



Union Springs Sports of 1914-1915

Jack Becker of Union Springs has supplied us with this picture of the Union Springs Sports baseball team of 1914-1915. The players are, left to right — front row — Joe Flinn, Willie

Collins; second row — Joe Cavanaugh, Joe Atwater, J. Kehoe, Harold Graves, Ben Fordyce; third row — Harlan Yawger, Ed Flinn, Floyd Brewster, Glen Flinn.

On TV at 1 p.m.

Connors-Laver net match to decide top man in game

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (AP) — Rod Laver, one of the finest players in the history of tennis, and Jimmy Connors, grudgingly accepted by most people as No. 1 now, play for \$100,000 Sunday as tennis attempts to take another stride forward.

The best three-of-five set match will be televised live starting at 1 p.m., EST. Among the questions to be answered are:

—Will the public respond to heavily promoted single matches for huge prizes?
—Will Connors, who has alienated most of his fellow pros by making wisecracks and gestures on the court, be on his best behavior against one of the game's most revered players on this auspicious occasion?
—Has Laver, the 36-year-old Australian

who surged back to the top two years ago after many thought he was washed up, lost any of his edge by taking a six-month break from tournaments starting last May?

—Can Connors, 22, who won Wimbledon and the U.S. Open last year, be beaten by a wily player, Laver, or does it take a more physical player like John Newcombe with an overpowering serve? Newcombe beat Connors in four sets in the Australian Open.
—Can Connors, who often plays poorly in the early rounds of tournaments, be at the top of his game in a challenge match?

The match will be played in a specially built, 4,000-seat pavilion at a hotel, an opulent setting for the first meeting of the American and the Australian.

The winner will get \$100,000 and a new car. The loser, who technically should get nothing in a winner-take-all match, will get a consolation prize that promoters say will be \$50,000 to \$60,000.

Laver will be the crowd favorite, a fact Connors acknowledges. "I can't remember when I was the favorite," he says ruefully. But Connors rates a slight edge.

Tom Gorman, one of the few professional players to come to the match, expressed an opinion heard over and over as Connors and Laver practiced in public workouts during the week.

"It all depends on Laver, whether he's lost anything," he said.

Laver says he's in good shape. He has played in two tournaments since his layoff, winning one and losing in the first round of the other.

He has practiced four or five hours a day for a week on the carpet court, always with full concentration.

Connors has been his usual mischievous self in practice since arriving Wednesday, kidding with his coach and grandstanding to the crowds.

Laver says he won't be distracted by anything Connors does in the match, but Connors is likely to cut up regardless.

That's the way he says he relaxes and the one time he was a model of decorum, in the Australian Open, he lost.

"I'm the way I am on the court because it gets me up and gets me mean," he says. "And when I get excited I talk to the crowd. It helps me relax."

Laver does not approve of Connors' conduct pointing out, "The school I came from says you behaved yourself on the court."

Connors lost two arguments during the week. His demand that Pancho Gonzalez be replaced as referee was rejected by the promoters. And by a coin flip, Laver, who thought the court was too fast, was allowed to have the tennis balls for the match opened early to soften them up.

Sport shorts

LANDOVER, Md. (AP) — Washington Bullets' forward Mike Riordan will be lost to the team for at least two weeks with an acutely sprained right ankle, a team spokesman said Saturday.

The 6-foot-4 Riordan was injured Friday in a National Basketball Association game against the New Orleans Jazz when he came down from a jump shot and landed on the foot of New Orleans' Aaron James. The Bullets won the game 106-101.

X rays proved negative, but Riordan's ankle was placed in a soft cast and he returned to Washington Saturday.

TOKYO (AP) — Mamie Rallins of Tennessee State University, won the women's 50-meter dash in the Japan International indoor track and field meet Saturday. She captured the event over Japan's three fastest sprinters in 6.7 seconds.

Miss Rallins, who got off to a slow start, nudged out Erni Akimoto, 14-year-old high school girl who had the same clocking.

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Jimmy Laycock, offensive coordinator at the Citadel, has been named backfield coach at Memphis State University, Richard Williamson, State's head football coach, said Saturday.

LONDON (AP) — Everton defeated Tottenham Hotspur 1-0 Saturday to maintain its lead in the English Soccer League.

Meanwhile, Stoke City defeated Manchester City 4-0 and moved into third place in the standings, two points back of Everton and one behind second-place Ipswich.

