

# Striking players request response from owners

**United Press International**  
NEW YORK — The striking NFL Players Association, claiming its rank and file spurned management's latest offer, called upon pro football's owners to "respond to our proposal" and "obey the law."

NFLPA Executive Director Ed Garvey announced Monday night that 24 of the 25 teams polled convincingly turned down the owners' current offer. He said his union is waiting for resumption of talks that might end the 50-day walkout.

"We're delighted management's latest illegal tactic has failed," said Garvey, alluding to the league's plan to present its contract offer directly to the players. "The offer, quite frankly, was not much more than they put on the table last week."

"We hope now management will respond to our proposal. The next step is for them to obey the law. The system catches up with you in this country."

According to the NFLPA, 24 of the 25 teams polled so far have turned down the owners' current offer. Three West Coast teams had not yet been heard from while the New Orleans Saints were the only club to support management.

Chuck Sullivan, vice president of the New England Patriots and chairman of the NFL Management Council, called the poll inaccurate.

"The NFLPA's claim that 24 out of 25 teams have turned down our offer is untrue," Sullivan said. "Our information is that at least 10 teams have yet to vote upon our proposal. We are hopeful that when the players learn the details of our proposal many of them will vote to approve it."

The union did not specify the exact voting of each team, nor did it say if the votes were cast by secret ballot.

Union President Gene Upshaw, aware of criticism in some quarters, defended his union's conduct.

"The players have not lost control of the union," he said. "It's an open union, the players have input."

Marvin Powell, the New York Jets' player representative, said the owners' 75-page proposal, in which management offered \$1.3 billion over four years with \$60 million in bonuses this year, had no chance of approval at the team meetings. The teams received a 4½-page synopsis of the offer because, according to Garvey, management pro-

vided only one copy of the complete proposal to the union.

"I don't think any reasonable person who can read would accept that (proposal)," Powell said.

The union said the Saints' vote was not a true indication of team feeling since, according to the NFLPA's count, less than 20 players attended the meeting in New Orleans. But player rep Russell Erxleben said team members attending a special meeting or contacted by phone voted, 45-1, to accept the offer in principle, with one player abstaining. The players conceded, however, that remained details in need of negotiation.

One of those at the meeting, safety Tommy Myers, criticized the union and its executive director.

"In my way of thinking, it's an upside down organization, with the power coming from Mr. Garvey," he said.

Negotiations recessed Saturday after eight days of New York meeting with Jack Donlan, the NFL Management Council's chief negotiator, announcing the two sides were wider apart than ever. Private mediator Sam Kagel, having failed to obtain an agreement in Maryland in the latest sessions in New York, flew home to San Francisco Sunday.

# Moore believes SMU should be top-ranked

**United Press International**

The SMU Mustangs may be ranked No. 2 in the country, but in the one-man poll taken at Texas Tech Monday, there was a different result.

"If Georgia is better than SMU, then Georgia should be playing in the NFL," said Tech coach Jerry Moore. "The Mustangs can do it all. They absolutely have no weaknesses. Their defense is awesome and everybody knows about their firepower on offense."

Even though a lot of coaches in the country apparently agree with Moore, the Mustangs fell just short in this week's balloting.

SMU received 18 first-place votes from coaches voting in UPI's national rankings while Georgia picked up 22. Only five points separated the two schools in the preferential voting. Last week, when SMU was ranked third and Georgia second, the Mustangs were six points behind the Bulldogs.

But, all of that makes no difference to Moore, whose Raiders will host SMU Saturday on a field where the Mustangs haven't won in 14 years.

"I stayed up all Sunday night looking at film on those guys," said Moore, "and I dread the ordeal of having to try to figure out how to attack them offensively and to stop them defensively."

The fact that his team was put behind Georgia was a mild disappointment to Mustang coach Bobby Collins Monday. But just as disappointing was news that his former school — the University

of Southern Mississippi — had been slapped a two-year probation by the NCAA.

The NCAA said the case "involved prominent financial benefits to prospective student-athletes who were recruited during 1979-80, 1980-81 and 1981-82 academic years." SMU athletic director Bob Hitch, who had Collins away from Southern Mississippi one year, said the Mustang coach had nothing to do with the infractions.

"We were aware of the allegations when we hired Bobby," said Hitch. "But we were not able that he was not involved in any manner."

Elsewhere around the Southwest Conference Monday, Baylor coach Grant Teaff gave a 'you' to fans of the Bears and Fred Akers of Texas Longhorns needed to guard against confidence.

Baylor's 24-17 upset of Arkansas last week came before a noisy crowd of 42,000, which exhorted to extra heights of loudness by himself, who served as an arm-waving cheerer during the fourth quarter.

"The support at that game was the best I've been at Baylor," said Teaff. "I know Baylor's crowd had a very, very positive affect on the Bears and we appreciate it."

Texas faces TCU Saturday and after a loss to Texas Tech last week, the Horned Rattlesnakes probably need to defeat the Longhorns to are to save the job of coach F. A. Dry.

# SWC

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for three years — second only to Ricky Pierce.

Guard Tyrone Washington, a two-year starter, will also return to lead the Owls' effort along with center Donald Bennett. Suits said with more height and quickness than last season, Rice hopes for more victories in 1982-83.

"For us, a winning season is progress," he said. "We broke

even last year and we don't want to play .500 this season. We want to be better."

Bob Weltlich, the Texas Longhorns' rookie coach from Mississippi, has a few problems to deal with this season. The Longhorns, who had a rough time last season in struggling to a 16-11 record (6-10 in the SEC), have lost a total of four starters since the beginning of last season.

Center LaSalle Thompson passed up his senior year to play

professional basketball and forwards Virdell Howland and Denard Holmes quit the squad after last season. Those three players combined for 38.4 of the Longhorns' points each game last season.

In addition, forward Mike Wacker, who was leading the team with a 15.2-point average until sustaining a knee injury against Baylor last season, will not return as a starter. Weltlich said that although Wacker will probably play at some point this season, the Longhorns must plan for a season without him as a major factor.

"I think you have to do that," Weltlich said. "I think Mike Wacker will have an opportunity to play this year. I think

what's been lost in this whole thing . . . is that Wacker might be physically able to play, but might not be as effective as he once was."

Weltlich said the Longhorns' lack of experience and depth will be major concerns.

"We're really just learning a little bit about each other," he said. "We're not very long on experience, which is evidenced by the fact that we have only one starter back that we know is going to play — Jack Worthington (a guard)."

"The team has been most receptive to what we're trying to do. It's been a team that I think is going to be extremely coachable and a hard-working group."

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