WITH CFL TEAMS

Ferragamo's agent wants to negotiate

TORONTO (CP) — Quarterback Vince Ferragamo's agent said Monday he wants Hamilton Tiger-Cats to let him negotiate with other Canadian Football League clubs.

"I believe there are teams willing to pay him up in Canada and I will appeal to the commissioner that Vince Ferragamo will be an asset to the league," David Fishof said in an interview from his New York office.

Fishof said he is still waiting for a bona fide offer from Hamilton. But if such an offer isn't forthcoming, he said he will ask CFL commissioner Jake Gaudaur for permission to talk to other clubs.

But Gaudaur said Monday he is not in a position to grant such a request.

"Any player on a club's negotiation list is entitled to say to that club under our bylaws that he is prepared to negotiate with the club," Gaudaur said. "The club, within a specified time, then is obliged to offer him a contract.

"If that offer is commensurate with what quarterbacks make in this league but it fails to meet the demands of the player, then the team has the right to keep that player on its list. But if it isn't deemed to be commensurate, the club is required to delete him from the negotiation list."

PLAYERS NOT DELETED

Gaudaur said that procedure has existed for several years, although he said he could not recall a team ever being forced to delete a player from its list.

Ticats manager Harold Ballard had expressed an interest in signing Ferragamo, who played out his option last season with Los Angeles Rams of the National Football League, and he went on record as saying he was willing to pay the 26-year-old free agent $1.2 million over four years.

But when Hamilton general manager Ralph Sazio returned from vacation last week, he expressed surprise that Ballard had made such an offer and said he would recommend to his boss that such a deal not be made.

"The team concept is more important and I would hate to ruin it because of one player," Sazio said, adding that when Ferragamo was placed on the Ticats' negotiating list, he was willing to pay him "far more than the $52,000 (he received from the Rams) but a lot less than $300,000."

Fishof accused the Ticats on Monday of not bargaining in good faith after Ferragamo and the player's wife, Jodi, recently toured the Hamilton-Toronto area with Ticats linebacker Ben Zambiasi. Sazio and Ballard were both out of town and no contract discussions were held.

"We've never sat down and had any formal negotiations," he said. "I think there's a conflict between the owner and the general manager.

"Why would he (Ballard) pick us up at the airport in a limousine, put us up in a first-class hotel and pay our meals if he wasn't interested in signing Vince?

"I believe it's a big publicity stunt for them and I don't appreciate being used."

When it was suggested that Fishof might be doing that himself — using the CFL to improve Ferragamo's bargaining position — he insisted that he and his client are not using the CFL as a ploy.



GORDIE HOWE
... honored

Number nine retired

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — Despite the many awards and honors heaped on Gordie Howe, the retirement of his number by a second National Hockey League team is special.

Howe says what makes the retirement of his No. 9 on Wednesday unique is that it is being done by Hartford Whalers, the only NHL team he and his two sons, Marty and Mark, skated for as team mates.

"This is where it happened," Howe said Monday. "This is where I got to play with the two kids."

Mark Howe, 25, is a standout defenceman for the Whalers, Marty Howe, 26, also a defenceman, now plays with the Whalers' American Hockey League farm team in Binghamton, N.Y.

Tonight the elder Howe will be honored at a $100-a-plate dinner, with proceeds from the event going to the Connecticut Lung Association. Hockey's Phil Esposito, baseball's Brooks Robinson and football's Frank Gifford will be among those paying tribute to Howe.

When Howe retired from the Whalers in 1980 after three years with the team, it was the second time he had called it quits.

QUIT IN 1971

Howe retired for the first time in 1971 after 25 years with Detroit Red Wings, and his No. 9 was retired in Detroit.

He said his Red Wings number was different and special because "there was a little more history in Detroit."

While a member of the Red Wings, Howe played in 1,687 games, had 786 goals and 1,909 points. He was an all-star 21 times and helped Detroit win three Stanley Cups.

Two years after that retirement, Howe made a comeback and joined his two sons on Houston Aeros of the now-defunct World Hockey Association.

