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by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



Pearson discusses accident

United Press International

Drew Pearson limped slightly as he walked in to make his first public appearance since the March 22 accident in which Carey Mark Pearson, 27, was killed and the Dallas Cowboys' All Pro wide receiver was seriously injured.

Pearson said the major injury he suffered in the accident was to his liver, but doctors have assured him that it will be healed in two or three months. He also suffered a slightly separated clavical and had stitches in his knee and thigh, but "those are types of injuries I wouldn't even tell the trainer about."

"I know this is going to set me back as far as off-season conditioning is concerned," he said of the liver injury. "But knowing myself and knowing how my body heals, I feel I will be strong toward the end of September and be ready to give the Cowboys the type of football they expect from me."

Pearson said he remembered little of the accident, adding that he apparently fell asleep at the wheel. Pearson's car rammied into the rear of a tractor-trailer parked near a highway exit in Dallas. Carey Pearson was declared dead at the scene.

"I remember getting on the freeway but that's all I remem-

ber until I woke up and my brother was lying on my shoulder. I tried to wake him up, too, but of course I couldn't.

Pearson said the only obstacle to him playing for Dallas this season would be contractual. He completed his 11th season with the Cowboys last year. He is currently in the option year of his contract.

"I'm still considering retiring," Pearson said. "Inside, I'm very sore. But I feel I have an obligation to play."

"I have an obligation to the fans who have shown support for me and I feel like I have a personal commitment to carry on my brother's name."

"It gives me something new to play for. When you're 33 years old, you need different reasons to play. It's something to grasp and a good positive reason to play," he said.

Pearson stressed that his conditioning program would be a long one.

"I really have a birdcage chest to go with my bird legs," Pearson said in one of the few light moments of the news conference.

"It was very tough mentally. At night I'd lie there in intensive care and couldn't sleep. When I did sleep, I would have nightmares."

"There is no question that all this (football-related activities) is going to occupy my mind, but

not enough to make me forget what happened or what I have been through."

Pearson made several references to his faith and how that helped him cope with Carey's death.

"You have to understand that He has a plan for all of us. There's a reason I awoke from that accident and my brother didn't. It has nothing to do with Drew Pearson. He has a plan."

Tigers remain unbeaten

Detroit slams Texas, 5-1

United Press International

DETROIT — Darrell Evans belted a three-run homer in the first inning and Dan Petry pitched a four-hitter Tuesday to help the unbeaten Detroit Tigers run their winning streak to six games with a 5-1 victory over the Texas Rangers.

A crowd of 51,238 turned out for Detroit's first home game and saw Evans, the club's first major free agent acquisition, belt a 1-0 pitch into the upper deck in right after Texas starter Dave Stewart had walked the first two batters.

Kirk Gibson singled with one out and Stewart walked three more batters in the inning to give the Tigers a 4-1 lead before being relieved. The six victories at the start of the season marks Detroit's best start since 1911, when the Tigers also won their first six games.

Detroit raised its lead to 5-1 in the third when Larry Herndon doubled and Dave Bergman singled him home.

Evans, who played out his option at San Francisco last year, has two home runs and eight RBI for Detroit. Petry raised his record to 2-0 and allowed just

two hits after the first inning. He struck out seven and walked three.

Buddy Bell singled with one out in the first, went to second on an infield out by George Wright and gave the Rangers a 1-0 lead when he scored on Larry Parrish's single. But Petry allowed no more hits until Gary Ward opened the seventh inning with a single.

Texas 100 000 000-1
Detroit 401 000 00x-5

Game-winning RBI — Evans (2), LOB — Texas 6, Detroit 6, 2B — Herndon, HR — Evans (2), SB — Herndon, HBP — by Henke (Lemon), WP — Henke, PB — Yost, T — 2:52, A — 51,238.

Astros still faltering, lose 3-1

United Press International

PHILADELPHIA — Mike Schmidt says there's nothing like facing Nolan Ryan when the game is on the line.

Before going up against Ryan Tuesday with two on in the eighth inning, Schmidt had one 0-for-3 while stranding six runners to touch off some scattered disapproval from the crowd of 37,236 that turned out for the Philadelphia Phillies' home opener.

But the fourth time up, Schmidt won the duel with Houston's fireballing ace. He cracked a three-run homer into the left field seats to give the Phillies and John Denny a 3-1 victory over the Astros.

"There's no at-bat like an at-bat against Nolan Ryan," Schmidt said. "I just don't know how to describe it. He's a hitter, a gamer. I got one hit but beat him today but there's nothing like hitting against him."

He lets you know he's coming at you.

"He throws you a ball on the hands and then he pitches you away. Sometimes the other guy deserves the credit. The man broke seven bats today and struck out 11. That's 18 outs that are absolutely no contest."

Ryan, 1-1, who had a 4-hitter after seven innings, walked Juan Samuel to lead off the eighth. Len Matuszek then bunted but the ball nicked Ryan's glove for an infield hit. Schmidt then worked the count to 2-2 and belted the next pitch into the stands.

"I tried to go away with a fast-ball on the outside part of the plate but it tailed back in," Ryan said. "You can't pitch from behind against Schmidt and get away with it. As soon as I released it, I knew it was gone."

The homer came on the last of the 127 pitches thrown by Ryan but Houston manager Bob Lillis said he did not think

about lifting him.

"It's tough to take a guy out when he's throwing 95 miles an hour, has a shutout and has struck out 11," Lillis said. "It would certainly be demoralizing if I would have done it. He was out there to win it or lose it. He challenged Schmidt, and Schmidt hit a home run."

Denny, 1-1, the 1983 Cy Young Award winner, matched Ryan by shutting out the Astros until the eighth, when Craig Reynolds hit his first home run of the season. But no other Houston runner managed to make it past first base.

After Denny allowed a lead-off single to Terry Puhl in the ninth, manager Paul Owens lifted him in favor of bullpen ace Al Holland, who picked up his first save.

"Denny pitched a great game and he earned the right to start the ninth," Owens said. "But there was no way he was going to continue if a man got on because I had the guy who can save it."

In Houston, Astros shortstop Dickie Thon, struck by a pitch Sunday night, is scheduled to undergo surgery today to repair a bone fracture about his left eye, a club spokesman said.

Thon was hit by a pitch from New York Mets' pitcher Mike Torrez in the third inning of a game Sunday in the Astro-dome.

Houston 000 000 010-1
Phillies 000 000 03x-3

Game-winning RBI — Schmidt (2), E — Matuszek, LOB — Houston 5, Philadelphia 6, HR — Reynolds (1), Schmidt (2), SB — Samuel (7), T — 2:21, A — 37,236.

USFL honors Carano

United Press International

NEW YORK — Pittsburgh Steelers quarterback Glenn Carano has been named the U.S. Football League's player of the week, it was announced Tuesday.

Carano completed 35 of 48 passes for 388 yards and two

touchdowns Sunday in the Maulers' 27-24 loss to the New Orleans Breakers. The quarterback also ran one yard for a touchdown in the game.

Carano, who played seven years with the Dallas Cowboys in the NFL before signing with Pittsburgh in the off-season, has connected on 122 of 202 passes

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