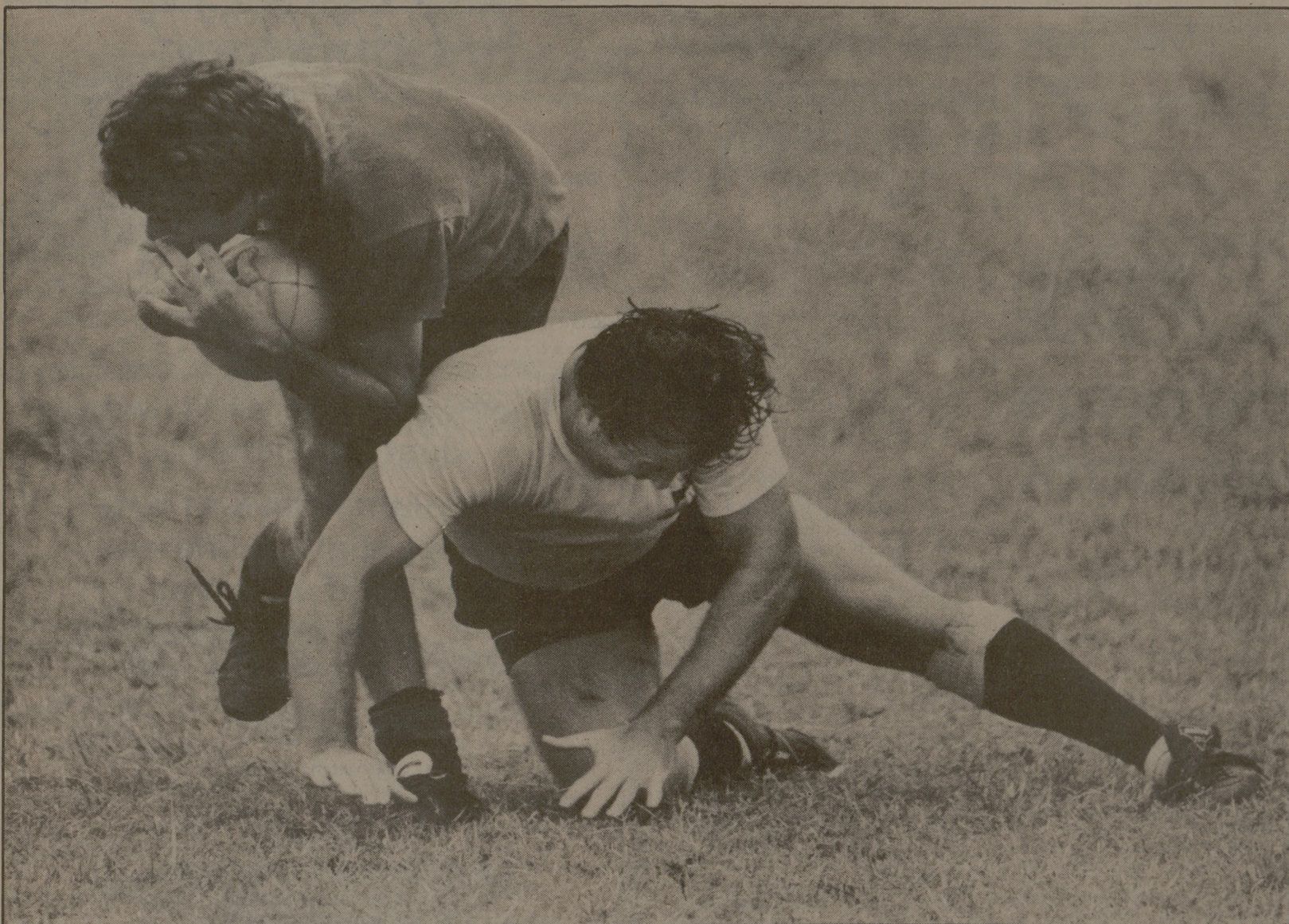


SPORTS



For A Michelob Light?

Two rugby players collide during the 9th Annual Texas A&M Summer Sevens Rugby Tournament held this past Saturday. About 50

university and club teams, from across Texas and the Southwest, participated in the all-day tourney held on the A&M Polo Field.

Photo by GREG BAILEY

No more problems for Noah

French tennis star regains top form

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Yannick Noah, driven from his native France by the pressure and publicity of being his country's top player, said he wants to be the best there is.

The 6-foot-4 Noah, who earlier this year won the Italian Open, won another Grand Prix championship Monday night, defeating Argentina's Martin Jaite, 6-4, 6-3 in the final of the \$200,000 D.C. National Bank Tennis Classic.

Noah reached the final after beating Jimmy Connors for the first time ever, 6-4, 3-6, 6-2 on Sunday.

"I want to be on top of the top," said Noah after upending the tournament's No. 1 seed.

For Noah, 25, the match and his post-game comments showed how far he has come in a renewed quest for tennis excellence.

Long heralded as one of tennis' future stars, Noah began to fulfill his promise in 1982 when he ended Ivan Lendl's 44-match winning streak. Before the year was out he would reach the quarterfinals of nine tournaments and lead France to its first Davis Cup Final in 49 years.

