

The Citizen Sports

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MONDAY'S NFL

Bengals turn tiger

CINCINNATI (AP) — "We went in at halftime and tried to pull things together," said running back Boobie Clark of Cincinnati Bengals. "Our offence couldn't get untracked."

But Cincinnati quarterback Ken Anderson got them untracked quickly after half-time Monday night. He threw two scoring passes in a three-touchdown third quarter that carried the Bengals to a 20-12 National Football League victory over Los Angeles Rams.

"Basically, we were stopping ourselves," coach Bill Johnson said of the unproductive first half, when the Rams scored two field goals while the Bengals were getting penalties and dropping Anderson's passes.

The defence turned the game around in the second half. They sacked Rams quarterback James Harris and forced a fumble and, on the next play, Clark burst nine yards for the go-ahead touchdown.

"The best thing about this ball club is that the defence gives us ways to win," said tight end Bob Trumpy, who caught one of Anderson's touchdown passes.

"You can talk to us offensive players all night, but the victory belongs to the defence."

Anderson threw his touchdown passes of 30 yards to Trumpy and 17 to Clark. It gave the Bengals their biggest scoring quarter of the season.

And it gave them a 7-2 record to stay on top of the American Conference's Central Division, two games ahead of Pittsburgh

Steelers and Cleveland Browns. The Rams, falling to 6-2-1, failed to increase their lead over San Francisco 49ers, 6-3, in the National Conference West.

Anderson, who suffered through his worst first half of the season when his receivers caught only two of his 12 passes for only five yards, came back in the third quarter to burn the Rams defence for 105 yards, hitting six of nine passes.

He also ran 25 yards on a third-and-four situation, one play before his 30-yard scoring pass to Trumpy that gave the Bengals a 13-6 lead.

The defence was led by end Coy Bacon, a former Ram, who spearheaded the furious pass rush.

Cincinnati had given up 173

yards to Los Angeles in the first two quarters but limited the Rams to just one pass completion and 39 total yards in the turnaround third quarter.

In the fourth quarter, with the Rams trying to get back into the game, the Cincinnati defensive secondary twice turned them back.

First cornerback Tommy Casanova picked off a Harris pass near his own goal line. Then, in the final minutes, safety Bernard Jackson picked a Lawrence McCutcheon fumble out of the air at the goal line.

The Rams finally scored when it was too late, getting a 17-yard touchdown pass from Harris to Ron Jessie with nine seconds to go.

Ruoff CFL's best

TORONTO (CP) — Kicker Bernie Ruoff of Winnipeg Blue Bombers has claimed the Canadian Football League scoring title, edging past Montreal's Don Sweet on the last weekend of the season.

Ruoff's 11 points in Saturday's 23-17 win over British Columbia Lions gave him a total of 142 points for the season, one more than Sweet who had set the pace in the final weeks.

Running back Jim Washington, another Winnipeg star, claimed the league rushing title with a total of 1,277 yards in 219 carries. Runner-up was Art Green of Ottawa Rough

Riders with 1,257 yards on 234 carries.

Final CFL statistics released Monday gave Green the touchdown title. He scored 15, including 13 along the ground.

Ottawa team-mate Tony Gabriel emerged as the top pass receiver with 72 catches for 1,320 yards and 14 touchdowns. Rhett Dawson of Saskatchewan Roughriders was next with 65 receptions for 996 yards and 10 touchdowns.

Saskatchewan's Ron Lancaster topped all quarterbacks with 297 completions in 494 attempts for 3,869 yards and 25 touchdowns.

OFF-FIELD BASEBALL

Expos, Cards swap six

ST. LOUIS (AP) — St. Louis Cardinals completed a six-player baseball deal with Montreal Expos on Monday, acquiring right-handed pitcher Steve Dunning, outfielder Tony Scott and infielder Pat Scanlon.

Montreal obtained right-handed pitcher Bill Greif, lefthanded pitcher Angel Torres and outfielder Sam Mejias.

The three players coming to St. Louis, all of whom will be placed on the major-league baseball team's roster, played last year for Cardinals manager Vern Rapp at Denver in the Triple-A American Association.

