

Acne may be cured

United Press International
NEW YORK — Doctors report a drug that went on sale last month appears to tame the worst kind of acne.
But Dr. Alan R. Shalita, assistant dean of the State University of New York's Downstate Medical Center, stressed the medicine Accutane should only be used by those who have severe acne and not by patients with less advanced forms of the disease.

He said Accutane seems to work by shrinking the sebaceous glands.
The medicine, developed by Hoffmann-La-Roche Inc. and known generically as isotretinoin, offers the first known effective treatment of acne that produces deep pitting and scarring.
He said the major side effect appears to be chapped or inflamed lips, which occurs in 90 percent of patients treated in clinical trials.

One course of treatment usually lasts 15 to 20 weeks. About one-third of patients who have undergone therapy with the new medicine have required a second course of treatment.
Improvement is seen in some patients after one month of therapy. The interesting thing, Shalita said, is that for many patients the skin continues to improve even after the medication is stopped.

Warped

by Scott McCull



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Strike may aid USFL

United Press International
NEW YORK — If the NFL players strike drags on, it could provide a bit of a lift for the businessmen who are investing \$100 million in the United States Football League, Commissioner Chester R. Simmons concedes. He said a prolonged strike could make the fans hungry for pro football by March when the USFL launches its 20-game season and could induce some college players to sign with teams in the new league instead of holding out for jobs in the older league.
Simmons does not, however, expect the strike's impact on the new league's fortunes to be big in any case.
The major question is whether the fans will go for football from March through early July.
Frank M. Magid Associates Inc., of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, a major broadcast research firm, did the marketing survey for the promoters of the league and concluded most fans think the present pro football season is too short compared with the 162-game baseball season and the 82-game pro basketball season.
Simmons said officials and club owners of the new league are betting on success where the World Football League failed after two seasons.
Also, the WFL never got real television money. The USFL has a two-year contract with ABC and a cable contract with Entertainment & Sports Network Inc., which can pipe the games into 16.5 million homes.
The WFL raided NFL player rosters and got into a salary war with the older league. The USFL will avoid that trap, Simmons said. Since its rosters will necessarily be composed of very young players, its average salaries in the first season may be almost 50 percent less than those in the NFL, he said.
Simmons said there are a lot of players available and priced players don't necessarily mean interesting games.
"We've all seen a lot of football played by teams a lot of expensive stars," he said.
Ticket prices will be less than NFL prices, Simmons said.
He doesn't expect the popularity of the USFL's 12 teams to break even the first season, that, a team would have about \$6 million between receipts and broadcast and revenue share.
Simmons sees no possibility of players performing in the league even though their contract runs for 18 months. That creates a financial and technical overlay in opinion. A few NFL players whose options had already been signed with clubs.
Simmons said he is concerned spring football will not have a harmful effect on major league baseball.
"In the first place, our season will have ended by the time baseball pennant races start heating up," he said. "People who go to baseball in the season tend to be die-hard fans and baseball draw seven days a week around our one. The nationally televised baseball game of the week will be on Saturday and broadcast will be on Sunday. There's no conflict there."

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