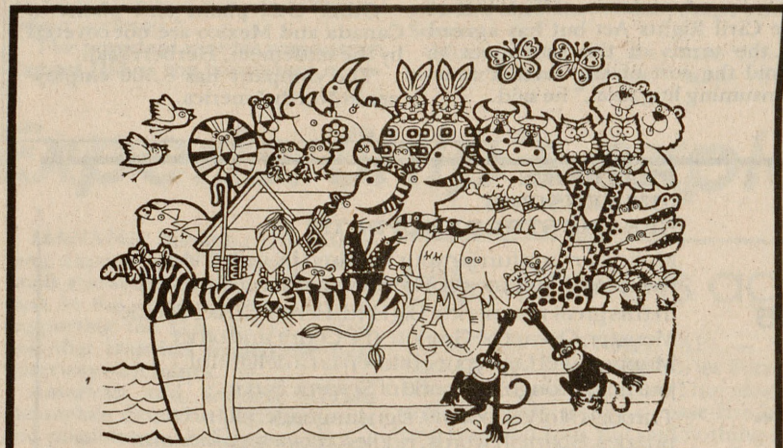


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NOTICE



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Sports

Strike '87 — Pros vs. Cons 2nd NFL strike makes 2 too many

By Loyd Brumfield
Sports Editor

Fellas, grow up.
 It's Day Four of the infamous National Football League players' strike. Day Four of the second such strike in five years. Needless to say, I've had enough.

Don't try to convince me that free agency is the real issue here because I'm having a hard time buying that. I'm having a hard time buying that two-thirds of the picketing players even care about free agency.

Most of the players are on strike because their teammates are on strike — and team unity must prevail.

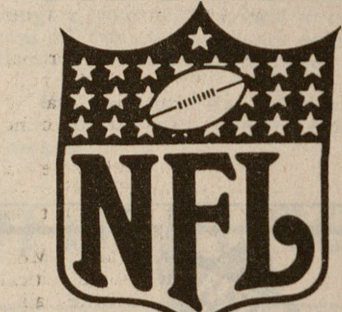
Viewpoint

The players' union is one big peer pressure group. Those who oppose it are jeered, harassed and attacked.

For example, the striking Houston Oilers pelted a bus carrying free agents with rocks and eggs. How mature can you get?

In Kansas City, linebacker Dino Hackett and tight end Paul Coffman brandished shotguns at non-union players who crossed the picket line. In Dallas, Tony Dorsett referred to Randy White as "Captain Scab."

Never mind that White is a 13-year veteran who has been a team leader



for the Cowboys over the years, and never mind that White is a six-time All-Pro. If he doesn't cross the picket line, he's nothing more than a scab. It seems to me that a player like Randy White should be respected for whatever decision he makes about the strike.

No, the players' union is treating anyone who doesn't agree with its views as the enemy. If you cross the union, you're courting death. Just ask the guy disguised as a gorilla who taunted the Oilers with a sign decrying the players' average salary of \$230,000. A couple of players decided to give him chase.

Receiver Ernest Givins said the man was acting "childish." I guess throwing rocks and eggs is the epit-

ome of sophistication, then. Come on, guys. The last time I egged a I was in the third grade. And some people still think I'm immature.

I hate to tell you guys this, but you can prance around in a parking lot carrying signs, so can a man disguised as a gorilla. It's called "freedom of expression," and some people think it's pretty important.

By the same token, the free agents who are trying out for all the vacant positions have a right to do that. For some of these players, a job provides the only way they can fulfill their dreams. For other free agents, a strike provides a way to pay the rent, at least temporarily. Former A&M football player Domingo Brant, who is trying to join the Oilers free agent team, says, "I'm just doing this to survive." So are a lot of others.

It's quite an ugly situation when mature adults start acting like babies. The players need to realize there's no way the fans are going to agree with them if they keep trashing buses and vans. The players also need to realize that they are not models whether they like it or not.

Yeah, kids really can look up to someone who wields a shotgun menacingly at people who just want to play football. After all, it is just a game.

Strike feasible solution to problem

By Hal L. Hammons
Assistant Sports Editor

So millions of times Sunday afternoon, arm-chair quarterbacks everywhere will slouch in their La-Z-Boys, pop open a brewski and tune the boob tube in to... "I Love Lucy" reruns.

Viewpoint

Perhaps a bowling tournament. Maybe an Australian Rules Football. But not The Real Thing.

In case you've been in cryogenic freezing the past few months, let me break the news gently: there ain't gonna be no pro football this week.

Fact is, it looks like it might be that way for a while. Better not miss any Oklahoma football games the next

few months; they'll be about the only pro team active.

I have been more concerned, believe me. With the majority persuasion of the Supreme Court ready to shift, acts of war in the Persian Gulf, and a cast of nobodies vying for the job of Head Enchilada of the US of A, I have weightier matters on my mind.

Besides, the Cowboys and Oilers wouldn't have been any good this year anyway.

To put the "crisis" in a nutshell, the players' union is demanding pure free agency; the owners won't give it to them.

