

Former Cowboy Hill, Nathan among NFL cuts

From The Associated Press
 Nat Moore and Tony Nathan, two of the mainstays of the Miami offense for the past decade, and Tony Hill, a one-time star with Dallas, were cut Monday, while the Chicago Bears put Jim McMahon on injured reserve with the expectation that he can help their young quarterbacks develop.

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Hill, released by Dallas earlier this year and picked up by San Francisco, was among a group of veterans released by the 49ers. They also included linebackers Tom Cousineau and Jim Fahnhorst and running back Carl Monroe, who scored the first touchdown in the 1985 Super Bowl.

McMahon, who missed the second half of last season with a shoulder injury and underwent surgery late last year, will have to miss at least six weeks.

That move at least temporarily kept a spot on the Bears' roster for young Flutie, the 5-foot-9 Heisman trophy winner. Mike Tomczak has

been starting in McMahon's place and Jim Harbaugh, the team's top draft pick this year, had been virtually guaranteed a spot.

Coach Mike Ditka said McMahon will spend his time on the sidelines helping him and coaching the younger players.

"Even if I have to make McMahon an assistant coach, I want him to be out there because the Bears will need all the help they can get," Ditka said.

Moore and Nathan were cut as Miami made the unusual move of keeping four quarterbacks — Dan Marino, Don Strock, Ron Jaworski and Jim Jensen, who also doubles as special teams captain and backup wide receiver. The Dolphins also placed linebacker Hugh Green back on injured reserve, where he spent most of last season with a knee injury.

Moore, a 13-year veteran, was the Dolphins' all-time leading receiver with 510 catches for 7,547 yards. Although he had 38 receptions for 431 yards and seven touchdowns last year, he was beaten out by free agent Fred Banks for the fifth receiving job behind Mark Duper, Mark Clay-

ton, James Pruitt and rookie Scott Schwedes.

The 30-year-old Nathan, an eight-year veteran; is fourth on the team's all-time rushing list with 3,523 yards and second on the receiving list with 373 receptions.

"I'm not going to dwell on what has happened," Moore said. "That's a part of football. I'm 35 years old and football is a young man's game."

Among the other players cut was defensive end Daryl Sims, Pittsburgh's first-round draft pick two years ago.

The 6-foot-3, 285-pound Sims, expected to be a force when he was taken by the Steelers in the first round of the 1985 draft, never lived up to his expectations. In two seasons of spot play, he had just 14 tackles, four assists and two sacks.

The Cowboys cut veteran place-kicker Rolf Benirschke; Cleveland released running back Butch Woolfolk; Minnesota cut running back Ted Brown, San Diego cut wide receivers Anthony Hancock and Bobby Johnson and the New York Giants released veteran defensive lineman Curtis McGriff.

The Bears released veteran defensive linemen Mike Hartenstein and Henry Waechter along with punter Maury Buford. Waechter trapped New England quarterback Steve Grogan for safety in the Super Bowl two years ago. Green Bay cut backup quarterback Chuck Fusina, who led the Philadelphia-Baltimore Stars to two championships in the defunct USFL.

Buffalo cut veteran offensive tackle Ken Jones and linebacker Jim Haslett, a long-time starter out last year with a knee injury; Houston released veteran defensive end Jesse Baker, a long-time pass-rushing specialist.

The Los Angeles Raiders placed Lester Hayes, a 10-year fixture at cornerback, on injured reserve with a strained tendon in the left foot that he broke last season. The 32-year-old Hayes had started 149 straight games before missing the last two last season.

Another starting cornerback, Perry Williams of the Giants, also went on the six-week injured reserve with a neck injury.

Tampa Bay released Don Shula's son Mike, a quarterback.

Upshaw calls NFL owners' proposal 'garbage'

NEW YORK (AP) — The NFL management council on Monday gave its players union a new proposal it said can provide "the essential elements" for settlement of the contract impasse that could result in a players strike within two weeks.

But Gene Upshaw, the executive director of the NFL Players Association, termed the document "garbage."

The 14-page summary, prepared over the weekend by council officials, was presented to Upshaw, executive director of the NFL Players Association, shortly after noon EDT. It was mailed about two hours later to the 28 NFL teams.

The presentation comes one day before the league's player representatives meet in Washington to set a strike date. It is expected to come af-

ter the second week of the season, which opens Sunday, with an option to wait another two weeks.

The only talks since Aug. 14 took place for 4½ hours in Washington last week and they broke off over the issue of protection for player representatives.

Despite Upshaw's denunciation of Donlan's proposal, both sides said they were willing to meet again. Upshaw said they had talked on Sunday and expected to be back in contact Thursday, after both sides have had their meetings.

Donlan said in his cover letter to Upshaw that because of the lack of talks the proposal "has been developed in a virtual vacuum without the benefit of assistance from the NFLPA."

