

Herzeg resigns as Oiler GM

Owner Adams says he won't accept decision

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston Oiler General Manager Ladd Herzeg, embroiled in a paternity suit, resigned Wednesday but the NFL team's owner, Bud Adams, refused to accept Herzeg's decision to step down.

"I submitted my resignation from the Houston Oilers as executive vice president and general manager on the basis of a very personal and private matter," Herzeg said in a statement read by his attorney, Steve Underwood.

"Because of the public nature of my position, I felt it was in everyone's best interest to revert to being a private citizen rather than remaining a public figure."

But Adams said in a statement read by Oiler Director of Administration Rick Nichols, that he would

not accept Herzeg's resignation.

"I have respectfully refused to accept his resignation and have asked him to continue to execute his duties as executive vice president and general manager of the Houston Oilers," Adams said.

"I consider this a very personal matter and will treat it as such. I am fully supportive of Ladd."

The disclosure of Herzeg's plan to resign came earlier Wednesday from Underwood during a paternity lawsuit brought against Herzeg by Joann DiNicola.

State District Judge Thomas Stansbury in Rosenberg, southwest of Houston, awarded Miss DiNicola \$3,000 per month in child support and an undetermined amount of money for the child's medical insurance policy.

Miss DiNicola testified she received \$1,500 monthly from Herzeg and had lived for the past four years in a townhouse owned by Herzeg.

The child was born Sept. 13, 1987.

"I have a daughter who I love very much named Megan Diane who was conceived and born while Kathy (his wife) and I were separated," Herzeg said in his prepared statement. "Kathy and her family have been extremely supportive of me and Megan prior to and after her birth."

Herzeg said he had agreed to report to work on a day-to-day basis.

"I will treat this issue as a personal matter and make no further comment," he said.

Miss DiNicola testified she no longer felt secure living at the townhouse.

She obtained a restraining order Aug. 3 after claiming Herzeg came to her home and took some of her personal belongings.

On another occasion, she said Herzeg called her from his car telephone and said he would drive through her garage if she didn't allow him to enter her home.

Miss DiNicola also testified Herzeg had promised to marry her after he divorced his wife.

Miss DiNicola, a former Pan American Airlines flight attendant, retained custody of the child.

Herzeg, starting his 13th season with the Oilers, has gained a reputation as a tough negotiator on player contracts and frequently has been involved in standoffs with player agents.

Metcalf suspended for season opener

AUSTIN (AP) — University of Texas tailback Eric Metcalf, the key to the Longhorn offense, said he was "shocked" to learn of his ineligibility to play Thursday night against Brigham Young.

Metcalf, a senior who ran for 1,925 all-purpose yards last year, learned Wednesday morning of his ineligibility, due to a minor rules infraction reported to the National Collegiate Athletic Association by UT.

"I was shocked because after we had talked to everyone (NCAA people), and while we were waiting for a decision, (I felt) that I had a good chance of being able to play this week," Metcalf said.

"But as soon as they came on the phone and said I wasn't going to be able to play, I was shocked."

Metcalf said he accepted money from the UT athletic department to pay for summer school this year, then did not attend either summer session.

"It was a minor mistake and the money was paid back to the university out of my own pocket. Still, it is a violation. We turn in all violations to the NCAA and will continue to do so," said Athletic Director DeLoss Dodds.

Metcalf, in an interview with KVUE-TV in Austin, said on June 1, the UT athletic department gave him a \$760 check for one session of summer school. He decided he would not go to the first session, then in mid-July he decided he would not go to the second session.

On July 13, Metcalf was told by the athletic department to pay the money back. He says he finished paying the money back Sept. 1.

Metcalf was contacted by reporters Wednesday afternoon on campus near the football dormi-

tory. He was with former Heisman trophy winner Earl Campbell, a special assistant to the UT vice president of student affairs.

"I feel that we're both (Metcalf and the athletic department) to blame for this. They said I could have the money so I took the money," Metcalf said.

"If I wouldn't have taken the money, there would be no problem. If they wouldn't have given me the money, there would be no problem."

"It's a two-way street," Metcalf said.

Upon deplaning at Salt Lake City International Airport on Wednesday, Coach David McWilliams said Metcalf would be ineligible for the BYU game and thus would not be going to Provo.

"I'm disappointed for Eric. I think the penalty is a little stiffer than it should be," McWilliams said.

He said Metcalf's absence from the BYU game would probably hurt his quest for the Heisman Trophy. "I hope they won't use that against him, but I am not going to sit here and say it doesn't hurt because it does," McWilliams said.

He has touted Metcalf, a 5-foot-9-inch 178-pound senior, as a candidate for the trophy.

McWilliams said team members are confused and angry about the decision because they believe Metcalf, the son of former pro football star Terry Metcalf, would not intentionally violate NCAA regulations.

He said he talked to Metcalf by telephone while on the flight to Utah at about 11:15 a.m. CDT, and Metcalf told his coach he had been called by the NCAA and been told he would be ineligible.

Schramm gets rights to buy Cowboys

IRVING (AP) — If you have \$100 million to spare and want to own an NFL franchise, call Wall Street where Salomon Brothers Inc. of New York City can put a deal together for the Dallas Cowboys.

Tex Schramm, club president of the Cowboys, has retained the Wall Street-based investment banking firm as exclusive financial advisor, Salomon Brothers announced Wednesday.

Schramm said Wednesday he has been granted the exclusive right to acquire the football club and Texas Stadium Corp. by majority owner Bum Bright.

However, Schramm doesn't want to buy the team by himself. He just wants Salomon Brothers to put a package of investors together with his approval.

"I think that Bum wanted to see an orderly transition in the ownership," Schramm said. "I think he wanted to see the right type of group

together whose interests were to see the Cowboys' success, rather than a pure business investment by somebody."

"So he in turn suggested this alternative, and the Salomon brothers were very, very interested in their part in putting together an investment group."

Bright had no comment, refusing to return a telephone call from the Associated Press.

Schramm said the sale could be to one person or to a group of investors.

"The most important thing is getting the right people or right person," he said. "I would love for that to be someone from Texas, but right now the economy is not conducive for that to happen. So we might have to sell from someone outside the area, but it would be to someone who has the Cowboys at heart and isn't making a speculative investment."

Schramm said Salomon was contacted about

three weeks ago. He said he and Bright discussed doing it last spring.

"There probably won't be any quick sale," Schramm said. "You could have a letter of understanding in 30 days, but it still could take a long time for the sale to be finalized."

Bright suffered big losses in the Texas oil and real-estate bust. Forbes Magazine estimated his personal worth fell from \$600 million to \$300 million.

He lost \$26 million during the past year because of the collapse of First Republic Bank Corp. His Bright Banc Savings Association needs a cash flow.

Bright was asking approximately \$100 million for the franchise, \$50 million for Texas Stadium operations, \$20 million for the team's Valley Ranch headquarters, and the assumption of \$34 million in team-related debt.

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