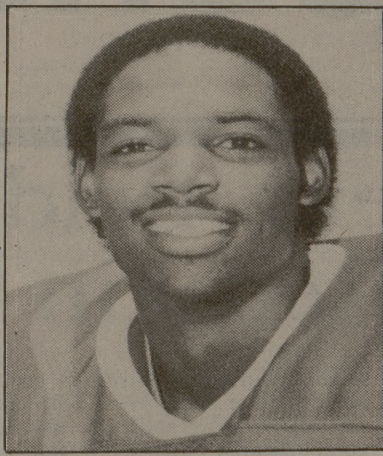


Anderson

High school football hero is 'human pinball'

United Press International
COLUMBIA, Mo. — You can't see the football field from the north wing of Hickman High School. The view is obstructed by the brick wall of the south wing.



Gary Anderson

Football coach Tom Travis would gladly walk through that wall for Gary Anderson.

The coach and his former player last saw each other Jan. 15, about four months before Anderson, arguably the finest athlete ever to come out of Columbia, graduated from the not-so-gray area known as student-athletics to a \$1.375 million contract with the Tampa Bay Bandits of the U.S. Football League.

Since then, Anderson has been a human pinball in inter-league contract disputes that have seen his intellectual capacity questioned in a Houston courtroom and on sports pages throughout the nation.

"If I were an outsider looking at this situation," Travis says, "I'd say that Gary Anderson's a money-hungry mongrel."

But Travis loves Anderson like a son. So does Patti Freeman. And Larry Beightol. And the people who know Gary Anderson for who he is, and who he isn't, are raising serious questions.

"Let me ask you this," Travis

says. "Who's at fault when a youngster is born without arms? You certainly don't fault those parents. God knows they didn't want that to happen."

Gary Anderson's academic records do not support the claim that he is illiterate.

He wasn't when he graduated from Oakland Junior High School in 1976. He wasn't when he graduated from Hickman High School in 1979. And he wasn't when he left the University of Arkansas after 3½ years in order to do professionally what he does best: perform magic with a football in his hands.

But a curious thing happened Aug. 12.

An attorney representing Anderson stood in a Houston courtroom and asked his client to read a portion of a Tampa Bay contract Anderson now says he'd never seen before.

Anderson struggled. And that, proclaimed attorney Charles G. King, proved Anderson is functionally illiterate.

About 2½ weeks later, Sports Illustrated spread the word across six pages of the magazine in an article that chronicled Anderson's legal and academic problems. There, for all the world to see, was the attorney's contention that Anderson cannot read.

The story pushed to the forefront a number of simmering questions. Namely, was Anderson academically equipped to cope in a major university when he graduated from Hickman? And if he wasn't, how did he earn 82 hours of credit at the University of Arkansas?

According to those who know Anderson — friends, coaches, teachers — the answers are as simple as A, B, C. Despite courtroom theatrics suggesting otherwise, Anderson literally was a student-athlete.

"Gary can read," says Patti Freeman, the guidance director at Oakland Junior High School for the last 11 years.

Freeman met Anderson when

he enrolled at Oakland in the seventh grade.

"He couldn't have made it through the seventh and eighth and ninth grades like he did with no problem."

No one denies that Anderson has a reading deficiency. Based on recommendations from sixth-grade teachers, Oakland steers its top-notch students away from reading classes. Anderson was not one of those students. In seventh grade, he was placed in a developmental reading course.

Freeman, however, points out that the course was not remedial. Anderson never was placed in special education classes.

"I have people coming to me all the time telling me so and so isn't doing well and they need to be tested for special ed," she says. "No one ever told me that Gary was having any problems."

But reading wasn't his long suit.

"Gary probably won't knock the top off any standardized test scores," she says. "He's not going to be a national merit scholar. And I think that Gary would be the first one to tell you that he has a few problems understanding everything he reads."

Says Anderson: "I really don't read unless I have to."

TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill



Phillies release Morgan

United Press International
PHILADELPHIA — Veteran second baseman Joe Morgan, saying he wanted to be closer to home should he decide to return for his 19th major league season, was given his release Monday by the Philadelphia Phillies.

Phillies president Bill Giles said Monday he spoke with Morgan, 40, "several times" in the past week. He said Morgan had not made up his mind about playing next season and requested that the Phillies release him.

"There was a clause in Joe's contract in which we had an Oct. 31 deadline for renewing his contract for 1984," Giles said. "Joe requested that the Phillies exercise their option not to renew his contract and be given his release, so that if he decided to play next season, he could play closer to his home."

Such a move by Morgan gave rise to speculation that he would be returning to the San Francisco Giants, who traded him to the Phillies after the 1982 season. Morgan makes his home in Oakland, Calif.

Morgan, who was the National League's Most Valuable Player in 1975 and 1976, signed a one-year contract with an option year after the Phillies acquired him.

Morgan batted over .300 in September to spark the Phillies to the National League East championship and the league pennant. He batted .263 with two home runs and a triple in the World Series but the Phillies lost in five games to the Baltimore Orioles.

"Certainly, Joe Morgan was a very big part in the Phillies winning the 1983 National League pennant," Giles said. "He got hot at the right time and led us into the World Series."

After the final out in the fifth World Series game, Morgan appeared to be leaning toward retirement. He was plagued by nagging leg injuries during the 1983 season and batted just .230.

But Morgan also has stated that a goal of his is to break the major league record for home runs by a second baseman held by Rogers Hornsby. With 260

career homers, he trails by four.

"If I'm healthy, I'll play as good as any second baseman in the league," Morgan said at the time. "But I'm a realist."

