

Parcells resigns from Jets' front-office position

by Ken Berger
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HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. - A chapter in football history ended Tuesday when Bill Parcells resigned as director of football operations for the Jets, walking away from the sport that has given and taken so much of his life, perhaps for the last time.

Whether there is more to be written on Parcells, 59, winner of two Super Bowls, remains to be seen. Deciding that he can no longer take the commitment of a daily life in football, he resigned his position effective at the end of the month. He will spend the rest of this week in his office at Weeb Ewbank Hall, where dark curtains kept out the sunlight so he could better study game tape at the break of dawn. It was that grind, and the singular life of a football man, that Parcells finally decided he could no longer endure.

"This year, I was still in this office at 7 o'clock in the morning," Parcells said. "I was still watching those films and those tapes and doing the things I had always done behaviorally. It's just time to get out of this routine. There's no time off. There's no time away. You can't get away from the job."

Parcells had thorough discussions with Owner Woody Johnson in the past week about the state of the organization and made his final decision Monday that he would resign and not take any other position with the team.

"The main reason was I feel like a long-term commitment to the Jets is now in order and I don't feel like I'm the one to make it," Parcells said.

"When this season was over and I now was faced with hiring a new coach and going through all that, I don't feel like I want to do all of that again. I think it's time for someone else to do it."

He has discussed possible candidates for general manager and coach with Johnson and will continue to assist the owner in whatever capacity he is asked. But

Parcells said, "I am not going to have any direct responsibility with hiring of future personnel here with the Jets."

Johnson, now charged with picking the correct people to chart a course for the team he purchased last January for \$635 million, released a statement that said, in part: "While it will be hard to replace someone of Bill's ability and leadership, we intend to use all our efforts to build on what he started by creating a first-class management team. We will immediately start to pursue all avenues to find the right mix."

Though insisting "my intention is not to coach," Parcells would not rule out any options for how he will fill the void he is inviting by leaving the game.

"If I wanted to coach, I could have come back and coached the Jets," Parcells said. "I could have done that, so obviously I feel very strongly about it. My intention is I'm moving on to another venue. I don't know what that is yet."

Parcells rejected the idea of remaining director of football operations for another year, saying, "I don't think that's in the best interest of the New York Jets."

Asked why he did not become president of the team, a position that would have taken him away from day-to-day football operations, Parcells said, "That's not what I do best."

Parcells leaves the Jets in much better shape - on a talent and organizational basis - than they were in when he became coach in 1997. The team was 30-20 in three seasons under Parcells, advancing to the AFC Championship Game in 1998.

Parcells, who maintained a low public profile after stepping down as coach, discussed the rigors of his job as general manager for the first time.

"People do not know how consuming this job is," he said. "It's a very consuming job the way I do it. ... I wanted to see how this went. But once you've been on the front lines, it's hard to go on the back bunker."

Martin's case goes to the Supreme Court next week

by Thomas Bonk
Los Angeles Times
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Casey Martin has another day in court Wednesday and it's a big one - the Supreme Court will hear the PGA Tour's appeal of the original 1998 ruling that was upheld on appeal in 1999, allowing him to use a golf cart while playing.

Martin, who will listen to arguments before the nine-member panel in Washington, wants to get on playing golf; he will make his season debut this week at the Tucson Open. Martin has no exempt status on the PGA Tour after he missed retaining his 2001 Tour card by one shot at qualifying school, so he has asked for sponsor's exemptions until he starts playing the

"I know I have the talent to compete out there," Martin said. "But there's no quick fix. I'm just trying to be patient."

-golfer Casey Martin

Buy.com Tour that begins March 8 in Gainesville, Fla.

"It's a chance to make some money

and you never know what's going to happen," said Martin, who will not split time between the tours once he starts playing the Buy.com regularly.

Martin can accept seven sponsor's exemptions on the PGA Tour and has asked for one from Nissan Open tournament director Tom Pulchinski.

As his date with the Supreme Court draws closer, Martin has been practicing nearly every day at Eugene (Ore.) Country Club near his home. Although he ranked No. 6 in driving distance last year on the PGA Tour, he was No. 179 in putting and he took lessons from Jim McLean at PGA West.

"I know I have the talent to compete out there," Martin said. "But there's no quick fix. I'm just trying to be patient."

A decision is expected before the end of June.

Carruth's ex-girlfriend says he threatened to have her killed

by Tim Whitmire
Knight-Ridder Tribune
January 6, 2001

CHARLOTTE, N.C. -- An ex-girlfriend testified today that Rae Carruth demanded she get an abortion after she became pregnant and threatened to have her killed if she refused.

The testimony, from Amber Turner, 21, of Colorado, came in the second day of the prosecution's rebuttal at Carruth's capital murder trial.

Turner said she ended the 1998 pregnancy with an abortion.

Prosecutors are seeking the death penalty for Carruth, 26, who is charged with arranging the November 1999 fatal shooting of Cherica Adams, who was eight months pregnant with his son.

