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NFL teams making early playoff bids

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS Forget those funny teams that made the NFL playoffs last year, like Atlanta and Detroit. Forget those funny teams like Tampa Bay that started so well this season. Less than midway through the 1992 NFL season, it's become clear there will be no upstarts in the playoffs this year. Oh? In the NFC, try to get beyond San Francisco (6-1) and the Big Three in the East - Dallas (5-1), Philadelphia (4-2) and Washington (4-2). Add Minnesota (5-1) as the Central winner and New Orleans (5-2) as a wild-card and give Mike Ditka a chance to will Chicago (3-3) in from the fringe and you've got it. In the AFC, take Miami (6-0) and Buffalo (4-2) in the East; Houston (4-2) in the Central; Denver (5-2) and Kansas City (4-

3) in the West and add one more from somewhere (the charging Raiders, determined Browns or youthful Steelers). There are your playoffs. "I really believe this team has a chance to get somewhere. And I mean all the way," coach Marty Schottenheimer of the Chiefs said after his team lost 17-10 in Dallas. "We're just missing on little things." That loss dropped Kansas City a game behind Denver in the AFC West. But they're an impressive 4-3, three losses on the road by a total of 11 points - at Houston (in overtime), to a John Elway comeback at Denver, and in Dallas. In fact, the 11 teams likely to make the playoffs have 20 losses among them. Of those, only two are to rank outsiders - the Vikings to the 1-5 Lions, a defeat they avenged last Thursday, and the Redskins to the 1-5 Cards, a defeat they

will avenge. Two other defeats were to the fringe teams - Houston to Pittsburgh and Buffalo to the Raiders. One obvious development in the last week is the re-emergence of Washington, where Joe Gibbs just won't allow any post-Super Bowl doldrums. Another is the return to the upper pack by the Eagles, anointed as this year's team just two weeks ago after beating Dallas 31-7. Washington's 16-12 win over Philadelphia on Sunday showed the Redskins' strength and the Eagles' weakness in the same place - the offensive line. Playing without Jim Lachey and Jeff Bostic, and with Ed Simmons hurting, the Redskins juggled players, thrust in the untested Mo Elewoni, and limited Philadelphia to just two sacks. The Eagles, meanwhile, whose front was a question mark, allowed five sacks as the Redskins kept Randall Cunningham under

pressure all day. "Anytime you can do a cent job against them you consider that a success," Gibbs said. "Because the Eagles' line is like anyone else, they're great. Well, maybe not great, but good enough to make the playoffs." THREE IN ONE: Steve Largent is about to lose his career record ... to a third different player. On opening day, Buffalo James Lofton broke his record for receiving yards. Last Monday night, Washington's Art Monk broke his record for receptions. And on Sunday, Jerry Raulo pulled within three of his record of 100 receiving touchdowns. Given the way the Niners' offense played in the 56-17 victory over Atlanta, that mark could fall in a few weeks ... or less.

Mackovic seeks redshirt for Morenz

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN - Texas coach John Mackovic says he will seek a medical hardship ruling for prized freshman quarterback Shea Morenz, who tore ligaments in his right ankle at a party and could miss the rest of the season. A favorable decision would leave Morenz with four years' of playing eligibility. Mackovic said NCAA rules declare that a player is eligible for a medical hardship ruling if he suffers injury or illness before the team's sixth game and before he plays in more than 11 quarters. He said he didn't think the rules require the injury be football-related. "If I read it all correctly, it appears as if he would qualify," Mackovic said. "You do not have to be injured in a contest." The 6-foot-2, 215-pound Morenz, a San Angelo Central graduate, played in only three quarters against North Texas and Oklahoma and only the final five minutes against the Sooners without throwing a pass. He completed five of nine passes for 65 yards with one interception against the Eagles. Mackovic said he didn't have details about how Morenz hurt his ankle Friday. The quarterback was outfitted for "a semi-cast" on Sunday. "He was carrying somebody or running down some steps," Mackovic said. "I don't know if he slipped, but he's not doing too well. I don't anticipate he would need surgery. But that's always a possibility. "A broken ankle is sometimes better than this. Whenever you tear ligaments, an ankle is no different than a knee. It can set you back an extended period of time. Some people never recover completely." The injury moves sophomore Chad Lucas firmly into the No. 2 spot behind senior Peter Gardere and senior Brent Beauchamp into the No. 3 position. Lucas, who has played only in the second quarter of the North Texas game, has completed one pass in five attempts for 13 yards with one interception.

