

The Battalion Sports

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Australia takes second race

United Press International
NEWPORT, R.I. — Australia II stayed alive Wednesday in the battle for the America's Cup, winning her second race in the best-of-seven finals over U.S. defender Liberty, crippled with a damaged mast.

Australia II crossed the finish line 1:47 ahead.

It was the first time a foreign boat won a second race against the Americans since 1958. But Liberty, at 3-2, remains one win away from keeping sports' longest winning streak alive — the 132-year American domination of the world's most coveted yachting trophy.

Australia II was ahead at every mark after jumping the start and having to circle back and begin again.

Despite the impaired mast, defending Cup champion Dennis Conner reduced the Aussie margin from 1:11 to :52 rounding the fifth buoy by switching to a lighter genoa as winds dipped from 20 to 15 knots and the rolling seas calmed.

Contending the repairs would be finished in time,

Conner did not use his option to call for a day off Thursday and the Twelves will square off again in predicted heavy 15 to 20 knot winds.

After a dismal Aussie start handed Liberty a :37 lead, Australia II skipper John Bertrand roared back to dominate the race as Conner became increasingly occupied with the broken spreader.

The wing-keeled boat's victory came in the heavy air conditions Liberty previously dominated. Ironically, Liberty's third win Tuesday was in light winds in which Australia II previously prevailed.

With Liberty pitching into the water and her mainsail luffing up, the Aussies covered every move the red-hulled American boat made to pass her by.

Conner sent a chase boat back to Newport Harbor 10 miles away to return with tools necessary to attempt repairing the damage during the pre-start maneuvers.

It was the third time in five final races equipment breakdowns have crippled a boat — the first two times costing Australia II races.

Trade called 'a total surprise'

Nielson to start after 7 years

United Press International
HOUSTON — Gifford Nielsen at 8:45 a.m. strode into his first quarterback meeting as the top dog Wednesday with a serious look on his face and a playbook under his arm.

Although 15 minutes late, he said he was self-assured and confident the team would rally from an 0-3 start this season despite the trade of starting quarterback Archie Manning to the Minnesota Vikings.

The deal also sent tight end Dave Casper to the Vikings reportedly for second- and fourth-round draft choices in 1984 that the Oilers say they will use to shore up a leaky defense.

For the first time in seven years, Nielsen, the former Brigham Young passing whiz who has been hampered by a sidearm passing motion, is the Oilers quarterback. The one and only. No one else is around, and no one will be obtained, Oilers officials say, to challenge for his job.

"This is a great opportunity, one of those you want to take advantage of," said Nielsen, who at the start of the season was deeply disappointed at not winning the starting job over Manning. The trade, he said, "was a total surprise."

Only Manning felt the sudden news more. "I was totally shocked," he said.

He had just read in an afternoon newspaper Tuesday about a vote-of-confidence coach Ed Biles gave him as the Oilers starter. He had thrown four interceptions in a 40-28 loss to the Pittsburgh Steelers Sunday.

"I had no idea a trade was in

the works," he said.

No one was thinking trade until the Vikings called Oilers executive Ladd Herzog Tuesday desperately searching for a backup quarterback. Herzog, executive vice president and general manager, said the Vikings made an offer "we couldn't refuse."

"It's like Branch Rickey used to say," Herzog said, "it's better to trade a player a year early and get something for him than to wait a year too late and not get anything."

Biles said if the Oilers obtained another quarterback, it would be to only play behind Nielsen and second-year pro Oliver Luck.

"We need to look at those two," he said.

No one could know for sure as the Oilers prepared to play the Buffalo Bills Sunday and the Pittsburgh Steelers the following weekend what is in store at quarterback. Nielsen has not played a full season in the National Football League. Luck has not played a full game.

Both protested a suggestion the trade ended hopes of turning around an 0-3 season in exchange for possible improvement in the future.

"I don't believe that at all," Nielsen said. "The players have always reacted well to me. They have confidence in me. This is not conceding this season."

Luck, a second-year pro out of West Virginia, was 30 minutes early for an unusually early quarterback meeting at 8:30 a.m. Wednesday. (The team had cancelled a regular Monday meeting due to street flooding,

and so moved Wednesday's meeting ahead from a 9:30 start).

"This means I'm a lot closer to playing. It means I've got to start seriously preparing myself for going in a game this season," he said.