Sabres overcome injuries to lead Bruins in NHL

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Despite a flock of injuries, the Buffalo Sabres go on winning their National Hockey League games.

Coach Floyd Smith tells why: "Talent, pride, they won't give up."

"We're very happy. I'm happy the way things are going," says Smith, in his first season as the Sabres coach.

Smith has his youngsters atop Division IV, far ahead of the Boston Bruins. The average of the team is 24.3 years.

"How long we stay up there remains to be seen," Smith says. "Sure, there's going to be a lot of pressure on us, but I'm sure these fellows can handle it."

"These are young kids who want to prove something. They want to prove they're not only a good hockey club, they want to be recognized as one of the best in the league."

Smith frets about the injuries, though.

So far this season, 10 players have missed a total of 67 games because of injuries. Defensemen Jocelyn Guevremont sat out 14 and Jim Schoenfeld 13.

At the moment, center Gil Perreault of the Sabres' famed French Connection line is out of action because of a left knee injury. He has missed seven games and, although he resumed skating Monday, is not expected to play again for about three weeks.

One reason for the Sabres' success has been the shrewd trading by general manager Punch Imlach, the team's original coach until he gave up that job because of heart attacks.

"Punch has never trade away any of our top draft choices and our first No. 1 picks are still with us," a team spokesman said.

They are, in order since the Bills' first season five years ago, Perreault, left winger Richard Martin, Schoenfeld, left winger Morris Titanic and defenseman Lee Fogolin.

Among the Buffalo stars obtained in trades were right winger Rene Robert, who with Perreault and Martin make up the French Connection; center Don Luce and defenseman Jerry Korab.

Goalie Roger Crozier is the only original player on the roster. He appears to have licked the series of pancreatitis attacks that limited his play to only 12 games last season.

This year, Crozier is playing in about every fourth game and had a respectable goals against average of 2.56 in winning 10 games and losing 2.

The Sabres' big surprise, however, is rookie goalie Gary Bromley who at week's end won 21 games, lost 7 and tied 3.

Bromley has had most of his success on the road. He's lost a few games at home, and rawn hoos from many of the evergame packed house of 15,863.

"Sure, he's led in a few bad goals," Smith says, "but what goalie hasn't. But he's standing his ground and he has to be

counted."

The Sabres, in their third season, made the Stanley Cup playoffs, but lost their series to the Montreal Canadiens, 4 games to 2. Montreal went on to capture the Cup.

Buffalo missed the playoffs last season. The loss of Perreault for 23 games with a broken left leg, the 50 games missed by Schoenfeld following surgery for removal of a disc from his back and Crozier's limited play have been cited by the Sabres as key factors.

As of now, all of the Sabres are healthy, except for Perreault.

Another example of Imlach's keen trading

developed last week. He obtained veteran center Fred Stanfield from Minnesota in exchange for winger Norm Gratton and future considerations.

Stanfield, 30, played on a Stanley Cup winner at Boston and was a strong left point man on the Bruins' power play. Imlach is counting on him to beef up Buffalo's power plays.

Stanfield, who says he did not think the Sabres needed any more players, says this of his new teammates:

"They have a lot of pride ... they have confidence and they're pulling together."

Legal fight on NFL pacts back in court Monday

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The continuing legal attack against pro football and its methods of binding a player to one team escalates Monday when the National Football League's controversial Rozelle Rule goes on trial in federal court here.

The trial, before U.S. District Court Judge Earl R. Lawson, is on a suit brought by the NFL Players Association. It seeks to have the Rozelle Rule declared a violation of antitrust laws because it allegedly prevents a player from freely negotiating his services.

The rule, named after league commissioner Pete Rozelle, states that any team signing a player who has become a free agent must compensate that player's former team. It already has been declared illegal and a violation of antitrust laws by a federal judge in the Joe Kapp case in San Francisco.

However, this suit, brought originally by former Baltimore Colt John Mackey and now carrying the name of 16 present and former players, is different in scope from the Kapp case.

The Kapp case basically was an attack on the NFL's standard player contract, but it also resulted in the ruling against the Rozelle Rule, a decision which the league is appealing. The Mackey case is aimed at the Rozelle Rule.

That rule is part of the NFL's constitution and bylaws. It was on the books before Rozelle became commissioner, but he invoked it and it took on his name.

It works this way: A player becomes a free agent by playing out his "option" year, which is one year beyond the length of his contract. When that year is over, he may negotiate with other NFL teams for his services.