UNLV president defends administration

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LAS VEGAS - UNLV President Robert Maxson made an impassioned defense of his administration Monday while blasting a "whole campaign of dirty tricks" he claimed supporters of former basketball coach Jerry Tarkanian have waged against the university. Maxson, in an appearance before a legislative subcommittee probing events surrounding Tarkanian's resignation, lashed out at those who have questioned his credibility and blamed them for trying to sabotage the university. Tarkanian is now coach of the NBA San Antonio Spurs. "My university has conducted itself in an ethical, moral way and I think this is a sad day," Maxson said in concluding an opening statement that lasted 1 hour, 40 minutes. Maxson spent much of the morning outlining his relationship with Tarkanian, saying he was supportive of the former Runnin' Rebel coach up through the point last year when Tarkanian agreed to resign following the publication of photos showing former players in a hot tub with convicted sports fixer Richard Perry. Maxson accused Tarkanian and his supporters of then mounting an orchestrated campaign to discredit him and the university. He said the campaign included threats to university employees, forged letters and attempts to get

student leaders to dig up dirt on the university president. "Little did I know that within days of the resignation they would begin an orchestrated attempt to discredit the university or anyone perceived to be an enemy of the program," Maxson said. Maxson denied he had ever been out to get Tarkanian, citing letters he wrote in support of the coach to the NCAA and others since being named president of the university in the summer of 1984. "I never tried to dismantle the basketball team," Maxson said. "I never tried to discredit Jerry Tarkanian." Maxson was interrupted several times by questions from Assemblyman Jim McGaughey, who chairs the three-member subcommittee. At one point, McGaughey refused to allow Maxson's attorney, Richard Wright, to respond, prompting an angry retort from the university president. "I would respectfully ask you not interrupt me," Maxson said. "I was invited here to make an opening statement. I would like to finish my opening statement." Some 200 people, mostly supporters of Tarkanian, crowded into a meeting room at the Cashman Field complex, to hear Maxson outline his dealings with Tarkanian and his accomplishments since taking over at UNLV. Maxson said he was proudest of the academic accomplishments he has presided over at the university, which has nearly doubled

in size since he took over. "UNLV never claimed to be Harvard of the west," he said. "We were just working our way off to be a good public university for the state of Nevada." Maxson said he was encouraged by faculty members and university employees trying to build up the basketball program almost the time he arrived on campus. But he said he continued to support Tarkanian and the program despite the negative publicity the university was getting. "When I arrived at UNLV, basketball was not at the top of my agenda and it's not at the top of my agenda today," Maxson said. "But we defended coach Tarkanian. We defended the basketball program, where there was an agreement on the campus about that defense." Maxson was the second person to appear before the subcommittee. Two weeks ago, Tarkanian took the panel he believed Maxson and top UNLV administrators conspired to force him from the basketball program and tried to destroy the team he had built into a national power. The subcommittee is looking into circumstances surrounding Tarkanian's resignation, but Maxson wants to probe the workings of the UNLV Foundation. The committee last month subpoenaed a long list of financial and personnel records, including canceled checks from the university and the UNLV Foundation.

Class of '96 Council is now accepting applications for the following chairs ** Fundraising Chair **Public Relations Chair **Class Ball Chair ** (2) Service Co-Chairs Pick up an application in the Class of '96 cubicle in the Student Programs Office, Memorial Student Center. They are due Friday, October 23 by 5:00 p.m. Sign up for an interview at this time.

