

Rebuilding

Saints hope to better dismal 1981 record

United Press International
NEW ORLEANS — Though New Orleans Saints' 4-12 record in 1981 was no one's idea of a winning season, Bum Phillips made believers of a team for which Sunday afternoon had become a sadistic joke.

Indeed, when Phillips settled New Orleans after getting the job from Houston, there was where to go but up.

The Saints had put together the worst record in NFL history, humiliating 1-15. Owner John Kimbrell fired Coach Dick Nolan midway through the season, naming along until he convinced Phillips to take on the job.

The new coach had a lot of work to do but there was one thing he knew from the start — the team's future was with the youth, players in the draft rather than his battle-scarred veterans.

"When you go to construct a building, you don't start on the top floor," Phillips said recently. "You start at the foundation. On a field you don't have the type of year you wanted victory-wise but we had to have the type of year we

wanted football-wise. We wanted to keep things simple." As it turned out, Saints football could hardly have been simpler. Most of the plays that worked consisted of getting the ball to No. 1 draft pick George Rogers and letting him figure it out from there.

Rogers won the NFL rushing title, picking up 1,674 yards on 378 carries with 13 touchdowns. But even he could not lift the Saints' offense above 12th in the NFC (fourth rushing, 14th passing). The team scored only 207 points in 1981, the fewest in the entire NFL.

Though nothing succeeds like success, Phillips said he would like the offense to grow around Rogers, taking some pressure off him by using other running backs and improving the passing game.

"We should be a better football team so we should make him better," Phillips said. "Last year we built everything around him. He carried everything. You might say he carried the football team last year. I think this year we'll be able to do more things

with more people." Expected to get shots at sharing the ground game are Marvin Lewis, Toussaint Tyler and Hokie Gajan.

But Phillips' plans to improve the passing game, which produced only eight TDs last year, suffered a severe blow in the Saints' exhibition opener against Houston when he lost second-year quarterback Dave Wilson for the year.

Wilson, acquired by the Saints in the 1981 supplemental draft, was planning to give veteran Archie Manning a run for the starting job. His promising start could not have been more welcome.

Manning, a 12-year veteran, had accomplished a lot with the Saints.

Wilson was viewed as Manning's heir apparent until torn knee ligaments sidelined him for the 1982 season. The injury handed Manning his old job by default and Phillips picked up his old Houston quarterback, Ken Stabler, as insurance.

Two shadows hang over the 1982 season that no amount of

talent or practice can brush away. The first is the threat of an NFL players strike, an issue of broad dissent among the Saints. The second is the psychological effect of the team's cocaine scandal.

Though the amount of disruption remained to be seen, Phillips insisted the negative psychological impact was minimized by his hard-nosed approach to drug use and a special awareness program.

"I couldn't tell it in the ballgame," he said. "I couldn't tell it in practice and I can't tell it in their attitude around camp. I think they're ready to play football and that's all that's on their minds."

Oilers cut Coleman, Fritsch from squad

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With the NFL season just five days away, musical kickers were the order of the day as the 28 teams trimmed their rosters to 45 players plus a four-man taxi squad.

Florain Kempf beat out Toni Fritsch at Houston; Mike Lansburg wrestled the Los Angeles Rams' job from Frank Corral; Rich Karlis replaces Fred Steinfurt at Denver; John Roveto took over for Bob Thomas at Chicago and Dave Smigelsky a first-team punter John James at Atlanta.

The five kickers joined a cast of hundreds of players left unemployed after Monday's rostering.

back David Humm was among four players put on the inactive list.

—Cleveland cut nine players, including running back Gary Davis.

—Dallas cut nine players, including tackle Andy Frederick, defensive end Ron Spears and quarterback Brad Wright.

—Green Bay waived linebacker Curt Allerman, and placed wide receiver-kick returner Ira Matthews and linebacker Chet Parlarvecchio on injured reserve.

—New England placed kicker John Smith on injured reserve. Dave Jacobs will take his place

on the active roster.

—New Orleans cut guards Sam Adams and Fred Sturt, cornerback Mike Spivey, and nose tackle Jerry Boyarsky. Quarterback Bobby Scott was placed on injured reserve.

—The New York Jets waived 10 players, including quarterback John Rogan and running back Kenny Lewis.

—The Super Bowl champion 49ers waived 10 players, including wide receiver Mike Shumann, quarterback Chuck Fusina and defensive tackle Dave Pear. Rookie tackle Bubba Paris was placed on injured reserve.

