

Seahawks and 49ers open exhibition season tonight

United Press International
Believe it or not, the Seattle Seahawks and San Francisco 49ers have been eagerly waiting for tonight.

That's when the two teams, which combined to win just 10 games last season, can forget about their misfortunes of 1980.

The Seahawks, 4-12 last season, host the 49ers, 6-10 in 1980, to kick off the first full week of exhibition play.

Both coaches, Jack Patera of Seattle and Bill Walsh of San Francisco, will be wanting a good look at their top draft choices.

Safety Kenny Easley, the Seahawks' first-round choice from UCLA, and Ronnie Lott, a cornerback who played safety at Southern California, will both start.

"Both have the ability to play either corner or safety and they're big, strong, fast and aggressive," said Jackie Simpson, Seattle's new defensive coordinator. "They are two of the best secondary players I've seen come into the league in a long time."

Lott will be one of three rookies starting in the 49ers secondary.

The others are cornerback Eric Wright, a second-round draft pick from Missouri, and safety Carlton Williamson, a third-round choice from Pittsburgh.

In addition to the rookie defensive players, San Francisco also acquired linebacker Jack Reynolds, 33, who became a free agent after 11 years with the Los Angeles Rams.

With Easley at safety, Keith Simpson will be the starting cornerback for the Seahawks. The combination of Easley with veterans Simpson and Dave Brown at the corners gives Seattle three No. 1 draft picks in its secondary.

On offense both teams are hurting.

Running backs Paul Hofer, Lenvill Elliott and Phil Francis are not expected to play for the 49ers and Sherman Smith, Dan Doornink and rookie David Hughes are questionable for the Seahawks.

Quarterback Joe Montana will play at least the first quarter with Steve DeBerg getting some time. Backups Guy Benjamin and Gary Huff will get their shots Aug. 15 against San Diego.

Jim Zorn will open for Seattle with backups Sam Adkins and Dave Krieg also likely to play.

In other games this week, Philadelphia is at Houston Thursday; Kansas City is at Washington and the New York Jets are at Denver Friday.

On Saturday, it's Atlanta at Oakland, Baltimore at New Orleans, Cincinnati at Tampa Bay, Detroit at Buffalo, Green Bay at Dallas, Miami at Minnesota, New York Giants at Chicago, Pittsburgh at Cleveland and St. Louis at San Diego.

On Monday, New England is at Los Angeles.

In other training camp news: Running back Rick Kane, who backs up Billy Sims, ended

his holdout Tuesday by signing a new contract and reporting to the Detroit Lions' camp.

"We worked it out Monday night," Kane said. "It's a good contract."

Quarterback Ken Anderson is expected to start for Cincinnati against Tampa Bay. But Coach Forrest Gregg said backups Jack Thompson and Turk Schonert are also likely to play. Wide receiver Don Bass and safeties Dick Jauron and Shafer Suggs are recovering from knee injuries and will not play.

The New York Jets released four players, including ninth-

round draft choice Admiral Dewey Larry, a cornerback.

New York Giants Coach Ray Perkins announced his starting lineup for Saturday's game with Chicago. Quarterback Phil Simms will play the first quarter with backups Scott Brunner and Mark Reed also to see action. Lawrence Taylor, the No. 2 overall pick in the draft, will open at outside linebacker.

With Ron Jaworski at quarterback, the Philadelphia Eagles will unveil their new shotgun offense Thursday night. Coach Dick Vermeil said the team would run "11 or 12 snaps" out of the

spread formation.

Wide receiver Tom Dallas was listed as injured against Green Bay. Other questionable starters are Robert Newhouse, center Fitzgerald and wide receiver Butch Johnson and tight end Doug Donley.

Defensive end Mendenhall, Washington's No. 1 pick a year ago, may need surgery on his left knee. Mendenhall spent 1980 on injured reserve because of intestinal problems from a ruptured appendix during his senior year at Washington.

Laker center says he will stay in LA

United Press International
INGLEWOOD, Calif.

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, who makes \$1 million a year, says money wasn't discussed at a meeting with Los Angeles Lakers' owner Jerry Buss at which the big center said he will remain with the club, scotching reports he wanted to be traded.

Jabbar, six times the NBA's Most Valuable Player, met for more than an hour Monday with Buss and came out saying misunderstandings over Magic Johnson's \$25 million, 25-year contract had been resolved.

"A basketball team is much like a family," Jabbar said, "and when one member has been singled out, often times other people in that family can become jealous."

"If you have jealousy, everyone cannot be working toward the same goal. I would also like to point out that salary was not even mentioned during the meeting."

"I have always had an intense desire to win, but the atmosphere here had not been conducive toward that goal," Jabbar said. "However, after meeting with my boss this afternoon, the rumors of my departure are premature and I look forward to ending my career with the Lakers."

"My teammates and I are looking forward to the upcoming season and winning the world championship again."

The problem apparently involved the contract recently signed by the 22-year-old Johnson. The pact is in essence a two-part contract, covering roles that Johnson will play as both player and later as part of management.

Jabbar and other Lakers reportedly were concerned over Johnson's status: how could he be disciplined by coaches if he was, in fact, a part of management. A spokesman for Buss said there had been misconstructions of Johnson's status under the unique contract.

"Johnson is a player first and only after his playing days are over will he then become part of management," said Lakers' spokesman Bruce Jolesch. "Some of the concern was — could Head Coach Paul Westhead discipline the 22-year-old superstar."

Jolesch said Buss cleared up those issues for Abdul-Jabbar, reiterating the fact Magic was a player and "re-establishing Jabaar's faith in the winning atmosphere in Los Angeles."

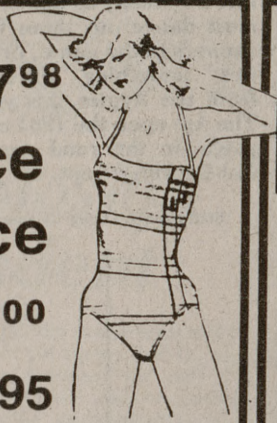
Before the meeting, Buss said he would offer to raise his center's contract to \$1.5 million when the current pact runs out before the 1983-84 season.

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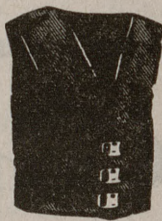


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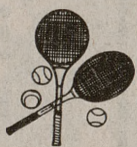
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