

McNair pursues NFL

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston businessman hoping to get the city a National Football League expansion team says Houston could get on a fast track returning to pro football if a stadium financing plan is in place within two weeks.

NFL Commissioner Paul Tagliabue and the league's stadium committee would come to Houston June 30 if a plan is ready by May 19 when the owners begin meeting in Miami, Bob McNair said Wednesday.

"Assuming that plan is satisfactory to them, the commissioner would set a meeting for July to present a stadium plan," McNair said. "We have every reason to believe we're going to meet that schedule."

McNair's remarks came after he met for 90 minutes with about 85 Houston business executives to update them on an effort to land an NFL franchise to replace the Houston Oilers, who fled to Nashville, Tenn., when city officials refused to build a new stadium.

McNair wants help from the executives to pressure officials to speed up stadium negotiations

with the Harris County-Houston Sports Authority.

McNair has proposed that the authority build a \$275 million retractable-roof stadium next to the Astrodome, using \$145 million in public funds and \$65 million each from the football franchise and the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo, which also would use the stadium.

Authority officials are waiting to complete financing of the new downtown baseball park, now under construction, before negotiating a football stadium deal.

"If it's possible, then we should do it, and I will talk to (Sports Authority Chairman Jack) Rains and see if it's all possible," Houston Mayor Lee Brown said Wednesday night.

McNair, who once tried to buy the Miami Dolphins, is founder of Cogen Technologies and hopes to convince up to 25 business leaders to invest as much as \$10 million each to become minority partners in buying a team. McNair said his stake in a new team would be 35 to 40 percent.

Former Grand Prairie standout dominates

CHICAGO (AP) — He was a high school sophomore in Texas, just 15, when a scout watched him pitch for the first time.

"I guess word got around," Kerry Wood said. "More and more started coming. When I was a senior, there were probably 30 at each game."

After he struck out 20 against Houston on Wednesday to tie the major league record for a nine-inning game, everyone wants to watch Wood pitch: fans, his teammates, even opponents.

At home, he even turned on the TV to watch replays of his final strikeout, the one that tied the record.

"It gave me chills," Wood said. "It started to set in a little when I saw it."

At 20 years old, the Chicago Cubs rookie can't legally buy a beer to celebrate his achievement. He's only made five major league starts, but he's already on his way to becoming a sports celebrity.

Wood, the Cubs' top pick in 1995 amateur draft, is baby-faced and mature at the same time. He approaches the game like two fellow Texans who have influenced him greatly: Nolan Ryan and Roger Clemens.

"I watched Nolan a lot until the past three or four years, and then I started watching Clemens," Wood said. "I like the way they both pitch, their aggressiveness and their style of pitching."

Wood wears Ryan's No. 34 and attended his seventh no-hitter in 1991.

"It's a great honor to be in the same sentence with him," Wood said.

The only other pitcher to strike out 20 in nine innings is Clemens, who did it in 1986 and 1996.

Clemens called Wood on Thursday to congratulate him.

"He said he would send me something. He was just happy for me," Wood said. "I was thrilled to death to hear from him. He said

he saw the highlights and was excited for me. It was just a great phone call."

There were other calls, too, from David Letterman's "Late Show" and Jay Leno's "The Tonight Show," which is originating from a Chicago suburb this week.

"I told him (Leno) I had to pass this time," Wood said. "That's just not me, I'm not very good at it."

Wood, just three years out of high school, can dominate with a fastball that's been clocked at 100 mph. That doesn't surprise Jon Rustenhaven, an assistant coach at Grand Prairie High in Texas when Wood was a senior in 1995.

Wood's velocity increased from the high 80s as a junior into the 90s the following year after a conditioning program that included weight training and water aerobics.

"The other coaches and I would just sit there and watch the games

he'd pitch and look at each other, shake our heads and say, 'He's fair.' He was just so overpowering. Rustenhaven, now the head coach, said Thursday. "That's kind of the way I felt yesterday. The Astros just overmatched."

Wood, 6-foot-5 and 170 pounds, is aggressive and at least bit intimidated. He's also had a confrontation with Dodgers' Eric Young, who stepped toward the mound when ball went buzzing behind him earlier this season.

Wood, in turn, stepped up front of the mound to ask what he had to say.

"He never shows anybody fear," Wood said. "He doesn't do any damage the mound like some pitchers get you out. My God, he's years old. He doesn't even know how good he is."

Sprewell turns down plea

WALNUT CREEK, Calif. (AP) — Suspended Golden State Warrior Latrell Sprewell has rejected a pretrial offer in his reckless driving case that could have sent him to jail for 90 to 120 days, his lawyer said.

"The offer was unacceptable, and there was no flexibility in it," John Burriss told the Contra Costa Times on Wednesday.

