

# Sports

## Taylor's cocaine problem not secret

NEW YORK (AP) — Lawrence Taylor, the NFL's Most Valuable Player last season, said the New York Giants, the league — even the police — knew or suspected he was using cocaine but "wouldn't do a thing to stop me."

Taylor's allegations and his description of a three-year bout with drugs are contained in a forthcoming book, excerpts of which are being published in the September edition of Sport magazine, due out early next month.

"From very early on, the Giants knew who on the team was into drugs," the All-Pro linebacker said. "They certainly knew I was."

Taylor said he used cocaine from 1982 until 1985 and also used crack, a powerful cocaine derivative.

"If I were Joe Blow, OK, there'd be the slammer or some midnight trip to Betty Ford's farm," he wrote.

"... It was almost a thrill in itself knowing that people knew what I was doing and wouldn't do a thing to stop me."

Taylor voluntarily entered a drug rehabilitation clinic in Houston in early 1986. He returned last year to have his best season, leading the NFL with 20½ sacks as the Giants won their first Super Bowl.

"This office has never had Lawrence Taylor under surveillance," NFL spokesman Joe Browne said Thursday. "Any future dealings with Taylor and the Giants regarding this matter will be handled on a confidential basis."

Giants' general manager George Young had no comment on Taylor's allegations, saying: "I tend not to read sports books."

Young, however, compared Taylor's account with the Japanese play "Rashomon," in which people see

the same event from different perspectives and added:

"We're told all the time about confidentiality in dealing with players. We're also in the rehabilitation business, not the punitive business."

Taylor said most of his teammates were aware he used cocaine: "The Giants, like every other team in the NFL, had guys who did drugs and guys who didn't. I knew some of them. I didn't know others. Pretty nearly everybody knew about me because I made no effort to hide it."

He said that through a friend, whose brother worked closely with law enforcement, "I had word passed — from the police — that they knew what I was doing."

"I used to get followed — to bars, to parties, to and from practices and games. Cops and NFL security people, people I knew, would follow me. This wasn't paranoia, this was sur-

veillance — and it was a joke. If they wanted to bust me, fine. But I knew they weren't going to do that, not as long as I was who I was and my game was intact."

Taylor, who lives in Upper Saddle River, N.J., did not specify which police department knew of the problem.

Lt. Thomas Gallagher, a New Jersey state police spokesman, said that if Taylor was a dealer, he would have been arrested. But he added: "I don't know every individual using drugs. I would have no way of knowing if anyone else knew."

Police Chief Theodore Preusch of Upper Saddle River and Sheriff Vahe Garabedian of Bergen County said they also had no knowledge of Taylor's drug use.

The account in Sport, co-written by David Falkner, is Taylor's first full description of his drug problem.

## New Cowboy lineman hopes to shed image

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP) — The Chicago Bears may promote William "The Refrigerator" Perry, but while the new offensive line coach of the Dallas Cowboys has high hopes for hefty Nate "The Kitchen" Newton, he's not too fond of the nickname.

And Newton, the offensive guard who showed up at training camp with a shaved head and with 40 pounds trimmed from an off-season peak of 349 pounds, says he doesn't want to be compared with a carnival sideshow.

"I want people to stop looking at me as some fat guy and start looking at me as a competitor," said Newton, who at 6-3 can dunk a basketball and bench press 490 pounds.

"I think the nickname is demeaning," offensive line coach Jim Erkenbeck said. "The Kitchen" gives him the image of a slovenly fat guy who only wants to eat. I want Nathaniel to be thought of differently."

Newton, who reported to the Cowboys' camp at 309 pounds, shrugged his shoulders when asked him if he is ready for "The Kitchen" to be removed from his name.

"If Coach Erkenbeck doesn't want it, neither do I," said Newton, 26, who played at Florida A&M before signing a free agent contract with the Cowboys a year ago.

Erkenbeck, an ex-Marine, hopes to drill Newton into a hard-nosed left guard. He has plenty to work with, he said.

"I happen to think that Nate has the most talent of anybody in our offensive line," Erkenbeck said. "I'm not saying that he's the best player in the line. Yet. But he's the best athlete we've got in the offensive line."