The baby survived; Adams died a month later.

Defense lawyers battled fiercely to limit Turner's testimony or keep it out altogether, but prosecutors successfully argued that Turner would rebut the defense's claim that Carruth had no motive for masterminding the attack on Adams.

Turner told jurors that she began dating Carruth in late 1996, when she was a 17-year-old high school student and he was a senior at the University of Colorado.

She said Carruth gave her \$500 a month even before he was drafted by the Carolina Panthers in April 1997, telling her the money came from his family.

After he was taken in the first round of the NFL draft, she said, Carruth gave her \$15,000 and a new Lexus.

During this time, Turner said, Carruth repeatedly complained about paying child support for an out-of-wedlock son he had fathered in California. And she said he talked about having a paternity test to see if he really was the father of Rae Carruth Jr.

Turner said she moved to Charlotte with Carruth in the summer of 1997 and lived with him during his rookie season with the Panthers.

The pregnancy came the following spring, she said, after she spent five days in Charlotte with Carruth.

When she called Carruth and told him about the pregnancy, Turner said, his first response was, "You better be joking, you better be joking."

During a later conversation, Turner said Carruth told her, "You can't have no kids. I'm not going to have another kid with someone I'm not going to be with."

If she didn't have an abortion, she said, Carruth threatened, "I'll send somebody out there (to Colorado) to kill you. You know I'll do it."

Turner also read from an August letter Carruth wrote from jail that included a long list of statements he wanted her to repeat to police, including that he was upset at missing the birth of Rae Jr., and that he had talked about suing for custody of Rae Jr.

Under questioning by prosecutor Gentry Caudill, Turner said many of those statements were not true.

The morning session ended with defense lawyer David Rudolf beginning his cross-examination of Turner by focusing on an August telephone conversation in which Turner asked him if she should talk to police investigating Adams' death.

As Rudolf disputed Turner's account of the conversation and Turner argued with the defense lawyer, Superior Court Judge Charles Lamm repeatedly warned her not to volunteer information beyond the scope of Rudolf's questions.

After sending the jury out for their lunch break, he told prosecutors that Turner was close to putting Rudolf in a position where the lawyer could argue that he should become a witness in the case - a development that the judge said could force him to declare a mistrial.

Terrell says he'll exit early for draft

by Michael Rosenberg
Knight-Ridder Newspapers
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ANN ARBOR, Mich. - Michigan receiver David Terrell said Monday that he will forgo his senior season and enter the NFL draft.

Terrell, whose decision was expected, said he has received indications from the NFL that he will be the first receiver drafted, possibly the first player drafted. Terrell is expected to be at least a top-10 pick.

San Diego has the No. 1 pick, followed by Arizona and Cleveland. The Lions draft 18th. Terrell said he has no strong preference for a specific team.

"You really can't control that," he said. "I just want to make an instant impact."

Terrell said the decision was difficult because of his strong feelings for U-M. He has yet to choose an agent, although he said Lon Babby, Grant Hill's agent, is a strong possibility.

Terrell caught 67 passes for 1,130 yards and 14 touchdowns this season. The yardage total was the most by a receiver in school history. He is the first Wolverine to skip his fourth year since Charles Woodson, the No. 4 pick in the 1998 draft. Woodson

was taken by the Oakland Raiders.

Had Terrell stayed at Michigan, he likely would have ended his career with every important school receiving record. But he said the records and glory are not what he'll miss most.

"I'm probably going to miss just my friends, the neighborhood," he said. "Everything that was special to me in Ann Arbor."

Now that he's gone, he has another priority, for his mother, Barbara: "A big ol' house that she can get lost in." Terrell consulted with coach Lloyd Carr and receivers coach Erik (Soup) Campbell about the decision.

"I wanted him to make the best decision for him," Campbell said. "There are pros and cons to everything, and I would love to see Dave come back for his senior year. ... I wanted to make sure David is doing this for the right reasons. He's making his own decision."

Campbell admitted that for selfish reasons he wanted Terrell back, but that he didn't try to influence him.

"If I could be there for 10 years, Soup would have me for 10 years," Terrell said.

Terrell said he plans to train with Minnesota Vikings receiver Cris Carter before the draft; Carter is known for his rigorous off-season

workouts. Terrell also said he plans to take correspondence courses so he can stay on track for his degree.

Terrell is known for making big plays and big statements. His playful trash-talking sometimes overshadowed the fact that he was one of the team's hardest-working players.

"That's one thing he never shied away from is hard work," Campbell said. "He's a guy who demands to be pushed. He loves to be pushed and plays hard. He has worked hard."

Last week, quarterback Drew Henson said he would return for his senior season. Henson already has made more than \$1 million from his baseball career, but soon Terrell will sign a contract with a multimillion-dollar bonus.

"I can treat him for a change," Terrell cracked.

