

# Dupree a Breaker?

**United Press International**  
SAN ANTONIO — New Orleans Breakers owner Ken Canizaro said Sunday that while details must be worked out, "Marcus Dupree could be in a uniform soon," with the United States Football League team.

Canizaro's remarks came as the Breakers opened their season against the San Antonio Gunslingers.  
Dupree, a star running back with the Oklahoma Sooners as a freshman, put up his pads and walked away from Oklahoma and enrolled at Southern Mississippi soon afterwards so he could be closer to home. But Dupree soon left Southern Mississippi too and during the past six months has initiated talks with the Breakers, who moved to New Orleans this season from Boston.

"We still have some things to do," said Canizaro. "We have to work out the situation with the Breakers. He said that they have discussed money, but the team owner would not be specific concerning a dollar figure."

He did say the discussions involved a contract were, "in the millions."  
Canizaro said Marcus' situation is different from that of other college players.  
"He cannot play this year (because of the NCAA transfer rule), and his family is in a hardship situation," said Canizaro. "His mother is working three jobs, and he has a brother with cerebral palsy."  
"I didn't let his previous activity (leaving the two schools) influence me," Canizaro added. "I'm pleased at the way he responded to me."

# Oliver sent to Giants

**United Press International**  
SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. — The San Francisco Giants acquired veteran first baseman Al Oliver, one of baseball's premier hitters, from Montreal Monday in a deal that sent right-handed pitcher Fred Breining to the Expos.

The trade came as somewhat of a surprise because the Giants had been talking to the Chicago Cubs in an attempt to obtain their veteran first baseman, Bill Buckner. The Giants will also send an unidentified player to the Expos for Oliver, who has batted at least .300 for eight consecutive seasons.

Expos' president John McHale said at his club's Florida training camp that the 37-year-old Oliver was traded because the team did not feel he was flexible enough at first base. McHale said Montreal manager Bill Virdon wanted to improve his team's overall speed and defense and felt he could not do that with Oliver in the lineup.

He also said he did not feel his club could pass up "an attractive" pitcher like Breining.  
Oliver's departure at first base creates a spot for Pete Rose, who will battle Terry Francona to see who plays first and who plays left field.

The arrival of Oliver to the Giants ends the club's search for a proven hitter to replace slugging first baseman Darrell Evans, who went to the Detroit Tigers this winter after declaring his free agency.

Oliver reportedly has two years remaining at \$800,000 per year in his contract with the Expos. In 1982, he was the National League batting champion, hitting .331 with 22 homers and 109 RBI. Last season, Oliver hit .300 with eight homers and 84 RBI.

Giants' vice president Tom Haller said the trade will solidify the club's batting order.  
"Obviously this trade will strengthen us offensively," he said. "We can now put Al in between (Jack) Clark and (Jeff) Leonard in the lineup. That's a pretty formidable lineup."

However, Haller said he was sorry the club had to sacrifice a pitcher to get Oliver.

# TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Andrews



# Dad's final season

# DePaul's coach to retire

**United Press International**  
CHICAGO — Joey Meyer will admit to occasional wanderings of the mind lately.

It may be during a long airplane flight following a scouting assignment. Sometimes it takes place during a game. At other times it is just when he is at home watching a basketball game on television.

The reason for Meyer's concentration lapses is the task that lies ahead of him. Next year, he will succeed his father, the legendary Ray Meyer, as coach of DePaul.

"You can't help but think about it, but my number-one concern has always been dad's final season," Meyer says. "We've worked hard for this year and we want dad to go out a winner."

Judging from DePaul's success this season, Meyer and Son may be able to do something that has never been done at the North Side university: win a national championship. If it occurs, it will be due in no small part to the work of Joey Meyer.

The transition of the business from father to son has been a gradual one. Since joining DePaul as an assistant, Joey Meyer has taken an increasingly larger role in the running of the DePaul basketball team. He has been the team's principal recruiter and is given credit for not only bringing the likes of Dave Corzine, Mark Aguirre and Terry Cummings to his father's program, but this year's freshman sensation, Dallas Comegys.

In addition, Joey Meyer takes an active role during practices, although his father is still the boss.

Joey Meyer says often times, he wonders what he would do himself in similar situations.