In 1977, he and his sons signed with the Whalers, then a WHA team that was added to the NHL in 1979 when the WHA folded.

The current retirement ceremonies are part of an official Gordie Howe Week declared in Connecticut by Gov. Bill O'Neill for Feb. 16-20.

Pearson captures rich race

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — David Pearson clung to a narrow lead in the final 10 laps Monday to win the $168,000 Sportsman 300 late-model sports car race by a car length over Rusty Wallace.

Wallace, who had led the most of the race, but dropped out of contention in the 90th lap when he ran over debris from a single-car accident that sent Bob Ballantine to the hospital.

With Marcus out, Morgan Shepherd, the national late-model champion, took a narrow lead. But Pearson edged him on the third turn of the high-banked track at Daytona International Speedway on the 110th lap of the 120-lap race.

In all, there were 19 lead changes among seven drivers. Five caution flags also came out in the race, which was stopped because of rain after 10 laps Saturday.

Pearson picked up $13,115 for his victory, while Wallace earned $8,465 for second. Third was Neil Bonnett who won $6,165, followed by Ricky Rudd and Shepherd.

DRIVES VENTURA

Pearson, driving a Pontiac Ventura, turned the tri-oval course at an average speed of 129.419 miles an hour during the two-hour, 19-minute race.

Pole sitter Rick Wilson, who qualified at 118.363 mph, dropped out of the race on the 72nd lap with an oil leak.

CFL teams preparing for university draft

TORONTO (CP) — Most of the heavy business at the Canadian Football League's four-day annual meeting will take place Thursday and Friday when owners put finishing touches to a revamped league operation.

But general managers and coaches are doing their homework to prepare for the draft of Canadian university talent Wednesday.

Many outstanding Canadian rookies already have been locked in — by the territorial exemption draft at Edmonton on Jan. 22 — and the feeling is that the nine CFL teams are hoping to put the grab on a couple of defensive standouts to complete their Canadian consignment.

But the restructuring of the league takes top priority at these sessions. The plan, motivated by a marketing study, was already given approval in principle at meetings during Grey Cup week last November. But prolonged discussions over the legal wording of the various documents was expected to stretch this segment of the itinerary over two days.

It's being hailed as the second most important moment in league history, topped only by the 1968 meeting that adopted one league but allowed the two conferences to remain autonomous.

These meetings would, in effect, streamline the management part of the organization by eliminating the Eastern and Western conferences under their old guidelines and strengthen commissioner Jake Gaudaur's authority by naming him president and chief executive officer.

The same East-West rivalry would be sustained through divisional alignments.

Toronto Argonauts have five of the first 14 picks in the college draft — second, seventh and eighth in the first round — but Calgary Stampeders have the No. 1 selection by virtue of a trade with Saskatchewan Roughriders, who had the worst record in the CFL last year for the second straight season.

The Stamps also have their own No. 6 pick.

TOP PICKS

Tom Bray, a 6-2, 250-pound defensive tackle with Bishop's Gaiters, and 6-1, 215-pound outside linebacker Frank Kosee of Waterloo Warriors appear to be the cream of this year's crop. Six of the eight CFL teams that participated in a pre-draft poll put those players among their top 10 candidates.

Close behind those two on the lists of most-wanted players were running back Larry Priestnall of Acadia Axemen and wide receiver Don Burns of Ottawa GeeGees. Both appeared on five teams' lists.

Four other players regarded highly are wide receivers Dan Dominico of Western Mustangs and Dom Busto of Simon Fraser, outside linebacker Tom Trifaux of Calgary Dinosaurs and tight end Murray Wenhard of Saskatchewan Huskies.

Nelson Martin, a wide receiver with Seneca College Braves in Toronto, stands a good chance of making CFL history by being the first community college player drafted in the first round.

Site and date of the 1982 Grey Cup game will also be decided at the meetings with Toronto, Edmonton and Montreal bidding for the championship game. The 1981 game will be played in Montreal.

Also on the agenda will be discussions on roster quotas, rule travel equalizations and territorial draft exemptions.



