

# No rest for Theismann

United Press International

TAMPA, Fla. — Tote that barge, lift that bale. Joe Theismann got roughed up pretty good by the Los Angeles Raiders, and you'd think he had more than enough football to keep him for awhile, so where do you think he's going now?

Off to play still another football game.

This one, though, won't be half as hard for the weary, banged-up Washington Redskins' quarterback to take as last Sunday's 38-9 flogging in Super Bowl XVIII where he couldn't do much to avert the most one-sided beating ever inflicted on any Super Bowl team.

Theismann is heading for Honolulu to play in the Pro Bowl for the second straight year. He's going with six of his Redskin teammates, Charlie Brown, Russ Grimm, Joe Jacoby, Mark Murphy, Jeff Bostic and Dave Butz, and it'll be a little like old home week because while all of them will be playing for the NFL team, seven of the Raiders, Todd Christensen, Lester Hayes, Ted Hendricks, Henry Lawrence, Howie Long, Vann McElroy and Greg Pruitt, will be staring at them across the line wearing AFC jerseys.

These are the best players in the NFL, chosen by their peers, their fellow players. A lot of players used to consider the game a drag, the same way many of the major league baseball players look at the annual All-Star contest.

The Pro Bowl meeting turned into a fun game four years ago when it was shifted permanently to Aloha Stadium in Honolulu from such other mundane places as Los Angeles, Kansas City and Irving, Texas. Now the players chosen can bring their wives or girl friends to Hawaii and lie on the beach with them soaking up some sunshine. The \$10,000 for each winning player and \$5,000 for each loser isn't that hard to take, either. The best part of all is the knowledge it is the last game until next season.

Theismann is taking a souvenir of the Super Bowl along with him. He's going to the land of the pineapple with a nice red strawberry bruise under his chin where he took a late lick by Dave Stalls, the Raiders' defensive tackle, during the fourth quarter of Sunday's one-sider.

Quite possibly, Rich Milot, the fifth-year linebacker for the Redskins, spoke for all of them when he glanced around the gloomy locker room, noticed all the solemn expressions on the faces of the members of the media, and declared:

"Nobody died. It was a football game. Nothing else. This isn't a funeral."

Theismann felt that way, too.

He answered all the questions put to him evenly and patiently until one reporter asked him whether the lopsided loss wasn't "a bitter pill for you to swallow."

Standing in his locker stall with the charcoal smears still

under his eyes, Theismann frowned. Why would such a question be asked him, he wanted to know. The query was prompted by the fact Theismann had been so enthusiastic about the game and the Redskins' chances all week long, he was told.

"I am not devastated, I'm disappointed," he made the distinction. "We didn't really get many breaks. It was like banging your head against the wall hoping you'd find a crack in it."

Theismann meant the wall, not his head.

"There's a point where you become a realist and stop being an idealist," said the Redskins' 34-year-old field leader. "We hit a spot where we said let's keep our heads up and not go in for any dirty stuff. None of us wanted that. Naturally, the game was important to me as it was to all of us. But you have to understand football is only part of my life. I don't live and die for football."



Photo by DEAN SAITTO

## Twelfth Man to return

The Twelfth Man Kickoff team makes a tackle in the game against the University of Texas last season. The athletic

department announced yesterday that plans are underway for continuing the kickoff team for next season.

## Sims: NFL or USFL; trial begins today

United Press International

DETROIT — Billy Sims goes to U.S. District Court today for a suit that should decide whether he's a star running back for the USFL Houston Gamblers or the NFL Detroit Lions.

Sims signed a five-year, multi-million contract with the United States Football League expansion team on July 1 and reworked a similar contract with the same team in November.

Then, on Dec. 16, Sims signed an even bigger five-year contract with the National Football League team he originally signed a four-year contract with.

U.S. District Court Judge Robert DeMascio will determine, beginning Wednesday, which of the two the 1978 Heisman Trophy winner from Oklahoma should honor.

Muddying matters is the fact that one of the Houston owners is Dr. Jerry Argovitz, former dentist who negotiated Sims' original pact with the Lions and also signed the running back to his contract with the USFL team. Argovitz received a commission of nearly \$200,000 for signing Sims for the Gamblers.

"I think this is a relatively simple case," Sims' attorney, Elbert Hatchett, said, "of whether he can be forced to honor the Argovitz contract. I don't think it'll take a lot of witnesses to determine that he doesn't."

