

# NFL to choose homes for new franchises

The Associated Press

ROSEMONT, Ill. — St. Louis and Charlotte are the favorites as five cities await the NFL's verdict on which two are in an expansion franchise. The owners begin meeting on Tuesday, according to league spokesman Greg Aiello.

Baltimore, Jacksonville and Memphis are the other cities in contention. The league's first expansion since 1976 will give the NFL 30 teams when the new clubs begin play in 1995.

On Tuesday morning, the league's combined expansion and finance committees are scheduled to recommend its choices. Then the 28 owners will vote, with a city needing 21 votes to be approved.

"I'm not sure we'll be able to get anything done quickly unless we amend the rules for the vote," said Cleveland Browns owner Art Modell. He suggested a procedure similar to that used in voting on Super Bowl sites, where the city getting the fewest votes on each ballot is eliminated.

One ranking league official noted that expansion franchises, for which the groups will pay the league \$140 million, are far more important long-term ventures than Super Bowl sites. Last time the NFL expanded, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Seattle Seahawks' franchises paid \$16 million each.

The St. Louis group on Monday ended its search for a lead investor when shopping mall magnate Stan Kroenke took control of the partnership.

St. Louis and Charlotte appeared to be the front-runners, with Baltimore third if St. Louis is rejected. Most owners seem inclined to give franchises to St. Louis which lost the Cardinals to Phoenix in 1988 and Baltimore which lost the Colts to Indianapolis in 1984.

St. Louis also has a \$258 million domed stadium under construction and is the largest television market in the nation without an NFL franchise.

Charlotte would represent a new NFL market, the Atlantic south. It would fill a gap between Washington and Atlanta, geographically in an area considered football territory where the NBA has had success with an expansion franchise.

In Charlotte, the team will play at a stadium where permanent seat licenses have been sold from \$600 to \$5,500, a new concept in sports. Until its new stadium is ready, it will play at Clemson in South Carolina.

The prospective owner is former Indiana Colts wide receiver Jerry Richardson and the prospective general manager is Mike McCormack who used to run the Seattle Seahawks.

Doubts were initially raised concerning Richardson since his food service company owns the

Denny's restaurant that was charged with racism last summer. But that was defused when a Charlotte group signed a 50-50 Share agreement with NAACP.

St. Louis' problem may still be with its ownership.

James B. Orthwein, who took temporary ownership of the New England Patriots, recently dropped out of a group headed by Jerry Clinton, a beer distributor, butting the financing jeoparding Clinton dropped out Monday morning and Kroenke's group stepped in.

Kroenke, whose net worth is said to be \$500 million, is a shopping center developer with malls across the nation.

The Memphis group has been in place the longest and is headed by William Dunavant, a cotton merchant.

The most intriguing part of the ownership is the estate of the late Elvis Presley and the new team would be called the "Horned Dogs."

Baltimore has two groups bidding for the franchise and a stadium planned near Camden Landing, home of baseball's Orioles. The argument being used against it's in a football saturated area between Washington and Philadelphia.

Jacksonville had dropped out at one point, then came back to play in a renovated Gator Bowl, but is considered the longest of the long shots.

# Oilers' Marshall has solution, but can't help

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Linebacker Wilber Marshall is the player Buddy Ryan said would get Houston to the Super Bowl this season but it's difficult to help out from the inactive list.

Marshall has watched in frustration the past two weeks while the Oilers ended a three-game losing streak with two straight victories, including Sunday's 28-12 triumph over the Cincinnati Bengals (0-7).

Marshall signed a one-year, \$2.75 million contract with the Oilers in the off season but he has played in only three games trying to recover from knee surgery and an ankle injury.

"I can do just about everything, I don't have a problem running," Marshall said Monday. "They just

figured they could win this game without me being out there. This week and next will give me time to even stronger."

The Oilers almost didn't win Sunday's game. They trailed 12-7 in the third quarter when Ray Childers recovered a fumble at the Oilers' one-yard line and the Oilers drove to the go-ahead touchdown.

Now they get a bye week to prepare for another home game against Seattle. It's also two more weeks of healing time for Marshall.

