

Marchibroda back at helm

BALTIMORE (AP) — Ted Marchibroda was rehired as coach of the Baltimore Colts yesterday, ending a two-day confrontation between players and assistant coaches on one side and the National Football League club's top officials on the other.

In a brief statement to reporters at the team's St. Marys seminary training camp, Marchibroda said he had been given "full control of football matters" on the Colts and that his contract, due to expire at the end of the 1977 season, had been extended another year.

"But the prime thing is not that Ted Marchibroda is back," the coach said. "It's that the team is united and ready to play football."

He refused to answer questions or elaborate on what he meant by "full control." General Manager Joe Thomas also declined to elaborate on the matter.

Marchibroda, NFL Coach of the Year last season for directing the Colts to a 10-4 record

and the American Conference Eastern Division title, had announced his resignation Sunday because of what he said was interference in running the ball club on the field from Thomas and Robert Irsay, the team owner.

The action came after Irsay, who purchased the club in 1972 and suffered through three miserable seasons before the 1975 turnaround, stormed into the Colts' locker room after a pre-season loss to Detroit and berated both the players and Marchibroda.

When Marchibroda announced he was quitting, the players, led by quarterback Bert Jones and running back back Lydell Mitchell, joined in support of their coach and called on Thomas and Irsay to bring him back.

At least two assistant coaches, defensive coordinator Maxie Baughan and offensive line coach Whitey Dowell, hinted they would quit if Marchibroda was not rehired.

A statement issued by the Colts said Marchibroda's rehiring was a "mutual agreement of all parties involved" — the coach, Thomas and Irsay.

"It was a mutual agreement and it wasn't easy," Irsay said in an interview from the Skokie, Ill., office of his air conditioning company.

'Skins favored over Cowboys for crown

NEW YORK (AP) — When last we wrote of preseason picks, we wrote off the Dallas Cowboys. So much for genius.

The National Football League's three National Conference divisions shape up as one down-to-the-wire scramble, one race that'll be decided when the front runners hit the home stretch, and one Secretariat runaway.

In the East, the Cowboys, as conference champions, are the team to beat. The St. Louis Cardinals, as division champions, are another team to beat.

And the Washington Redskins, their running game back in high gear, are the team to beat them ... and the team which will do just that.

The Central Division still belongs to the Minnesota Vikings, as it has in seven of the past eight seasons. With a defense that chews up intruders like dogs at a flea market, the Vikes can turn aside anything the perennial runner-up Detroit Lions have to offer.

And in the West, the Los Angeles Rams, so used to running away from three other teams the past few years, will get a chance to run away from four this time as the Seattle Seahawks join the also-ran list.

Fourteen games from now, as three division winners and one wild card team like the Cowboys last year line up to run the gauntlet to Super Bowl XI, here's how the NFC's 14 teams will line up:

EAST DIVISION
Washington Redskins
Dallas Cowboys
St. Louis Cardinals
New York Giants
Philadelphia Eagles

CENTRAL DIVISION
Minnesota Vikings
Detroit Lions
Green Bay Packers
Chicago Bears

WEST DIVISION
Los Angeles Rams
San Francisco 49ers
Atlanta Falcons

New Orleans Saints
Seattle Seahawks

With the arrival of John Riggins and Calvin Hill and the rejuvenation of Larry Brown, Washington Coach George Allen may have more running backs than he knows what to do with. All coaches should have such problems, right?

It was the lack of a really dependable running game that killed the 'Skins a few times last year. The running is more than back. And when you add in Riggins' and Brown's capabilities as pass receivers, the offense becomes even more potent.

And that doesn't include the passing game generated by the guys whose primary jobs are to catch the ball, mainly Frank Grant, Jerry Smith & Co. The deliveries will come from Billy Kilmer ... or Joe Theismann if injuries and age take their toll.

The defense is made up of a lot of the same old faces — Allen loves old faces — and with the increased of-

fense, the defense will get more rest and do a better job.

The Cowboys are an old team in a few key spots, and they've appeared downright shoddy at times in exhibitions. They won't collapse, but they will fade a bit. In other words, we're writing them off again.

The Vikings happen to be one of the best defensive teams in the league. Last year they were the best, against both the pass and the run. That doesn't leave much else, except for a lot of punting.

And with a pass-run offense built so strongly around elusive Fran Tarkenton, versatile Chuck Foreman and a steady if not spectacular supporting cast, they'll be hard to beat.

Los Angeles' big problem starts with the 15th game, namely the playoffs. Getting there will be a breeze with the stampede of running backs like Lawrence McCutcheon, Jim Bertelsen, John Cappelletti, Cullen Bryant and friends.

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"NAUGHTY MARIETTA"
by Victor Herbert
starring Cyril Ritchard
Cyril Ritchard, well known British actor, plays the dual role of narrator and Lieutenant Governor in this semi-staged, lavishly costumed production of one of Victor Herbert's most beloved operettas.

Saturday, Jan. 15
RUDOLF SERKIN, pianist

Saturday, Feb. 5
LENINGRAD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Saturday, Mar. 19
STUTTGART CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

Friday, Apr. 15
PITTSBURGH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Andre Previn, Musical Director
Donald Johanos, conducting
Barry Tuckwell, french horn

SEASON TICKET INFORMATION

There is only one performance of each of these events.

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Monday-Friday

For information: 865-1871

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★"EQUUS"
by Peter Shaffer (for mature audiences)

Saturday, Dec. 4
THE YOUNG VIC
"The Taming of the Shrew"
Directed by Frank Dunlop

Saturday, Apr. 16
PITTSBURGH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Andre Previn, Musical Director
Donald Johanos, conducting
Barry Tuckwell, french horn

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Thurs. Mar. 17
"Shenandoah", The New Musical
1975 Tony award winning musical
Prices: Student/Child/S.C. - \$5.00, 4.00, 3.00
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These performances sold ONLY as individual tickets. Please check your local news media for specific sale dates or telephone the Artists Series, (814)-865-1871.

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Friday, Jan. 21
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Thursday, Feb. 10
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Film series tickets will be on sale also at the Hub booth during normal sales hours starting September.