Race or retire for Slew

NEW YORK (AP) — The plans laid out for Seattle Slew's assault on the Triple Crown have been carried out to perfection. Now the unbeaten colt finds himself in the option phase of his career.

'We're keeping all options open,'' said Dr. Jim Hill, the veterinarian who is half-owner of Slew. In the aftermath of the 3-year-old's Belmont Stakes victory that made him the first unbeaten Triple Crown champion, Hill mentioned two options:

- Race Seattle Slew in the Aug. 20 Travers and in some events this fall, then retire him to stud.

- Rest him for a fall campaign and

race him again as a 4-year-old. "You don't get a horse like this very often," said trainer Billy Turner who has expertly guided Seattle Slew through nine victories. "If you enjoy horse racing, when you get one you run it.'

"We'll run him as a 4-year-old if he's sound," co-owner Mickey Taylor said Saturday in the heady atmosphere of the winner's press conference. The Slew races in the black and yellow silks of Taylor's wife Karen.

But in the early morning sunshine and relative inactivity around the champion's Belmont Park barn yesterday, Hill said, "There will be time to commit him. I'd say that would be late September or before.

'We'll either have to commit him to racing or to stud. All the breeders make plans in September and if we don't commit him then, we'd miss a season."

Figures as high as \$14 million have been mentioned as a syndication price. However, Hill said he would like to keep Slew "because then we'd still have some

NEW YORK (AP) — BONG: . . . and

all of a sudden the defensive lineman is

seven yards behind you, dancing on your

than-lucky offensive lineman ex-

periences. It comes compliments of the

head slap, a crisp pop delivered to the

side of the helmet by the defensive

That trick may become a thing of the

The National Football League owners

begin meeting tomorrow with the head

slap one of the primary topics of discussion, along with the site of 1979's

Super Bowl XIII and possible free agent

It's almost a letdown from previous

years, when strike fears, contract

hassles and name-calling cluttered the

agenda. It's even a letdown from the

meetings of a few months ago in

Phoenix, when the league expanded the

regular season from 14 to 16 games by

cutting the exhibitions from six to four

and adding two wild-card playoff teams.

issues as the head slap will have football

observers less-than-breathless this time

What the league owners hope to do by

eliminating that defensive tactic - if

they, in fact, vote that way — is to open

That's why such less-than-momentous

That, in essence, is what your less-

quarterback's face.

past in the next few days.

lineman.

compensation.

Taming of defensive linemen

gets top billing at NFL meeting

what you want to.'

As for Slew's racing career, at least this year, some intriguing questions that can be answered include: Can he run on the grass? How would he stack up against Forego, three-time Horse of the Year?

"I don't know why we wouldn't run him on the grass," said Turner. "The first outstanding performance he put in was on the grass at Saratoga as a 2-yearold. That was a workout."

In the matter of a showdown with Forego, Turner said, "When you meet a horse like that you have to be good. It's only good if both horses are good at the same time. Slew proved Saturday he could do everything a man asked him

Two possible meeting places for Slew and Forego — a match race is a remote possibility — are the 11/8-mile Woodward Handicap on Sept. 17 and the 11/4-mile Marlboro Cup Handicap on Oct. 1. Both are at Belmont Park.

Racing Secretary Tommy Trotter had assigned Seattle Slew 119 pounds for the one-mile Metropolitan Handicap on May 30, a race for which he was nominated but not entered. Forego won the Met under 133 pounds. If and when the two leading thoroughbred stars meet, they

certainly will carry higher weights. In the light of Seattle Slew's historymaking triumph, the probing continued tomorrow for a comparison of the colt

with great 3-year-olds of the past. Turner, put on the spot often in the last several weeks, said, "I think the runningest 3-year-old I ever saw in my life

up the offense just a bit more by keeping

the oncharging lineman away from the

Super Bowl XII is going to the

Superdome in New Orleans next Jan. 15.

