

Monday • July 28, 1997

**SPORTS BRIEFS**

**Steelers stomp Bears in American Bowl**

DUBLIN, Ireland (AP) — In the storied home of Gaelic football and hurling, the Pittsburgh Steelers defeated the Chicago Bears 30-17 Sunday before 30,269 mostly baffled fans.

The first NFL game played in Ireland — an American Bowl exhibition aimed at promoting the game abroad — drew a crowd that was smaller than the throng of 38,000 that attended a college game here eight months ago between Notre Dame and Navy.

Half of those were Americans who made the trip, and this time the locals had to fill most of the seats. They saw the Steelers looking much sharper than the Bears in the first preseason game for each team.

Kordell Stewart, who is taking over as the Steelers' No. 1 quarterback after being a multi-purpose threat at several positions, was almost perfect right from the start. He engineered two scoring drives in the first quarter — the only one he played — to help Pittsburgh to a lead it never relinquished.

**Astros, Bagwell beat up on Expos, 7-2**

HOUSTON (AP) — Mike Hampton earned his fifth victory this month and Sean Berry homered and tripled to extend his hot streak as the Houston Astros upped their winning streak to nine games by beating Montreal 7-1 Sunday.

Hampton (8-7) won for the sixth time in seven decisions and pitched his fourth complete game in his last six starts. He scattered eight hits and struck out six without walking a batter.

Berry hit his eighth homer of the season in the second for a 1-0 lead. He also drove in two more runs with a triple to deep center field in the sixth.

Houston never trailed after an RBI groundout by Jeff Bagwell made it 2-1 in the third.

Derek Bell and Bill Spiers had RBI singles in the Astros' five-run sixth inning.

Expos starter Jim Bullinger (6-10) allowed eight hits and seven earned runs over 5 1-3 innings.

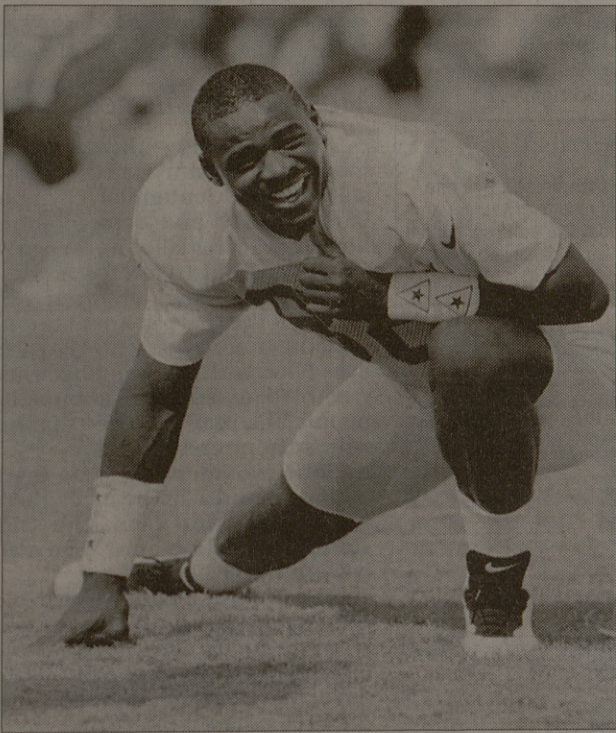
**Erickson blanks Twins in Orioles win**

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Scott Erickson pitched a five-hitter for his first shutout since 1995 Sunday, and the Baltimore Orioles got three-run homers from Geronimo Berroa and B.J. Surhoff in a 9-0 win over the Minnesota Twins.

Erickson (13-5) set a season-high with nine strikeouts and walked none. It was his 10th career shutout and first since blanking Toronto on Sept. 27, 1995.

With his first complete game this season, the right-hander improved to 3-0 in three starts against his former team this year.

The Orioles have won five of six and now lead the second-place New York Yankees by 5 1/2 games in the NL East.



PHOTOGRAPH: Associated Press

Cowboys wide receiver **Michael Irvin** works out with the team last year. The Cowboys may cement their relationship with El Paso soon.

**Jones says Cowboys, El Paso have a future**

**Dallas owner wouldn't comment about when union would occur**

EL PASO (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys' relationship with El Paso, a town that seems to love them even through the tough times, is just in its infancy, said team owner Jerry Jones.

But Jones wasn't saying what kind of eventual union he had in mind as he stood on the Sun Bowl turf Saturday while his team prepared to take the field for a controlled scrimmage against the San Diego Chargers.

