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Walker to be highest-paid Cowboy

DALLAS (AP) — Herschel Walker will be the highest-paid Dallas Cowboy in 1988, making \$1.8 million, or more than twice as much as any other member of the team, the Dallas Morning News reported Monday.

The salary figures were obtained from sources close to the team and in part from the NFL Players Association salary survey, the News said.

The figures show that Walker, entering the third year of a five-year, \$5 million guaranteed contract, will have a base salary of \$800,000 and will collect the final installment of his \$1.4 million signing bonus.

The Heisman Trophy-winning running back from Georgia signed Aug. 13, 1986 after the rival USFL folded. His base salaries are \$400,000, \$500,000, \$800,000, \$900,000 and \$1 million, in addition to his signing bonus.

Walker got \$400,000 of his bonus in 1987 and will get the final \$1 million in 1988. Last season, he stayed on strike with the majority of his teammates and lost \$125,000, or 25 percent of his \$500,000 base salary.

The next highest-paid among the Cowboys would be quarterback Danny White, with \$775,000 if he



DALLAS COWBOYS

starts eight games, the newspaper said.

White, who broke his right wrist in the ninth game of the 1986 season, signed an unusual contract last season protecting the team against his recurring physical ailments.

His base salary of \$725,000 remains intact as long as he starts eight games; he started nine in 1987. Had White, 36, started fewer than eight games, part of his base would have been pro-rated at a base of \$500,000.

White has the same type deal in

1988 and 1989. He will make \$775,000 if he starts eight times in 1988 and \$852,000 if he starts eight times in 1989.

Part of his salary will be pro-rated at a base \$250,000 lower if he doesn't start eight games. Steve Peluer is considered the favorite to start for the Cowboys next season.

Randy White (\$550,000), Tony Dorsett (\$500,000) and Everson Walls (\$500,000) follow Walker and Danny White as the Cowboys' highest-paid players in 1988.

Dorsett may be making his money from another team, with coach Tom Landry saying he will try to honor Dorsett's trade request. The final \$2.4 million of Dorsett's \$6 million annuity will be funded over the next two seasons.

Free safety Michael Downs, backup middle linebacker Steve DeOssie, No. 3 quarterback Paul McDonald and guard Kurt Petersen, who has missed the last two years with knee problems, are the only Cowboys without contracts. They will become free agents Feb. 1.

Strong safety Bill Bates is among several Cowboys who accepted the team's offer to pay up to \$3,500 for a

certified financial planner to on investments.

Players have the right to plan from a list of the team's offers. Athletes losing big money through poor investments are coming more frequent, and the boys are trying to help keep players solvent.

The Cowboys intend to begin with all their players entering option year, including Jim Kelly, Eugene Lockhart, Nate Newbrey, Crawford Ker, Brian Baldinger and Ron Burton.

Mike Sherrard, a rookie receiver, who broke his right leg in training camp, lost out on a \$2 million contract because he was making the active roster.

Also on Monday, the Los Angeles Times reported that only seven of the 28 NFL teams made money in 1987, thanks largely to the strike. The newspaper said the Dallas Cowboys lost almost \$1.9 million with club revenue of \$30,667,000.

Data obtained by the Times indicated the strike cost NFL owners more than \$104 million in potential income, and the players lost \$84 million in unpaid salaries.

Joyner-Kersee is named AP female athlete of year

NEW YORK (AP) — Track and field star Jackie Joyner-Kersee, Associated Press Female Athlete of the Year for 1987, is familiar with the great career of Babe Didrickson Zaharias, with whom she is compared.

"I saw her story on TV," Joyner-Kersee said. "She inspired me."

"It was touching to see her (high) jump... into sawdust. And to watch her play golf and tennis."

"Her being a woman, and being so dedicated in what she wanted to do was inspiring."

Joyner-Kersee, the world record-holder in the heptathlon, co-world record holder in the long jump and a former basketball star at UCLA, is considered the finest all-around woman athlete in the world today.

It was a title that belonged to Zaharias for more than two decades, including 1932, when, competing in track, she won two Olympic gold medals and one silver and was chosen AP's Female Athlete of the Year. She won the honor five more times — for golf — in 1945-47, 1950 and 1954.

In addition, Zaharias, who died of cancer in 1956 at age 42, once struck out baseball Hall of Famer Joe DiMaggio, boxed and played football.

This year, Joyner-Kersee, 25, will try and match the Babe's two Olympic golds in the Seoul Games — in the heptathlon and long jump. Her accomplishments in those events, along with outstanding performances in the high hurdles, helped Joyner-Kersee win the 1987 Female Athlete of the Year Award Monday.

In balloting by a nationwide panel of 244 sports writers and broadcasters, she received 128 first-place votes, 68 seconds and 16 thirds and a total of 880 points, with points allotted on a 5-3-1 basis.

West German Steffi Graf, the world's top-ranked woman tennis player and winner of 75 of 77 matches, including the French Open, finished second in the balloting with 806 points. She had 108 firsts, 82 seconds and 20 thirds.

Third was another tennis player, Martina Navratilova, the 1983 and 1986 Female Athlete of the Year.

