

Battalion Classifieds

Sports

Healthy White key to Pokes' success

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP) — Nobody asks Danny White "How are you?" It's "How's your wrist?"

The answer is always the same — "It hurts."

"The Wrist" is the hottest topic at the Cowboys' 1987 training camp.

The veteran Cowboys' quarterback, who recently signed a new two-year contract with an option on a third year, suffered a broken wrist in Dallas' ninth game of the 1986 season.

As the football gods would have it, Carl Banks of the New York Giants broke more than White's wrist with a blindside sack.

He crunched Dallas' season as well. The Giants went to the Super Bowl in Pasadena. The Cowboys went into a Super Pout at Valley Ranch.

The Whiteless Cowboys plunged from a 6-2 start to a 1-7 finish and their worst season since 1966.

The condition of White's wrist appears key to the Cowboys' comeback hopes.

"I can throw decently," White said. "I'm about 95 per cent. There is no mobility in the wrist."

White then described how he has to change his throwing motion, sort of a stiff-wristed, javelin-tosser's form.

There are some things he can't do anymore.

"I can't run to my left and throw with any velocity," he said. "It's just

not the same. Timing will be so critical now with my receivers. The sideline patterns could be a little harder. I'll have to throw the ball early."

White worked long and hard in the off-season with his receivers — so often that he developed a sore arm.

"Our off-season was critical. I bet I threw the ball three times as much as I ever have done before."

White suffered ligament damage when his wrist was broken but doctors didn't discover it. A cast was placed on the wrist and there was no operation. Ligaments need immediate attention or they wither away.

Soon, the ligaments disintegrated and now White is without vital ligaments in the wrist of his throwing hand.

"I went to different doctors about an operation," White said. "One doctor wanted to operate but we decided not to go that route. The doctors had never heard of another quarterback having the ligament missing from their wrist. One doctor can do ligament transplants, but I wouldn't want to take a chance on that."

His wrist is always on White's mind.

"When I wake up in the morning it aches, not bad, but it aches," he said. "I have to take sort of a funny little angle when I sign my name. It sure has cramped my golf and tennis game."

White says "The Wrist" could get worse as the year progresses.

"Doctors have told me it might get worse with continuous play," he said. "They can tape it but it's still an internal thing. A player tapped me on the elbow the other day and it liked to have killed me."

White says a big key is icing his wrist down the minute he quits throwing the ball.

"The longer it takes to ice it down, the more it will swell up," White says. "So I have to ice it in a hurry. I've got an arm like a baseball pitcher now."

Then there is Novocain. White could use the pain-killer but he won't.

"I'd probably have to keep doing it once I started. Normally, I start the season healthy then get hurt. At least I'm reversing the trend."

Dallas Coach Tom Landry says he's not sure how much pain White will be able to stand.

"We'll go with Danny as the starter, subject to change," Landry says. "He will start both preseason games out here in California and play about a half in both."

"I can't ask him if he hurts. I'll just go by performance. I think he'll throw the ball well enough for us. He does have a new throwing motion. It's noticeable."

White is excited about the Cowboys' 1987 offensive plans.

"We're building an offense a long time with a lot of emphasis on deep routes," White says. "We're taking more advantage of Sherrard's speed. I think about new offense a lot when my wrist hurts."

White says Sherrard is bound superstar status in the NFL.

"He is improving as rapidly as possible," White says. "He's like Jerry Rice (of the San Francisco 49ers). We're basing our whole game around him. This we don't think anything will hold back."

White says he'll try to get end Doug Cosbie more involved in the passing game.

"We've got to get the ball to more often," White says. "Our offense just didn't work to him last year."

White's routine in training camp will be not to take pity on his wrist.

"I'm going to start out full on and see how far I can go," he says. "Sure, I have a little anxiety, been working out with no pain now wind. That's not a true test."

White laughs that the rest may never see a spiral from again.

"It won't be pretty," White says. "Then he quiets. It will be good to catch my passes on either end."

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Rangers finally reach .500 mark

ARLINGTON (AP) — Manager Bobby Valentine and some of his players downplayed it, but it was evident in the Texas Rangers' clubhouse that they were glad to get the monkey off their backs.

"It's been a long climb back to .500," second baseman Jerry Browne said. "It's been dodging us all season."

Since losing the first game of the season at Baltimore, the Rangers haven't been on the credit side of the ledger this year, stumbling out of the gate to a 1-10 record.

On Monday night, for the first time since the second game of the season — when they were 1-1 — they reached the .500 mark when they

rallied for two runs in the bottom of the ninth to beat the Milwaukee Brewers, 5-4, at Arlington Stadium.

