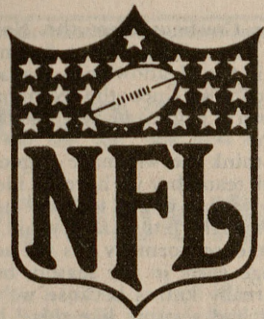


Union promises to 'haunt' free agent games

NEW YORK (AP) — The union vowed to stop Sunday's replacement games, while an owner accused striking players of "willful destruction," as the NFL walkout entered its eighth day Tuesday with the two sides locked in a battle for control of football.



While the two sides in the strike exchanged National Labor Relations Board complaints, fans lined up at stadiums to get their money back Tuesday, the deadline for season ticket-holders to collect full refunds.

Members of the NFL executive committee met in New York, while union head Gene Upshaw continued his nationwide inspirational tour of players, speaking in Atlanta.

Facing the near certainty that owners would go ahead with plans to play Sunday using rookies, free agents and veterans who were willing to cross picket lines, Upshaw took a hard line in his Atlanta stop.

"We don't advocate violence, but we do advocate doing whatever's necessary to stop these games, and we will do it," Upshaw said after meeting with representatives of six teams.

"We'll haunt those games," Upshaw said. "They are really tearing down our product, and we don't like it."

Before going into the executive

committee meeting, Miami's Joe Robbie said owners were more strongly united than ever, and "I think we'll get stronger after we play Sunday's games. This fight is over control of football, it's not over money."

Thirteen games last Sunday and the Monday night game were wiped out by the strike, and owners apparently were going to decide at Tuesday's meeting whether to play them later. Hugh Culverhouse, Tampa Bay owner, has indicated the games will not be made up.

One game wiped out was at the Dolphins' new stadium, a privately financed edifice named Joe Robbie Stadium.

"I just had the biggest gate in the history of pro football wiped out Sunday," Robbie said. "It seems to me just willful destruction to wipe out a game like that."

Upshaw flew from his Washington offices to Los Angeles to meet with West Coast players Sunday, was in Cleveland and Chicago on Monday, and was due at Elizabeth, N.J., after the Atlanta stop later Tuesday.

In Atlanta, Upshaw reiterated that the union was solidly behind the strike, despite decisions by some veterans to cross picket lines. "The owners think if a couple of people trickle in, we'll all cross," Upshaw said, "and that's not going to happen. We speak with one voice."

In Cincinnati, some striking Bengals were angered by the decision of 11-year veteran linebacker Reggie Williams to defy the strike and play Sunday.

Bengals wide receiver Cris Collinsworth said Williams' decision didn't surprise him, but the timing was bad.

"I wanted him to cross right away," Collinsworth said. "Then it would have been clear he wasn't with us from the start. This makes it look like our union is cracking under pressure, and that could encourage the owners to mistakenly think they can completely break us."

Reserve quarterback Turk Schonert said it might be "a long year — a quiet year" for Williams, "but maybe Reggie is happy with that and doesn't need any friends on the team."

By noon, there were about 80 people standing in line to get refunds at the Los Angeles Raiders' camp in El Segundo, Calif. Al LoCascia, Raiders executive assistant, said he had no idea how many ticket-holders had asked for refunds.

Cleveland spokesman Bob Eller said about 10,500 of 78,000 tickets sold for the Browns' Monday night game against Denver had been returned for refunds. Eller said the demand for refunds appeared to ease up Tuesday.

In Dallas, Cowboys Coach Tom Landry said he thought fans were making a mistake by turning in their tickets, which cost about \$23 apiece.

In New York, the NLRB said Tuesday that it had received "a whole mess" of charges from both sides, alleging bad-faith bargaining, among other things.

Dan Silverman of the NLRB said the union also had filed a series of charges "of attempts to interfere with the union's right to picket in Miami, Atlanta, Kansas City and Hempstead, N.Y.," where the New York Jets train.

Bookies unsure on status of non-union games

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (AP) — On any normal weekday during the NFL season, oddsmakers on the city's glittering Strip would be happily accepting thousands of dollars in wagers on the weekend games, secure in the knowledge they would triumph over the bettors.

Tuesday, however, the boards posted no odds and the football betting windows remained empty while oddsmakers huddled together in an unprecedented meeting to try to make some sense out of this weekend's matchups.

"There are so many question marks that it's hard to talk intelligently about it," said Sonny Reizner,

executive director of the Frontier Hotel sports book.

Bookmakers were caught in a quandry on betting on the NFL games because most of the regular players are on strike and the teams are composed mainly of free agents and castoffs. None really want to take the risk of making lines on the games, but competition among the books dictates that almost all will take the bets.

To cut possible losses, bookmakers say they will severely limit bets, taking perhaps \$500 on a game they might have taken \$20,000 on in pre-strike days.

"The biggest thing we worry

about is how can we put up a line on Thursday, and then on Saturday the gamblers find out before us that Joe Montana or Dan Fouts will play," said Jimmy Vaccaro, manager of the Golden Nugget sports book.

Most bookmakers say the lines, which generally are posted immediately after the previous week's games, will not be put up until Thursday at the earliest. Some may wait longer.

"I wouldn't be surprised to see a lot of people not put it up until the day of the games," said Michael Roxborough, a consultant to 25 sports books, who generally puts out the

first football point spreads each week.

Most of the city's bookmakers gathered Tuesday at the Golden Nugget, where Vaccaro called them together so each could get a better feel for their competitor's plans for the weekend games.

"It's a general discussion on what everyone's going to do with it, as far as the limits and so forth," Vaccaro said. "I'd like to hear how high they're going to book it, who is going to put up the line first."

Vaccaro said he plans to put up a line Thursday and may offer bets of up to \$1,000 a game on the weekend games.

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