JAKE GAUDAUR
... more power

Sockeyes stay alive by beating Abbotsford

RICHMOND, B.C. (CP) — Jeff Wilkinson scored three goals as Richmond Sockeyes beat Abbotsford Flyers 9-5 Monday in B.C. Junior Hockey League action.

The win puts the Sockeyes back into contention in their best-of-nine Coastal Division playoff, which the Flyers now lead 4-3. The eighth game is set for Friday at Richmond.

The Flyers, who trailed 4-2 and 6-3 by periods, got two goals from Jim Cowden.

Abbotsford goalie Kim Burris — with second-period help from Ken Baker before Baker was hurt in goal-crease collision — stopped 38 shots. For the Sockeyes, Dave Brereton made 27 saves for his first win as a Sockeye.

Regular season play resumes tonight with Kelowna visiting Penticton.

TEAM SALE OFFICIAL

DENVER (AP) — Colorado Rockies said Monday that Peter Gilbert, a 34-year-old cable-television executive from Buffalo, N.Y., has officially become the owner of the National Hockey League franchise. The NHL board of governors approved the sale of the franchise last week.

Metcalf may return south of the border

TORONTO (CP) — Running back Terry Metcalf has been given permission to look for a job in the National Football League, says head coach Willie Wood of Toronto Argonauts.

"Terry phoned two weeks ago to ask me if he could talk to NFL teams," Wood said in an interview Monday. "I told him if he wants to go to the NFL he can."

Metcalf, 29, has spent three unproductive seasons with the Canadian Football League Argos after playing out the option year of his contract with the NFL's St. Louis Cardinals in 1978. The Argos signed Metcalf to a seven-year, $2-million U.S. contract when he came north.

Wood said he was not disappointed when he received Metcalf's phone call. If Metcalf is unable to find work in the NFL, Wood said, he could attend training camp in May. At this point in his contract, Metcalf must make the team to collect full pay.

Richard Bennett, Metcalf's lawyer, said Washington Redskins and Cincinnati Bengals of the NFL have been approached. Bengals' head coach Forrest Gregg coached Metcalf in Toronto during the 1979 CFL season.

NOT EVALUATED

A Redskins spokesman said Monday the club "might be interested in him, but we haven't evaluated him yet."

St. Louis holds first rights to Metcalf if he returns to the NFL and any other team he signed with would have to receive compensation. It is unlikely Metcalf would return to the Cardinals, a club he repeatedly called cheap in 1979.

During his three seasons with the Argos, Metcalf has been used as a ball carrier, pass receiver and punt and kickoff returner.

As a rusher, Metcalf gained 554 yards on 140 carries in 1980, 691 yards on 141 carries in 1979, and 699 yards on 169 carries in 1978.

In five NFL seasons, Metcalf had a rushing total of 3,438 yards. He led the NFL in punt returns in 1975, was runner-up in the 1974 Associated Press poll for most valuable player in the league and was the Cardinals' most valuable player in 1974 and 1975.



TERRY METCALF
... unproductive

Baseball strike unlikely

NEW YORK (AP) — Despite all the dour language from the chiefs on both sides in baseball, here's a bet — based as much on gut instincts as cold reasoning — that "Play ball!" will be the harbinger of spring as usual this season.

No strike. No lockout. There will be considerable haggling. Each side will give a little. They may even go down to the final hour, as before. Each side will claim a victory. Then they'll stoke the hot racks and get the show on the road.

Nobody wants a stoppage, particularly the players. They've never had it so good.

Marvin Miller, executive director of the players' association, is an astute, sensible man. He has grabbed out gains for the players that transcend the imagination. He is not vindictive. Our prediction is that he will let the owners stew in their own juice a while and then take the course that is to the players' advantage.

Across the table Ray Grebey, negotiator for the owners, represents an internally fractured clientele . . . a hard core of young owners who don't want to make waves, contrasted with hardliners who keep losing battles.

But the key lies with the players.

PLAYERS PROSPER

The basic agreement signed last May makes them the most prosperous and secure players in professional sports.

A baseball survey, questioned incidentally by Miller, projects the average salary of a ballplayer will be more than $150,000 in 1981. This compares with an average salary of $146,000 last season.

