

Saints' star undergoes evaluation

No more drugs, Rogers says

United Press International
NEW ORLEANS — He admits snorting cocaine during his record-breaking rookie year, but NFL rushing leader George Rogers insists he will never make the same mistake again.

Rogers, the 1981 NFC Rookie of the Year, met with reporters for the first time Tuesday since published reports indicated that he bought more than \$10,000 worth of cocaine last year.

"I am sorry for what I did," said Rogers, who recently completed a drug rehabilitation

program. "I am human and I did make a mistake, and I can live up to that."

"It will never happen again. That's as honest as I can get."

Rogers' attorney, Ed Holler, refused to discuss details of his client's drug involvement, but said the bruising running back had cleared his slate by checking into the Palm Beach Institute in south Florida.

Rogers entered the hospital July 7 and was discharged two days later after undergoing intensive psychiatric evaluation

and extensive tests for drug dependency, Holler said.

The tests found no evidence of drug dependency and indicated Rogers was physically and emotionally healthy, Holler said. Further, the attorney said it was determined that Rogers engaged in only recreational cocaine use and had not taken any habit-forming drugs since January.

"Physicians concluded George will not engage in the use of cocaine or any other habit-forming drug in the fu-

ture since these drugs are not compatible with his good moral character," Holler said. "And brief experiments he made with cocaine proved to be a painful personal experience for him."

A protective Saints' Head Coach Bum Phillips said Rogers could not answer any questions about his drug involvement on advice of counsel.

A federal judge last week slapped a gag order on everyone involved in the trial of former Saints' running back Mike Strachan, who is accused of sell-

ing cocaine to NFL players and others.

Rogers and more than a dozen other Saints players who admitted buying cocaine could be forced to testify in Strachan's trial, which might turn into an expose of drug use in professional sports.

Open elite ready for start

United Press International
TROON, Scotland — Some of the world's elite golfers have gathered beside the Firth of Clyde for the British Open, which starts Thursday and it seems the better the player, the meaner he wants the weather.

For instance, Masters' champion Craig Stadler complained: "We were expecting lousy weather. It's not really the Open unless you get rain and wind."

Of course, with better weather more players take the field.

Both Jack Nicklaus, a three-time British Open champion, and Ray Floyd, who has had a second, third and fourth in the last six years, estimated that at least 50 players have a chance to win if the weather doesn't worsen considerably.

On the other hand, Floyd said there were only about 10 legitimate challengers if the wind picked up.

"Whether you got the wind or not, you still have to play well, but scores would certainly be lower in calm conditions," he said.

"Windy conditions would eliminate a lot of players who wouldn't have a chance if the wind was mild. I'm hoping for windy conditions."

Floyd, approaching his 40th birthday, indicated that the older he got, the more important a major championship became. He has two to his credit — the PGA and Masters — and knows time is running out if he is to capture either the British or the U.S. Open.

When it comes to winning majors, no one can equal Nicklaus. He has 69 tour victories to his credit and a record 19 majors, including the British Open three times.

Nicklaus played his first Brit-

ish Open at Troon 20 years ago, and in his first round he shot an 80.

"I'll never forget it," he said. "I came here as the U.S. Open champion, but when the pairings came out it said, 4 o'clock, Jack Nicklaus and partner. That meant I was playing alone. I thought it was rather strange and some other people did too. They wound up changing it and I played in a threesome. I played terrible. I was awful. When I went home I wasn't sure I wanted to come back to Troon."

Following that ominous start, Nicklaus said it took him about three years before he learned to enjoy the uniqueness of the British Open.

"You learn to accept the unkind things, the bad bounces," he said. "The greens are actually quite good now, but not remotely like what we have at home because of the weather conditions and things that happen. It's a whole different game and it's fun."

Tom Watson, also a three-time Open champion, was installed as the 4-1 favorite with Nicklaus close behind at 5-1. Then comes Seve Ballesteros of Spain at 11-1 and Stadler and Australian Greg Norman at 14-1. Floyd and defending champion Bill Rogers were listed at 16-1.

LPGA hits Indianapolis for tourney

United Press International
INDIANAPOLIS — A tight course and the fourth largest purse on the tour await 88 professional women golfers entered in the sixth annual Indianapolis LPGA tournament, a four-day, 72-hole affair won last year by Debbie Austin.

The tournament, which starts Thursday at the Country Club of Indianapolis, offers \$200,000 in prize money — \$30,000 to the winner.

Four stars of the LPGA tour have decided to take the week off in preparation for the U.S. Women's Open, being played at Del Paso Country Club in Sacramento, Calif. They are Hollis Stacy, who won the West Virginia Classic last weekend, JoAnne Carner, Nancy Lopez and Kathy Whitworth.

Stacy, the 1979 tournament winner, withdrew Friday and will not play on the course where she won the Women's Open in 1979.

Two of the most successful players on the tour this year, Sandra Haynie and Jan Stephenson, will play at CCI. Haynie and Stephenson split victories in the four LPGA events prior to the West Virginia event.

Also appearing will be the tour's only three-time winners this season, Sally Little and Beth Daniel.

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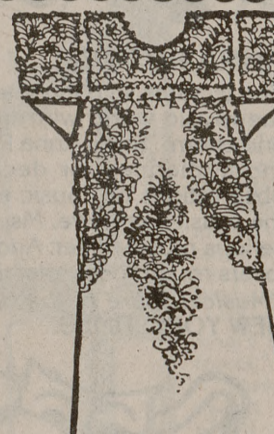
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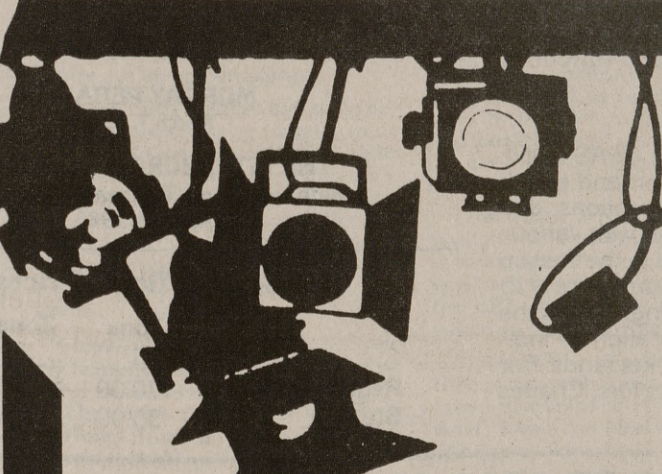
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