

O.J. back with Buffalo

BUFFALO (AP) — O.J. Simpson returned yesterday to the Buffalo Bills, the team he wanted to forsake for his native California. And Bills owner Ralph C. Wilson said the all-pro running back will be in uniform tonight when Buffalo opens its National Football League season in a nationally televised game here against Miami. In fact, Simpson was scheduled to workout with the team last night. Simpson reached "a long-term understanding during two days of talks on the West Coast," Wilson said. The agreement reportedly was in the form of three one-year contracts, but the club declined to disclose any details. Simpson had had two years and an option year left on his old contract. Simpson's new contract is worth \$900,000 a year plus fringe benefits according to NBC's Grandstand program.

"The important thing is that O.J. is coming back to Buffalo and will finish his professional career with the Bills," Wilson said in a statement. "Mr. Wilson showed a genuine concern about my departure from football," Simpson said in a statement issued by the club. "He assured me he made every effort to make a trade but, failing that, the important thing was for me to stay in the game." The former Heisman Award winner from Southern California had asked last June 12 to be traded to the Los Angeles Rams because of family and business considerations. Wilson said he engaged in three months of intense negotiations with the Rams but no agreement could be reached before the last Wednesday's 4 p.m. trading deadline. "We talked at great length Friday and I picked him up on Saturday for some further talks," said Simpson. "Considering all of our conversations, looking over what Mr. Wilson had in mind and what we want to secure for the future of the family, Marguerite and I decided it would be best for us if I went back to football. "I never wanted to leave the game and I felt bad about not being able to play with the fellows."

Tough weekend on college polls

Football kicks off with upsets

By the Ap
What's new in the wacky world of college football this week? Would you believe the Top Ten? How about the entire Top 20? Oh, it wasn't quite that bad, but a glance at the weekend's incredible rash of upsets might lead one to believe that Ohio State's Woody Hayes is the only sane voice left in the game ... and Woody's not talking. It all began Thursday night when No. 17 UCLA upset third ranked Arizona State before a national television audience. And it continued for real Saturday when top-rated Nebraska was held to a 6-6 standoff by unheralded Louisiana State while sixth-ranked Alabama, No. 7 Texas and No. 8 Southern California all suffered defeats in their opening games. Joining them in the losers' column were No. 11 Notre Dame, No. 15 California, No. 18 Florida and No. 20 Miami, Ohio. Arizona State, Notre Dame and California at least had an excuse for losing — they bowed to other ranked teams. Notre Dame bade farewell to Pitt's Tony Dorsett by "holding" him to 181 yards rushing as the ninth-ranked Panthers handed the Irish their first opening-game setback in 13 years, 31-10. And California wasted a 379-yard aerial display by Joe Roth, blew a 24-12 lead and dropped a 36-24 slugfest to No. 16 Georgia. LSU, sentenced to a second-division Southeastern Conference finish by the "experts," surrendered an early touchdown for Nebraska and then tied the Cornhuskers on a pair of field goals by Mike Conway. Conway narrowly missed a 44-yarder in the final minute. McLendon's Bayou Bengals made a

prophet of Nebraska coach Tom Osborne, who had said there were a dozen or so teams capable of winning the national championship. "The pollsters were the ones who put us No. 1," Osborne said. And the pollsters undoubtedly will waste little time in removing the Cornhuskers from their exalted position. Jeff Logan, Ohio State's tail back successor to Archie Griffin, scored three times and had a fourth touchdown nullified by a penalty as the fourth-ranked Buckeyes trounced Michigan State 49-21. Hayes, who has few kind words when the Buckeyes lose and not many more when they win, skipped the post-game news conference, sending two assistants instead. However, he did issue a statement through the Ohio State publicity department. "For an opener, our first unit played very well," Hayes' statement said. "They didn't make many mistakes. They kept the pressure on." Gee, Woody has a way with words, doesn't he? Alabama dropped a 10-7 decision to Mississippi, Texas lost 14-13 to Boston College, Southern Cal got trounced 46-25 by Missouri, Florida lost 24-21 to North Carolina and Miami of Ohio dropped a 21-16 decision to Marshall. Alabama, guilty of crucial turnovers via interceptions and fumbles, absorbed its first SEC loss since 1972 in bowing to Ole Miss. Freshman Hoppy Langley kicked the winning 34-yard field goal in the fourth period. "We lost this game two weeks ago ... on preparation," said Crimson Tide Coach Bear Bryant, "but I don't want to take anything away from Ole Miss."

Neil Green sprinted 74 yards for a touchdown to give Boston College a 14-0 lead, and the Eagles hung on to beat Texas. Texas' Russell Erxleben missed a 53-yard field goal, which would have won the game, as time ran out. Missouri, which upset Alabama in the first game of the 1975 season, turned the trick again conclusively against Southern Cal. Tiger tailback Curtis Brown ran a kickoff 95 yards for a touchdown and scored two more times against the error-prone Trojans. In other games involving the Top 20 teams, No. 2 Michigan drubbed Wisconsin 40-27, fifth-ranked Oklahoma downed Vanderbilt 24-3, 10th-ranked Penn State beat Stanford 15-12, No. 12 Maryland downed Richmond 31-7, 13th-ranked Arkansas beat Utah State 33-16, 14th-rated Texas A&M shutout Virginia Tech 19-0, and No. 19 Kansas clipped Washington State 35-16. Michigan, making a run at the No. 1 spot, got three touchdowns from tailback Harlan Huckleby and a TD pass from quarterback Rich Leach to pummel Wisconsin in a Big Ten game. Defending national champion Oklahoma, which has lost only one game in the past three years, scored three times in the second half under the guidance of quarterback Dean Blevins, and the Sooners held Vanderbilt to a second-period field goal. Mark Manges threw two touchdown passes and rallied Maryland over Richmond, which had taken a 7-0 lead in the second quarter. Arkansas halfback Ben Cowins ran for the final touchdown and kept alive another scoring drive with a 21-yard run on third-and-19 to boost the Razorbacks past Utah.

Lauda's return highlights Prix

MONZA, Italy (AP) — Swede Ronnie Peterson won his third Grand Prix of Italy Formula 1 auto race yesterday but defending champion Niki Lauda of Austria, making a comeback six weeks after a near-fatal crash, took the spotlight by placing fourth and extending his lead in the world driver's championship. It was a dramatic edition of the race, for Lauda's performance and yet another controversy which ripped through the field of starters shortly before the race. Lauda's only competitor for the title, James Hunt of Britain, was charged with having used hyped gasoline in Saturday's official tests and dropped to the tail end of the starting line. Also charged and penalized were Hunt's fellow McLaren driver Jochen Mass of West Germany and John Watson of Ireland, driving an American built Penske.

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