

the sports

No takers on 'Snake'

By MILTON RICHMAN
UPI Sports Editor

NEW YORK — You have to say this much for Ken Stabler — he tried.

He tried so hard, he wound up right back where he started, which explains why he's likely to be showing up at the Oakland Raiders' camp in Santa Rosa, Calif., this weekend.

The 33-year-old quarterback they call "the Snake" is one of those players who doesn't ordinarily communicate with mere reporters anymore but the last time he deigned to do that he said he was generally unhappy over his situation

with the Raiders. He felt they simply didn't appreciate him. Furthermore, he believed this whole attitude stemmed from the top, meaning Al Davis who is the Raiders' boss.

Stabler's attorney, Henry Pitts of Selma, Ala. claimed his client was "the premier quarterback" in the NFL and that Davis was being so intransigent about the whole thing, he wouldn't even consider trading Stabler to another club. The clubs Stabler had in mind were the New York Giants, Los Angeles Rams, Atlanta Falcons and Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

When this information was re-

layed to Davis by a San Francisco newsman, the Raiders' managing general partner told the reporter to determine from Stabler and Pitts what they thought Stabler was worth on the open market. The answer came back that they felt Stabler should bring two front line players and two first-round draft choices in any kind of trade.

Davis said that was fine with him. He went along with it. He did specify, however, the two front line players would have to be "young" and "free of injury." These would be the "minimum requirements." By that, Davis said, he meant he'd take two young front-liners from a club like the Giants, Falcons and Buccaneers but if there was to be any deal with the Rams, he would want three front-line players.

Upon hearing this, Stabler, through Pitts, sought permission to make a deal for himself with the clubs of his choice. Davis sent back word to Pitts to go right ahead.

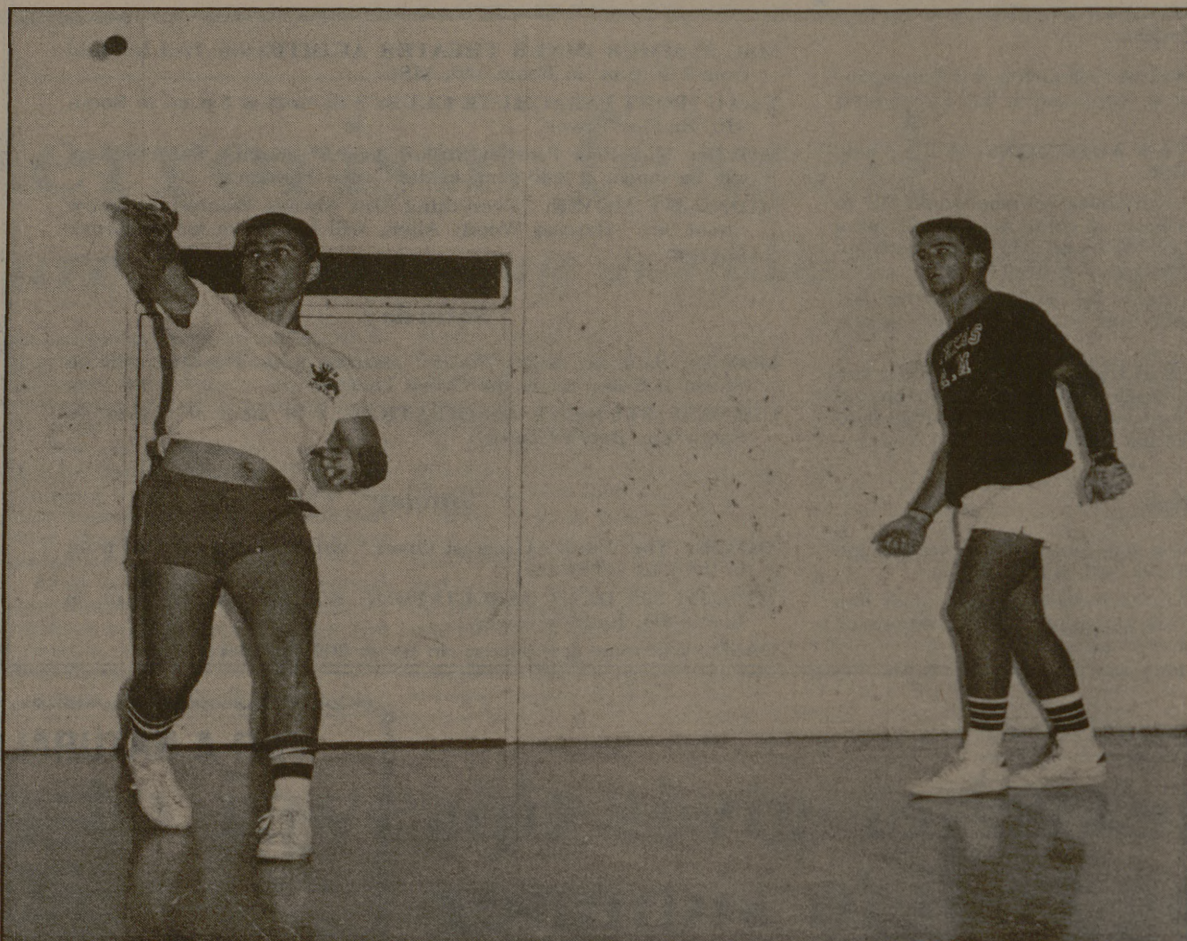
The Giants were Stabler's first choice for a number of reasons. First of all, he liked the idea of playing for the Giants' new coach, Ray Perkins, who was a teammate of his at Alabama, and secondly, there was the added exposure he'd get being in, or at least, very close, to a city like New York.