Admittedly, it is difficult to sympathize with a few hundred guys making an average of \$230,000 apiece for one year's work (closer to

six months, really) for doing basically what thousands of people do for free. But the fact remains that it is the players' right to get what they are after, and it is their right to sort to striking to get it.

With the current system, when a player's contract with his team runs out, he is not allowed to play for another club that wants his services without it compensating the player's original team in some way.

The compensation makes a free agent less attractive to teams, driving down their market worth. Our economic society has been based for years on people working for the value of their services. Whatever the market will bear.

If that happens to be a few million to Al Davis or some other owner afraid to dig into his pockets, why shouldn't the guy get it all?

I'm not in the habit of siding with a union on any matter, weighty or otherwise, and striking has always seemed to me a rather inane solution to a problem. About on the level of "Well, I'm just gonna take my marbles and go home. Nyaaah, nyaaah, nyaaah."

But people's right to make money is being violated. And I, for some reason, take money rather seriously.

So National Football League Players' Association, call this a rather half-hearted "OK" of a half-baked approach to a half-witted argument. And tell me when you and the big boys want to grow up.

Men's tennis squad start year with meet

The 1987 Texas A&M Four-Way Singles and Doubles Tourney begins today at noon at the Omar Smith Tennis Center, with the finals scheduled for Sunday.

Teams competing in the tournament include the host Aggies, Texas, Texas Tech and McNeese State.

Texas finished last season ranked No. 10 in the nation. McNeese State won the Southland Conference crown last year.



Craig Whitteker from McClellan Community College.

The top returning player for A&M is senior Dean Johnson. Johnson won three of the four tournaments he entered this summer, and A&M Coach David Kent said the newly-elected captain of the squad shows good leadership potential.

Newcomers to the team include Mike Chambers, a transfer student from Houston; Kenny Rylee, who transferred from Kentucky; and

Houston out of pennant contention

ATLANTA (AP) — Dale Murphy's run-scoring infield single with two outs in the ninth inning gave the Atlanta Braves an 8-7 victory over Houston Thursday, eliminating the defending National League West champion Astros from pennant contention.

Murphy also had a two-run homer and an RBI double in the game as he reached the 100-RBI mark for the fifth time in six seasons.

After the Braves tied the score with four runs in the eighth, Albert Hall was hit by a pitch from Jeff Heathcock, 3-2, with one out in the bottom of the ninth. A single by Dion James one out later sent Hall to third.

Murphy followed with a grounder to left side that shortstop Craig Reynolds gloved deep in the hole on a diving stop. Reynolds tried to force James at second, but his throw was late and Hall score as the Braves completed a three-game sweep.

Jim Acker, 4-6, pitched the ninth inning for the victory.

Trailing 7-3 in the eighth, Hall hit his third homer, Murphy doubled in a run for his 100th RBI, Ozzie Virgil singled in Murphy, and Ken Oberkell tied the score with a single against Houston reliever Dave Smith. Smith had relieved Larry Andersen after Murphy's hit.

Nolan Ryan pitched six innings for the Astros, allowing five hits, striking out five and walking seven. In 1972-3 innings, Ryan has 251 strikeouts, tops in the major leagues. Seattle's Mark Langston leads the American League with 244 strikeouts.

Men's golfers begin fall season at tourney

The Texas A&M men's golf team will open the 1987 fall season at The Woodlands TPC Sam Houston Intercollegiate tournament Friday and Saturday in The Woodlands.

The Aggies, who were Southwest Conference champions last year and finished the season with a 19th-place finish at the NCAA tournament, are among a field of 12 teams, including Houston, Baylor, Texas Christian, Rice and Stephen F. Austin.

The team is currently ranked No. 13 by Golfweek, a Florida-based magazine.

Aggies representing the team at the tournament will be junior Roy Mackenzie, senior Neil Hickerson, sophomore Andy Cooper and freshman Chris James. Golfweek lists Mackenzie as a preseason second-team All-America pick, while Hickerson is on the third-team list.

A&M Coach Bob Ellis said, "I know Houston and TCU have good teams, and Rice and Baylor are both improved. It should be a good tournament on a great golf course. It will be a good way for us to start the year."

Twins close in on title

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Frank Viola pitched three-hit ball for eight innings and Greg Gagne hit an inside-the-park home run Thursday night as the Minnesota Twins moved closer to the American League West title by beating the Texas Rangers 4-0 for their sixth straight victory.

The Twins cut their magic number for clinching the division to five over Oakland, which played Chicago later Thursday night.

Viola, 17-9, and Juan Berenguer combined on a three-hitter. Viola did not allow a hit until Steve Bue-

chelle led off the sixth inning with a single. He struck out 10, walked three and lowered his earned run average to 2.88, second-best in the league.

Viola has won nine straight decisions at the Metrodome. The Twins have won seven in a row at home and improved their record there to 55-23, best home mark in the majors.

Charlie Hough, 17-12, allowed six hits, hit three batters and walked three. He struck out seven in his 12th complete game.