

OU runner has history of success

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) — To say Patrick Collins has Texas' number is putting it mildly. As a sophomore two years ago, the Oklahoma halfback broke the Longhorns' back when he took an option pitch from quarterback Troy Aikman and flew 45 yards down the sideline for a touchdown. It came in the fourth quarter, and turned out to be the game-winner in a 14-7 Sooners victory.

Last year Collins picked up where he left off, rushing for 47 yards and three touchdowns in a 47-12 Oklahoma rout.

On Saturday, Collins will go down the Cotton Bowl ramp for the final time. It is a game filled with emotions and pageantry, something coaches say you must experience first-hand to truly appreciate.

Collins, with one more touchdown against Texas, will tie the school record of five held by Tommy McDonald. Surely this week's game holds a special place in Collins' heart.

Try again. "Once you take that first hit, it's just another football game," said Collins. "I've had good ball games in the Cotton Bowl, but when it gets down to Saturday, I don't think that will matter."

"It's something special, but what do you do with a memory in a football game? Down the road it might be nice to tell your grandchildren about, but at this point in my career it really doesn't matter."

That isn't the usual line one hears from the athletes on both teams as they prepare for this game.

"It may not be what they all say, but it's the truth," Collins said. "We have a chance to win and lose this ball game like all the others."

His pragmatic outlook is one Collins seems to take to the field each week. In the first three years of his career, the product of Tulsa Washington High School carried 130 times and scored 13 touchdowns — one TD every 10 carries.

NFL-union bartering stalls; 37 more players cross line

WASHINGTON (AP) — Thirty-seven more players crossed National Football League picket lines Wednesday in time to pick up this week's paycheck and prepare for this weekend's games.

The defections brought to 129 the total number of players who have returned to their teams. The union says 1,585 players are under its jurisdiction.

Meanwhile, union chief Gene Upshaw and management negotiator Jack Donlan met for a second straight day in the Washington area. While both sides agreed there was little chance for a quick settlement, union official Doug Allen said Upshaw was "encouraged, and progress has been made."

Both sides, however, disagreed on what went on at the latest session.

Management Council spokesman John Jones said the meeting lasted

for five hours, recessed and would resume Thursday. But Allen, the union's assistant executive director, said the talks lasted for six hours and didn't recess.

Jones said only some secondary points were discussed — injury and non-injury grievance procedures, discipline by the commissioner, in-

jury protection and safety and welfare. None is among the major bargaining points.

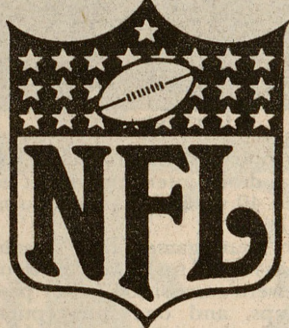
But Allen said such major topics as guaranteed contracts and protection for player representatives were "touched on."

As for a quick settlement, Allen said, "There is a practical limit as to how quickly this thing can be done, but I think progress can be made in a matter of days."

The biggest rift in union ranks came in Redwood City, Calif., where 12 San Francisco 49ers crossed, including quarterback Joe Montana.

The union, meanwhile, noted that it was holding the line in most cases.

"We're disappointed, but not surprised by the number of 49ers who reported," Allen said. "Other than that, though, only a few trickled in. We've still got around 1,500 on the picket line."



Brooks, LaVette cross Pokes' line

IRVING (AP) — Three more Dallas Cowboys crossed the players' union picket line on Wednesday, including starting defensive tackle Kevin Brooks, who said he could have lost \$250,000 in deferred payments if he stayed away.

Reserve running back Robert LaVette and backup wide receiver Karl Powe also joined the non-union ranks.

To make room for the additions, the Cowboys cut quarterbacks Ben

Bennett of Duke and Stan Yagiello of William & Mary, running back Antonio Rice of Virginia, defensive tackle Darryl Lee of Ohio State and wide receiver Clay Pickering of Maine.

Brooks said, "I couldn't toy with my future. I have to play to make a certain amount of deferred money (\$250,000)."

He added, "It was a hard decision and I still respect the union and what it is trying to do. I put off com-

ing in for a week. I just wish the issues were resolved."

The trio joined Tony Dorsett, Randy White, Danny White, Don Smerek, Ed Jones, and Mike Renfro in the Cowboys' training camp.

Safety Bill Bates, who had indicated he might cross, refused to do so, blaming "pressure plays" by the management.

"My better judgment tells me to stay out," Bates said.

Oilers asking for more TV money

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston Oilers officials reportedly are seeking a better television revenue arrangement as part of any potential move to Jacksonville, Fla., officials said.

"The TV is below their expectations, but it certainly is not a deal-stopper," said Bill Hightower, head of Jacksonville's National Football League Task Force.

Hightower said Tuesday he had discussed television revenue bids with Oilers General Manager Ladd

Herzog. Hightower said the bids offered by the city were about \$200,000 less than the \$500,000 the Oilers wanted.

Herzog did not comment. During the weekend, he disclosed he planned to reject the Jacksonville preseason television revenue package.

The Jacksonville task force has guaranteed the Oilers \$115 million in revenues over a 10-year period. The Oilers have set an Oct. 15 dead-

line for concluding talks about where to relocate next year after their lease for use of the Houston Astrodome expires after this season.

In Houston, Harris County Judge Jon Lindsay said he has been in almost-daily contact with team officials, the city of Houston and the Houston Sports Association, which manages the Astrodome.

"I'm trying to help the negotiations along," he said. "I'd rather not talk too much about it right now."

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