In 1983, the 180-pound right-hander captured his countrymen's hearts as he became the first Frenchman in tennis history to be ranked among the world's top ten players. An accomplishment that followed consecutive victories at Madrid, Hamburg and Paris.

The pressure of being national hero, thrust into a fishbowl existence, became too great for the private Noah.

He fled to New York City and anonymity.

His tennis game, meantime, burdened by abdominal injuries, had fallen apart in 1984. Sidelined for much of the year, Noah's ranking toppled.

Marriage and the birth of his first child combined with a healthy body to help Noah return in 1985.

He won the Italian Open in Rome with victories over highly regarded Jose-Luis Clerc, Miloslav Mecir and the soon to be crowned Wimbledon champion Boris Becker.

The spring season continued with quarterfinal appearances at both Philadelphia and Delray Beach, Fla. and the round of 16 in Paris.

"If I play well, I can beat anybody," Noah says.



Guns miss deadline, release entire team

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — The San Antonio Gunslingers, facing a 5 p.m. deadline to pay their team two overdue paychecks, released all 46 players Monday afternoon minutes before the deadline.

Roger Gill, general manager of the United States Football League team, said team owner Clinton Manges still intended to pay the players, but he would not specify a timetable.

Gill would not elaborate on why the team decided to release the players.

"Our intentions are to play in the 1986 season. We've got a year to prepare," Gill said. "Releasing the players now would allow them join a National Football League team if they so desired."

"If they don't make it with another team, we'll give them a chance to play with us. As soon as we fulfill our payroll obligations, we'll start to pursue players."

An arbitrator for the USFL Players Association had said if Manges failed to meet the Monday deadline for paying the back salaries, contracts for all the Gunslingers would be terminated.

Under the terms laid down by the arbitrator, San Antonio's players would then be put on the league's waiver list, and those not picked up by other teams by 5 p.m. Tuesday would become free agents.

Doug Allen, executive director of the USFL Players Association, said



that from his conversations with players, that the two payrolls had not been met.

"I'm very disappointed, but not very surprised," said Allen in a telephone interview from his office in Washington, D.C.

"It's typical of the way Clinton Manges has conducted himself with this team."

Earlier Monday, Gill had said the team was waiting on the league to release \$400,000 the club claims it is owed.

The Gunslingers were not paid on their regular paydays of June 11 and June 25.

Manges faced an identical situation in early June, but managed to meet two overdue payrolls just hours before a deadline set by another arbitrator.

The USFL Players Association filed a grievance after the June 25 payroll was missed.

An arbitrator ruled the players would have to be paid by Sunday, but the deadline was moved to Monday so it would fall on a working day.

Guns' linebacker Jeff Leiding termed the team's action a betrayal.

"I never thought it would come to this," Leiding said, "for us to come to being released and the core of the operation being abolished — how can you foresee that happening at the beginning of the year? It's crazy. There are no more surprises. Now I know what it feels to be a steel worker. I've been laid off."

Guns' safety Mike Ulmer said: "I thought he might pull it out right at the last. But it's a business. Evidently something he did failed."

Leiding and Ulmer were the only two players at team headquarters at Alamo Stadium at the 5 p.m. deadline. Most of the others returned to their homes elsewhere in the country after the season concluded.

Former Guns' head coach Jim Bates, fired in May, was at team offices but said he had no luck collecting his overdue paychecks, either.

"They're not being sympathetic to people's lives and their families," said Bates, whose contract still must be honored. Bates said he still has not found a job.

Rangers edge Indians; Phillies ease by Astros

Associated Press

ARLINGTON — Oddibe McDowell homered leading off the eighth inning Monday night, giving the Texas Rangers a 2-1 victory over the Cleveland Indians.

McDowell connected on an 0-1 pitch from Vern Ruhle, 2-6, for his sixth home run of the season. McDowell also had two singles.

The Indians took a 1-0 lead in the third when Brett Butler singled, went to third on Julio Franco's single to right and scored on Pat Tabler's infield out.

The Rangers tied the score in the fourth inning. McDowell led off with a single, stole second, took third on a groundout and scored on Gary Ward's single.

The Phillies jumped on Joe Niekro for a 4-0 lead in the first inning on John Russell's first major league grand-slam homer. Two walks sandwiched around a Glenn Wilson single had loaded the bases.

Houston got two runs back in the second on four consecutive hits off Phillies starter Charlie Hudson. Jose Cruz doubled and scored on Jerry Mumphrey's single. Phil Garner followed with a single and Mumphrey scored on Glenn Davis' double.

The Astros went ahead 6-4 in the seventh with a four-run inning capped by Cruz's three-run homer off reliever Dave Rucker. Craig Reynolds had made it 4-3 with a double earlier in the inning.

first two batters in the ninth before Schmidt slammed his 13th homer of the season, on a 1-2 pitch, over the left field fence.

Before Schmidt's game-winner, three Astros converged on his foul pop just off the plate. At the last moment, third baseman Phil Garner attempted to make the catch, but the ball popped out of his glove for an error.

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