

# FOOTBALL

# Fourcade, Hurst will try to void labor agreement

By JIMMY SMITH  
Staff writer

Attorneys representing New England Patriots cornerhack Maurice Hurst and former New Orleans Saints quarterback John Fourcade will go before U.S. District Judge David Doty today in Minneapolis seeking to void the potential labor agreement between NFL management and players.

Doug Sunseri, the New Orleans-based agent for Hurst, who played at Fortier

High and Southern University, and Fourcade, hired New Orleans lawyers Larry Wiedemann and Brian Shearman to argue before Doty, the presiding judge in the player's antitrust suit against the league.

Sunseri contends the potential agreement is null, because the union wasn't certified when it and the league came to an out-of-court settlement in the Reggie White case; that it's an antitrust violation because the new system is being implemented without official player approval; and that Hurst and Fourcade

should be allowed to seek damages on their own, apart from the settlement in the White case.

Sunseri filed suit on behalf of Hurst and Fourcade prior to White's suit, then again filed a second suit in Federal Court in New Orleans on March 5 trying to void the possible labor agreement that has led to unrestricted free agency.

"We didn't want the NFLPA to make a deal for us, because they've been rather suspect dealing with the players for the last six years," Sunseri said.

Under the terms of the White agree-

ment, Hurst would have received damage payments of \$20,000 annually for seven years. Fourcade would get \$10,000 per year for seven years. Sunseri wants no part of that agreement, since he had filed suit in Hurst's behalf prior to White's filing suit. So Wiedemann and Shearman will ask Doty today in Minneapolis to give them the ability to seek damages on their own.

"We were figuring possible damages leaguewide at about \$1.5 billion, but they (the NFLPA) settled for about \$196 million," Sunseri said.

Of that figure, former Saints quarterback Bobby Hebert got the biggest damage award, \$5.2 million. White received about \$2 million, according to Sunseri.

On top of that, the attorneys will argue that the settlement is illegal because the union was decertified at the time and could not legally act as the player's bargaining agent.

Attorneys for other players also will have an opportunity today before Doty to argue their dissatisfaction with the settlement.