

# NFL strike!

## Players stage first walkout in league's history; no talks scheduled

**United Press International**  
NEW YORK — The first in-season strike in the 63-year history of the National Football League is underway and all that players and owners agree on is that their game will suffer.

Cleveland Browns principal owner Art Modell called it a "sad day for pro football, for all the people involved, including the fans."

The strike, called Monday by unanimous vote of the nine-member NFL Players Association Executive Committee, began immediately following Monday night's game between the New York Giants and Green Bay Packers. No talks have been scheduled.

Although the players realized a strike was possible since the basic agreement with the league expired July 15, many never thought they'd be out of work.

"My first gut feeling was that this would never happen," said Drew Pearson, a wide receiver with the Dallas Cowboys for 10 years. "But now that it has, my first gut feeling is that they can get this worked out by Friday if they get together and start talking."

Settling the strike rests with the NFLPA, headed by executive director Ed Garvey, and the NFL Management Council, whose executive director is Jack Donlan.

The sides have been talking sporadically for seven months. The latest negotiations broke off Friday when the Management Council rejected the players' proposal for 50 percent of the league's television revenues over four years, which total nearly \$1.6 billion. Before the 1982 season, the NFL signed a five-year television contract with the three major networks for \$2.1 billion.

The players initially demanded 55 percent of the owners' gross revenues before switching their bargaining strategy.

Houston Oilers general manager Ladd Herzog said he will recommend that the season be terminated if the impending strike eliminated four or more games.

Herzog and coaches Dick Vermeil of Philadelphia, Joe Gibbs of Washington and Mike Ditka of Chicago indicated they had no desire to continue the season with non-union players and strike-breakers.

"I have no interest at all in coaching a scab football team," Vermeil said. "Maybe (NFL commissioner) Pete Rozelle can make me, but right now I'd refuse. Can you imagine taking a scab football team and charging people to see them?"

Both sides claim to be financially prepared. The Management Council has arranged for a \$150 million line of credit from a consortium of banks to cover losses, which Garvey estimates will range from \$1.2 to \$1.5 million per team for each home game lost. The players will not be paid during the strike but NFLPA president Gene Upshaw said a strike fund has been set up and "we have enough to hold out for as long as it takes."

In the last labor strike involving professional athletes, major league baseball players stayed out for 50 days last year from June 12-July 31, canceling 706 games — 38 percent of the season.

The strike announcement was made by Upshaw after 2 hours and 10 minutes of the meetings among executive committee and union officials Monday. The union's stand is that anything less than a strike will be management to the bargaining table.

"Management's illegal refusal to bargain with us last Friday brought this," Upshaw said. "We are united and this comes with no pleasure whatsoever."

The first game to be affected will be Thursday night's game in Kansas City between the Chiefs and the Atlanta Falcons. The game, which was to have been televised nationally by ABC, has been replaced by a movie, "The Cheap Detective."

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Landry said he had no idea how long the strike might last, but said it seemed clear there would be no games this weekend.

"I'm sure we will be out of this next game (which for the Cowboys would have been in Minnesota)," Landry said. "You don't have a real incentive to get a game plan ready. And after Sunday's game we will start making a game plan for the Giants."

And he also expressed concern that the players would, indeed, do their best to stay in shape.

Running back Tony Dorsett said Monday he and his teammates would try to stay in condition, but if the walkout lasts more than two weeks it would probably be every man for himself.

"If it lasts more than two weeks, I'm gone," Dorsett said as members of the Cowboys gathered up their belongings and filed out of the Cowboys' practice facility.

"I've got to get on and do things I need to do in my own life. If it stretches out for a couple of weeks I imagine we will begin to disperse."

Many teams in the NFL take Monday off, but the Cowboys' schedule calls for a Monday workout and an off day on Tuesday. Thus, the team was on the practice field when official word of the players' strike came Monday.

And as word quickly circulated around the locker room the mood appeared to be more light than serious.

"I can see clearly now," came the voice of one player who was singing in the shower, "we are on strike."

Linebacker coach Jerry Tubbs, as he viewed the huge crowd of writers and broadcasters in the locker room, said: "Look at all of this. We win one game and we get attention like this. Isn't that great?"

Most of the players expressed the hope that the shock of a strike would at last bring some meaningful bargaining.

"My first gut feeling," said wide receiver Drew Pearson, "was that this would never happen. But now that it has my first gut feeling is that they can get together and start talking."

Defensive tackle John Dutton said the chief problem was that the owners had not clearly demonstrated how much money would be available to the players.

"They talk about certain figures," he said, "but when you see it on paper it doesn't add up to the amount they are talking about. It is all garbage. You show me where the money is going and we can start talking. They say it verbally, but a verbal contract isn't any good."

**United Press International**  
ATHENS, Ga. — Reaction to the University of Georgia's mild one-year probation for recruiting violations was muted, with school officials and coaches saving comment for a news conference today and players expressing more concern over Saturday's game against South Carolina.

The sixth-ranked Bulldogs were placed on probation Monday by the NCAA. The probation, retroactive to Sept. 17, means the loss of three grants-in-aid for incoming players for the 1983-84 academic year and a prohibition against two outside representatives of the university from participating in the recruitment of players during the probation.

It does not include sanctions related to television appearances or post-season games.

According to the NCAA, Texas A&M's George Smith Douglas, Ga., was visited for recruiting purposes more than three times by members of the university's football coaching staff; was provided free transportation from the 1982 South Bowl to the player's home; given a Georgia warm-up jacket in February by assistant football coach; and also approached by representatives of Georgia about selling 1982 complimentary football tickets.

Coach Vince Dooley said would reserve comment until weekly news conference Tuesday.

"This case was limited to recruitment of one prospective student-athlete by a former assistant football coach and representatives of the university's athletic interests," Charles Alan Wright, chairman of the NCAA Committee on Fraternities.

Georgia received 'mild' probation

## Cowboys advised to condition

# Landry hopes strike ends quickly

**United Press International**  
DALLAS — Dallas Cowboys Coach Tom Landry says he doubts players can work hard enough on their own to stay in shape during the strike-forced layoff period, which begins today.

"I'm sure a lot of them will (work out on their own), but a lot of them won't very hard," he said. "Conditioning is a very hard thing to do. It is hard to motivate yourself hard enough to play pro football."

Before the players left the training facility Monday, Landry told them to do the best they

could stay in condition.

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