The civic leaders who organized the game, the centerpiece of a daylong party for the city's football fans, hope to eventually bring an exhibition game or a week of training camp to El Paso.

Jones seemed to suggest the organizers had scored by drawing more than 40,000 people Saturday to what turned out to be a Cowboys 9-3 victory. A sellout crowd of 51,118 attended the 1996 scrim-

mage against the Houston Oilers. "This is a phenomenal thing," Jones said. "It gets the job done in a way that it needs to influence my future decisions."

Just what fans hoped to hear. "This is a nice way of sending Jerry Jones a message that El Paso is supporting the Cowboys," said Mike Adjemian, who was among the many self-proclaimed diehards who paid between \$10 and \$110 to attend.

"I think we should have more," added Julian Flores. "It's fun just to see them. If the Cowboys came here to warm up I'd bet they'd fill half the stadium."

That remains to be seen. Ticket sales were slower this year despite a post-game concert and other events added to the evening. Event organizers acknowledged that was likely because some of the novelty had worn off. But they said they weren't disappointed.

Jones said much the same. "I don't know how you get disappointed when you see something happening that has never happened (before) in the NFL," he said.

Coach Barry Switzer said the game had been good for the team, which is trying to get back on track for another Super Bowl run after a subpar 1996 season. Tight end Eric Bjornson agreed.

"I think it was good we had the opportunity to go against someone else after going against each other (in practice) all week," he said.



Jones

**Oilers enjoying honeymoon in Tennessee**

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Eddie George took a short swing pass from Steve McNair and trotted into the end zone. From the stands came a burst of applause punctuated by a high-pitched chant.

"Edd-ie! Edd-ie!" the kids shouted.

George had scored a meaningless touchdown during a goal-line drill on the Tennessee Oilers' third day of training camp at Tennessee State University last week.

But the kids from the Maury County YMCA watching from the Hale Stadium stands didn't care. They were watching a pro football practice and they were cheering their new hometown heroes.

"Now Tennessee is real famous for something besides Saturn," said one of the pack, 12-year-old David Henson, whose father works at the General Motors' Saturn plant in Spring Hill.

"I just moved back up here from Atlanta," said Jim Walter, sweltering in the

stands with 14-year-old son Jimmy. "So I'm not used to having a professional football team in town."

Walter said he never liked the perennial loser Falcons and has followed the Dallas Cowboys. But the Oilers and their enthusiasm toward fans have him interested.

"These guys have done it right, coming up into the stands and all that," he said. "Their PR has been excellent."

Hundreds of fans have turned out for each of the Oilers practices in their new home state, an enthusiasm returned by the team. It's been easy so far, of course — the Tennessee Oilers are undefeated and untied, and there is not yet enough familiarity to breed any contempt.

After a lame-duck season in Houston before small crowds — the Oilers responded with a 2-6 home record in their last year in the Astrodome — this is a pleasant honeymoon.

"It's been great," said McNair, the third-year quarterback being handed the reins this

“Now Tennessee is real famous for something besides Saturn.”

David Henson  
12-year-old

season. "The fans are taking us in just like we've been here for years. I really appreciate

that." Jason Layman, a second-year player from Tennessee, has seen firsthand how enthusiastic football fans in the state can be. He played before 95,000 of them every Saturday in college.

"If there's 60,000 people in the stands this season that's a big difference from 25,000 we had last year, and half of those were cheering for the other team," he said.

After years of pursuing major league status in something besides music, Nashville has arrived as a pro sports town.

"I think the community and the state are excited about [the Oilers] being here," said James Figueroa, a 26-year-old high school teacher and football coach from Clarksville.

Coach Jeff Fisher sent some of his veterans into the stands on the first day of practice to meet fans and sign autographs.

**Pro football hall gets its Fab Four**

CANTON, Ohio (AP) — Paul Tagliabue had it exactly right: This year's inductees into the Pro Football Hall of Fame represented the best of coaching, ownership and on-field performance.

In Don Shula, the Hall got the winningest coach in NFL history — 347 victories with a .660 winning percentage. In Wellington Mara, it honored an owner whose roots date to the league's pioneer days. In Mike Webster and Mike Haynes, Canton saluted the epitome of offensive and defensive skill.

"They make a dream frontline and today is the culmination of their dreams," the NFL commissioner said Saturday at the ceremonies welcoming the latest Hall of Famers.