The new four-year agreement signed with the compensation issue not entirely resolved provides a minimum player salary this year of $32,500, $5,000 more than that in the National Football League and National Hockey League.

Player allowances have been increased to $50 a week for spring training and $75 a day for regular season. First-class air travel and hotel accommodations for all road trips during the season. It's figured to be $1,500 per player — one of the best.

Cobras edge Toros Hawks

Super Cut Cobras edged Toros Hawks 2-1 in Molson Men's Broomball League action last Saturday at the Priest Valley Arena. Darrell Hanoski and Ray Ungarian scored for Cobras before Ken Johnstone narrowed the gap. Hawks took seven of 13 minor penalties.

RINK CLOSED

Due to warm weather, Vernon's Centennial Outdoor Rink is closed until further notice.

TWO GAMES

Vernon Intermediate Men's Basketball League playoffs get under way tonight at the Priest Valley Gymnasium. At 7 p.m., Professionals take on Silver Streaks, and at 8:15 p.m., National Hotel faces Lumby Rainshorn. Winners advance to the semi-finals next week.

POLECATS WIN

B.C. Tel Polecats edged Toros 23-22 in Women's intermediate Basketball League action Monday at VSSS. Sue Sheldon and Matildanan Leewen scored six points each for Polecats. Lynn Hatfield replied with eight for Toros. In another game, Cathy Gottfriedson sunk 12 points to lead Spallumcheen Golf and Tennis Club to a 35-19 win over Lemon Drops. Cathy Casagnette countered with nine for Drops.

NO DROP-IN

Afternoon drop-in sessions Feb. 19 and 26, at the Priest Valley Gymnasium, have been cancelled due to an elementary school basketball tournament.

BASEBALL MEETING

Vernon Minor Baseball Association will hold its annual meeting tonight, at 7 p.m., at the Vernon Lodge Hotel. All interested parents are urged to attend.

ROOKIE SELECTED

MONTREAL (CP) — Centre Dave Christian of Winnipeg Jets has been chosen the National Hockey League's outstanding player for the week ended Feb. 15 on the strength of five goals in two games. Christian recorded the second hat trick of his NHL career during an 8-6 loss to New York Rangers on Thursday. He scored two goals Sunday in the Jets' 4-3 win over Quebec Nordiques.

QUITS AS COACH

MONTREAL (CP) — Joe Galat has resigned as defensive co-ordinator for the Montreal Alouettes of the Canadian Football League to become linebacker coach of Houston Oilers of the National Football League. "It was an opportunity which I simply couldn't refuse," the 41-year-old Galat said Monday.

DURBANO IN COURT

BRAMPTON, Ont. (CP) — Steve Durbano, former defenceman with five pro hockey teams, will appear in court March 16 for trial on charges of importing cocaine and possession of the drug for the purpose of trafficking. Durbano, 30, was arrested earlier this month at Toronto International Airport.

CIAU PICKS UPSHAW

OTTAWA (CP) — Canadian Inter-university Athletic Association athlete of the week is Ted Upshaw, a 6-6 forward with the Acadian Axemen men's basketball team. A native of Windsor, N.S., and a second-team all-Canadian last year, Upshaw helped his team, first-ranked in the country, to first place in the Atlantic Universities Athletic Association with 92 points and 35 rebounds in three games this week.

SIGNS AT DEADLINE

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. (AP) — Minnesota Twins signed shortstop Roy Smalley to a four-year, multi-million-dollar contract Monday, the same day he was to have gone to arbitration for a ruling on his contract. Smalley, who could have become a free agent in 1982, agreed to a guaranteed contract for an estimated $2.4 million through 1984.

POLLOCK REMAINS

OTTAWA (CP) — Sammy Pollock, former general manager of Montreal Canadiens, has been reappointed to the board of Hockey Canada Sport Minister Gerald Regan said Monday. Regan also announced he had appointed Garnet Brown, who was provincial recreation minister when Regan was Nova Scotia premier, to the board of the agency which handles Canada's involvement in international hockey. Ron Cliff of Vancouver was also named to the board.

Sports briefs

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