Other top names released, included running back Ronnie Coleman by Houston; running back Terry Metcalf and tight end Rich Caster by Washington; the Tennessee tackle Mike Kadish and cornerback Lemar Parrish by Buffalo; quarterback Jeff Komar and running back Ricky Patton by Detroit; defensive tackle Wilson Faumuina by Atlanta; and his linebacker Rod Shoate by Chicago; safety Don Bessillieu by Miami and wide receivers Wally Henry and Rodney Parker by Philadelphia.

In other moves:

—Detroit placed running back Billy Sims, who has refused to join the team until his contract is renegotiated, on the "did not report" list.

—Baltimore cut 11 players, including tackle Randy Van Der Vlier, wide receivers Brian DeRoo and Randy Burke and full-back Marvin Sims. Defensive end Hosea Taylor was placed on injured reserve while quarter-



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PUBLIC NOTICE

BRIEF EXPLANATORY STATEMENTS OF PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

GENERAL ELECTION
NOVEMBER 2, 1982

PROPOSITION NO. 1 ON THE BALLOT

House Joint Resolution 1 proposes a constitutional amendment that prohibits any state ad valorem tax. Receipts from previously authorized state ad valorem taxes that are collected after the effective date of the proposed amendment shall be deposited to the credit of the general fund of the county collecting the taxes and may be expended for county purposes. Taxes collected before that date shall be distributed by the legislature among educational institutions eligible to receive those funds under prior law. The proposed amendment also repeals a section of the Constitution levying an ad valorem tax for a construction fund for 17 state colleges and universities.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows:

"The constitutional amendment repealing the state property tax."

PROPOSITION NO. 2 ON THE BALLOT

House Joint Resolution 62 as amended by Senate Joint Resolution 10 proposes a constitutional amendment that would eliminate the \$80,000,000 ceiling on state welfare aid during any fiscal year.

The amendment would set the state welfare spending limit at \$160,000,000 for the 1982-1983 biennium.

The amendment further provides that, for each subsequent biennium, the maximum amount spent for state welfare shall not exceed one percent of the state budget.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows:

"The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to provide assistance through the appropriations process to needy persons and to place a ceiling on payments for needy dependent children at one percent of the state budget."

PROPOSITION NO. 3 ON THE BALLOT

Senate Joint Resolution 8 proposes a constitutional amendment that would exempt machinery and equipment used in the production of farm and ranch products from taxation. No dollar limits would be imposed and the exemption would apply to corporations and partnerships as well as to families and individuals.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows:

"The constitutional amendment exempting implements of husbandry (agricultural machinery and equipment) from ad valorem taxation."

PROPOSITION NO. 4 ON THE BALLOT

House Joint Resolution 77 proposes a constitutional amendment that would authorize the Legislature to set a four year maximum term of office for board members of certain water districts and conservation and reclamation districts.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows:

"The constitutional amendment authorizing the Legislature to provide terms not to exceed four years for members of governing boards of certain water districts and conservation and reclamation districts."

PROPOSITION NO. 5 ON THE BALLOT

House Joint Resolution 119 proposes a constitutional amendment that would authorize Tarrant and Bee counties to hold county-wide elections to abolish the county treasurer's office by majority vote.

Should the county treasurer's office be abolished, the duties, powers, and functions of that office would be transferred to the county auditor or the successor to the auditor's functions.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows:

"The constitutional amendment to abolish the office of county treasurer in Tarrant and Bee counties."

PROPOSITION NO. 6 ON THE BALLOT

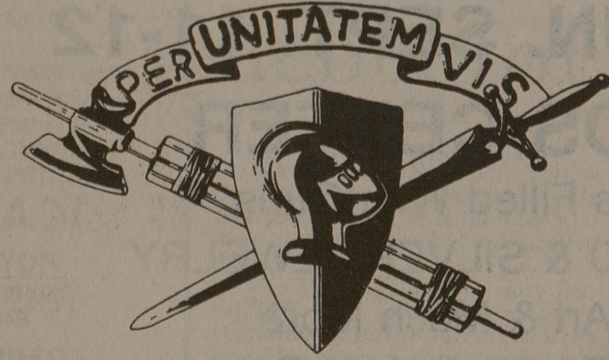
Senate Joint Resolution 6 proposes a constitutional amendment that would raise the constitutional interest rate limit on state general obligation bonds from 6% to 12%. The new 12% ceiling does not, however, apply to bonds issued by the Veterans' Land Board.

The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows:

"The constitutional amendment increasing the maximum interest rate allowed on state general obligation bonds to a weighted average annual interest rate of 12%."

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