds in escrowed bank accounts to assure that salaries and other bills are paid.

Meanwhile, Hemmeyer is outlining the league's plans to repay all its past debts, which currently stand at about \$5 million.

In the cases of players who were not paid, the league is offering to give them between 15 and 25 per cent of the outstanding balance now, and to pay the remainder over a five-year period, with 6 per cent interest. If the players decline that offer, Hemmeyer says the league will make an offer of a cash settlement.

The league plans to play a 20-game schedule in 1975, but this year plans to play on weekends instead of weekdays, beginning the first weekend in August.

### Rangers nip Chisox, 6-5 in long titl

CHICAGO (AP) — Dave Nelson singled, stole second and raced home on single by Joe Lovitto in the 13th inning Tuesday to give the Texas Rangers a 6-5 victory over the Chicago White Sox.

Lovitto's game-winning hit came off reliever Rich Gossage, who entered the game in the seventh. Jim Merritt, the fifth Texas pitcher, was the winner.

The Rangers tied it 5-5 in the eighth when Jim Spencer led off with a double, took third on Toby Harrah's single and scored on a ground out by Mike Hargrove.

Singles by rookie Nyls Nyman and Bucky Dent capped a four-run, seventh inning that put Chicago on top 5-4.

### SMU net coach signs four players

DALLAS (AP) — Southern Methodist University tennis coach John Gardner Tuesday announced the signing of four players and called the group potential national champions in a few years.

The four players signed are Mark Turpin of Dallas, Chris Delaney of Potomac, Md., Mark Vines of Richmond, Va., and Pem Guerry of Lookout Mountain, Tenn.

"This is the best recruiting year in SMU history," he said. "We could have a potential national champion team if they progress as anticipated."

Turpin won the 1974 Sugar Bowl championship and two state titles. Vines is the No. 1 ranked age group player in Virginia and Guerry is No. 1 in Tennessee. Guerry is the brother of Zan Guerry, a four-time All-America at Rice.

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