That city is bidding for the next one, too,

as are the Dallas Cotton Bowl, Houston

Rice Stadium, Los Angeles Memorial

Coliseum, Miami Orange Bowl, Seattle

Kingdome and Pasadena, Calif. Rose

Bowl, scene of Oakland's Super Bowl XI

Compensation is a sticky issue facing

the club owners, some of whose widely

divergent views depend on whether they

The issue involves the period after the

Rozelle Rule was ruled illegal but before

In that period, for example, the New

York Jets lost running back John

Riggins to the Washington Redskins and

got nothing in return. Conversely, the New York Giants signed former Miami

running back Larry Csonka but gave

Many coaches and owners expressed

their view in Phoenix that since the

signings were done illegally at the time

such signings now would require com-

pensation under a formula laid out in the

contract, they should stand without

stand to gain or lose players.

nothing to the Dolphins.

compensation.

the current contract was signed.

passer for a fraction longer.

thoughts on what kind of mares he should go to. But you can't always do destroyed after shattering an ankle during a match race with the colt Foolish Pleasure."

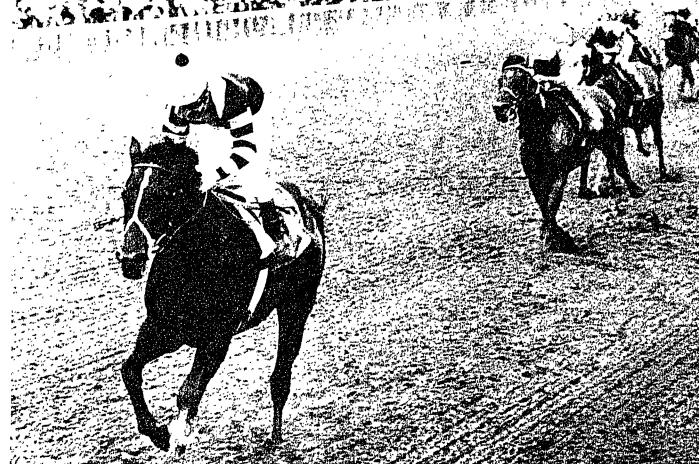
"This horse Slew has the same pattern and the same style. But I believe this horse is easier on himself and therefore more durable.

Naturally, Turner was asked about Secretariat, the 1973 Triple Crown winner who set an American record time of 2:24 for 11/2 miles when he won the Belmont by a record 31 lengths.

'Of course Secretariat was a great horse," he said, but added, "This horse can run Secretariat. He's a better sprinter than Secretariat."

Seattle Slew won the one-mile Champagne last year in 1:342-5, the fastest time in the 105-year history of the race; opened this year with a Hialeah track record of 1:203-5 in a seven-furlong allowance race, and posted the fastest first mile, 1:344-5, in 102 runnings of the Preakness.

But his time for the 11/2 miles of the \$181,800 Belmont was a routine 2:293-5 on a muddy track before a crowd of 70,229. His fractions were a first half in 483-5, three quarters in 1:14, a mile in 1:384-5 and 11/4 miles in 2:034-5, which was 13-5 seconds slower than he ran the 11/4 mile Kentucky Derby.



Seattle Slew outdistances the field in Saturday's Belmont race that made him the first unbeaten Triple Crown winner.

Personal interest outweighs team loyalty

Salary demands corner baseball owners

By DON HOPEY **Assistant Sports Editor**

(This is the second in a four-part series on major league

baseball's new player reserve system). In the years following the 1972 Curt Flood decision,

the Major League Players Association (MLPA), under the direction of Marvin Miller, and the Commissioner Bowie Kuhn and the club owners clashed over many other isues, but the reserve clause was always in the background.

Then, in December of 1975, Andy Messersmith, a pitcher for the Los Angeles Dodgers, and Dave McNally, a pitcher from the Montreal Expos, were declared free agents by arbitrator Peter Seitz after playing out the option year of their 1974 contracts. On the owners' appeal, the U.S. District Court in Kansas City, and then the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals in St. Louis, upheld Seitz' ruling and suggested the owners and players negotiate a settlement of the issue out of

But court order or no court order, the owners continued to argue that they must have control of players for life in order to keep salaries, and expenses from going too high and to preserve competitive balance. Implicit in their position was the opinion that: "we are the owners and we know what is best for baseball."

The players answered by saying, in effect, that times being what they were, twentieth century and all, slavery had a bad odor.