"Last year, I didn't make a dent on this team, other than people saying I was the biggest guy to ever play for the Dallas Cowboys," Newton told the Dallas Times Herald.

He projects a different image this training camp than he did a year ago. For one thing, he showed up with a shaved head. And there are the 40 pounds he lost.

He dropped the ugly fat by giving up food during the off-season, Newton said. At the behest of Dr. James Zambrano, one of the club's doctors, Newton didn't eat solid food for six weeks.

Losing weight is the opposite of what Newton is used to doing. A few years ago, he thought stuffing himself would buy a ticket into the National Football League.

Before receiving a tryout with the Washington Redskins, famous for their offensive line known as the "Hogs," Newton started eating two pounds of french fries a day. His weight peaked at 262.

Last August, Newton weighed 329 when he reported to Cowboys camp. Dallas Coach Tom Landry recalled his first impression.

"Gosh, he was overweight. And he didn't know what was going on."

But now, the Cowboys are looking at Newton as one of the keys in rebuilding Dallas' offensive line. Erkenbeck seems almost obsessed with converting Newton into a superstar and believes Newton will fit perfectly into the Cowboys' new blocking style.

Since being hired in February from the New Orleans Saints, Erkenbeck has been teaching a more aggressive blocking style. Instead of using finesse, Cowboys linemen will be trying to take defenders head on.

Newton's eyes brighten when he talk about the new approach.

"The idea of jumping around and faking people out is not my style. I don't like to do a whole lot of thinking. I like to knock people down. I like to win battles," he said.

Thanks to Erkenbeck, Newton is now entering the post-Kitchen stage.

## Red Sox let go veteran 1st baseman Buckner

BOSTON (AP) — First baseman Bill Buckner, who has more than 2,500 major league hits and one unforgettable World Series error, was waived Thursday as part of the Boston Red Sox' youth movement.

Unable to trade the 37-year-old veteran and his big contract, the Red Sox freed him to join another club. Boston General Manager Lou Gorman expects a pennant contender to sign him, primarily as a pinch hitter.

The departure of Buckner allowed the Red Sox to promote International League homer and RBI leader Sam Horn, a 23-year-old designated hitter, from the Pawtucket Red Sox.

Horn, a left-handed hitter and

poor-fielding first baseman, is expected to be with Boston for tonight's night's game with the Seattle Mariners.

"I kind of guessed they were going to make a move," Buckner told Associated Press Radio, "and when I heard they were going to bring Sam Horn up, I requested that they do something because I figured I wasn't going to get much playing time."

Had the Red Sox traded Buckner, his new team would have had to pick up his reported \$800,000 salary this season. No team was expected to claim him during the 72-hour waiver period.

If he is not claimed, he could

make a deal with any club, which would have to pay him only the minimum salary of \$62,500, prorated for the rest of the season. The Red Sox still would be obligated for the difference between that and his contract amount.

Buckner is under contract to the Red Sox for a reported \$850,000 next season.

Buckner said he wasn't sure where he would wind up.

"I really don't know — possibly an American League team in the pennant race," he said when asked who might be interested in signing him. "I don't know what options there are, I really have to wait and see."

Buckner, whose error let in the New York Mets' winning run in the sixth game of last year's World Series, is batting .273 with two homers and 42 RBI in 75 games this year, his 18th in the majors.

In 2,251 major league games, he has a .292 batting average with 2,542 hits in 8,710 at bats. He is still a productive hitter, but the lingering image of him may be the ball that trickled through his legs nine months ago.

"He did a great job" last season, Gorman said of Buckner. "He drove in 102 runs last year and if he wasn't playing first base for us we wouldn't have been in the World Series."

## Rangers fall to Indians in 4-hitter

CLEVELAND (AP) — Tom Candiotti pitched a four-hitter and Brook Jacoby and Pat Tabler homered Thursday night as the Cleveland Indians defeated the Texas Rangers 4-2.

Candiotti, 3-10, walked one and struck out seven en route to his first win since June 5 and his second complete game of the season. The knuckleballer led the American League with 17 complete games in 1986.

