

## Hanratty gets axe

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The Pittsburgh Steelers waived veteran quarterback Terry Hanratty yesterday to meet the 43-player roster limit established by the National Football League.

Four other rookies were waived, three players were placed on the injured reserve list, and two rookies were traded for undisclosed draft choices.

Hanratty, a Butler, Pa., native, was drafted second from Notre Dame in 1969; coach Chuck Noll's first year with the Steelers. Hanratty (old reporters he was optimistic he would be picked up by another club within the 24-hour waiver period.

The shaggy-haired, affable quarterback spent most of his time charting plays on the

sidelines, only playing one game in 1975 and only playing briefly in three preseason games this year.

The seven-year veteran played in 42 regular season games, starting 17 of them. He completed 159 of 417 passes for 24 touchdowns and 34 interceptions.

The Steelers are left with two quarterbacks, two-time Super Bowl winner Terry Bradshaw and rookie Mike Kruczek from Boston College, who has shown surprising ability during the preseason.

Also waived were wide receiver Freddie Douglas from Arkansas, linebackers Charles Hunt from Florida State and Jim Rosecrans from Penn State, and defensive end Edward McAleney from Massachusetts.

Wide receiver Bob Gaddis from Mississippi Valley and defensive tackle Ron Coder from Penn State were traded to Buffalo and Seattle, respectively, for undisclosed draft choices.

## Colts may boycott for head coach

# Marchibroda situation still up in air

BALTIMORE (AP) — The Baltimore Colts, clearly demoralized by the sudden resignation of Head Coach Ted Marchibroda, discussed a possible boycott at a players' meeting yesterday as assistant coaches reportedly considered resigning and one city official warned of a possible "rebellion of the fans."

"Ted's done a hell of a thing. He's a man of principle, a man of reason, and it's a sad thing that he has to sit out a year because he has one of the greatest coaching abilities and one of the greatest rapport that any man can have with people," said quarterback Bert Jones after a closed players' meeting yesterday morning.

Jones, who acted as spokesman for his teammates after the meeting, refused to say whether the players had taken any vote or made any decision on a boycott. He said the team would meet again later yesterday with General Manager Joe Thomas.

Marchibroda, a native of Franklin, Pa., was berated by Colt owner Robert Irsay and

stymied in his efforts to make personnel judgements. He resigned his post Sunday after failing to extract a promise there would be no more "front-office interference."

The move by the National Football League's 1975 Coach of the Year, just one week before the start of a new season, shocked local fans and destroyed the harmony of a team that rebounded from a 2-12 season last year to win the Eastern Division championship.

At least two assistant coaches, defensive coordinator Maxie Baughn and offensive line coach Whitey Dovell, were reported to be considering their own resignations yesterday.

Questioned by reporters as he emerged from one series of meetings Thomas held yesterday afternoon with members of the Colts organization, Dovell would only say that he would be back at the training camp today.

He said Thomas was discussing a major question but that reporters' questions about

it were off the mark.

Asked if he would be at practice today, Baughn said he wouldn't be there and added, "But I don't expect any of the coaches will be there. Man, it's very frustrating."

He said he was optimistic that Marchibroda will return to the Colts. "I know that's what the players want. I know that's what the coaches want," Baughn said. "I hope that's what Joe Thomas wants."

Jones suggested that the best solution to the matter would be an intervention by NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle. Jones said a club owner shouldn't be able to use a team as a playing field.

City Comptroller Hyman Pressman agreed. He fired off a telegram to Rozelle urging him "to use your good office to prevent a catastrophe. Head Coach Marchibroda is held in extremely high esteem and there is danger of rebellion by the fans as well as the players."

About 30 players met at the team's suburban training camp Sunday night after Marchibroda arrived back from a six-hour meeting with Irsay and Thomas aboard Irsay's yacht in Milwaukee.

The players, who rallied around Marchibroda when Irsay lashed into the coach following a fourth straight exhibition loss in Detroit last Thursday, declined comment then on what they might do and only Jones spoke with reporters after yesterday morning's meeting.

The quarterback said the main feeling expressed during the meeting was one of hope there was some way Marchibroda could return. Jones conceded, however, that the chance of that appeared slim "because I doubt the management is smart enough or courageous enough."

Jones said the players no longer respect the owner and the management of the Colts, but added a boycott would be a particularly difficult decision because many players can't afford such a move financially.

"I could do that," Jones explained. "But I can't tell a Ken Mendenhall who has a brand new baby girl, a new house that he has just built, 'go home and don't play football.' People like this can't afford to do this."

Jones, however, who has been particularly close to the 45-year old Marchibroda, made it clear he might act on his own.

"I know I can play in this league; I know I can play in other places," he said. "I'd hate to let down 42 other men that are on this ball club. But I'll have to go home and talk to my daddy and brother and lawyer and figure out what is the right thing to do."

The quarterback, the son of W.A. "Dub" Jones, a former wide receiver and coach with Cleveland, added the only reason the Colts won the division championship last year was "solid coaching." Without that, he continued, the Colts wouldn't have done what they did and won't be able to repeat the feat.