Catcher Mike Stanley, whose one-out double provided the tying and winning runs in the ninth, said it was a big thrill for the team to finally reach the break-even point.

"And it's a big thrill for me, too," said Stanley, who was mobbed by his teammates after delivering the game-winner. "We're on a roll. It proves we can play with any team in the league."

The victory was the first for the Rangers over Milwaukee in seven meetings this season and was accomplished against reliever Dan Plesac.

whose 20 saves are second high in the American League.

"Climbing this far back shows we've got it together," said right fielder Ruben Sierra, whose 18th home run of the season provided the Rangers with an early 2-1 lead. "We're getting the hitting and the pitching at the same time."

Valentine called Monday night's dramatic victory "a nice, exciting win," but downplayed the importance of being at .500.

"It's nothing special because it was never our goal to be just a .500 team," Valentine said. "Of course, it's better than being two games under. We've still got a long way to go."

Scott, Astros get scalped by Braves

ATLANTA (AP) — Zed Smith pitched a six-hitter as Dion James had four hits as the Atlanta Braves beat Mike Scott and the Houston Astros 6-1 Tuesday night.

Scott, 11-7, gave up nine hits in four innings as he suffered a sixth straight loss to the Braves. Scott has won only two games in 11 career decisions against the Braves.

James had two run-scoring singles, a double and a triple in a 11-hit attack by the Braves who had lost nine of their last 10 games.

The Astros spoiled Smith's shutout bid in the eighth when Craig Reynolds led off with a single and scored on Jim Pantano's pinch double. Smith, 94-6, recorded his fourth complete game of the season.

Ken Oberkfell doubled to one out in the Braves' first inning and went to third when a hard-throwing hopper off the bat of Greg Perry hit Scott on the right hand and knocked him down. Oberkfell scored on a wild pitch by Scott as Perry stole second. After Dan Murphy walked, Ken Griffey single scored Perry for a 2-0 lead.

Andres Thomas opened Atlanta's second with a single. He was second, was sacrificed to third by Smith, and scored on a single by James.

The Braves added two runs in the fourth. Glenn Hubbard led off with a single, moved to second on James' double, and scored a single by Oberkfell. James went to third on Oberkfell's double and scored as Perry grounded out.

James drove in the Braves' final run in the eighth with a single.

Davies takes Women's Open

EDISON TOWNSHIP, N.J. (AP) — British Open champion Laura Davies sank three long putts to shoot a 3-under-par 71 and win the longest-ever U.S. Women's Open in an 18-hole playoff with Ayako Okamoto and LPGA Hall of Famer JoAnne Carner Tuesday.

Okamoto had a 1-over-par 73 in what amounted to the fifth round of the rain-delayed golf tournament, which stretched over six days at the Plainfield Country Club. The 48-year-old Carner had a 74 as she failed in her quest to win a third U.S. Women's Open title and end a two-year victory drought.

"I reckon I am the happiest person in the world right now," Davies said. "I don't know what it means yet. I was just out there having fun and this turned out to be one of the greatest rounds of golf in my life."

Davies actually had five good rounds at Plainfield, and was the only player in the 153-women field not to go over par during the tournament.

"I would have to say my putting was it for me this week," said Davies,

23, who is to defend her British crown in Cornwall, England, Thursday. "This week has been my best for holing out putts."

Davies earned \$55,000 for the victory. She was the leading money winner on the European women's tour the past two years.

Okamoto and Carner each earned \$23,824.

Davies had a lot of help with her putting all week from her caddie, Tony, her 26-year-old brother.

Davies had her nerves tested on the first three holes, where she sank putts of 4, 3 and 6 feet to keep her tied at even par with Okamoto and Carner.

That changed at the fourth hole, when Davies hit a 9-iron to within 20 feet and sank the putt to go 1-under-par. She never trailed after that, although Carner managed to grab a share of the lead when Davies bogeyed the par-4 10th hole after hitting over the green with her second shot.

When Carner, who had problems staying in the fairway with her driver all day, bogeyed the 11th hole, Davies had the lead for good.

UT officials declare Lott ineligible

ATLANTA (AP) — University of Texas officials have decided to declare defensive back James Lott ineligible for his senior season for accepting money from New York sports agents Lloyd Bloom and Norby Walters, the Atlanta Journal reported Tuesday.

But the university issued a statement which Sports Information Director Bill Little called a denial of the report.

"The university is investigating the relationship between student athlete James Lott and a sports agent. The NCAA has been notified of alleged violations. If the university's investigation substantiates a violation of NCAA rules, then Mr. Lott will not be permitted to participate in intercollegiate athletics at the University of Texas at Austin," the statement said.

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