

Sports

Thousand Oaks never boring Old-timer Rafferty surviving 13th camp

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP) — Tom Rafferty can barely hold his head up after another grueling training camp practice.

"This is what 13 years as a center in the NFL will do to you," Rafferty says.

"You can barely look up."

Rafferty is one of the oldtimers in the 1988 Dallas Cowboys' training camp.

He has played in every regular season game since 1976, a string of 177 consecutive games. Of course, the strike replacement games of 1987 are excluded.

Rafferty is only 19 games short of Bob Lilly's club record streak of 195, which includes post-season games.

Every year he comes to camp, he hears about somebody beating him out. Rafferty is 34 years old.

"The pro scouts always said I was too small at Penn State and that's probably why I wasn't drafted until the fourth round," he said.

Now Rafferty is 6-foot-3 and 270 pounds.

George Lilja, a 290-pounder, was giving Rafferty a heated run for the starting position until Lilja fractured a finger which will keep him out of the lineup for two months.

Second-year center Bob White also was making a strong run un-

New Bronco Dorsett bitter over Cowboys' raw deal

DALLAS (AP) — Tony Dorsett told a television station that he became a bitter sinner, watching from the bench as newcomer Herschel Walker, without warning, took over his starting Dallas Cowboys tailback spot.

"The only thing I didn't like about all this stuff is the way I was treated," Dorsett said in an interview Sunday with television station WFAA. "I was never told they were going to start Herschel. I learned through the media."

Dorsett, who was traded to the Denver Broncos, thought he deserved more consideration in Dallas.

"I played 11 years, gave a lot of blood, sweat and tears," said Dorsett, who was traded to the Broncos before NFL training camps opened.

But Dorsett said he was told

the Cowboys wanted to establish a "youth movement."

"That's another reason why I said this isn't for me," he said. "You don't treat me like that."

Walker, who has been settling into his role as sole backfield superstar, said he can understand why Dorsett feels a bitter.

"The guy gave his heart," Walker said. "He gave everything to Dallas. He's piled up so many yards in Texas Stadium."

"And this year, he may be the second all-time rusher in the NFL, and he's got to finish his career somewhere else. It's like being pulled out of your home."

Dorsett said his being traded shocked several other NFL veterans and has become a lesson.

"It enlightens all the players here about what all this business is all about," he said.

kenbeck called Rafferty "a 100 percent guy."

"He just doesn't cruise around," Erkenbeck said. "When he plays, he goes all out. He's the kind of guy you like on your team. He'll get down in the ditch and battle for you."

Rafferty is the answer to one of the NFL's best trivia questions: Who sprang the pivotal block on running back Tony Dorsett's record 99-yard touchdown run against the Minnesota Vikings in 1983?

"Centers don't normally get a lot of publicity but maybe I'll be remembered for that one," he said.

Rafferty was also the butt of one of the biggest practical jokes in Cowboys' training camp history.

An avid chip eater, Rafferty was set up by Roger Staubach, who mixed dry dog food in a bowl with the other legitimate human snacks.

Rafferty ate the whole bowl.

He wondered why teammates would bark at him every time he tried to talk to them.

Finally, it dawned on him that Staubach had done.

To this day, Rafferty's nickname is "RUFF."

think I do a good overall job.

"I'm not the quickest person in the world but I'm not the slowest, either."

Offensive line Coach Jim Er-

A&M to present case to NCAA in mid-August

Texas A&M officials will present their findings of an investigation into the alleged 38 rule and procedural violations by the A&M football program to the NCAA Committee on Infractions at an Aug. 13 meeting in Syracuse, N.Y.

A&M was notified by letter Friday that its case will be heard at the National Collegiate Athletic Association meeting.

If the allegations are substantiated, A&M could receive any combination of penalties including loss of scholarships, and bans on television and bowl game appearances, and conference championships. If A&M fails to disprove the charges, the penalties would affect future seasons, not the 1988 campaign.

A&M President William Mobley released this statement Monday concerning the hearing and allegations:

"I plan to be an active participant in the session and will be joined by several other institutional representatives, including President Emeritus Frank E. Vandiver; Athletic Director and Head Football Coach Jackie Sherrill; Dr. Tom Adair, chairman of the University's Athletic Council, and Ted Hajovsky, general counsel.

"Obviously, we look forward to resolving this matter as quickly as possible and to the satisfaction of everyone involved. We are naturally concerned about the allegations; even one allegation would be a source of concern. One point I want to emphasize particularly is that throughout this process the academic integrity and fiscal integrity of the University overall and the athletic program have remained above reproach."

Oilers' receiving duo dubbed 'untouchable'

SAN MARCOS (AP) — It wasn't enough for the Houston Oilers' wide receiver duo of Ernest Givins and Drew Hill to be virtually untouchable last season.

Givins and Hill were sinister enough, piling up more receiving yardage as a pair than any other NFL tandem over the past two seasons.

Now they plan to call themselves "The Untouchables" as a group, patterning themselves after the Al Capone gang.

"I saw the movie and Al Capone was a bad man so we feel our coach (Jerry Gilvane) will be Al Capone and we'll be the bad guys," Givins said.

"We won't have any guns. We'll do our damage on the football field."

Givins and Hill did quite well without a nickname last season when they caught passes for a combined 1,922 yards.

Givins caught 53 passes for 933 yards and narrowly missed becoming the fourth receiver in NFL history to have 1,000 yards in each of his first two years.