Historically, the Giants could be thinking back 18 years ago when they also traded for a veteran quarterback in the Bay Area many people thought was washed up after he had played for the San Francisco 49ers 10 years, and how this balding, 35-year-old gamester by the name of Y.A. Tittle led them to the last championship game in which they were involved.

If they made a deal for Stabler, the Raiders naturally would be interested in getting a young quarterback in return. What about Phil Simms, the Giants' top draft choice? Would they consider giving up someone like him and, say, one of their linebackers like Harry Carson? I put that question to George Young, the Giants' new general manager, and he didn't duck it at all.

"I think Stabler has been a great player in this league," he said. "I know Ray (Perkins) thinks a lot of the guy and they're great friends, but we're committed in a different direction."

From speaking with George Young, I come away with the impression that he wouldn't mind having an experienced quarterback, a five-time All Pro like Stabler but he isn't about to give up what it would take to get him. I can't say I blame him, especially at this stage where most of his efforts with the Giants



Oops!

Intramurals will be underway once again. Entries for all sports close July 16th at 12 noon. The second summer session and handball doubles is just one of the activities available.

revolve essentially around building good kind of foundation with young players.

I also get the feeling the Raiders would make a deal for Stabler if one could be worked out. I even think they'd take a chance with an untried prospect like Simms out of little Morehead State. If the Raiders are leaving it up to Stabler and Pitts to make the deal, however, the chances of one being completed are practically nil, keeping in mind

neither have ever swung a trade before and it's a lot easier to talk about one than to make one.

Two thoughts keep coming back to me on all this. Wasn't it only a couple of weeks ago that some fans at the NFL draft booed the Giants for making someone like unknown Phil Simms from little Morehead State their first draft choice? And he could turn out to be the next Terry Bradshaw, who came from little Louisiana Tech.

And wasn't it not that long ago that young, eager Ken Stabler, picking up splinters on the bench watching Daryle Lamonia and George Blanda ahead of him at quarterback, wondered when he'd ever get a chance to play for Oakland? He thought those two guys would never leave. What he wouldn't give to play more for the Raiders, I remember him telling me. And now he says he doesn't want to anymore.

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Robertson Rocket coach

United Press International
HOUSTON — The Houston Rockets Wednesday named Robertson, 49, an assistant coach replacing Del Harris who was promoted to head coach after the team's ownership changed.

Robertson, a native of Smith, Ark., formerly was coach of the New Orleans Jazz and Chicago Bulls. He was fired from the Bulls after he fired 15 games into the 1978 season when the team's record was 1-14.

After scouting for two seasons serving as an assistant at Houston, Robertson moved to Chicago last year as an assistant then was fired. He finished the season with 11 victories in 26 games.

He was head coach of Louisiana Tech for 10 seasons, beginning in 1964.

Astros, Rangers lose again

United Press International
HOUSTON — Dave Phillips' Willie Stargell boomed back home runs to ignite a seven-inning Wednesday Pittsburgh Pirates 5-1 victory over Houston, the Astros' fifth straight loss.

Astros' starter and loser Richard, 7-9, carried a three-run lead into the seventh but Parkers with his 16th home run of the season and Stargell then hit a 1-2 punch—the right center field seats in the 16th.

John Milner followed with a home run and scored on Ed Ott's single. Madlock scored when Ed Ott singled and Cedeno misplayed the ball. Ott scored on Rennie Stenzel's field grounder.

Bruce Kison, 5-4, allowed two runs in the seventh with his first pitch of the game. Reynolds took second on an error and scored on Cabell's single up the middle. Pittsburgh added a run in the eighth on an RBI single by Milner. The Astros' West led to 5 1/2 games in seven days.

CHICAGO — Chet Lemon, Lamar Johnson had run-inning singles in the seventh to break a 3-3 tie and lead the Chicago White Sox to a 5-3 victory Wednesday night over the Texas Rangers and complete a sweep of three-game series.

With one out in the seventh, scutty singles by Alan Bannister, Junior Moore and Lemon off of pitcher Danny Darwin, led Chicago ahead 4-3. Johnson followed with a hit to right for the Sox run.

Rookie Steve Trout, 3-3, won distance for the second time in starts. The left-hander allowed four hits while walking four and striking out five as the White Sox won for the seventh time in last eight games.

Texas got an unearned run first when Bump Willis' ground ball went through second baseman Bannister's legs for a two-base hit. Willis stole third and scored on Sample's single.

Consecutive singles in the eighth by Greg Pryor, Mike Colburn and Bannister tied the game. Willis was then hit by Jerry Gleaton. Willis was making his debut for Texas fill the bases.

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