Sprewell, who was reinstated by the NBA this year after attacking coach P.J. Carlesimo, faces as much as six months in jail if convicted of

misdemeanor reckless driving.

Police say Sprewell was driving at speeds up to 90 mph when he lost control of his Mercedes and rear-ended a Toyota on Interstate 680 in Walnut Creek on March 1.

Two people in the Toyota were injured, although not seriously.

The Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office outlined its pre-trial offer to Burriss during a conference Tuesday at Walnut Creek-Danville Municipal Court, said Dara Cashman, a deputy district attorney.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Peyton Manning packed up his Knoxville apartment and said goodbye to his friends at the University of Tennessee. Now he stays busy studying his Colts playbook.

Kevin Dyson spends his days lifting weights, running, working on pass routes with friends at the University of Utah and studying his Oilers playbook.

Neither of the first-round draft picks is where he wants to be.

They would rather be starting their new jobs in Indianapolis and Nashville. But Manning and Dyson, both 1997 graduates, are stuck working out on their own until June 1 — the first day NFL rookies can report.

Manning, the No. 1 pick, asked the NFL for a waiver but was denied.

"I was hoping that the Peyton Manning deal was going through, so I could go up there early," Dyson said from his home in Salt Lake City. "Looking at the playbook, you can learn only so much. You need to be on the field to get that experience."

Archie Manning said his son, already designated as the Colts' starting quarterback, is missing out on valuable time by not being allowed to get to know his new teammates.

"He could also go in with the quarterback coach and the offensive coordinator and spend an hour, two hours every day continuing to learn their offense," he said by phone from New Orleans. "It would be very beneficial."

At least Manning had the chance to meet most of his teammates during the Colts' three-day minicamp for rookies and veterans in April.

The Oilers, who wrapped up a four-day veterans' minicamp Thursday, won't have a camp for rookies until June 2.

Dyson, the 16th pick, is one of nine wide receivers on Tennessee's roster.

"Me being up here and them being down there, they're getting that much more advanced because I have to stay here and work out and do everything here," he said.

The rule is part of the NFL's collective bargaining agreement. It mandates when players

can report and is intended to create a leveling field for all teams. Whether the draftees graduated is not part of agreement.

"There have been many players prior to Peyton Manning in the same situation who have already graduated but were not allowed to report to the team," NFL spokesman Greg Allen said. "They have plenty of time to work with their teams come June 1."

Manning and Dyson are the kinds of players the NFL wants — workaholics and perfectionists.

Dyson is three classes short of his second degree, this one in environmental behavior. Dyson whose first degree is in sociology, has spent past three summers working with the state department in Salt Lake City and wants to work with children.

Manning, an honor student who earned a degree in speech communication last year, turned down a return visit to "The Late Show" with David Letterman. He chose instead to fulfill three speaking engagements in Tennessee this week.

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Acct 229/209 Review, Prac. Final	Sun May 10 9pm-12am		
Acct 229/209 Special Sessions	Stocks Fri May 8 8pm-11pm	Bonds Sat May 9 9pm-12am	
Acct 230 Intense Review	Part II & III Sat May 9 3pm-6pm	Part III & IV Sun May 10 3pm-6pm	Intense Reviews Do Not Include New Material
Acct 230 Practice Test	Sun May 10 6pm-9pm	Tue May 12 6pm-9pm	
Acct 316	Part I Fri May 8 6pm-9pm	Part II Sat May 9 6pm-9pm	Part III Mon May 11 6pm-9pm
Bana 303 Anthony	Part I Sat May 9 3pm-6pm	Part II Sun May 10 3pm-6pm	Part III Mon May 11 6pm-8pm
Bana 303 Buffa	Part I Fri May 8 6pm-9pm	Part II Sat May 9 12pm-3pm	Part III Sun May 10 12pm-3pm
Bana 305	Part I Sat May 9 6pm-9pm	Part II Sun May 10 6pm-9pm	Part III Mon May 11 8pm-10pm
Biol 113	Part I Fri May 8 6pm-9pm	Part II Sat May 9 6pm-9pm	Part III Sun May 10 6pm-8pm
Econ 202 Allen Test Reviews	Tue May 12 9pm-12am		
Econ 203	Part I Mon May 11 6pm-9pm	Part II Tue May 12 6pm-9pm	
Finc 341	Part I Fri May 8 7pm-10pm	Part II Sat May 9 7pm-10pm	Part III Sun May 10 7pm-9pm
Math 151	Part I Fri May 8 9pm-12am	Part II Sat May 9 9pm-12am	Part III Sun May 10 9pm-11pm
Mgmt 211 Detailed	Part I Sat May 9 2pm-4pm	Part II Sun May 10 2pm-4pm	
Mgmt 363	Test Review Sun May 10 9pm-11pm		

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