Coach Jack Pardee said the Oilers wanted Marshall 100 percent before he returns.

"The kind of Wilber Marshall that we traded for is what we need, not just to get somebody on the field," Pardee said. "He's making progress."

Marshall has played briefly in three games and has seven solo tackles and four assists.

# Clay

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and drinking coffee instead of jogging and sipping Evian. After a game they would play cards, listen to loud music and drink beer rather than workout on a stair-climber or eat their vegetables. As for athletic flare, they never quite played the game with stunning grace or ran with the ease of gazelles.

"They look wild...They look like truck drivers," says Toronto hurler Juan Guzman of the boys from Philly.

What the Phillies did was play the game hard and well. They beat down their opponents with relentless energy.

There is a common misconception that an athlete and a ballplayer are one in the same. This is not so. Physical ability is only part of what constitutes a successful ballplayer. An athlete might become a great performer, but it takes something more than skill to be true ballplayer.

"You can teach a player to do some things in this game, and you can always do something if the guy's an athlete," Bobby Cox, manager of the Atlanta Braves, said. "But you can't put fire in his belly. It's either in there or not."

The Phillies had that fire. They leapt full tilt into the wall or dove head long into the turf to grab the ball. Their love of the game set them apart from the rest.

That's not to say all other players have failed to attain that unique level of baseball nirvana. The Blue Jays and many other teams in the Majors had "gamers," or people who strive to play the game. But Philadelphia was loaded with them.

These were guys that didn't fit

into the scheme of things at another club or, perhaps, were missing a vital skill that kept them from being a fully developed player. But what they all had in common was heart — the desire to go all-out every play of the game.

Today's baseball player has become, for the most part, a business man. He avoids anything that may jeopardize his substantial money flow, even if it takes away from the excitement of the game. Therefore, it is bad business.

Where's the old heart and the love for the game?

The Phillies loved what they were doing. They knew how to play the game and play it well. Guys like John Kruk, Lenny Dykstra, Darren Daulton, Mariano Duncan, and Pete Incaviglia were gamers. When they weren't playing the game, they were "talking baseball 99 percent of the time," Daulton, Philadelphia's catcher, says.

It may be true that these guys were uncouth, rowdy, unshaven hooligans. They sure as heck weren't positive role models for young baseball players. But the average Joe could identify with these guys.

It's the difference between reality and dreams. It is great to dream of being able to run like lightning or leap to great heights. But the priority of life in reality is to enjoy what you're doing and do it to the best of your ability. The Phillies got the job done and that's what counts.

It's been a pleasure watching those guys play and, even though the Blue Jays won the Series, the Phillies are winners in their own right.

Perhaps they did set the league back a few decades. Maybe that's exactly what baseball needed. It sure didn't hurt.

# Lady Aggies

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Carrie Stockton, keeping far from A&M's goal. The game was already decided as Dillinger was on the bench when Stockton scored the Hilltoppers' goal.

"Stockton is one of the best forwards in the country," St. Edward's head coach Mike Smith said. "She is an All-America candidate in NAIA, but today they did a great job of defending her."

Guerrieri said he was pleased with the play of the offensive play. "Dillinger has proved that she can shut down anyone in the country," Guerrieri said. "Last week she stopped SMU All-American Kara Lee, and today Stockton scored after Dillinger was out."

Guerrieri said he expected the outcome, but he wanted his team to work on fast, simple plays. He said he was extremely pleased with the Lady Aggies' third quarter when sophomore midfielder Heather Pinkerton passed the ball to freshman Kim Duda, who crossed the ball to Koop, blasted it through for her second goal.

"On that play we had a good give and goes," Guerrieri said. "That was what we wanted to work on today."

The final score could have been even more lopsided in favor of the Lady Aggies, who are ranked ninth in the South region, but two goals were called off because of offsides calls.

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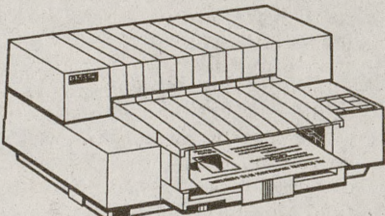


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