If one of the teams signs him to a contract, it must compensate the player's former club. If the teams don't agree on the compensation, Rozelle makes the decision. He has done so four times in 14 years.

The players' association contends the rule kills a player's chance to make his services available on the market because the team that signs him doesn't know who the commissioner will take in exchange.

The suit asks the court to permanently enjoin the league from using the rule and to pay damages to the 16 plaintiffs who filed it.

Rozelle and team owners have said previously that elimination of the Rozelle Rule could destroy the NFL. They say the richest teams would win by buying the best players, ruining the league's balance and thus destroying its broad base of support.

They say the league's setup is aimed at improving weaker teams; for example, teams draft college players and pick up players on waivers in the reverse order of the standings.

A players association spokesman said it's unreasonable to assume the rich teams would get all the talent.

He said many players want to play for a particular team or in a particular town for reasons other than money. For instance, he said a player might not want to play for a coach he considers racist; he might not want to be tied to a team he considers tight with salaries; he might not want to stay where he's playing behind an All-Pro.

This suit was filed in May 1972 by the players association and Mackey as a class action, but was reduced to 16 plaintiffs after the league opposed the class-action status.

The trial could be lengthy, with up to 75 witnesses called. It will be heard without a jury.



Jimmy Connors warms up for match. (AP)

Swiss sweep downhill race; contenders in mishaps

MEGEVE, France (AP) — Three daredevil Swiss skiers, led by 24-year-old veteran Walter Vesti, scored a clean sweep of the first three places in the World Cup downhill race Saturday after the top Austrian contenders all crashed on the icy course.

Italy's Gustavo Thoeni carefully negotiated the dangerous track to finish ninth, giving him top score in the combined standings of the Arlberg Kandahar ski tournament and putting him into the lead of the World Cup standings.

Thoeni, who won the World Cup every year from 1971 to 1973 and took two gold medals at the 1972 Olympics, soared to a 14-point World Cup lead over Austria's Franz Klammer; the big loser of the day.

Klammer had an unbroken record of victories in all the six World Cup downhill races run this season, and was favored for Saturday's race. But he and his top-ranking Austrian teammates, Werner Grissmann and David Zwilling, fell victims to the treacherous course, made rock-hard and dangerously fast by the frozen, previously rainsoaked snow.

The three Austrians and Switzerland's Olympic downhill gold medalist Bernhard Russi were swept off balance by their high speed and failed to finish.

Zwilling was hospitalized in nearby Sallanches with a deep cut in one leg. British skier Konrad Bartalaki also was flown by helicopter to the Sallanches Hospital with concussion and a broken nose.

The organizers delayed the start by more than an hour, hoping for better racing conditions. After the unusual series of accidents among the top-seeded skiers, the race was interrupted for a further 45 minutes in response to a protest from the Austrian team.

There was a discussion among officials over whether to cancel the first results and restart the race, but this was quickly discarded in face of vigorous Swiss and Italian protests.

The course was still very fast when racing resumed, allowing Austria's low-seeded Ernst Winkler to take sixth place and Canada's Ken Read to take eighth.

For Vesti, it was the first international victory of a racing career going back to 1971. "It was all a matter of keeping your balance," he said. "And you also had to control your speed in these conditions. I suppose the Austrians were so determined to win they forgot about that."

Vesti completed the 3,360-meter long course, including a total drop of 851 meters, in 2 minutes 3.1 seconds. His compatriot, Rene Berthod, 26, who never before finished an international race among the top three, placed second in 2:03.18. Another Swiss, Philippe Roux, 22, who has never won a major race, was third in 2:03.79.

Others in the top 10 were Norway's Erick Haker, fourth; Italy's Herbert Plank, fifth; Austria's Karl Cordin, seventh; and Patrice Pella-Finet of France, 10th.

Dave Currier of Madison, N.H. was 23rd and Ron Biederman of Stowe, Vt., finished 24th for the best United States results.

Cards sign three to '75 pacts

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Catcher Ted Simmons, relief pitcher Al Hrabosky and outfielder Luis Melendez signed their 1975 contracts with the St. Louis Cardinals Saturday, the team said.

Simmons, 25, smashed 20 home runs and batted in 103 runs while compiling a .272 batting average during the 1974 National League campaign, while the 25-year-old Hrabosky bounced back from a slow start to record an 8-1 record in 65 games, including seven straight wins after June 25.

Melendez, 25, batted .218 as a pinch hitter and backup outfielder last season.

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