

Sports

Bosworth up to usual selfish antics in dealings with NFL

By Loyd Brumfield
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Brian Bosworth is at it again, and the NFL has become the new designated target for his tiresome antics.

The University of Oklahoma was glad to see him go, and the NCAA was all too happy to show him the door to a prosperous life playing football and making fast food commercials. But after last Friday's supplemental draft, Bosworth may get the opportunity to rudely walk out on the NFL, too.

Bosworth was the only player taken in the draft, and he went to Seattle.

Seattle. Sounds like a nice place to live and have a career, doesn't it? Not to Mr. Bosworth.

He has said time and time again that he won't play for just any team. The team the Boz plays for has to fit the mold, his 6'3" 240-pound mold.

Let's look closer at Seattle. This is a team located in one of the most beautiful states in the country, with arguably the best fans in football, and whose home stadium, the Kingdome, is one of the most feared places to play because of those tenacious Seahawk fans. And this doesn't fit his mold?

Obviously, this means any team that hopes to sign Bosworth must make sure its players sport earrings, sunglasses and multi-colored haircuts.

Bosworth said he doesn't want to

play for the Seahawks because they are "one step away from the Super Bowl." Yeah, that would deter me, too.

He also said Seattle isn't in need of any immediate help. In other words, he might not start.

In fact, Bosworth narrowed his list of potential teams to three: the Tampa Bay Buccaneers, the Los Angeles Raiders and the New York Jets. Tampa Bay is his first choice because he would get to play with his idol, Vinny Testaverde.

To make things nice, the Bucs need a little help, too. Both the Raiders and Jets fit his mold with nasty, terrifying defenses. They pass the Boz test.

Two more teams, the Los Angeles Rams and the New York Giants, flunked. They were previously on his list, but Bosworth doesn't like the Rams because they don't have a first round pick.

So What. He doesn't like the Giants because they might be complacent after the Super Bowl, and he fears they might use him only on special teams. In other words, he might not start.

He has threatened to sit out an entire season if he doesn't get to play for the team of his choice. What a role model he is. He has even threatened to go to graduate school if he doesn't get his wish.

There are lots of fine institutions which would love to have him, although I'll wager Oklahoma isn't one of them.

There are hundreds of players not as fortunate as Bosworth who

would gladly jump at the chance to just sit on the bench for any team, even Buffalo.

Bosworth is immensely talented to be sure, and he should be an immediate help to any team in the league, but he's no special case. One player shouldn't be able to bring an entire league to its knees.

Besides, after his antics at Oklahoma, his constant flirting with NCAA regulations (remember this year's Orange Bowl?) and his general tendency to attract controversy, one would think Bosworth has worn out his welcome with just about anyone.

But the NFL loves its celebrities, and another one alongside of the Refrigerator and Jim McMahon won't hurt the image at all, and hey, Bosworth even has a degree, too. Who says athletes aren't educated?

The simple fact is, Bosworth will be an immediate star wherever he goes, regardless of whether he starts or not. There will be numerous opportunities for endorsements, talk show appearances and other perks of the job.

Another fact is that Bosworth will probably get his way, opening doors for other "superior" athletes to push around the pro league of their choice.

Seattle has vowed to sign him, but don't look for him to play for the Seahawks any time soon. However, look for him to get the rudest welcome in the history of pro football when he and whatever team gets saddled with him struts into the Kingdome one Sunday afternoon.

Grow up, Brian.

SMU supporters react angrily to sanctions leveled against Texas

DALLAS (AP) — Boosters and former players at Southern Methodist University reacted angrily at NCAA sanctions against the University of Texas, saying they were not strong enough.

The NCAA Committee on Infractions issued a report on Wednesday involving the University of Texas football program, which was placed on probation and given other sanctions.

In February, SMU received the stiffest football sanctions in NCAA history. Its 1987 football season was canceled and its 1988 season limited to seven road games.

The school was restricted to 15 scholarships through 1990 and the number of assistant coaches to six through 1990. SMU later decided on its own to sit out the 1988 season as well.