"And if I were a fan, I wouldn't go out there now and pay \$10 to see this bunch of renegades. I wouldn't do it. Matter of fact, I would like to ask them not to do it," Jones said. "I think something has to be done. I think the arbitrary action that has taken place here... there's a finite point; there's a breaking point. I'm not so sure this is it, but by golly, what is?"

In a prepared statement released Sunday night in Baltimore, Marchibroda said his players "don't deserve the internal bickering that has existed here between the coach and management."

"Any coach, in order to lead his men, must have the authority to call the shots. I couldn't tolerate the interference I was getting. The situation started at the end of last season."

As a rookie head coach last year, Marchibroda took over a team which had posted consecutive 5-9, 4-10 and 2-12 records, and directed it to the division championship with a 10-4 mark.

He immediately earned the respect not only of his players but local fans, many of whom strongly sided with Marchibroda in discussing the resignation with Baltimore reporters. One picket turned up outside the Colts training camp early yesterday morning, carrying a sign that read: "Put Joe Thomas and 'Jirksay' on waivers."

The resignation also surprised other NFL coaches, including Washington's George Allen, under whom Marchibroda worked nine years.

"It's too bad because he's a good coach and a fine person," Allen said. "Ted is a close friend. He's a good coach and I think the Baltimore Colts are the real losers in this.

## It's another wild scramble in NFC East

DALLAS (AP) — There's new intrigue this year in the National Conference Eastern Division which saw the Dallas Cowboys play a wild card into Super Bowl X in 1975.

Washington's George Allen dug deep into the Redskins treasury to purchase a million-dollar backfield in John Riggins, formerly of the New York Jets, and World Football League refugee Calvin Hill, formerly of the Cowboys.

For added spice, Allen wooed Cowboy tight end Jean Fugett plus a dozen other assorted free agents. He also acquired discontented Miami safety Jake Scott and controversial defensive end John Matusak from Kansas City.

"We've made more progress in the off-season than any team in football," Allen proclaimed after the off-season wheeling and dealing.

The New York Giants signed three-time 1,000-yard rusher Larry Czonka, formerly Miami Dolphins and the Memphis Southmen of the WFL.

Coach Bill Arnsparger, calling his club a growing contender, will unleash his rebuilding team in the new 5,500-seat Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J., just

across the Hudson River from Manhattan.

The downtrodden Philadelphia Eagles employed a new coach, Dick Vermeil, who directed UCLA to a shocking Rose Bowl upset of Ohio State.

Vermeil, only 39, showed he had a sense of humor when he announced, "I wouldn't be here if it was going to be easy; all the good jobs are taken."

Dallas involved itself in the intrigue by taking a long look at once-moody Duane Thomas, who left the team in anger five years ago. But Thomas' comeback attempt ended in failure when he was among the Cowboys' final cuts.

Dallas had a stormy training camp with quarterback Roger Staubach and backup Clint Longley going "Two rounds." Longley has since been traded. Danny White, formerly with Memphis in the World football League, has moved in as a strong backup performer.

The St. Louis Cardinals, who will be trying for their third consecutive NFC title, would like to repeat and to win a playoff game for a change.

The Cardinals moved to shore up a porous defense

with the selection of Arizona tackle Mike Dawson in the first round and obtained tackle Walt Patulski from Buffalo.

Coach Don Coryell also shipped cornerback Tim Grey to Kansas City for defensive tackle Marvin Upshaw and safety Mike Sensibaugh.

Dallas was professional football's surprise team of 1975 with a 10-4 regular season ledger; a last-second upset of Minnesota on Staubach's desperation pass to Drew Pearson; a 37-7 NFC title rout of Los Angeles; and a 21-17 loss to the strong Pittsburgh Steelers in the Super Bowl.

"We are still a rebuilding team and we may have trouble surprising people the way we did last year," Landry said.

Landry will again polish off his "shotgun" or "spread" formation on obvious passing downs.

"I believe we can be more effective with it this year because we will have a good idea of what the defense plans to do against us," Landry said.

Allen, the old Redskin fox, has been tampering with the shotgun formation himself with Billy Kilmer and Joe Theismann at the controls.

"We have a chance to have the best balanced squad in the five years I've been here if the new talent comes through," said Allen, who needs only three victories to become the NFL's 11th coach in the 100-victory club.

Only the aging Washington defense is suspect, surrendering 20, 26, 30, 27, 31 and 26 points down the stretch last year as the Redskins lost four of their last six games.

The Washington offense has been less than devastating in the preseason but Riggins said, "We have a big engine here. It's just a matter of getting it tuned up."

St. Louis' wide open offense gobbled up 2,507 yards of real estate last year as quar-

terback Jim Hart threw 19 touchdown passes. But the defense yielded 32 touchdowns at an average of almost 20 points per game.

The Eagles have quarterback problems with Roman Gabriel's bad knee putting the load on Mike Boryla. They have a top corps of receivers in tight end Charles Young and Harold Carmichael.

The defense again will be fiery, headed by free safety Bill Bradley.

The Giants are lacking defensively and play a tough schedule with seven games against 1975 playoff teams, boasting a combined 72-26 ledger.

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