

Sports Slants - continued.

and his New York Jets (formerly known as New York Titans) pulled the upset of the century by beating Baltimore Colts of the NFL to win the Super Bowl.

Actually, it's hard to laugh at anything Gary Davidson is involved in. He's the guy who started the American Basketball Association and the World Hockey Association. While only a few of those teams are making money, those leagues are still in existence and show no signs of folding up.

The WHA, you might remember, yanked such super stars as Bobby Hull and Gordie Howe from the grasp of the NHL and now hockey appears to be flourishing in unlikely cities like Winnipeg and Houston.

The new WFL will try to woo away as many of the "name" players as it can from the NFL in its first and second seasons. From the sound of things, dozens of established NFLers whose contracts expired this past season are ready to take a chance with the WFL if their respective teams won't meet their contract demands.

Davidson says it will take \$2.5 million to get the WFL operation going the first year. He adds that it will require 25,000 a game to break even and 35,000 to make money in the first year. From all reports, though, owners of the WFL clubs (which will include Toronto), are thinking in terms of a five-year plan, losing for two years, holding their own for two and finally making some dough in the fifth year.

One thing that should help the WFL is that it plans to change the rules of U.S. football.

Conscious of criticism of the NFL that games have become dulled by too many field goals, the new is planning three rule changes and is considering four others to open up the game.

The WFL will use the two-point conversion, one point for a kick and two for a pass or a run. If a team attempts a field goal from outside the 20-yard line and misses, the ball will be brought back to the line of scrimmage and handed over to the other team.

Kickoffs will be from the 30-yard line instead of letting the ball bounce into the end zone and taking it at the 20.

Under consideration are: 1. move the goalposts from the goal line to the end line, making it more difficult to kick field goals; 2. require a receiver to have only one foot inbounds when he catches the ball; 3. banning field goal attempts on fourth down; and 4. prevent offensive linemen from leaving the

line on punts until the ball is kicked, thus giving the receiver a better chance to run.

Who knows, the World Football League just might catch on.

Latest word is that Joe Theismann, Toronto Argonauts quarterback, and Greg Barton, who shared the quarterback duties with Theismann in Toronto during the 1972 season, might be dickering for the pivot duties for the Toronto WFL entry.

Sounds interesting. I'm anxious to see the new league get started. It should keep me awake on Wednesdays and Thursday nights.

from HISTORY'S SCRAPBOOK

DATES AND EVENTS FROM YESTERYEARS

Mary, Queen of Scots, was beheaded on February 8, 1587.

On February 9, 1861, Jefferson Davis was elected president of the Confederacy.

Queen Victoria was married on February 10, 1840.

Thomas A. Edison, famous American inventor, was born on February 11, 1847.

February 12, 1809, was the birth date of Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the United States.

"The Blue Danube Waltz" was first conducted publicly by Johann Strauss on February 13, 1867.

On February 14, 1859, Oregon was admitted into the Union.

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