The idea of "The Untouchables" came from teammate wide receiver Willie Drewrey, who thought it would help the group get recognition.

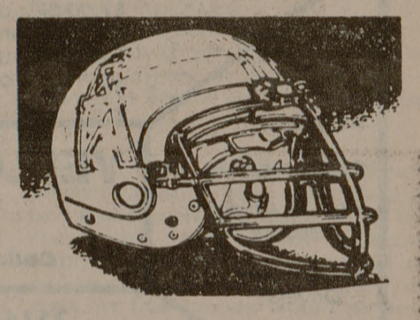
"By being 'The Untouchables,' I feel like it will give us more recognition, not for a showboat-type deal," Givins said. "It's just to build confidence in the receiving corps."

When the Oilers decide on the five or six receivers who make the team, the group plans to don their gangster suits and pose for a poster.

For games, they'll be recognized by "The Untouchables" printed across the backs of their shoes.

The nickname could bring more notoriety than the receivers want but Givins doesn't care.

"I don't care what kind of attitude it brings from other teams," Givins said. "Cleveland has the 'Dogs' out



there, Denver has the 'Three Amigos.'

"In Houston we have 'The Untouchables.' It's all in fun, mainly for the kids and the entertainment part of the game."

Givins wants the entire receiving corps included.

"The idea is we don't just have one or two receivers that can hurt you, we've got five or six," he said. "It's not one person doing something, it's all five or six."

Givins was colorful enough last season, doing his "Cabbage Patch" dance in the end zone after each of his six touchdowns.

Now that the Oilers have reached the playoffs and will again receive national television exposure this season, Givins is taking the fun seriously.

"We've got a chance to go to the playoffs again and to the Super Bowl," he said. "We have to realize when we get in the playoffs, that it's business."

Givins would like to get back on the 1,000-yard track this season and earn a spot in the Pro Bowl.

"My only personal goal this year is to make the Pro Bowl because that's the only thing I haven't done," Givins said.

The new nickname will give the Oiler receivers exposure just as reaching the playoffs did last year, Givins says.

Francis to miss weekend game with Chargers

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP) — With right cornerback Ron Francis out with an injury, Robert Williams and Manny Hendrix will split the playing time in the Dallas Cowboys' exhibition game Saturday night against the Chargers in San Diego, Cowboys coach Tom Landry said.

Francis, who started 11 games for the Cowboys in 1987 in his rookie season, dislocated his left shoulder while tackling fullback Timmy Newsome in Saturday's annual Blue-White intrasquad scrimmage. Francis will remain in camp while wearing a shoulder harness for three weeks.

"It's a big blow to lose him," Landry said of Francis, Dallas' second round draft choice last year. "He needed this camp to really progress further."

Williams is a second-year veteran and Hendrix a third-year veteran. Neither has played much at the position.

"Williams will probably move up, since he's been working over there all the time," Landry said. "Manny's been working on the other side."

"I'm hoping I'm going to be very comfortable with whoever winds up as the starter. . . . They have to produce now that they are in that position. They'll probably split the game. I don't know who will start."

Williams, 5-10, 190, played running back at Baylor, and was in the Washington Redskins camp in 1986 as a receiver. He was moved to defensive back when signed by the Cowboys in 1987.

After being released in training camp, Williams was re-signed for the replacement games during the strike, and started all three games at cornerback. After the strike, Williams remained with the team, and was used primarily as an extra defensive back in the team's pass-prevent de-

fense and on special teams.

"He has great speed," Landry said. "He moved from offensive back to defensive back last year and handled himself fairly well for his first year."

In Hendrix, the Cowboys have a player who made his mark as a basketball star at Utah. The Cowboys cut Hendrix during his first training camp, but re-signed him a month later. He has been used primarily as an extra defender in the pass-prevent defense and on special teams. Hendrix's lone pro start was in the Cowboys' season finale last year, when he played well in Dallas' 21-16 win over the Cardinals.

"He's still overcoming some of the basketball background," said Landry. "He's got great speed, too. He's probably one of the fastest cornerbacks that we've ever had here."

Giants pass Astros with 4-1 victory

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Atee Hammaker pitched a five-hitter and Will Clark had three extra base hits, including his 23rd homer, as the San Francisco Giants beat the Houston Astros 4-1 Monday night for their sixth straight victory and ninth in 11 games.

The Giants started the day tied for second with Houston in the National League West, 4½ games behind Los Angeles.

Hammaker, 5-3, struck out three

and walked one for his first victory as a starter this season and first complete game since Aug. 8, 1987.

The only run off the left-hander was unearned.

Clark drove in the first two runs off Nolan Ryan, 8-8, with a double in the first inning and his homer in the third. He had another double in the fifth.

Ryan had 11 strikeouts in seven innings, the 179th time in his career he's struck out 10 or more men in a

game. Ryan raised his major league-record career strikeout total to 4,703.

The two runs batted in raised Clark's league-leading RBI total to 81.

In the first, Giants' outfielder Brett Butler walked, went to second on a balk, to third on Robby Thompson's sacrifice and scored when Clark blooped a double to short right field. Shortstop Jose Uribe had

an RBI single in the fourth to make the score 3-0.

Houston scored in the seventh on an RBI single by Ken Caminiti, who was recently called up from Houston's triple-A club. Right fielder Kevin Bass led off with a single, his second of the game and only the second hit for the Astros, advanced to second base on a passed ball and to third on a groundout by fellow outfielder Billy Hatcher.

Thompson hit his fourth homer of the year in the seventh.

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