Dunning, 27, was the pick of Cleveland Indians in the 1970 free agent draft and compiled a 12-23 record with the team in 1970 and 1971. In May, 1973, he was traded to Texas Rangers and two years later moved to the Chicago White Sox Denver farm club where he had a 15-9 record.

Dunning went to California Angels in December 1975 and was 0-0 in four games last season.

During last season his contract was purchased by the Expos where he was 2-6 in 32 games with an ERA of 4.15.

Scott, 25, is a switch-hitter who signed with Montreal in 1969 and worked his way through the team's farm system. He started in left field for the Expos in 1975 before moving to Denver for all of last season. At Denver he hit .311 in 106 games and stole 18 bases.

The 24-year-old Scanlon, a left-handed hitter, has played both first base and third base. After being signed by the Expos in 1970 he played in the minors until he started the 1975 season with the major league club. Last season at Denver,

under Rapp, he hit .308 with 18 homers with 75 runs batted in before going to Montreal.

Greif was 1-5 in 47 games for

the Cards last year in a relief role. Torres and Mejias have both played in the minors since being signed by the Cardinals.

Anderson sorry

DAYTON, Ohio (AP) — Sparky Anderson, manager of the two-time world baseball champion Cincinnati Reds, has apologized to Thurman Munson for remarks he made to the New York Yankees catcher.

Munson claimed Anderson "rubbed it in my face" in a post-fourth game interview after the Reds had swept the Yankees in last month's World Series, in which Anderson said Johnny Bench of the Reds was the greatest catcher ever.

Munson was waiting his turn to be interviewed when Anderson made his comments. Anderson said it was a sin for any catcher to have to play in the same ball park with Bench.

As reported Monday by Si

Burick, sports editor of the Dayton (Ohio) Daily News, Anderson decided last week to apologize to Munson. He wrote this letter, dated Nov. 2:

"Dear Thurman: "First of all, I hope you will accept my sincere apology. I had no intention of trying to belittle you or any other catcher. "What I said about comparing Bench to another catcher I have said not only this year, but in other years. "Thurman, I might be at fault for speaking so strongly on Bench, but that is the way I feel. I sure hope I will never purposely try to belittle anyone. "I only hope you will know how sincere I am about this letter. "Sincerely, Sparky."

Allen leaves Phillies

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Dick Allen officially became a free agent Monday when Philadelphia Phillies received written notice from the controversial first baseman.

Allen notified the Major League Baseball Players' Association orally on Friday of his intention to exercise his free agent option.

The association put Allen's notice in writing and forwarded it to the National League team, Phillies officials said.

Allen now will go through a

special free-agent draft, the Phillies said, expected to be held the next three days during the annual general managers' meetings in Palm Springs, Calif.

If two or more teams select Allen's negotiating rights, the Phillies will receive a draft pick in the June, 1977, free-agent draft from the team which eventually signs Allen.

Allen, 34, appeared in 85 games with the Phillies last season, hitting .268, with 15 home runs and 49 RBI. He's been in the majors for 13 seasons.

BONSPIEL HERE NEXT

Pickering draws for five grand

KAMLOOPS, B.C. (CP) — Bob Pickering of Milestone, Sask., drew to an empty house with his last rock to defeat Bernie Sparkes of Vancouver 4-3 Monday night and win \$5,000 first prize in the Kamloops bonspiel.

The six-time Saskatchewan Brier rep won the low-scoring contest after Sparkes hit and rolled out with his last rock of the game.

Sparkes, a two-time British Columbia Brier rep and defending bonspiel champion, took second place and collected \$3,000 in the annual \$15,500 event.

National mixed champion Tony Eberts of Williams Lake, B.C., finished third and collected \$2,200 in a 9-2 victory over Jake Block of Clearbrook, B.C. Block took home \$1,600 for fourth place.

Forty-four rinks began the competition Friday.

In the first of three draws Monday among the eight qualifiers for the cash, Sparkes beat Brent Giles of North Vancouver, Eberts beat Elgin Smith of Kimberley, Pickering beat Ken Neuman of Vancouver and Block beat Tom Kroeger of Consort, Alta.