"I don't agree 100 percent with everything the coach does. That wouldn't be normal," he says. "I give my input but I realize next year, these decisions

*'I give my input but I realize next year, these decisions will all be mine to make and my father won't be there.'*  
— Joey Meyer

will all be mine to make and my father won't be there."

In fact, Ray Meyer has already signed to do broadcast commentary on, you guessed it, DePaul's games.

"I guess that if Joey makes a mistake, I'll say something about it," the elder Meyer said with a smile.

The decision to give Joey Meyer the head coaching job his father has held for the past 42 years was made three years ago. There was, however, some question about the exact time Joey Meyer would take over because his father, at age 70, was still going strong.

But when Ray Meyer finally decided to make it official last year that this would be his last season, his son began thinking more and more of the time when he would take over.

"I still plan to do a lot of coaching, it's part of me," said Joey Meyer. "I think that I will be nearly as much as my father because of the need for practices and the things that go along with a job."

The "other" things are to be massive numbers of interviews, the same way that Ray has faced in years during DePaul's ball resurgence.

But like his father, Meyer has benefited from a skill with the media. He wrote a diary column in the Chicago Tribune, he has his own radio show on games and is often quoted about the Blue Jays than his father.

"It is part of the job to understand that. My father me that," said Joey Meyer.

Just exactly what Joey will do differently is a matter for speculation. Meyer's decisions have influenced his son's life. The makeup or style of will be altered remarkably.

"That is something I haven't thought about as I said in this year," Joey Meyer says.

But true to his word, Meyer will not be seen with a bare cap but blue and white. He will wear a blue chip recruit's Christmas.

# Kuhn calls it quits March

**United Press International**  
NEW YORK — Bowie Kuhn hasn't closed the door on baseball.

Basically, the commissioner of baseball steps down on March 1 from the job he has held the last 15 years. He leaves baseball feeling the game has been enriched by his tenure and doesn't exhibit the slightest bit of rancor that a majority of major league owners wanted him out of office.

Kuhn, who left an established law practice in 1969 for "a labor of love" and will be going back to it, emphasizes that some day he'll return to baseball, perhaps in the ownership or executive role. His reentry into the sport is not in the foreseeable future, however.

"I've been offered various positions, but have turned them down," Kuhn says. "But when the baseball virus gets a hold of me too strongly, I'll be back."

Kuhn said a minority number of owners would have liked

him to stay on, but those who opposed him would have diminished the role of commissioner had he remained. He said that "if I had accepted that premise, I would have let them do something they shouldn't have done, which was to keep me at the price of the office."

With an ironic chuckle, Kuhn muses over baseball's unending search for his successor, calling the situation "a long, long trail awinding."

"However, I recognize that owners have set their standards very high and that's why it has been difficult to find somebody." Meanwhile, the ship has a steady hand on the tiller (Kuhn's) until March 1 and it gives them space to find somebody who will be really good."

There has been talk that baseball owners will name a new commissioner by July 1, but Kuhn made it clear he didn't wish to remain in office beyond March 1.

James Baker, chief of Presi-

dent Reagan's White House staff, and Peter Ueberall, President of the Los Angeles Olympic Committee, are two most often mentioned possible successors.

What kind of person sport looking for as a sixth commissioner?

"Probably a non-union son," Kuhn jibes. "It's a hard job. There are a lot of ways to strengthen the organization. I've made through channels and soon you'll see they'll pass. I'll repeat, it's strong office, but it's getting more complex. Needs to be strengthened out of new commissioner's needs to be done."

"There is pressure to sic integrity of the game. New commissioner must be part of that. If our athletes or owners in baseball are abused, then none of us are better off. Through the ball and to the public, you don't keep your integrity problem."

Kuhn stresses that names of baseball will create friction between the commissioner and the owners. He doesn't find healthy. What he wants owners to do is commit themselves to supporting a sioner to make his decision effective.

One criticism of Kuhn was unwarranted. He didn't take a sufficient role as commissioner. That a lot during the 1981.

"The public concept of the powers of the commissioner is mistaken," Kuhn says. "They see him as a squire with unlimited power. The commissioner has considerable powers but not tell the head of the union that he can't strike."

Kuhn, a descendant of tiansman Jim Bowie, was Oct. 28, 1926, in Takoma Md., where his father was retail oil business.

On Feb. 22, Kuhn was named by the Sporting News Man of the Year award. "because the door was closed on Bowie Kuhn, it's an endorsement of cord I achieved as a sioner."

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