

# Sports

## Irvin content to be Pokes' No. 2 man at Thousand Oaks

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP) — Michael Irvin is the second most uttered name at Dallas Cowboys' training camp and the flamboyant, fast-talking rookie wide receiver doesn't mind. For now.

"Herschel Walker is what's happening and he's the man," said Irvin. "He's a great player and he makes things happen."

Then he flashed one of his impish smiles and said, "I will, too. I'm going to entertain the fans of Dallas."

The Cowboys' first-round draft pick has been so impressive during training camp that barring injury he will probably be a starter by the time the NFL regular season starts.

"He has made at least one great play at every practice or scrimmage we have had," said Gil Brandt, player of director personnel. "He has the largest hands and longest fingers of anybody we've ever had at receiver. He has such a deceptive stride that he can get to balls you don't think he can catch."

Irvin, who helped Miami to the national title, has made such an impact that club president Tex Schramm gave him No. 88, not in use since Drew Pearson retired.

"Some people can live up to being given a legend's number but I think Mike can handle it," Schramm said.

Pearson said, "It didn't bother me because I think Irvin is going to be a great player."

All the fuss doesn't bother Irvin, who talks a mile a minute on and off the field.

"The way I see it the Cowboys were just one or two players or one or two plays away from the playoffs," he said. "Well, here I am. I think I can make the difference of the Cowboys getting into the playoffs."

He said he was touched when he got Pearson's number.

"It was a big compliment but I know I'm great and I'll make Drew happy about getting 88," Irvin said. "I'll pay the organization back for it. And I'll pay the fans back for accepting me in Dallas like they have."

Irvin paused to sign autographs and let a boy carry his shoulder pads to the dressing room.

"I'm ready to go against the veterans now," Irvin said. "I'm ready for 30 reps (repetitions) a day against Everson Walls. I want to see how much I've learned and how far I've progressed."

It bothers Irvin that he didn't get the notoriety of Tim Brown and Sterling Sharpe, both chosen ahead of him in the NFL draft.

"I guess I didn't get as much attention because I didn't return kicks," he said. "I'm a Kentucky Fried Chicken man. You don't go there to get hamburgers do you? Well, I do things right. I'm a pass-catching specialist. That's what you come to me for."

Irvin also pointed out that he was a team-oriented player.

"I had to give up some dollars because I didn't get as many catches and some of the other guys did," he said. "Well, I was on a team interested in winning the national championship. You have to give up some personal glory to do that."

Then he added, "Man, I miss Dallas. I'm ready to play in Texas Stadium."

Irvin said fans love him so much in Dallas that a man followed him in his automobile several miles last month to get an autograph.

How did he know it was Irvin? "Oh, man I've got 'playmaker' on my license plate. You didn't know that?"

## Herschel to carry load for resurgent Cowboys

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP) — Doctors say he has only 1.5 per cent body fat but Herschel Walker doesn't look like he has any.

Chiseled from flint is what the 6-foot-2, 225-pound Walker looks like.

Muscular and fast, he appears indestructible. Indestructible he must be if the Dallas Cowboys are to appear in the NFL playoffs for the first time in three seasons.

Walker says he does 3,500 sit-ups and 1,500 pushups daily.

Make it 4,000 and 2,000, Herschel, you have a big load coming.

With Tony Dorsett now a Denver Bronco, Walker will be expected to carry the ball 25 to 30 times per game with the aid of an offensive line that is large, young and inexperienced.

"If Herschel gets through this season without getting hurt then he REALLY is Superman," said a member of the Cowboys' organization.

"Did Coach (Tom) Landry really say he wanted me to carry the ball 25 times a game?" Walker asked. "He didn't tell me that but that would be fine with me."

What Landry said was: "We're counting on Herschel to play the dominant role because he has that kind of ability."

"We are building for the future with Herschel as the foundation."

Landry figures Walker could get 1,500 yards rush and 1,000 yards receiving this year.

Walker said he's ready to carry the Cowboys back to the top of the NFL standings and he has a special feeling about the upcoming year.

"Last season was a big disappointment for me and the team," Walker says. "But I think we can surprise some people like we did in my first year at Georgia."