The losers each picked up \$800. In the next round, to set up the Pickering-Sparkes final, Sparkes beat Eberts 8-1 in just eight ends and Pickering beat Block 8-4.

Many of the rinks in the \$15,500 bonspiel now head for Prince George and the \$26,600 Molson Tournament of Champions, which starts Friday.

There are 48 men's rinks shooting for \$20,600, including \$8,000 to win and 24 women's rinks going after \$6,000, including \$2,000 to win.

So, where's ours?



Heavy snowfall throughout southern Ontario brought the cross-country ski season literally overnight. Ron Caisley and his dogs

try a trail in Barrie, about 50 miles north of Toronto. Between 10 and 28 inches of snow fell on the area Monday.

Flyers court date set

TORONTO (CP) — Four Philadelphia Flyers hockey players facing assault charges will go on trial in June after the hockey season ends, Judge Walter Martin of county court decided Monday.

Crown attorney Robert McGee wanted a January trial date, but defence counsel George Finlayson argued that holding the trial then would be "punishing the team in mid-season when it should be concentrating on playing hockey." The charges involve incidents at National Hockey League playoff games in April between the Flyers and Toronto Maple Leafs.

Don Saleski and Joe Watson will be tried June 1 on charges of assaulting a policeman and possession of a dangerous weapon, their hockey sticks.

A June 8 trial date was set for Mel Bridgman, charged with assault causing bodily harm to Borje Salming of the Maple Leafs.

Bob Kelly, charged with assault causing bodily harm to an usherette at Maple Leaf Gardens, will go on trial June 15.

Decision due for soccer

VANCOUVER (CP) — Members of Soccer Canada's World Cup committee will meet here today to discuss complaints by players which is threatening the playoff game between Canada and the United States.

A spokesman for the committee said Friday that no meeting was possible before Tuesday because chairman Herb Capozzi is in Chicago attending North American Soccer League meetings and other members are also out of town.

The committee comprises officials of Vancouver Whitecaps of the NASL, the Canadian Soccer Association and Labatts — the brewery which put up \$100,000 to help finance the national team's World Cup challenge.

The players said Thursday that they would take no further part in World Cup preparations until their contracts were renewed. The contracts ran out at the end of October, following Canada's last scheduled qualifying round game against Mexico.

Knudson will continue in U.S.

TORONTO (CP) — George Knudson says he plans to continue competing next year on the United States professional golf tour despite the fact his exemption from weekly qualifying expired this year.

The Toronto pro would have had to finish among the top 60 in money winnings on the Professional Golfers' Association tour this year to remain exempt from qualifying. He finished 122nd on the money list with earnings of \$14,869 from 20 tournaments.

"I don't feel bad about the situation at all," Knudson, 39, said in an interview Monday.

"I realize I couldn't go on playing forever and obviously my plan in the last few years has said as much."

His play on the U.S. tour will be limited to about 15 events

next year and his schedule will be determined by the few exemptions he still has remaining.

"Any tournament I've won in the States, I've got a lifetime exemption for, and there are various other ways."

"Past performance will entitle you to some exemptions, the sponsor also has exemptions of which I will be allowed three. Any tournament I make the cut in I'll be exempt the following week."

Knudson, who has won eight U.S. tour events, the last being the Kaiser Open in 1972, enjoyed more success on the Canadian tour this year than he did south of the border and says he plans to return to the Canadian tour this summer.

This year he won the Ontario and Atlantic opens and the Canadian Professional Gol-



KNUDSON

The whole atmosphere was entirely different than the American tour and I rather enjoyed it."

Summing up his over-all season, Knudson said: "Obviously I didn't play too well and the end result wasn't too good, but physically, at least for the latter part of the year, I felt better than I have in some years."

Knudson has been plagued with back problems through most stages of his career, and once estimated that he had been treated by more than 100 doctors and physiotherapists for that ailment.

Looking into the more distant future, he said: "I don't know exactly which direction I'll be going in. Between golf in the States and my golf up here and my (business) interests in Japan, I'm sure I'll keep busy."

fers' Association championship and pocketed \$18,617 on the regular Canadian tour plus another \$2,374 in unrelated Canadian events.

He said playing in Canada was a lot of fun.

"It didn't have the pressure."

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