



Staff photo by Greg Gammon

The Thrill of Victory

Rosalind Washington, foreground, screams with excitement after her team, the Austin Hawks, defeated the Dallas Falcons, 4-3, for the women's slowpitch state softball championship Sunday. The tournament, held at Central Park in College Station, featured 24 of the top teams in the state vying for the Texas Amateur Athletic Federation slowpitch title. The Hawks

swept through the tourney undefeated while the Falcons had to fight through the loser's bracket for the chance at the title. The Falcons jumped out to an early lead in the championship game but the Hawks came fighting back to tie the game at 3-3. The Hawks scored the winning run in the bottom of the seventh to take the game and crown.

Stabler's name left on roster

United Press International SAN ANGELO, Texas — Ken Stabler may be living the retired life fishing in the Gulf of Mexico, but his name remains on the Houston Oilers roster.

Oilers General Manager Ladd Herzog said Sunday there was no reason to remove Stabler until Aug. 19, the time of the first roster cutdown, even though the 11-year NFL veteran has announced he is leaving the game.

This weekend Stabler told a Mobile, Ala., sportscaster the decision was permanent. He then departed for a deep sea fishing trip with friends.

"It's time for me to do something else, to devote my energies to something else, kids, business, something, but I know not football," Stabler said from his hometown of Gulf Shores, Ala.

He said he was undecided whether to retire even as late as early last week.

"Before the first day of camp I really didn't know what to do," he said.

He left the impression the punishment of life as an NFL quarterback was the deciding factor.

"I've taken a great deal of physical abuse over the years. I have an initiative to take it any more," he said.

In Houston, one sportscaster said Stabler will rejoin the team because he won't be able to give up his 1981 salary, \$350,000-a-year.

Herzog said Stabler's pay would be adjusted if he decided to rejoin.

"His salary is being tolled. That means if he plays half a season, he'll get half the salary or if he

plays a third of the season, he'll get a third," Herzog said.

If Stabler sits out the 1981 season and comes back in 1982, he would play then under his 1981 contract, Herzog said.

Oilers officials and coaches have said they would not make an effort to induce Stabler from retirement, but that stance might change if the only veteran quarterback in camp, Gifford Nielsen, was injured.

Hours before he was to report to training camp last Wednesday, Stabler sent word through his attorney that he was retiring. Since then he has not spoken with Oilers officials.

"We know just as much as you know," Herzog said. "It's unconventional, to say the least."

Stabler would be docked only \$2,100 off his contract if he missed preseason training camp and reported for the start of the regular season. He is not being fined the normal \$500 a day because he has retired.

NFL camps begin to liven up

United Press International Gene Klein, owner of the San Diego Chargers, says wide receiver John Jefferson is welcome, if he pleases, to run his next pattern right past the training camp door.

"John Jefferson has the right to do what he wants," Klein said Monday, referring to Jefferson's desire to restructure his contract. "If he wants to pursue another career, he can go right ahead and do that. We don't want anybody out at camp who doesn't want to play football."

Jefferson, an All-Pro who with Charlie Joiner and Kellen Winslow gave San Diego one of the most dynamic receiving corps in football, has avoided camp, requesting instead to receive money now that was deferred to future years under the contract.

He signed a series of seven one-year contracts when he joined San Diego in 1978.

Klein said the Chargers' policy is not to renegotiate contracts. "Everybody who works feels he is worth more than he is being paid," said Klein. "But if someone isn't happy with a contract, he

shouldn't have signed it."

Jefferson isn't the only Charger who would like his contract renegotiated. Several other veterans, including tight end Winslow, the team's leading receiver last season, would like to have new contracts.

"I look at this whole contract thing as sort of a mini-strike," Klein said.

Jefferson is the only Charger veteran not in camp. Fourth-round draft choice Amos Lawrence, a running back from North Carolina, is the only rookie who has not reported, and the Chargers haven't heard from him.

In other camps, the Detroit Lions hope to achieve some of Pittsburgh's success by copying a Steeler drill.

"Running endurance will be the program for this week," Coach Monte Clark said. "There may be a few games decided in the last minutes and we want to be the best conditioned team."

The Lions will do five laps around the field. The goal is for each lap to be completed in 65 seconds by the big players, 60

seconds for the smaller ones.

At West Chester, Pa., Philadelphia Eagles' Coach Dick Vermeil learned starting right guard Petey Perot should be back at work soon. Perot was hospitalized with a sprained back after Sunday's practice. Doctors said Monday he should be released within a few days.

At Fullerton, Calif., Bob Cobb, a defensive end from Arizona State and the Los Angeles Rams' third-round draft pick, left camp citing personal reasons, a club spokesman said.

At Smithfield, R.I., the New England Patriots signed holdout veteran quarterback Tom Owen to a new contract, but learned two of

their players probably will require knee surgery. Examined were veteran running back Allan Clark and rookie free-agent running back Rich Vellella.

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