

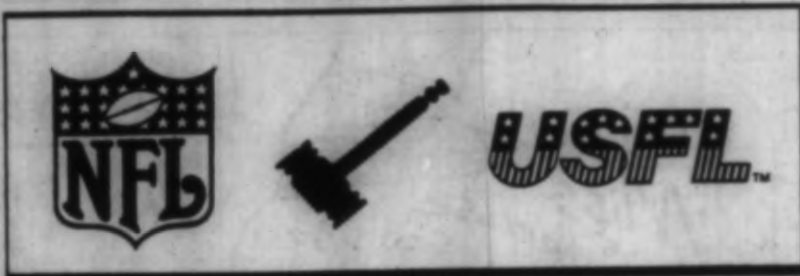
Sports

CBS says NFL's threat: Honor \$700 million pact or no games

NEW YORK (AP)—A CBS executive acknowledged Thursday that the NFL's tactics in negotiating its \$2.1 billion television contracts left his network with the choice of meeting the league's demands for more than \$700 million or losing the NFL games.

Neal Pilson, executive vice-president of the CBS Broadcast Group and the former head of CBS Sports, testified at the USFL's \$1.5 billion antitrust suit against the NFL that he and his network were unwilling to meet the league's opening demand for \$780 million. That fee would have covered the 1982-86 regular seasons, two Super Bowls and five NFC championship games.

The issue of NFL pressure on the networks has been central in the trial. A major USFL contention is that the NFL pressured the networks not to give the USFL a contract for fall play. One of its demands has been to have the NFL ordered off one of the



three major networks. Pilson's testimony did not involve the USFL directly but it did demonstrate how the NFL used pressure in contract negotiations.

Pilson said that as the 1982 negotiations continued, NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle told him that he had agreements with NBC and ABC — ABC to take over a schedule of Sunday games and NBC to take over CBS's schedule.

"Mr. Rozelle said that if he was unable to make a deal with CBS, we could run the risk of losing our franchise," said Pilson, who said the network eventually agreed to pay \$736 million for the NFL rights.

"Didn't that NFL pressure put you in an extremely disadvantageous negotiating position?" Pilson was asked by USFL lawyer Harvey Myerson.

"It put us in a difficult negotiating position, yes," Pilson replied. "Didn't he (Rozelle) say he could take the NFL off CBS," Myerson asked.

"I'm not sure he said it, but that was the impression," Pilson said. "We were facing the loss of our package. But that's not an unusual occurrence. At times with other suppliers, they've said they might go somewhere else." The 1982 negotiations with CBS have come up before in the previous five weeks of the trial.

Rozelle, asked about it during his testimony, acknowledged some of the facts and described it as typical of financial negotiations. The same description was applied to it by Rooney Arledge, the former head of ABC Sports, who acknowledged that he had agreed with Rozelle to take Sunday afternoon games if either CBS or NBC failed to reach an agreement with the NFL.

U.S. Open

Tway's play up to par, weather not

SOUTHAMPTON, N.Y. (AP) — Patience and solid putting enabled Bob Tway to survive rain, wind and cold while Jack Nicklaus' Grand Slam dreams all but evaporated Thursday in some of the most extreme weather conditions of all the 86 U.S. Open Golf Championships.

Tway, a two-time winner on the PGA Tour this season, scrambled to a round of par 70 that set the pace Thursday in the weather-plagued first round of the American national championship.

Play was halted at 7:53 p.m. EDT, with 18 members of the 136-man field stranded on the golf course by darkness.

It marked the first time since the 1974 U.S. Open at Winged Foot that a score of par was good enough to lead the tournament that ranks with the Masters, British Open and PGA as golf's Big Four events.

Nicklaus, 46, who captured the imagination of the golfing world with his dramatic triumph in the Masters, all but self-destructed in his bid to become the only man to make a one-year sweep of the game's major titles.

The holder of a record 18 major professional titles, Nicklaus lost a ball, scored three double bogeys and played the back in 41 on the way to a 77, seven over par on the Shinnecock Hills Golf Club course.

Nicklaus was not alone in his misery, however.

For example, there was Sandy Lyle, the British Open champion, playing in conditions common to autumn in his native Scotland. He struggled to a 78 and fled the course without comment.

The defending American national champion, Andy North, was one shot higher at 79.

Andy Bean, a two-time winner

and twice a runner-up on the Tour this year, had a hard-earned 76.

The scores ranged into the ridiculous: 83s for George Burns and Danny Edwards, an 85 for Jack Renner. Others were even higher.

It was the weather — in concert with the historic golf course that sits like a bit of Scotland on the other edge of the Atlantic — that did it.

The winds gusted to 30 mph or more, pushing scudding gray clouds in front of them. Rains ranged from drizzle to squalls, one of which was severe enough to cause a brief delay in play. Temperatures were in the high 50s.

"The conditions were the most difficult I've seen in the American championship," Nicklaus said. "I'd have been happy with a 76."

"Miserable," said Tway. "A day of survival."

"I love it," said Tom Watson, a

notorious foul-weather player, who holed out a bunker shot for a birdie in his round of 72.

"It's my favorite kind of weather," Watson said of the blustery conditions that were as bad or worse than any he encountered in winning five British Opens.

Australian Greg Norman, the "Great White Shark," who has been on a tear around the American tour was second when play was suspended at 71, one over par.

"I think 71 was like shooting a 67 or 68 under good conditions. There were some par 4s where 5 was a good score today," said Norman, who has scored two victories and two seconds in his last five starts.

With Watson at 72 were South Africans Denis Watson and David Frost, Tommy Nakajima of Japan, Rick Fehr and Kenny Knox, an upset winner in Florida earlier this season.

