

Sports



All-star hopes

Junior running back Johnny Hector goes through agility drills Monday afternoon with several other football players in preparation for the upcoming season. The fleet-footed back, recognized by many as one of the most dangerous open field runners in the game, promises something different from the Aggies this year. The Ags open the 1981 campaign on the road against Cal-Berkeley Sept. 5.

Staff photo by Greg Gammon

Steeler expects strike to be called next summer

United Press International
KENT, Ohio — Pittsburgh Steelers' linebacker Jack Lambert said Tuesday he expects the NFL Players Association to call a strike next summer, but he would "cross the picket lines" if the walkout is based on the issues now being discussed by the union.

The contract between the club owners and the union expires July 15, 1982 and the union already is taking a militant stance.

NFLPA Executive Director Ed Garvey is asking for a wage scale based on years of service and 55 percent of the league's gross revenues.

"I will not strike and I will cross the picket lines if a strike is called by the NFLPA based on those issues," Lambert said in a telephone interview with reporters at the Cleveland Browns' training camp.

Lambert thinks the union would do better to seek a change in free-agent rules, much like baseball players enjoy.

"I am much more concerned with our freedom, the opportunity to move from one team to another," he said. "There is so much money being made and the players deserve their share."

However, Garvey's demand for 55 percent of the revenues is "totally against the American free enterprise system," Lambert said. "Ed Garvey is in the wrong country."

Lambert's concern about movement of free agents is understandable. He is in the final year of his contract with the Steelers and if he does not sign he will become a free agent Feb. 1, 1982.

But unlike baseball, football teams who lose such players are compensated with draft choices

based on the free agent's salary. Baseball teams also were compensated with draft choices under the old contract, but few baseball draft

choices ever make it to the majors. The Browns and Steelers will meet in Cleveland Saturday night in a pre-season game.

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Attention turns to All-Star Game

United Press International
Pete Rose, a longtime source of pleasure for baseball fans, likely will provide an immediate boost to the strike-scarred national pastime when the season resumes next week.

But before he does, a certain formality has to be decided—how the rest of the season will be played. The air traffic controllers' strike, involving overworked Federal mediators Kenneth Moffett, will help matters.

Preparations for Sunday night's All-Star Game are in full gear, but owners are awaiting the vote that will determine whether to divide the 1981 season into separate campaigns or to play up with the standings as they are vulnerable when the strike hit June 12.

The owners cannot get together to assemble Thursday, but have indicated they will meet by phone if a full meeting is possible.

Once the finishing touches to settlement have been taken

care of, much of the nation's attention will return to Rose. The Philadelphia Phillies' veteran will set a record with his fifth All-Star position—first base—Sunday. Then he will try to set a National League mark with his 3,631st hit when the regular-season resumes Monday.

Rose has been tied with Stan Musial for the all-time hit record since June 10. And if he sets the record Monday, it will come against Musial's old team, the St. Louis Cardinals.

Rose previously had been selected for All-Star Games at second base, third base, left and right field. He will be joined by two first-time starters—catcher Gary Carter and outfielder Andre Dawson, both of Montreal.

Former starters named to the lineup are second baseman Dave Lopes of Los Angeles, shortstop Dave Concepcion of Cincinnati, third baseman Mike Schmidt of Philadelphia and outfielders George Foster of Cincinnati and Dave Parker of Pittsburgh.

In the AL, California's Rod Carew, the all-time leading vote-getter, was named to the starting lineup for the 12th consecutive year. Carew, whose 784,354 votes this year put his career total over the 27 million mark, will make his sixth straight start at first base after six consecutive years as the league's All-Star second baseman.

Four New York Yankees—second baseman Willie Randolph, shortstop Bucky Dent and outfielders Reggie Jackson and Dave Winfield—join Carew in the starting lineup along with Chicago catcher Carlton Fisk, Kansas City third baseman George Brett and Baltimore outfielder Ken Singleton.

Commissioner Bowie Kuhn announced Tuesday Vice President George Bush will throw out the first ball for the 52nd All-Star Game in Cleveland, where the first indications of the fans' feelings will be seen. Only about 3 million fans voted for the All-Star teams, about one-fourth of what it would have been without a strike.

Before voting on how to resume the season, the owners must first vote to ratify the agreement which ended the seven-week walkout that canceled 38 percent of the season. Player representatives unanimously approved the strike settlement in Chicago Saturday.

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SOMEONE WAS WATCHING

As I looked out of my window at the countryside, drinking in its loveliness in the setting sun, my eyes fell upon them—and were held by them. Why did they affect me so much? They were such delicate things, so frail and so pitiful. Here it was almost nightfall when all living things should be preparing for sleep. And yet, there by my fence, these tiny sparrows were eating some left-over crumbs. But why, sparrows, do you eat now, of all times, at nightfall...? How hungry they must be, to be eating so late, even into the night.

As I watched them pecking at the crumbs, it occurred to me—they were eating now only because there had been no food for them earlier—and soon, what they were eating now would be all gone.

As I thought of the many night they must have gone to sleep with the hunger still gnawing at them, something inside me made me get up to get more bread for them. But as I approached, the birds were frightened, and in a flutter of wings, they were gone.

No! No! I don't mean to hurt you. Sparrows, how can I let you know? I only want to give you the food that you need. How can I make you understand? Such small creatures as yourselves—your own fellows you understand, and they you. You share in each other the same frail life. You can fly together, speak together, hunger together. These things I can really have no part in. To you I am just a strange being you can neither comprehend nor trust. Oh, if only I were a sparrow—a sparrow just like you are... then you wouldn't be frightened, you wouldn't fly away from me. Then you would understand.

Pondering, in my bewilderment, I saw something.

Thousands of years ago, someone was watching man in much the same way. And even as He watched man, He loved man very much. Deep within Him was the desire to be close to man. Even more than being close, He desired to be one with man. Man, on the one hand, is like a sparrow: so frail, so hungry, so powerless to help himself—eating when he should be resting, at rest when he should be eating; hungering more after what crumbs of temporary happiness and fulfillment he can find. And the inevitable nights of desiring more, something more, deeper...

And the One, on the other hand, Himself the fulfillment of all man's desires, was so willing, so wanting to love man and fill man. Yet in all His vastness, man just couldn't comprehend Him. And what man could not understand, he only feared.

There was only one way.

He—the God of the whole universe—must Himself become a man. The very God, the Almighty God, has become flesh. "The Word became flesh" (John 1:14). Who is the Word? The God who created everything. This Word, God the Creator, has become flesh. Why did He become flesh? Simply that He might be the same as we are. We are men of blood and flesh, and Christ partook of the same (Heb. 2:14-18). He became a human being sharing in our blood and flesh. God came in the flesh not to command us to do something, but to be one with us. He did not come as God to rescue us for that would have terrified us. He did not come as an angel to embrace us, for we could not have accepted that. Although Christ is God, He came, in reality, just as we are.

There is no need for you to fly away from Him like a frightened sparrow.

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