The penalties announced

against Texas made no mention of a ban against playing in bowl games or on television. Many SMU supporters called the penalties "a slap on the wrist."

"You can imagine what I think. I'm amazed they even got that. It's nothing. It's a slap on the wrist. Amazing," Dallas businessman George Owen said.

Because of his alleged involvement in recruiting violations that led to SMU's problems with the NCAA, Owen has been banned from any connection with the SMU athletic program.

A member of the NCAA's Committee on Infractions and officials from Southwest Conference schools said Texas received fair penalties.

The NCAA placed Texas on two years' probation with a year of sanctions, including the loss of five scholarships for the next recruiting season and a reduction in the number of official visits re-

cruits may make to the Austin campus, from 95 to 75.

"They always seem to get off," said Corpus Christi businessman Reid Ryan, another of the nine boosters banned from SMU's athletics program. "It's not fair the way the game is played. It's fair for some to cheat and not fair for others to cheat."

"It's ridiculous," said Dick Anderson, a former SMU player. "It doesn't anger me but it's not fair. They (NCAA) must not have investigated it well. They did the same things SMU did. And I'm sitting home not playing and all they get is a loss of five scholarships."

Boosters said they are also upset because they believe the NCAA ignored a detailed report that SMU provided the NCAA in 1985 documenting rules violations by Texas and other SWC schools.

Crenshaw shoots 3-under-par 67 to grab 1-shot lead in U.S. Open

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Ben Crenshaw finished off a 3-under-par 67 with a last-hole birdie and took an early one-shot lead over Seve Ballesteros Thursday in the first round of the 87th U.S. Open championship.

"When I went to the practice tee and saw the winds were light, I wanted to take advantage of it," Crenshaw said.

"I kind of set a target score of 70. I'm three ahead of that target, and that's fine for me," the former Masters champion said.

"I gave a couple back," he said of a double-bogey from a bunker, "but that's a minimum on this golf course. I made a couple of no-brainers (extremely long, difficult putts) and that offset the double bogey," Crenshaw said.

Ballesteros hit only eight of the

narrow, tree-lined fairways on the Lake course at Olympic Club, but made only one bogey in a round of 2-under-par 68 that left him one back of Crenshaw.

"Eight fairways, pretty good for me," shrugged Ballesteros, a mercurial Spaniard who has made a career of being able to extricate himself from extremely difficult positions.

"It was very difficult," he said of the tight, sloping fairways with overhanging cypress, eucalyptus and pines, and the very small, very fast greens.

"But I shot 68," said Ballesteros, winner of two Masters and a pair of British Opens. "Three more 68s, and I think I'll win the championship" that he has called "my No. 1 career goal."

A pair of South Africans, Denis

Watson and Nick Price, came in at 69. Watson, who abandoned a practice round after eight holes because the course "was too tough for me," birdied his last three holes.

With about half the field of 156 still out in chilly, cloudy weather, PGA champion Bob Tway and five others were tied at even-par 70.

Australian Greg Norman, who has dominated the world of golf in the last 18 months and has been a central figure in all of the last five of golf's major championships, had a very late starting time.

Tway, a non-winner since his 72nd-hole bunker shot beat Norman in last year's PGA Championship, started his round with an eagle-3 but bogeyed three of the next five holes.

He was tied with Sandy Lyle of Scotland.

Elia hired as new Phillies manager

CHICAGO (AP) — Coach Lee Elia, in a city where he was fired as a manager four years ago, was named to manage the Philadelphia Phillies Thursday, replacing John Felske.

The change was announced before the Phillies' game in Chicago, where Elia managed the Cubs for a little more than a year.

"This is very emotional," Elia said. "I had a strong relationship with Felske. This is never an easy situation."

Elia's contract is for the rest of the season, but Phillies President Bill Giles, who flew to Chicago to make the announcement, said, "Hopefully, we'll have him around for many years in the future."

Third baseman Mike Schmidt, one of Felske's most vocal critics, said of the fired manager: "He was a kind, thoughtful and sensitive man. But in order for us to turn it around, a change had to be made."

The Phillies went into Thursday's game with a 29-32 record.

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