

SPORTS

Arena football considering Canada

by DAN RALPH
Canadian Press

Arena football commissioner C. David Baker remains committed to expanding into Canada, but only in a joint venture with the CFL that doesn't threaten the Canadian game.

"If we try to grow arena football at the expense of the CFL, what have we done to the overall benefit of football," Baker said Thursday from Nashville, Tenn., where the Albany Firebirds and Nashville Kats kicked off the 2000 Arena Football League season. "I believe arena football expansion into Canada will happen sooner than later."

"Exactly when that will be and in what form remains undefined. But we're not coming without first sitting down with (acting CFL

chairman) John Tory and (CFL president) Jeff Giles and mapping it out further."

Baker made a presentation to CFL officials in Vancouver during the Grey Cup about arenafootball2, the AFL's developmental league that began play this winter in 15 American cities with arenas of 10,000 seats and less.

AFL expansion into Canada has been a hot topic for the last three years. The sport's re-sounding success in the United States, its low overhead and the emergence of new arenas looking for additional tenants have all led to speculation that arena football was heading to Canada.

Baker said ideally, arena football would debut in Canada under the af2 umbrella because its season (January to May) does not conflict

with the CFL's and would allow Canadian football officials to assist in promoting the new sport. By comparison, an AFL club would provide competition for a CFL club because their seasons would overlap (AFL runs from April to August, CFL goes from July to November).

"We've talked to some CFL teams about coordinating some exhibition games with them," Baker said. "That might lead to af2, which someday might lead to one or two teams from Canada competing in the AFL."

"But like I said, this won't be done without first sitting down with John and Jeff. I have a lot of respect for the CFL and the people investing in its leadership and I want to maintain that respect."



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of Fraser-Fort George**

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The Regional District of Fraser-Fort George is presenting an information session to address on-site wastewater treatment and disposal systems. This meeting will be held:

**7:00p.m., Wednesday, May 10, 2000
Regional District of Fraser-Fort George
155 George Street
Prince George, BC**

- Discussion will include:
- various types of wastewater systems (disposal fields, lagoons, sand mounds, etc.)
 - soil test requirements
 - permit application procedure
 - initial and final inspections
 - lakeshore development
 - operation and maintenance

A question and answer session will follow.

Attendance is free and by registration only. Contact Carina Brown, Health Assistant, before April 26, 2000 to register.

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Redskins can't wait until Saturday

NEW YORK (AP) — The Washington Redskins are expecting Saturday's NFL draft to propel them to the Super Bowl. The New York Jets are hoping it makes them a contender for years. And the Cleveland Browns hope they'll draft a player to make them respectable in their second season.

The other 28 teams? They're just trying to find the best player in a draft heavy on receivers and running backs but short everywhere else. Three things are as certain as things can be at draft time.

1. Two of the first three players to be chosen — linebacker LaVar Arrington or defensive end Courtney Brown — played together at Penn State. But where No. 1 will go is unknown.

Cleveland has the first pick, but is willing to trade it for a passel of draft choices. The Jets have four first-rounders, two of them acquired this week in the trade for Keyshawn Johnson.

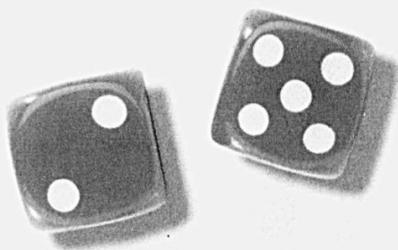
2. The Redskins will get two high-quality players to add to a team that won the NFC East and made the second round of the playoffs. They reached their draft position with a series of trades centered around the one at last year's draft that sent Ricky Williams to New Orleans.

The Redskins will take Arrington or Brown and probably offensive tackle Chris Samuels of Alabama, with an outside shot for wide receiver Peter Warrick of Florida State.



3. For all the evaluation and re-evaluation, half the 31 players taken in the first round might be disappointments, and quite a few later-round choices will be stars. Jevon Kearse of Tennessee, who had 14.5 sacks and helped the Titans win the AFC title, was taken 16th overall last season.

"I'm no genius," said Indianapolis Colts president Bill Polian, who has been depicted as one for taking Peyton Manning over Ryan Leaf two years ago and Edgerrin James over Williams last year, propelling the Colts from 4-12 in 1998 to 13-3. "The draft is not brain surgery," Polian said. "You evaluate, evaluate and evaluate, study scouting reports and film and then go with your gut feeling. You also need some luck."



"Don't take chances."

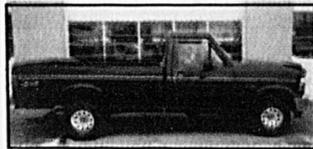
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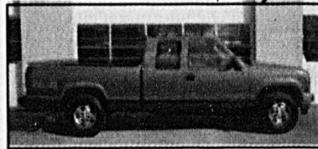
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Report: Grizzlies offer GM's post to Knight

VANCOUVER (CP) — Billy Knight, a former NBA all-star, has been offered the job as Vancouver Grizzlies GM, the Vancouver Sun reported today.

Knight, vice-president of basketball operations for the Indiana Pacers, refused to say today whether he had even talked with Vancouver.

"I don't know if or when anything is ever going to happen," Knight said today when contacted in Phoenix, where he is attending a pre-draft camp. "People start rumours and try to get rumours to become rumours. So I don't want to get into all of that stuff."

Quoting unidentified sources, the Sun said Knight would replace Stu Jackson, the Grizzlies' original general manager who is almost certain to be fired by new owner Michael Heisley when the Chicago



KNIGHT

go billionaire takes control of the team at the end of the season. Knight was tight-lipped on Wednesday.

"I have no comment to make right now," Knight said, when asked if he was headed to Vancouver.

Asked if he has had discussions with the Grizzlies' new ownership group, Knight said: "I'm not making any comment about that."

Told that sources have suggested he has been offered a management job in Vancouver, Knight said: "Well, if that's what your sources are telling you. . ."

Basketball Nats prepare for Sydney

TORONTO (CP) — Both of Canada's national basketball teams are getting ready for a busy summer schedule in preparation for the 2000 Olympics in Sydney next September.

After an exhibition tournament in Sydney in June both teams will return home for the Canada Basketball Summer Series 2000 to be played July 14-17 in Hamilton, Toronto and Montreal. Each team will play three games, the men against Brazil and the women against Cuba.

"I'm really excited about the schedule that we have put into place," said Jay Triano, head coach of the men's team. "We've planned an outstanding mix of practice time and games."

The men's last game before the Olympics will be an exhibition game Aug. 31 against the U.S. in Hawaii.

The women's team will also play the U.S. before heading off to Sydney. They will play three games Aug. 22-26 in various American cities.

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