



Posted on Tue, Apr. 29, 2003

NEWS AND NOTES

Five former UK players sign free-agent deals

WIRE, SPECIAL REPORTS

Five undrafted Wildcat football players have signed free-agent contracts with NFL teams, the University of Kentucky announced yesterday.

The players and their new teams: wide receiver Aaron Boone, Dallas Cowboys; free safety Quentus Cumby, Green Bay Packers; defensive end Otis Grigsby, Miami Dolphins; punter Glenn Pakulak, Seattle Seahawks; and cornerback Derrick Tatum, Tennessee Titans.

Around the league

Redskins: Iowa quarterback Brad Banks, the national player of the year and Heisman Trophy runner-up, was one of 12 undrafted free agents signed yesterday by Washington.

Despite his gaudy numbers in college, Banks wasn't considered a top NFL prospect, mainly because he's just 5-foot-11. Coach Steve Spurrier said he envisions Banks running a lot of shotgun and bootleg in training camp and exhibition games.

"He's obviously a player you move around a bit," Spurrier said. "We thought Brad would give us a change of pace."

Browns: Georgetown College offensive lineman Reese Hicks signed a free-agent contract with Cleveland.

Bengals: Cincinnati waived backup quarterback Joe Germaine, leaving the team with three quarterbacks on the roster: Jon Kitna, the holdover starter; backup Akili Smith; and Carson Palmer, whom the Bengals signed last week and picked No. 1 overall in the draft.

Buccaneers: Tampa Bay released quarterbacks Shane Matthews and Greg Zolman just two days after drafting Chris Simms of Texas. Simms, the 97th pick in Saturday's draft, will probably be the fourth quarterback on the defending Super Bowl champions, behind starter Brad Johnson and backups Shaun King and Jim Miller.

Dolphins: Quarterback Ray Lucas was released yesterday by Miami, a move that had been expected after he struggled filling in for injured starter Jay Fiedler last season.

Eagles: Three-time Pro Bowl safety Brian Dawkins signed a seven-year contract extension with Philadelphia. Terms of the deal weren't immediately known. Dawkins was entering the final year of a contract, and could have become an unrestricted free agent after the 2003 season.

Titans: Tennessee signed undrafted Washington State quarterback Jason Gesser as a free agent.