Navratilova, the only player to beat Graf in 1987 — in the Wimbledon and U.S. Open finals — was a distant third with 182 points, including 10 first-place votes.

Figure skater Katarina Witt of East Germany placed fourth with 140 points and six firsts, and pro golfer Ayako Okamoto of Japan was fifth with 68 points, two ahead of U.S. golfer Jane Geddes.

Joyner-Kersee and Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson, the AP's Male Athlete of the Year for 1987, will be presented their awards by the Tampa Sports Club on Feb. 26 at a banquet in Florida.

This is only the third time in the 57-year history of the awards that athletes from the same sport were chosen in the same year. Zaharias and men's golfer Byron Nelson were honored in 1945 and tennis players John McEnroe and Tracy Austin were the winners in 1981.

"When I started competing in sports, I never thought I would get to the top," said Joyner-Kersee, who grew up in a "tough" neighborhood in East St. Louis, Ill.

Joyner-Kersee said that her husband and coach, Bobby Kersee, always believed she could be a world record-holder.

In the past two years, Joyner-Kersee has done those "little things." In 1986, she became the first heptathlete to reach 7,000 points, accumulating 7,148 in the Goodwill Games at Moscow in July, then improved the world record to 7,158 in the U.S. Olympic Festival at Houston in August.

Last year, she equalled the world record in the long jump, clearing 24 feet 5½ inches in the Pan American Games at Indianapolis Aug. 13, and the following month, she won the long jump and heptathlon gold medals in the World Track and Field Championships at Rome.

In the long jump, she soared 24-19½, beating East German Heike Drechsler, with whom she shares the world record, and in the heptathlon, she amassed 7,128 points — only the third 7,000-point total in history, all hers — and beat her nearest competitor by 564 points.

Pro speed boat racer dedicates life to job

PALESTINE (AP) — Duke Waldrop needs a trophy case. His prizes from more than 20 years of racing threaten to push the furniture out of his living room.

"I'll get around to building a trophy room someday," Waldrop said. "People expect that when they visit."

Waldrop, 43, has raced everything mechanical that moves — motorcycles, cars and, currently, speed boats.

He is the race director for the International Outboard Grand Prix, a circuit of eight speed boat races that includes the St. Louis Grand Prix.

"Palestine is headquarters for a racing series that draws half a million U.S. spectators, \$1 million in prize money and equipment, and a television audience of about 100 million," Waldrop said.

Waldrop, a consultant to Mercury Marine, is not alone in his obsession with speed boat racing. His wife, Fay, is chief scorer for the IOGP. His 17-year-old daughter, Stacey, won the 1981 Texas Divisional Championship in the midget class,

and son Gary, 20, set a world record in the midget class several years ago.

"For our kids, it was nothing when they were growing up to spend the weekend driving anywhere across the country to go to a boat race," Waldrop said. "We'd drive all night, qualify, sleep a little, race, then drive back."

Waldrop specializes in champ boat racing, the most sophisticated class of speed boat. The boat is 15 feet long, weighs 1,000 pounds and resembles a giant tennis shoe on foils.

In speed, a champ boat will do zero to 100 mph in five seconds with a top speed of 140 mph. A racer can expect to pull four G's in the turns during the standard 50-lap race, Waldrop said.

"The sensation of handling a champ boat at 100 mph is like any other racing at 200 mph," Waldrop said.

"But in other kinds of racing, the track doesn't change. In a boat race, the track is never the same twice."

Unlike an auto race, any move to

change position has to be planned several laps in advance. Elements as routine as a gust of wind or the "rooster tail" off another boat can be fatal, Waldrop said.

In 1978, Waldrop became the first Texan inducted into the American Power Boat Association Hall of Fame. He won National SE Class Championships in 1977, 1978, 1980 and 1983 and the World Championship in 1981.

But two trophies in Waldrop's collection stand out. His trophy as winner of the 1982 St. Louis Grand Prix bears a black arm band in memory of Tennessee racer Joe Burgess, who was killed in that race.

"He was one of my closest friends in racing," Waldrop said. "The day he died was the closest I've ever come to quitting. If I hadn't won, I'm not sure what I'd have done."

The other trophy Waldrop cherishes most is the 1984 Joe Burgess Memorial Trophy as outstanding driver in the St. Louis Grand Prix.

Waldrop won his first trophy as a high school student in Baytown. He

was racing a red 1957 Chevrolet drag strip in nearby Dayton.

"I couldn't take the trophy home because if my father had found out about it, I'd have been in big trouble," Waldrop said.

He continued to specialize in land racing in everything from dune buggies to motorcycles until he joined an in-board racing team organized by famed oil well fire-fighter Red Adair in the late 1960s.

"I also went to all the fires — blowouts, but all that traveling was little tough with a new baby," Waldrop said.

After leaving Adair, Waldrop finished his education at the University of Houston. In 1973, Waldrop opened a motorcycle dealership in Palestine. To promote his business he started a local track for motorcycle races.

Waldrop renewed his love affair with speed boats during this period. If he wasn't racing motorcycles, he was racing speed boats, he said. Since 1983, he has concentrated on speed boats.

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