For Shula, it was the culmination of a 67-year journey that took him some 70 miles from the Ohio town of Grand River on Lake Erie to Canton and the highest honor the sport offers.

While Webster called Shula "the

second greatest coach ever, but he gave us the greatest coach in Chuck Noll" — the Pittsburgh Steelers center clearly is prejudiced in favor of his coach — it's hard to argue with the numbers.

And Shula certainly had the numbers, particularly the career victories and the perfect 17-0 season in 1972 that seems more unreachable every year.

"In today's climate it would be pretty tough," he said when asked if anyone will equal his achievements. "There were 11 coaching changes. If that continues to happen, there is no way anyone will hang around the way I did. If you win early and often and build a reputation as a winner, you have a chance to stick around — unless you have one losing season."

Shula only had two of those. He won two Super Bowls and brought his teams to six of them. He knows exactly why.

**Cyclist gives race a German flavor**

PARIS (AP) — A hero in his Black Forest home and a champion along the Champs Elysees, Jan Ullrich on Sunday became the first German to win the Tour de France since the cycling showcase began in 1903.

"I'll never forget this day my entire life," he said. "A dream from my youth was fulfilled."

Before several hundred thousand cheering fans on a bright, sunny day, he rode into Paris with the leader's yellow jersey to finish the 21-stage, 2,455-mile race.

He ended 39th for the day, the same time as the rest of the pack, but his work in this grueling three-week test had been done well before "Unbelievable," Ullrich said. "I'm overjoyed because I was afraid of crashing up to the last meter."

In only his second Tour de France — he was second in 1996 — Ullrich finished 9 minutes, 9 seconds ahead of Richard Virenque of France, the largest victory margin since Laurent Fignon won by 10:32 in 1984.

The 23-year-old German is the eighth youngest winner, younger than five-time winners Bernard Hinault and Miguel Indurain when they won the first time. The late

**Jan Ullrich wins Tour de France**

Jacques Anquetil, another five-time champion, was only a month younger than Ullrich.

Ullrich had been wearing the leader's yellow jersey since the 10th stage of the race, taking over the lead on the second day in the Pyrenees mountains in the south of France.

Ullrich, who earned \$360,000 for the victory, said he will cherish two memories in particular.

"The first was the victory in the Pyrenees, the second was putting on the yellow jersey for the first time," he said.

Ullrich, born in the former East Germany, was the 1993 world amateur road champion. He moved to Merdingen, a small town near the French border, in 1994 after turning pro.

In Merdingen, television coverage of the final day of the race was shown on a big screen during the local club's soccer game.

Fans packed the town's restaurants and free beer flowed as the

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Jan Ullrich  
German cyclist

party, expected to last well into the night, got rolling.

Ullrich's fans, including his mother Marianne, traveled to Paris and waved banners and German flags on the Champs Elysees. The German national anthem was played as Ullrich moved up a step on the podium from last year.

In 1996 Ullrich was second by a little more than a minute to Telekom teammate Bjarne Riis, who finished seventh this year. This time, Riis and the other Telekom team rode to protect Ullrich's lead.

**PART-TIME POSITIONS**

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**WHAT'S IT LIKE AT THE PLASMA CENTER?**

To the staff of the Plasma Center,

I would like to start by saying thank you to each and every employee for making the past three years enjoyable in a professional, efficient and courteous environment. As a donor since 1993, I have been more than satisfied with every aspect of your operation, which allows myself and others to contribute what we can to community service, all the while being served by diligent, but relaxed, workers. Everyone at the Plasma Center, from those behind the front counter to the phlebotomists to the supervisors, have made great efforts to insure that each donor feels hygienically safe, as well as keeping the atmosphere light.

Like most, I started coming to the Plasma Center for monetary reasons, but I soon developed acquaintances that appealed to me almost as much as the original need for money, enabling me to look forward to each donation, not only for my wallet's sake but also

to see my friends. Like I commented to someone recently, talking to people at the Plasma Center was like getting mail from a far-off friend that you don't get to do much with, but who you can talk to as often as you write. For those acquaintances and for your continual services. I would like to thank all of those I've come to know and appreciate over the past three years - Emily, and Tracy, Heath, and Marty, Ada and Josie, etc... more I can't remember or those who have gone on to better things.

So, as I graduate from this great University, I bid you all a fond farewell and strong commendations on such a successful blend of quality medical practice and friendly service. Thank you all and have a great summer. Thanks, C.F.

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