Golden Cub?

Verplank follows Jack's tracks with near ace in debut

SOUTHAMPTON, N.Y. (AP) — Scott Verplank's professional debut in the 86th U.S. Open on Thursday included a near hole-in-one and a struggling 5-over-par 75 over the wind-swept, rain-soaked dunes of Shinnecock Hills.

"It was a two-spike, two-sandwich day," said Verplank, the most heralded player to come out of amateur golf since Jack Nicklaus.

Verplank held up a wet golf shoe that had two spikes missing out of it.

A diabetic, he has to constantly munch on food to keep his blood sugar level constant.

"This was the toughest day I've ever played golf on," said Verplank, who recently won the NCAA title as a member of the Oklahoma State team. "I'm not happy with my round but I'm not upset either. I'd probably been satisfied if I hadn't bogeyed the last hole."

Verplank's near ace came on the 172-yard Par 3 No. 17. His 7-iron shot flew straight at the flag and the ball just missed bouncing in the hole. He then rolled in an 8-footer for his first birdie of the day.

"I really didn't think about being a pro out there until that hole," Verplank laughed. "Some guy yelled from the crowd 'that's your first bird as a pro.' I told him 'you're right.'"

Verplank, the winner of the 1985 Western Open, decided in May to turn professional in this tournament. He has an exemption on the PGA Tour through 1987.

Asked how it felt to be a pro, Verplank, the 1984 U.S. Amateur champion, said, "It was just another round of golf in which I was trying to survive. I guess shooting 75 today was just about like shooting par."

Winds gusting to 30 miles an hour, rain squalls off the Atlantic Ocean, and numbing cold made a good putting touch difficult.

"There's no telling how many 8-footers I missed," he said. "And it seemed every time I missed the fairway I got a bad lie. All you could do was take your medicine and pitch the ball back to the fairway."

Verplank went out in 2-over-par 37 and came back in 3-over 38.

"I just wasn't sharp around the greens," said Verplank, who played in the same threesome with Calvin Peete and Bernhard Langer. Peete shot 77 and Langer had 74.

Verplank said, "It was the type of day where I'll certainly never forget my pro debut. Now that was an antagonizing wind. It seemed to blow out of every direction. It was very, very difficult."

A surprisingly large crowd followed Verplank despite the harsh conditions. One fan kept yelling, "Go Cowboy, Go Cowboy."

Verplank, who is from Dallas, also had problems with his driver, missing six fairways.

"Depending on how the wind was blowing you had to start your drive out over the rough and hope the wind blew it back," he said. "Sometimes it didn't."

Asked if he was going to spend the rest of his day by a warm fire, Verplank replied, "Are you kidding? I've got to go repair this putting stroke. I'm off to the putting green."

Brazil 'revs up,' crushes Northern Ireland

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The vaunted Brazilian soccer machine, finally got into gear at the World Cup Thursday with a 3-0 thrashing of Northern Ireland.

Although it had the only spotless record in the 24-team tournament (two wins, no goals allowed) heading into the game with the Irish, Brazil had drawn criticism from the media and even from within the team for its listless performances.

The Brazilians, who are seeking a record fourth World Cup, were anything but listless Thursday. Their passing was accurate, their speed and flair too much for the Irish to handle. Careca scored twice and Josimar got the other goal in eliminating the Irish, 0-2-1.

Brazil plays Poland Monday in Guadalajara in Round 2.

"We are capable of playing better and I am confident that we can use our power to go further in this competition," Brazilian Coach Tele Santana said. "The margin of victory could have been greater, but I am satisfied."

It's hard to believe the Brazilians can play much better.

"It was always going to be a difficult match," Irish Manager Billy

World Cup Schedule

FIRST ROUND

Thursday

Brazil 3, Northern Ireland 0
Spain 3, Algeria 0

Today

West Germany vs. Denmark at Queretaro, 2 p.m.
Uruguay vs. Scotland at Queretaro, 2 p.m.

Bingham said. "We had to play it tight, but plans go astray when you are hit with two classical goals such as Brazil got."

Irish goalie Pat Jennings did not have a very pleasant 41st birthday. The oldest player in the tournament played well but had no chance on any of the goals in what he has said is his final international appearance.

"It was an emotional ending for

me," Jennings said. "It is always difficult to give something up."

In Thursday's other game, Spain advanced by defeating Algeria 3-0 as Ramon Caldera scored twice and Eloy Olaya also connected in a rugged game. The Spanish placed second in Group D with four points and will oppose the winner of Group E next Wednesday in Queretaro. Denmark plays West Germany on Friday for the E title.

"I'm very pleased with the victory and qualification," Spanish Coach Miguel Munoiz said. "We could have scored more goals but I am satisfied."

He was not so happy with his team's injury situation. Julio Salinas, Miguel Gonzalez and Emilio Butragueno — the core of Spain's attack — were hurt in the game.

"We will have to see whether they can recover in the next few days," Munoiz said.

The Algerians, like Northern Ireland, were 0-2-1 in Group D.

Virtually all of the matches for the next round are set. Aside from Brazil and Spain's games, it will be Argentina, winner of Group A, vs. Uruguay or Scotland (those teams play Friday. If Uruguay wins or ties, it advances; Scotland must win.); Mexico (Group B winner) vs. Bulgaria; the Soviet Union (first in Group C) against Belgium; Morocco (atop Group F) vs. West Germany or Denmark (the Germans must beat the Danes Friday to finish first in E. Otherwise, West Germany plays Morocco.); England against Paraguay and Italy vs. France.

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