Biles said the Oilers had the future in mind when they made the trade.

"We're trying to build this team, and although Archie has done a good job for us, we just didn't feel that he was the quarterback of the future," he said. "We feel like Gifford deserves

a chance to start. There was not much difference in our minds between the abilities of Archie and Gifford. Gifford has won some games for this franchise. I feel confident in him."

He said the Oilers probably would re-sign tight end Walt Arnold to back up starter Chris Dressel, a rookie out of Stanford.

Casper, a native of Bemidji, Minn., whose in-laws still live in Minnesota, said before he left town he could not wait to make the move.

"I've always wanted to play for the Vikings. I told Ed Biles that this would be my last year

with the Oilers. I guess that had something to do with the trade," he said.

"I think the Oilers will win eventually," he said.

The Oilers currently are mired in a 10-game losing streak, and for Casper this has been a troubled season. He was arrested and charged with driving-while-intoxicated in San Angelo during training camp and three days later failed to show up without warning for an exhibition game.

He said the arrest and damage to his house from Hurricane Alicia had caused him to miss the game.

Manning and Casper workout in Minnesota

United Press International
EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. — Neither Archie Manning or Dave Casper looked back when they boarded a private jet in Houston Wednesday en route to their new team, the Minnesota Vikings.

The Oilers dealt Manning, a 13-year veteran quarterback, and Casper, a 10-year tight end, to the Vikings Tuesday in exchange for a second- and fourth-round draft choice. Both arrived in time for a 2 1/2-hour workout as Minnesota prepares for NFC Central Division foe Detroit on Sunday.

Both also arrived anxious to prolong their football careers with a winning team.

"I'm very happy to come to a place where they know what they're doing rather than a place where they're still learning how to do it," Casper said. The Vikings needed help at both positions because of in-

juries. Minnesota quarterback Tommy Kramer tore ligaments in his right knee in Sunday's overtime victory over Tampa Bay, underwent surgery Monday and is out for the season.

All Pro tight end Joe Senser underwent knee surgery Aug. 1 and will miss at least the first four regular season games. Both veteran Bob Bruer and second-year tight end Steve Jordan were hobbled with injuries as well.

"They are strictly here on a learning basis," Viking Coach Bud Grant said. "As to whether they'll see duty Sunday, I'll let you know on Saturday."

Casper, who Grant hopes to initially use on goal line and double tight end situations, has a better chance of seeing action than Manning.

"We hope he (Manning) never plays a down," Grant said.

Steve Dils, a five-year player from Stanford who played backup to Kramer, is Minnesota's No. 1 quarterback heading into the Detroit game.

"I don't really feel threatened unless I don't play well," Dils said of the acquisition of Manning, who is ranked among the top 25 quarterbacks in three major passing categories.

"And if I don't," Dils said, "we have one of the greatest quarterbacks in the NFL as a backup."

However, cornerback Willie Teal intercepted Manning's first throw at Vikings practice to mar his debut. A 11-year player with New Orleans, Manning was traded to Houston last September.

"You never get used to losing," said Manning, who has not been on a winning team since the 1982 exhibition season.

'Too Tall' sentenced in drunk driving charges

United Press International
DALLAS — All-Pro Dallas Cowboys defensive lineman Ed "Too Tall" Jones has been fined \$500 and sentenced to two years probation for drunken driving, authorities confirmed Wednesday.

Dallas County Criminal

Court Judge John McCall sentenced Jones Tuesday. Jones, the Cowboys' top 1974 draft choice, was arrested last March 24 in Dallas.

Cowboys' officials said they were unaware of the sentence and had no comment.

pointed to Jessica. She then disappeared with a baby.

Hayes said the family had no ransom demand. Jessica is the third child of Mrs. Davis. They have a 10-year-old son, Joshua, and a 6-year-old daughter, a boy, died shortly after his birth six years ago.

Hayes said she can't understand why she alone to deserve all this. "I can't understand why I have to lose two children."

Hayes said two employees at the day-care center recognized her as the same one who appeared at the day-care center and looked it over at the time she enrolled the boy there.

Hayes said she believes the boy or turned down the offer because she wanted her baby.

Hayes said the day-care official involved violated two state regulations and lost its license.

Hayes said Norwood, program director for day-care licensing in the Texas Department of Health Resources in Dallas, said regulations forbid a day-care center to release a child to an unidentified person.

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