GOTHAM GOLF GET-OFF — Lee Elder, PGA tour golfer from Washington, D.C., tips Mayor Abraham Beame on gripping club as latter launches New York City's first metropolitan golf tournament. Women's pro Helen Finn (right) looks on. Tourney will extend from July 8th to August 25th on local public courses, in classifications of junior, senior, men and women amateurs, and will conclude in grand finals at LaTourette Club on Staten Island, Sept. 7-8, 14-15.

Cleveland Browns move to discard Leroy Kelly

CLEVELAND (UPI) — The Cleveland Browns were sure veteran Leroy Kelly would retire this year, but he didn't, so now the former star running back has been placed on waivers.

"Leroy is going through the transition period of being placed on waivers," said Bob Nussbaumer, vice-president of player personnel for the Browns. "There has been considerable interest shown in him."

Kelly, 34, has played with the Browns since he was drafted eighth from Morgan State in 1964. Kelly could not be reached for comment, but his attorney, Carl Character, said he hadn't talked with Kelly about the waiver issue.

• • •

"I have no comment other than that the Browns have expressed considerable interest in trading Kelly and we are checking into all the inquiries, but have not discussed this in detail," Character said.

Kelly, who played out his latest contract with the Browns, was expected to retire and continue with the club under a different contract, one that might have thrown him into the scouting field.

• • •

"It seems Leroy has had a change of heart since we talked about him retiring," Nussbaumer said, adding the Browns were trying to work out something with other NFL teams that would benefit all.

"But, as you know, Art (Brown's owen Art Modell) announced earlier in the year that we are going to go with our younger backs—LeRoy McKinnis, Pruitt and some rookies—this year," Nussbaumer said. "This means that right now, Leroy does not figure into our plans on the field this season. We just have to go on from there and see what develope."

Ken Norton halts Kirkman after 7

SEATTLE, Wash. (UPI)—Ken Norton took a step toward another shot at the world's heavyweight crown Tuesday night when he pummelled 10th-ranked Boone Kirkman to the mat to win an eighth-round technical knockout.

Norton, ranked fifth among the challengers to the crown, had it all his way after the first round, but he didn't open up until the seventh. When he did, Kirkman stood helpless against the ropes until Norton backed off for a moment. Then Kirkman went down with a crash.

Referee Pat McMurtry took one look at the Renton, Wash., bartender and signaled finis.

JUNE 29

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Maybe pro grid owners should let strike happen

By Sam Lacy

There are thousands of neutral observers who feel the National Football League players' strike should occur.

It isn't, however, that these people are convinced that the players are right and the owners wrong, or vice versa. It is, instead, that fans have become fed up with the constant bickering which invariably ends up costing them.

Each time the professional athletes win their bargaining for more benefits, the professional owners pass on the cost of their surrender to the people who buy the tickets.

A man who earns $3,000 to $10,000 a year can become estranged to even his most admired hero of the playing field, when he discovers that the personal Frank Merriwell wants more money added to his already-substantial pay envelope, plus countless fringe benefits. And he wants the same thing next year, and the next, and the year after that.

It does not mean that Joe Fan resents any guy making as much as he can during his brief fling in pro sports. It does mean that he resents paying a dollar more at the ticket window, 50 cents more in the parking lot and another additional 50 cents at the concession stand—to help, ostensibly, defray the expenses incurred by the owner at the bargaining table.

• • •

This time, it seems, money is not the primary issue although there can be no doubt that it lies somewhere beneath the surface of the negotiations.

The players maintain they are seeking freedom to sign with any team upon expiration of a contract, the abolition of the "Rozelle Rule" which allows the NFL commissioner to arbitrate compensation in cases of players quitting one team to play for another, and a voice in being traded.

The NFL Management Council has argued that the player demands would result in "anarchy."

While observers are not inclined to dispute either side concerning the major cause of the disruption, experience has proved that all these hassles translate into money eventually.

Barring an unexpected weekend settlement of the bogged-down current owner-player talks, picket lines are expected to form in New York City around NFL headquarters Monday and then in San Diego two days later where the Chargers have summoned rookies to report for preseason camp.

A more important showdown shapes up on the nationally televised College All-Star Game with the Miami Dolphins on July 26.

• • •

But what if no settlement is reached?

One, two or three months of idleness would disappoint some fans, certainly.

But think what it would do to athletes walking the streets with no checks to cash. And to owners who would have to begin working at their other business for a change.

What do they mean when they say, 'absence makes the heart grow fonder?"

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