World Series finally earns its name

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TORONTO - With maple leaves hanging high, and all of them right-side up, the World Series moved Monday across the U.S. border for the first time and into the SkyDome. For the Toronto Blue Jays, it will be a welcome return to familiar turf Tuesday night when Juan Guzman starts Game 3 against Atlanta's Steve Avery. Sure, they tied the series at one game each with a 5-4 victory Sunday night in Atlanta, but look at all the Blue Jays had to go through. First, they watched as baseball committed an international error by flying the Canadian flag upside down and then heard the Canadian national anthem incorrectly sung. Then, they survived a blown call at the plate. Finally, a problem with their charter flight leaving Atlanta forced a four-hour delay, and the team did not arrive home until 7:30 a.m. "At least it was nice to get a win before that happened with the plane," Toronto's John Olerud said during Monday's workout. "It wasn't that bad, really, and guys weren't getting frustrated like they might have if we were down 0-2. But still, it was like, 'You've got to be kidding me.'" The Marines apologized for the color guard's gaffe. "There's no excuse for it," said Toronto third baseman Kelly Gruber, whose wife is Canadian. "If the U.S. Marines said the guy wasn't sure which way it should go, he shouldn't have been carrying it." Echoed Dave Winfield: "I don't think it was a cruel joke, but it was beyond a faux pas. If tomorrow

tailbacks Mims and Bell this year to turn on the speed off-tackle." The resemblance of Mims and Bell to A&M's tailbacks is almost uncanny. The former compares favorably to Thomas, a player with no qualms about running over a defensive back. And Bell like Hill, is a speed demon, a former high school sprinter who has left more than one defender athletic supporter-less and clutching air. All flowery praise aside, the A&M-Baylor matchup has all the makings of a rushing prize fight. Just don't expect Teaff to go out without throwing a few punches.

David Mims, John Henry, Kendrick Bell and Bradford Lewis combined for 223 yards on only 46 total carries in the Bears' win over Houston Saturday in Waco. And Joe, like Rice quarterback Bert Emanuel, scrambles well and often. The main man to watch will be fullback Strait, whose listed weight of 240 pounds is only 25 or 30 pounds shy of reality. He carries that girth well, though, and is the type of back that a few A&M defenders have admitted gives them problems. The threat of Strait doing his best "Ironhead" Heyward imitation up the middle has freed up

the American flag was hoisted upside down, would there be a mess or a fuss? "No matter what, you shouldn't let that happen," he said. "It's like having dignitaries coming to your home and putting out your old silverware." The Braves were busy getting the hang of playing at a new ballpark for the first time. The artificial turf at the SkyDome is bouncy, and even the Toronto outfielders occasionally play hop singles into doubles. "I don't think they will have to make adjustments. There are not many terribly tricky spots," Blue Jays manager Cito Gaston said. "The ball comes off the wall true and travels down the lines without a problem. This place is easy to play in and the Braves are used to turf. They shouldn't have a problem." "The only difference is just like any other you go into," Braves shortstop Jeff Blausen said. "The other team has its home fans, but you'd be there that anywhere on the road." The Blue Jays will have 50,000-plus fans on the side and, this being their first World Series game, the usually sedate crowd figures to be louder than ever. And, with the game at the home of the AL champion, Toronto will get to use its regular-season opponent with the addition of the designated hitter. "I think it's important when you have Olerud, Winfield and Candy Maldonado in there together," Blue Jays leadoff man Devon White said. Braves manager Bobby Cox previously said Lonnie Smith would probably serve as the DH. He also could use Deion Sanders, who went 1 for 2 in two walks and two steals Sunday night.

UNIVERSITY LECTURE SABINE MacCORMACK University of Michigan 4:00 p.m. • Thursday, October 22 MSC 206 "Limits of Understanding: What Europeans Did Not Learn About the Americas" Reception Immediately Following

Norwood Continued From Page 7 them. The veer also calls for many double-teams, the nose guard's worst enemy, as well chop blocks, the knee's worst nightmare. With all of that mishmash at the line of scrimmage, the second-best group of running backs in the SWC might be able to stretch their legs a little bit against A&M. Baylor backs Robert Strait,