Bye, Buckeye: Ohio State cornerback Nate Clements said he is leaving school a year early to make himself available for the NFL draft. Clements started all 12 games this season, finishing with 68 tackles, four interceptions and a team-high 13 passes broken up. He also averaged 13.1 yards on punt returns. Clements is the second OSU underclassman to declare for the draft, joining defensive tackle Ryan Pickett.

Celtics have hit rock bottom

by Sam Smith
Chicago Tribune
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Rick Pitino resigned Monday. This is not news. Guys like Rick Pitino always resign - to go to something better, something different, something more lucrative, something to keep their name before the public.

There was just one loser this time as Pitino quit after about 3 1/2 seasons as coach and president of the Boston Celtics. The loser was the Celtics, once the most successful franchise in pro basketball and one of the elite names in professional sports.

Yankees, Packers, Canadiens, Celtics. These have been the franchises synonymous with success and domination in their sports. Pitino came to reclaim that heritage in the name of Red Auerbach, Bill Russell, Bob Cousy, Tom Heinsohn and Larry Bird.

He leaves, richer by the \$28 million he was paid the last four seasons while leaving the remainder of his \$50 million 10-year deal, though poorer for having allowed the legacy and reputation of the Celtics to sink even lower on his watch.

"It has been a great privilege to coach the greatest basketball tradition in sports," Pitino said in a statement Monday. "Top to bottom it is a first class franchise. Celtic legends have been a true inspiration to me. I wish we could have accomplished more between the lines."

Pitino never could, failing to make the playoffs. Matters only got worse this season with a team that clearly had tired of his constant threats to quit. Boston has lost six straight and 16-of-21 games since a 7-7 start. The Celtics, whom Pitino begged for defensive play, rank 26th in the NBA defensively, allowing 98.3 points per game.

Pitino, 48, is expected to be a candidate for a major college head coaching position. His longtime assistant, Jim O'Brien, takes over in Boston for the rest of the season. Former Celtics Dennis Johnson, Quinn Buckner, Rick Carlisle, Don Chaney and Paul Westphal and St. John's coach Mike Jarvis, have been speculated about as potential successors. But there's also the likelihood owner Paul Gaston will sell the team and a group headed by Bird would

come in to reshape the organization. It has a storied past. Eight straight NBA championships from 1959 through 1966, 11 in 13 years from 1957 through 1969, two more in the 1970s, three more in the 1980s. During that span, the line of succession went from Bill Russell to Dave Cowens to Larry Bird. And all of them had one thing in common: Auerbach acquired them through trades and draft day gambles.

Cowens was the fourth pick in the draft and Bird the sixth. Russell was acquired through a trade for Ed Macauley and the rights to Cliff Hagen and by getting Rochester, with the No. 1 pick, to pass. Rochester additionally was granted the Ice Capades in their arena to offset basketball losses.

The Celtics always seemed better and smarter than everyone else, special.

But once Auerbach's influence waned, so did the Celtics' on profes-

sional sports.

The Celtics haven't advance beyond the first round of the playoffs since the 1991-92 season. They haven't been to the conference finals for 13 years. Many of the NBA's top players today cannot recall the Celtics

Those tragedies, however, account for the succession of management blunders that again leaves the team heading toward still another rebuilding.

Auerbach was phased out in the late 1980s and Dave Gavitt took over in 1990.

The first big mistake was the 1992 signing of former All-Star Xavier McDaniel. Once a feared competitor and scorer, McDaniel's knee problems had limited him severely by then. But the Celtics made the common mistake of imagining a star

as he was, not as he is, and trying for a quick fix to remain competitive.

When that wasn't working, they compounded the mistake by signing another aging former star, Dominique Wilkins. He left after a troubled season for Europe. Then the Celtics invested big in European star Dino Radja, who never fit well and returned to Europe.

At the same time, the drafts, which once brought the likes of Bird, Cowens, Sam Jones, John Havlicek, McHale, Westphal and JoJo White, were coming up dry.

There was Dee Brown and Acie Earl with top 20 picks and Eric Montross with a top 10 pick.

And then came Pitino, the boy wonder who had 15 winning seasons in 17 years of coaching, turning around programs at Boston University and Providence, winning an NCAA title at Kentucky and having a successful two-year stint in the NBA with the Knicks. Always seemingly in demand, he said his

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-Rick Pitino, former coach and president of the Boston Celtics.

ever being a serious NBA contender. Kobe Bryant was 8 the last time the Celtics went to the NBA Finals.

Many trace the decline of the Celtics to the drug overdose death of Maryland star Len Bias in 1986. Bias had been the No. 2 pick in the NBA draft and the Celtics had perhaps their best team ever, their final championship team with Bird, Kevin McHale and Robert Parish. Bias was to be the star in the line of succession from Bird.

It again was Auerbach who maneuvered to get Bias, having traded Gerald Henderson in 1984 to get the draft pick for him.

But Bias died and then, when developing star Reggie Lewis died of heart failure after the 1992-93 season after averaging more than 20 points for the second straight year, the Celtics tragically had lost two of the young stars they expected to lead them through the 1990s.