

Former Tiger Jones signs 2-year contract with Giants

Advocate news services

Victor Jones, an unrestricted free agent returning back from the Denver Broncos, has agreed to a two-year contract with the New York Giants, according to his attorney, Doug Sunseri.

Jones, a 5-11, 215-pound back, played for the Broncos in 1992. He played for the Houston Oilers from 1990-91 and was signed by the Oilers as a free agent rookie in 1990.

Jones played collegiately at LSU and prepped at Zachary High School.

Survey results revealed

PITTSBURGH—More than half of the top prospects for the NFL draft believe the league should bar players who carry the virus that causes AIDS, a new survey suggests.

"There aren't many libertarians in that group," said Ralph Cindrich, the sports agent who commissioned the survey of 100 college players.

The survey was conducted in December by Campos Market Research. Half of the 200 top-rated players in the April 25 draft were interviewed by telephone.

The margin of error is 6.95 percent, Cindrich said Thursday.

Fifty-two percent of the players said an HIV-positive player should be prevented from playing. Forty-three percent opposed such a ban, and 5 percent did not know.

Six percent said they would risk their health by using steroids if it meant being a first-round draft selection.

Fifty-eight percent of respondents said the player's union should focus more on the dangers of artificial turf than on salaries. Thirty-eight percent said the union should not have such a focus, and 4 percent did not know.

On another health-related issue, 72 of the 100 players said they were concerned about spinal-cord injuries, while 28 said they were not.

"When you look at these things, a lot of us have preconceived notions about many issues facing young athletes," Cindrich said. "Some of these findings can reinforce what we think, or they can cause us to stop and take another look."

Players were granted anonymity in the survey, which will be formally released Tuesday.

Patriots sign Proehl

BOSTON—The New England Patriots have signed Phoenix Cardinals restricted free agent Ricky Proehl to an offer sheet giving the wide receiver \$3.2 million over three years.

THE NFL

Phoenix has seven days from Proehl's Tuesday signing to match the Patriots' offer.

Proehl, a third-round NFL draft choice in 1990 out of Wake Forest, has averaged 57 catches in three seasons with Phoenix. His salary in 1992 was \$220,000, and he was offered a salary of \$275,000 by the Cardinals over the winter.

If he joins New England, Proehl would replace veteran Irving Fryar, who recently signed as a free agent with the Miami Dolphins. The Cardinals are entitled to compensation from New England.

Chargers keep Swayne

SAN DIEGO—Left tackle Harry Swayne became the highest-paid San Diego Charger on Thursday when the team matched a three-year, \$5.4 million offer sheet he had signed with the Phoenix Cardinals.

Swayne will earn \$2.7 million next season, including \$1.5 million in salary and \$1.2 million in a signing bonus. He will make \$1.4 million in 1994 and \$1.3 million in 1995.

Swayne made \$380,000 last season, including \$65,000 in bonuses. His 1993 pay surpasses linebacker Jerrol Williams' \$1.7 million contract, but it's expected that defensive end Leslie O'Neal, the Chargers' franchise player, will get a deal larger than Swayne's. O'Neal made \$1.5 million in 1992.

The Chargers had until today to match the offer or lose Swayne, a two-year starter who was designated one of the team's two "transition" players.

Gilbert to stand trial

PITTSBURGH—Los Angeles Rams defensive lineman Sean Gilbert and two University of Pittsburgh football players were ordered Thursday to stand trial for allegedly assaulting an off-duty police officer.

A city magistrate ordered Gilbert and Pitt players Reuben Brown and Jonathan McCray to stand trial on charges of aggravated assault, resisting arrest, obstructing traffic and disorderly conduct.

The charges stem from a March 24 brawl at a hot dog shop near the Pitt campus. Police said the men blocked an entrance and assaulted Patrolman David Proctor when he told them to move.

Proctor was working as a security guard for the Original Hot Dog Shop.

Thomas still unsigned

KANSAS CITY, Mo.—Contrary

to reports, the Kansas City Chiefs have not signed Pro Bowl linebacker Derrick Thomas to a new contract.

Carl Peterson, president and general manager of the Chiefs, said Thursday that broadcast reports claiming Thomas had signed a new contract were inaccurate.

"We have not yet made any deal with Derrick Thomas," Peterson said. "As I said on Tuesday, I am continuing to talk with his representatives. I'm not sure that anything is imminent."

Thomas, named to start every Pro Bowl since the Chiefs drafted him in the first round out of Alabama four seasons ago, is a restricted free agent. He visited the Detroit Lions and was said to be drawing interest from several other teams, including San Francisco and Dallas.

Rams acquire Goeas

ANAHEIM, Calif.—The Los Angeles Rams have completed a trade with the San Diego Chargers for restricted free agent offensive lineman Leo Goeas.

The Chargers signed Goeas to a three-year deal reportedly worth about \$2.6 million and then traded him to the Rams for their fourth-round pick in the upcoming NFL draft, the Rams said Thursday.

Had the Rams signed Goeas to an offer sheet the Chargers didn't match, he would have cost them a third-round pick since he was a third-round selection three years ago.

The Chargers could not afford to keep Goeas because they recently signed unrestricted free-agent guard Joe Milinichik of the Rams to a two-year deal worth \$2.2 million.

Goeas is expected to start in Milinichik's spot at right guard. He started 18 games in three years in San Diego, including four games at left tackle in 1991.

The Rams also announced they have signed third-year safety R.J. Kors to an offer sheet. The New York Jets have until April 22 to match the offer or Kors becomes a Ram.

Impersonator charged

SANTA ANA, Calif.—Prosecutors have charged a Riverside man with impersonating Los Angeles Rams tackle Darryl Ashmore in order to bilk money and jewelry from people he met in clubs.

Darryl Bernard Nolan, 25, was charged with four counts of false impersonation, three counts of grand theft and four counts of petty theft, said Marc Kelly, Orange County deputy district attorney.