Upshaw, however, said he agreed

with only one thing — that the length of the contract be three years. "It was just what I expected. Now we have just seven points to go," he said in a reference to the union's 8-point proposal.

The management proposal is similar in some elements to the Management Council presentation at the onset of talks on April 20.

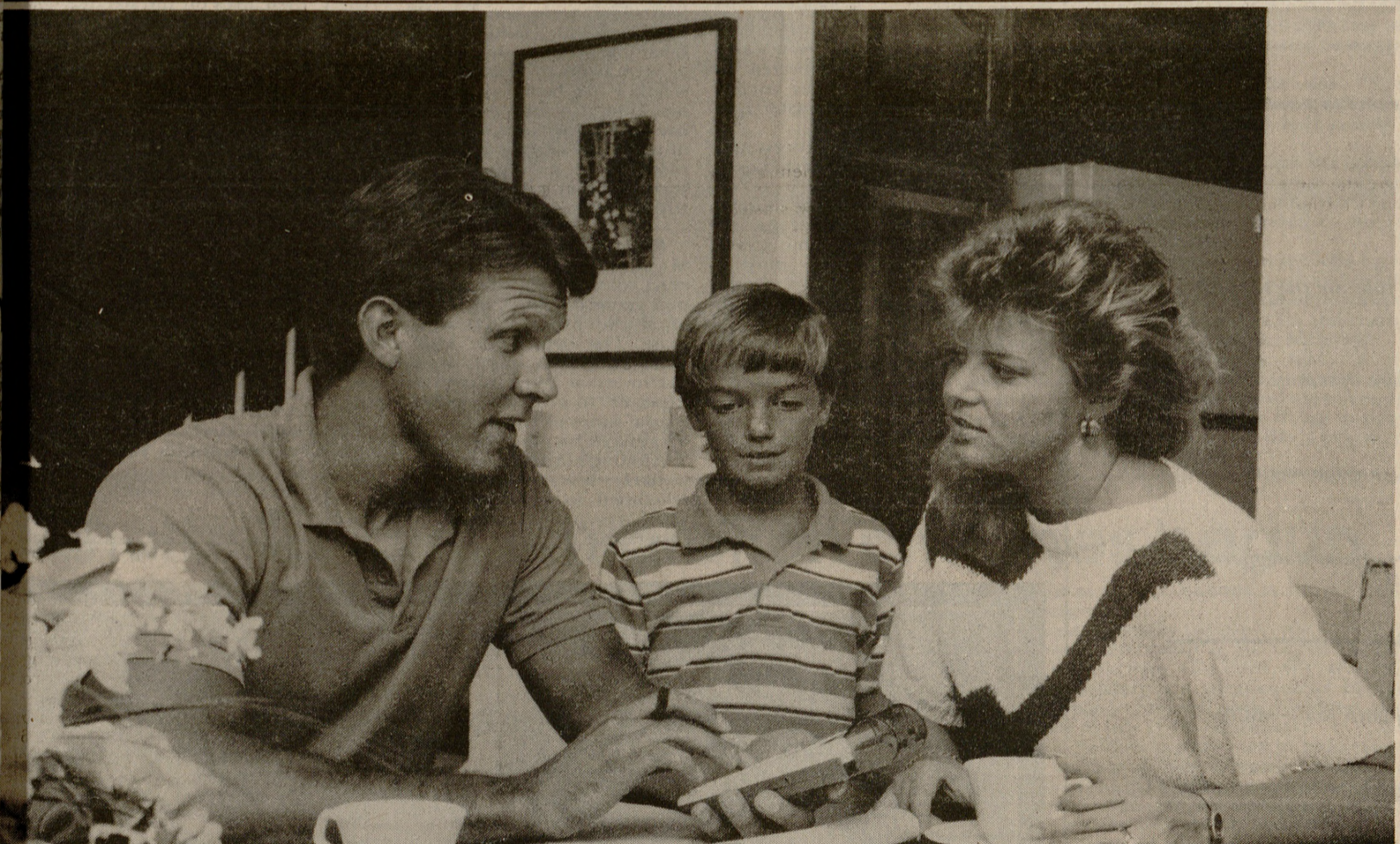
It continues intact, for example, the current system of free agency under which only one player has changed teams in 10 years, although it upgrades the compensation to what the council calls more realistic levels. Free agency without compensation is one of the union's principal demands.

But even the liberalized compensation would be rather restrictive.

For example, Gary Reasons, a starting linebacker on the New York Giants' Super Bowl champion team is currently holding out for a salary reported to be more than \$400,000 a year. The Giants are offering around \$300,000.

If Reasons, considered the fourth best linebacker on the Giants, were to be paid what he wants by another team, it would have to surrender to New York under the new proposal two No. 1 draft choices. Even if the team paid him what the Giants are offering, it would have to give up a No. 1.

The new proposal does, however, increase player pensions by about 20 percent over current levels and up severance pay considerably.



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