Morgan hit 16 home runs during the past season, finishing fifth in the league with 89 walks, adding to his record and moving him to fourth place on the all-time list.

Morgan was signed to a professional contract by the Boston Colts in 1963, named NL Rookie of the Year in 1965. He played several seasons with Houston before being traded to the Cincinnati Reds, where he completed his off series and three Series.

He returned to Houston as a free agent in 1980 and the next two seasons with the San Francisco Giants. He hit 14 home runs in 1982 and named the league's Most Valuable Player of the Year.

Paralyzed Steeler now listed in fair condition after crash

United Press International
PITTSBURGH — The medical condition of Pittsburgh Steelers rookie Gabe Rivera, critically injured in and left paralyzed by a car crash Nov. 20, has been upgraded to fair, but he remains in the trauma unit of Allegheny General Hospital, a team spokesman said Monday.

Rivera, a 285-pound defensive lineman and the Steelers' No. 1 draft choice last spring, suffered severe spinal and internal injuries during the two-car, head-on collision in the Pittsburgh suburb of Ross Township.

He is paralyzed from the chest down, and doctors have said he probably will never walk again.

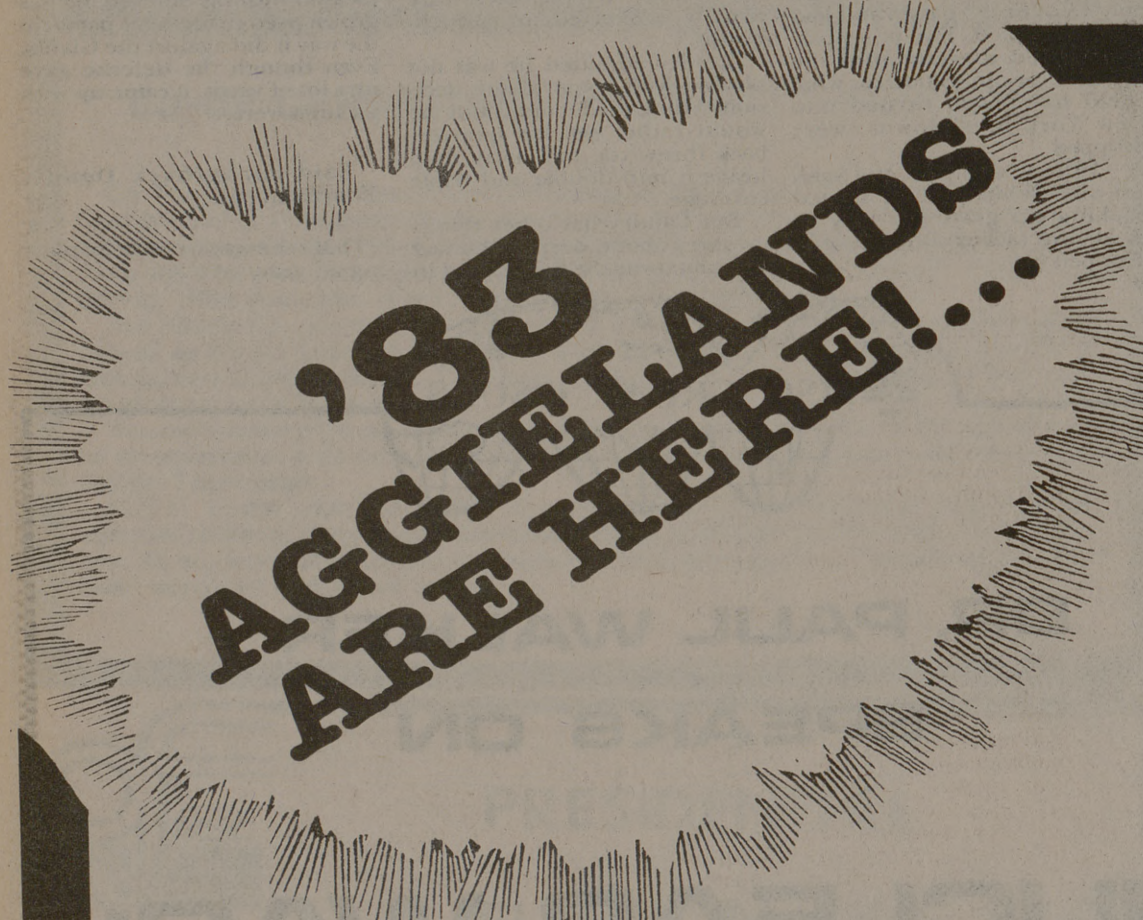
The Steelers' spokesman said physicians did not expect to further upgrade Rivera's condition before the end of the week. Rivera probably also will remain in Allegheny General's trauma

unit at least through the weekend, the spokesman said.

Rivera has been charged with drunken driving and driving in connection with the accident. The driver of the car, Allen Watts, 48, of Ross Township, was uninjured.

Rivera, 22, is a native of Dallas, Texas, and played college football at Texas Tech. He is married to Kim Covington, is on their first child.

Padre Cafe



and ready for pickup

8:00-5:00

Room 230

Reed McDonald Bldg.

(if you have pre-paid; check your fee slip)

Vol 78

Sitting in senior from

M

oro

Former in the mids ent, tonight al platform

McGov akota, w residentia red by M

He will is work a ommon S rogram c orum, sa

McGov ouse of

Gr Gr

The Bra nswers.

"We w nake thei ess or w ment actic BVPA n

The BV ions deal Grenada.

Rep. Phil en. Lloy men and

Parson why the 1 8 and 20 can State charter b affairs of

"We h violation BVPA sai The gr

Around Classified Local... National Opinion: Sports... State... What's t

High in percent