Hatchett said his case would take less than two days to present. Attorneys for Argovitz say their case could take a week.

Sims and the Lions originally filed a joint suit in Oakland County Circuit Court last year but that was transferred to federal court. The suit charges Argovitz with fraud and misrepresentation while representing Sims in contract talks with Detroit.

Judge DeMascio on Monday ruled the Lions have no standing to assert Sims' rights on his behalf and dropped them from the suit.

The Lions also have a suit for damages against Argovitz and the Gamblers but that will only come to trial, at a later date, if DeMascio decides Sims' contract with Detroit is valid.

Currently, the only question being decided is which contract is valid. Sims accepted part of his bonus money from Argovitz in July — and also was given a \$1 million bonus for signing with Detroit.

## Hearns title defense set for Feb. 11 in Detroit

United Press International

DETROIT — Thomas Hearns of Detroit will make the first defense of his World Boxing Council super welterweight title in his home city Feb. 11 against Italy's Luigi Minichillo.

"I haven't seen much of my opponent," Hearns said, "but I've heard a lot about him. He has great lateral movement, which will make it difficult."

"I'm planning on putting on a great show," said Hearns, who announced he intends to match other ticket the promoters intend to donate to the Detroit Library Fund. Budget cuts threaten to shut down some city library branches.

"This fight is very important to a return of Detroit to the ranks of major boxing centers," Mayor Coleman A. Young said. "The first proof Detroit is back as a major fight center is to jam the Louis Arena."

The fight card, scheduled for cable television, begins at 8 p.m. with Detroit blacked out.

Matthew Saad Muhammad, the former WBC light heavyweight champion from Philadelphia, will face Willie Edwards of Detroit for the NABF light heavyweight title in a 12-rounder on the same card.

Top-rated Mike McCallum, a Jamaican now boxing out of Emanuel Steward's Kronk Gym, will face Don King in a 10-round super welterweight fight while another Kronk boxer, Jimmy Paul, will fight for the USBA lightweight championship against Darrell Tyson in another 12-rounder.

"We're putting together a deal to get Wilfred Benitez on the card, too," said promoter Bill Kozerski.

Hearns defeated Benitez to win the 154-pound title July 26, 1982, but has been bothered by

injuries to his right hand since. He last fought on July 10, defeating Murray Sutherland of Bay City, Mich., in a middleweight fight.

Young, Detroit Red Wings owner Mike Ilitch, Steward and Kozerski also announced a hoped-for monthly series of fights featuring Kronk boxers. Ilitch is head of Olympia Arenas, Inc., which runs Joe Louis Arena and Cobo Arena for the city.

"We're putting together something for (WBC welterweight champion Milton) McCrory in March," Steward said. "We'd like to have six title defenses here this year."

"We want a fight a month," Young said. "We'd like a major fight involving Thomas Hearns, either (Roberto) Duran or (Sugar Ray) Leonard."

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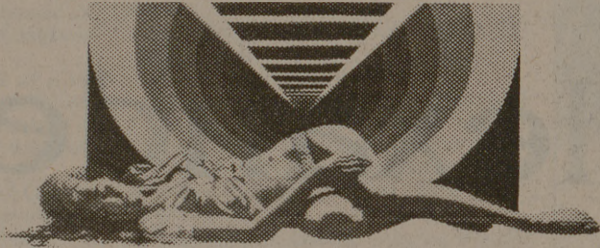
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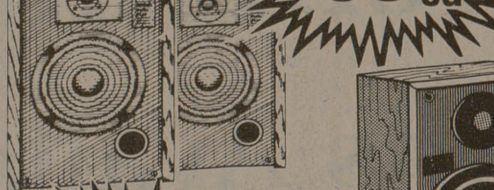
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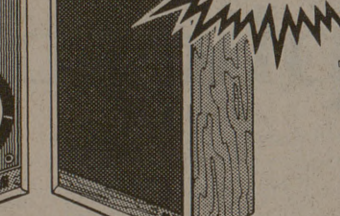


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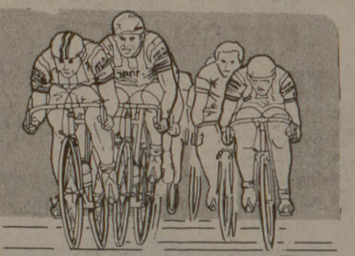
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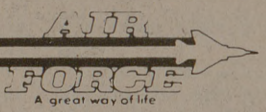
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