After more than five months of the owners acting with all the inflexibility of plantation owners in the waning days of the Civil War, a settlement was reached. The owners accepted the terms of surrender as outlined by Marvin Miller, executive director of the players association, to John Gaherin, the negotiator for the owners, on July 24, 1976.

Miller, in a recent telephone conversation, explained the basics of the new agreement. "If a player signed for the 1976 season before August 9 of that year, he can become a free agent by playing the current 1977 season unsigned.

"In regard to current contracts signed after Aug. 9,

1976," Miller said, "and this covers most of them, a Angels and some other clubs have not been able to player with six years major league experience can become a free agent simply by notifying his club in writing after the season is over and there is no option year or advance notice necessary.

'Furthermore,' Miller said, "a player with five years of major league experience can demand to be traded at the end of his fifth year and may list a maximum of six clubs he doesn't want to be traded to. If his club fails to trade him by the following March 15, he becomes a free agent.'

Under another provision of the agreement, there will be no compensation given clubs whose players play out their option year in 1977. Teams that have players becoming free agents under the six-year veteran rule after the 1977 season will be compensated, however, by receiving extra picks in the June draft of high school and college players.

What all this means is not yet certain, except that the players have been reaping longer and more lucrative contracts. Some baseball executives — men like Clark Griffith in Minnesota and Bing Devine in St. Louis are still fighting the new wave but most are finding it easier to be swept along. "It's a revolution, but what can you do about it?" said

Gabe Paul, New York Yankee general manager, just before the season started. "You can't look back and say shouldn't have happened. We're paying now for previous inaction. The only question now is how you're going to live with it." The Yankees are paying for it, all right, and Paul

seems to be living with it well enough. He's put Reggie Jackson, Don Gullett and, earlier, Catfish Hunter, in Yankee pinstripes via the free agent route and thanks to. the club's board of multi-millionaire directors.

Reds, have taken a different approach.

According to Larry Shenk, director of publicity and best interests." public relations for the Phillies, "We'll try to compete WEDNESDAY: The increase in player salaries and for free agents, but with some common sense. The what it's costing baseball.

produce the talent in their own organizations so they have to go out and buy it. We spend \$2.5 million a year on player development right now but there's not much sense in it if they can leave you in five years."

Sheldon "Chief" Bender, director of player personnel for the Reds, says his team doesn't want to enter the free agent market. "There's still some player loyalty on the Reds, but if we can't satisfy players after five or six years then we feel we must develop our own talent," he said. We've moved from five to six minor league clubs (the most in the majors along with Pittsburgh and St. Louis). Bender thinks the players are confused about the big \(\)

money given out by some ballclubs. "It's all been done by men who haven't been brought up in baseball," he said, "who have gotten into it recently with their big money. The old baseball families like the Howsams (Cincinnati), Griffiths (Minnesota) and Devines (St, Louis) are trying to hold the line."

"I've been around baseball since my childhood with my father and with my grandfather before that and I've never seen such a period of turmoil in the sport," said Branch B. Rickey, assistant director of player operations for the Pirates and bearer of a revered, baseball hame.

"Financially, it could be disastrous," he said. "With the rapid increase in salaries the money has to come from somewhere and we can reduce operating expenses only so far and for so long. The American League teams have shown a willingness to pay, while the National League has been more stable, but it doesn't matter. The free agents pass on the benefits to players of like ability all over the majors.'

And according to Rickey, team loyalty is a thing of the past. "Oh, there's tremendous team loyalty," He Some clubs, including the Philadelphia Phillies, said. "You pay me enough and I'll be loyal. And that's Pittsburgh Pirates and world champion Cincinnati no assignment of blame. It's just a question of common sense and survival. The players' loyalty is to their own

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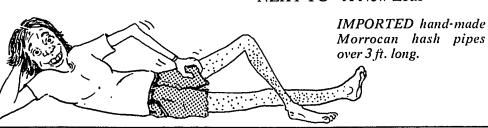
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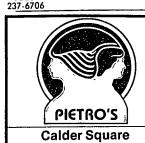
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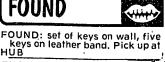
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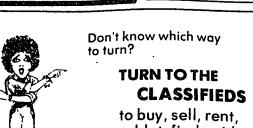
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