"People didn't think much of us then we went out and won the national title."

"This situation sort of reminds me of that." Walker is the talk of the camp now that Dorsett is gone.

"Did you see Herschel make the Oprah Winfrey show?"

"Did you see Herschel make that diving catch?"

"Did you see Herschel talking with Magic Johnson?"

The camp is Herschel's except that he didn't bring his dog "Al Capone" to camp because he didn't think Landry would like it.

Other than that Walker can do no wrong.

As club president Tex Schramm put it: "Herschel is our man."

"There are no ifs or questions about it."

Schramm says with Dorsett gone Walker can be himself.

"Walker was on his tip-toes because he and Tony were friends," Schramm says. "The tension is gone. Herschel can be Herschel without any distractions."

Even during the lunch hour Walker is active.

He can't sit still. On one particular day at noon he was showing a Cowboys' secretary how to use Tai-Kwan-Do to break a mugger's hold.

"You do it like this, now try it on me," said Walker, twisting her wrist.

Walker seemed pleased that she eventually was able to use the technique to break the hold despite his tremendous strength.

"That's great, just great," Walker says.

Of course, Walker sees himself as Mike Tyson's equal in the boxing ring but says "he knows I want to fight him but we just laugh about it."

"I just like competition and doing different things."

In the offseason, Walker won the Superstars' competition and also performed for the Fort Worth Ballet.

On the field, Walker has been flawless except for a halfback pass he tried at the end of a practice which fluttered to the ground like a wounded duck.

## Ramirez, Puhl push Astros past Expos

MONTREAL (AP) — Rafael Ramirez and Terry Puhl hit solo homers as the Houston Astros defeated the Montreal Expos 3-2 Wednesday night to sweep a three-game series.

The loss was the fourth straight for Montreal, which won seven consecutive games leading up to the All-Star break. The Expos have now lost five of seven since then.

Jim Deshaies, 7-6, went six innings, allowing six hits, to get the victory. Larry Andersen pitched 2 1/2 hitless innings for his fourth save.

Houston took the lead in the second inning against John Dopson, 2-6, when Ramirez hit his third homer of the season with two outs.

Puhl doubled the lead in the fourth inning when he hit an 0-2 pitch into the right field seats for his second homer.

Hubie Brooks led off the bottom of the fourth with his 12th homer to cut the lead to 2-1, but Houston got that run back and chased Dopson in the sixth.

Bill Doran drew a walk to lead off the inning and scored on a double by Glenn Davis.

Montreal's final run came in the bottom of the sixth when Andres Galarraga scored on a sacrifice fly by Tim Wallach.

## Oiler fullback Highsmith promises to be 'hell on two legs'

SAN MARCOS (AP) — Houston Oilers fullback Alonzo Highsmith's like of "Dirty Harry" movies helps explain his style of football.

"I just like to get dirty that's all," said the man who went into the off-season vowing to come back this season as 'hell on two legs'."

Now he's back and he's not backing off his statement, despite an off-season that included knee surgery and a twisted ankle.

"I'm still pumped and I don't back down from anything I said, I'll be ready from get-go," Highsmith said in true "Dirty Harry" style.

Highsmith, the Oilers' No. 1 draft pick in 1987, never reached full speed last season.

Hampered by a lengthy contract holdout, the NFL players' strike and a knee injury, Highsmith made his vow following the Oilers' 34-10 loss to Denver in the second round of the playoffs.

But even at full speed this season, Highsmith doesn't anticipate challenging the NFL rushing leaders.

"When I said 'hell on two legs' I didn't mean running 200 yards a game, I meant blocking and catching too," Highsmith said.

"My forte is not worrying about getting 100 yards a game. I'm going to get noticed on the field whether I block somebody or catch the ball and make something happen."

Highsmith wasn't activated until Nov. 8 last season and didn't start his first game until Dec. 13 against New Orleans.

He expects much more of himself this season and much more from the Oilers, who reached the playoffs last season for the first time since 1980.

"I expect to make a big contribution to the team whether it's running, catching or blocking," Highsmith said.

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