The loss was only the Rangers' second in nine games against Cleveland this year.

The Indians took a 1-0 lead in the third against Jose Guzman, 8-9, when Brett Butler walked, took second on Tommy Hinz's sacrifice and scored on Joe Carter's single to center.

Cleveland made it 3-0 in the fourth on Jacoby's 18th homer — one more than he had all of last season — after Cory Snyder led off the inning with a double.

Candiotti retired the first 12 Texas batters but then walked Pete O'Brien to start the fifth. Pete Incaviglia singled O'Brien to second, and both runners advanced on Andy Allanson's passed ball before Larry Parrish and Oddibe McDowell hit consecutive sacrifice flies to pull the Rangers within a run.

## Curry to take break from boxing career

DALLAS (AP) — Donald Curry said Thursday he will take a couple of months off before resuming his fighting career, which suffered two straight losses after a 25-0 start made him the undisputed world welterweight boxing champion.

"I'm not going to quit. I'm not a quitter. I'm a winner and I've been a winner all my life," the 25-year-old Fort Worth fighter told a news conference.

After a stunning fifth-round knockout Saturday in Las Vegas at the hands of junior middleweight champion Mike McCallum, promoter Bob Arum, who has promoted all 27 of Curry's professional fights, said the knockout severely affects Curry's prospects as a top attraction and that Curry should retire.

In the moments after the fight, Curry said retirement was a definite possibility.

But Thursday, Curry said he wouldn't feel like a man if he quit the sport after losing a fight he thought he should have won.

"I would feel like a mouse. I couldn't feel comfortable with myself," Curry said. "It would be detrimental to me as a person."

McCallum's knockout of Curry was his 29th in a perfect 32-0 pro career and was his sixth consecutive successful title defense. McCallum has never been knocked down, but Curry delivered a right that staggered McCallum.

Curry was ahead on the cards of all three ring judges and had just scored against McCallum with a left

when he moved back, dropped his right hand, and got hit with a left uppercut that he said "came out of left field."

"I just took a vacation there for a second, and it cost me. I was pretty confident at the time of the knockout about what I was doing. I felt I was dominating the fight. I felt it was only a matter of time because I knew I was hurting him throughout the fight," Curry said.

Curry said he will take several weeks off and meet with his training adviser, David Gorman, and his business agent, Akbar Muhammad, at the end of August to plot his next steps.

"I'm back. Well, I'm not back, but I'm coming back if it's the last thing I ever do," Curry said.

## Germaine, Lauer lead U.S. Women's Open

EDISON TOWNSHIP, N.J. (AP) — Dot Germain and Bonnie Lauer, two members of the over-35 crowd on LPGA Tour whose games have rebounded in recent weeks, shot 3-under-par 69s Thursday to share the opening-round lead of the 42nd U.S. Women's Open.

Lauer and Germain held a one-stroke lead over Kathy Postlewait, while Ayako Okamoto, Jody Rosenthal and Sandra Palmer were all two shots behind the leaders.

Those six were the only players in the field of 153 to overcome the 90-degree plus heat and humidity and

break par on the 6,284-yard Plainfield Country Club course.

The 3-under-par rounds bettered the women's course record of 71 shot by Mickey Wright and tied by Betsy Rawls in the 1962 McAuliffe Memorial Tournament.

Former Open winner Amy Alcott headed a group of five players at par, while recent Hall of Fame inductee Nancy Lopez — still looking for her first Open victory — was at 1-over-par 73.

Defending champion Jane Geddes and Betsy King, the two top money winners on the tour this year,


both had opening-round 75s. Patty Sheehan, the No. 5 money winner, had a 74.

Pat Bradley, last year's player of the year, continued to struggle this year and had an 81, one shot higher than former Open winner Jan Stephenson.

Lauer and Germain both had the advantage of the cooler early morning tee-off times, and they made the most of them.

The 36-year-old Lauer sank birdie putts of 20 feet on the first hole, 10 feet on the 13th hole and 15 feet on 15th in a round that did not include a bogey.

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