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Owners decide USFL fate

United Press International

NEW YORK — New Jersey Generals owner Donald Trump called the U.S. Football League's weekend meeting in Amelia Island, Fla., one of the best business meetings he has attended.

"I never attended a meeting in such a complex situation," Trump, a multi-millionaire real estate developer, said Monday from his New York office.

"I didn't know if we would have a league when I went down there. Now the league is more united and stronger than ever."

Trump pointed to the meetings ending a day early as evidence of their smooth going. The league owners discussed folding and consolidating franchises although most of the decisions reached won't be announced until November.

"The most important thing is that these people (owners) are going to be here for years to come," Trump said.

The USFL will play one more spring season before shifting to a fall season in 1986.

Trump said he is optimistic the USFL will win its antitrust suit filed last week against the NFL.

The fledgling league will agree on a network television contract before its 1986 season.

Huskies hold No. 1

United Press International

NEW YORK — Washington padded its lead as college football's No. 1 team while Texas slipped past Oklahoma into second place Monday in balloting by the UPI Board of Coaches.

After sweating out a 17-10 decision over Oregon, the Huskies, 7-0, received 30 of 42 first-place votes and 591 total points. Washington hosts Pac-10 foe Arizona this week.

Texas and Oklahoma also struggled but the Longhorns moved up with seven first-place votes and 490 points while Oklahoma received two first-place votes and 481 points. Texas topped Arkansas 24-18 while the Sooners edged Iowa State 12-10.

No. 4 Brigham Young and No. 5 Nebraska both moved up one notch, with the Cougars holding off the Cornhuskers by one point. BYU received one first-place vote and 463 points and Nebraska got 462 points.

Total points are based on 15 for first-place votes, 14 for second-place, etc.

No. 6 Louisiana State and No. 7 Ohio State each got a first-place vote. LSU moved up three spots after crushing Kentucky 36-10, gathering 384 points. Ohio State, a 23-20 winner of Michigan State Saturday, received 369 points and improved one notch.

South Carolina moved up three places to eighth as the Gamecocks matched their best start ever (6-0) with their highest rating in history. No. 9 Miami and No. 10 Boston College round out the top 10.

Completing the Top 20 are

No. 11 Oklahoma State, No. 12 Georgia, No. 13 Auburn, No. 14 West Virginia, No. 15 Florida State, No. 16 Southern Methodist, No. 17 Iowa, No. 18 Florida, No. 19 Southern Cal and No. 20 Penn State.

BYU (7-0) joins Washington and South Carolina as the only unbeaten and untied teams in the Top 20. Texas (4-0-1), Oklahoma (5-0-1) and LSU (6-0-1) are unbeaten with ties.

West Virginia made the biggest jump in the ratings — five places — after a 21-20 upset of Boston College that knocked the Eagles down six spots. SMU, a 29-20 loser to Houston, took the biggest fall of nine places.

Georgia's 62-35 rout of Vanderbilt lifted the Bulldogs two spots in the ratings and one point ahead of Southeastern Conference rival Auburn (154-153).

USC and Penn State moved back into the ratings this week. USC improved to 5-1 with a 17-14 victory over Arizona, and Penn State ran its record to 5-2 by dumping Syracuse 21-3.

Kentucky and Michigan, ranked 20th before being blanked 26-0 by Iowa, fell from the Top 20.

In games pitting ranked teams this week, Texas hosts SMU in the Southwest Conference and West Virginia hosts Penn State in a battle of Eastern independents.

The SEC has the most ranked teams with four (LSU, Georgia, Auburn and Florida.) The Big Eight is next with three (Oklahoma, Nebraska and Oklahoma State).

UPI Top 20

The United Press International Board of Coaches Top 20 college football ratings, with first-place votes and records in parentheses (total points based on 15 points for first place, 14 for second, etc.).

1. Washington (30) (7-0) 591
2. Texas (7) (4-0-1) 490
3. Oklahoma (2) (5-0-1) 481
4. Brigham Young (1) (7-0) 463
5. Nebraska (6-1) 462
6. Louisiana State (1) (5-0-1) 384
7. Ohio State (1) (6-1) 369
8. South Carolina (6-0) 265
9. Miami, Fla. (7-2) 245
10. Boston College (4-1) 205
11. Oklahoma State (5-1) 173
12. Georgia (5-1) 154
13. Auburn (5-2) 153
14. West Virginia (6-1) 112
15. Florida State (5-1-1) 80
16. Southern Methodist (4-1) 77
17. Iowa (5-2) 69
18. Florida (5-1-1) 58
19. Southern Cal (5-1) 17
20. Penn State (5-2) 16

Note: By agreement with the American Football Coaches Association, teams on NCAA or conference probation are ineligible for the Top 20 and national championship consideration by the UPI Board of Coaches. Teams currently on probation are Arizona, Clemson, Illinois and Kansas.

Browns axe Sam Rutigliano

United Press International

CLEVELAND — The Cleveland Browns, who began the season with hopes of a division title but lost seven of their first eight games, Monday fired Coach Sam Rutigliano and replaced him with Assistant Coach Marty Schottenheimer.

Rutigliano, UPI's Coach of the Year in 1979 and 1980, promised to win the AFC Central crown. But a 12-9 loss to the Cincinnati Bengals Sunday left the Browns with a 1-7 record midway through the season.

"Our personnel deserve a better record," Browns owner Art Modell said.

Schottenheimer, the team's defensive coordinator, was given a contract through the 1986 season and said he would make few immediate changes.

Modell said he would honor the 4 1/2 years remaining on Rutigliano's contract and hopes Rutigliano would remain with the Browns in some capacity. His record was 47-50 over 6 1/2 seasons.

The usually jocular Rutigliano was subdued during the news conference but gracious.

"Let's look at it as a fresh start," Rutigliano said. "Today I've become the No. 1 fan of the Cleveland Browns. I think I was treated fairly."

He said he planned to use the next three months to reflect on his career but indicated he wanted to coach again.

Schottenheimer, a former line-backer for the Pittsburgh Steelers, Buffalo Bills and Boston Patriots, was an assistant coach with the Portland Storm of the World Football

League, the New York Giants and the Detroit Lions. He came to the Browns in 1980.

Modell said he reached his decision on the coaching change late Sunday. He said Schottenheimer was the sole candidate for the job and his appointment was the start of a "new era."

"It is a bittersweet moment but I'm excited about the opportunity," Schottenheimer said. "I'm positive that I'll be good at what I'll do. We are looking to start a streak ... we want to win one in a row."

"I don't see any major changes," said Schottenheimer, adding he would rely heavily on offensive coordinator Joe Scannella.

Although the team has one of the best defenses in the football, its offense has been unable to produce.

Rutigliano, an assistant coach of the pros for 11 years before coming to Cleveland, took over the Browns in 1978 and led the club to a 13-3 record. He followed with a 9-5 record in 1979, 11-5 in 1980, 5-11 in 1981, 4-5 in 1982 and 9-7 last year.

In 1980, the Browns won the AFC Central but were knocked out of the playoffs by the Raiders, who went on to win the Super Bowl. The Browns made the playoffs in the shortened 1982 season but were eliminated by the Raiders.

Rutigliano, who started coaching in high school, was the defensive coordinator with the England Patriots, defensive field coach for the New York Jets and receivers coach for the New Orleans Saints.

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