4 players under cloud for Orange Bowl

6 others in Ark. probe unidentified

There were 10 people involved — directly or indirectly — in the incident that resulted in the suspension of three University of Arkansas football players last week.

That was the testimony offered Wednesday by one of the suspended players, star running back Ben Cowins.

During his stay on the witness stand at Little Rock (Ark.) Circuit Court, Cowins also revealed that he and the other two suspended players voluntarily told Razorback head coach Lou Holtz about the affair which led to their ban from participation in Monday's Orange Bowl against Oklahoma.

Cowins, the second leading rusher in the Southwest Conference this past season and the two other black players — running back Michael Forrest and flanker Danny Bobo — have sued the university, asking for immediate reinstatement to the team in time for Monday night's game in Miami.

The class action suit, filed by Arkansas civil rights attorney John Walker, also charges the university with discrimination against black athletes.

He said they told Holtz that a partially robed girl had been in the athletic dormitory room of freshman Trent Bryant and that if was the first Holtz had heard of the incident.

In the hearing before Judge Terry Shell, Cowins related for the first time details of the incident that led to the players' suspension.

"Some of the girl's whom I don't know," Cowins told Judge Shell. "It was a playful act.

The incident was completely under control. It was understood by all parties what was going on."

Cowins said there were about 10 people in the room, including at least one girl. But when asked to name those in the room, Cowins balked. A recess was then called to allow him to talk with his attorney.

The three players — all black and all starters on the 10-1 Razorbacks team — were removed from the bowl squad by Holtz shortly after the Dec. 20 incident in the players' dorm.

Cowins claimed he wanted reinstatement "to clear up my reputation (because) nothing that terrible had happened" and because he wanted to "salvage what little career I have left at the University of Arkansas."

The junior from St. Louis, who was named an All-Southwest Conference running back, said the "rash judgment" by Holtz would hurt his future.

Cowins, hoarse because of a cold, said he and the other two players voluntarily told Holtz of the incident a few hours after it occurred. He said Holtz buried his face in his hands, stared at the floor and then said he would prohibit the players from the bowl game if he had to make an immediate decision.

The next day, Holtz made that decision official.

According to Cowins, Holtz based his decision on a "do right" rule. Cowins testified he had never heard of such a rule before.

Ben Cowins 'nothing happened'

Mike Forrest he was on scene

Danny Bobo among 15 present

Trent Bryant It was his room

POWERHOUSE REBUILT — The Los Angeles Lakers had the best regular season record in the NBA last year. Then something happened. Tuesday, they may have rekindled those hopes when they acquired Charlie Scott (left) from Boston in exchange for Don Cheney (center) and former George Washington star Kermit Washington.

Late Laker trades rock NBA rivals

Charlie Scott woke up a disturbed Boston Celtic Tuesday and went to bed a satisfied Los Angeles Laker.

Traded to the Lakers in a deal that saw Don Chaney and suspended Kermit Washington head for troubled Boston, Scott lost no time getting to the West Coast in time to participate in a 123-82 Laker victory over the Golden State Warriors Tuesday night

If none has mentioned it, opposing teams of the National Basketball Association are certain to be rocked by this latest deal by the Lakers.

Just two weeks earlier, Los Angeles had obtained forward Adrian Dantley and center Dave Robisch from Indiana in exchange for center James Scott and guard Earl Tatum.

The acquisition of the former Celtic appears to be the finishing touches on a basketball powerhouse at L.A., what with Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Dantley, six-time all-pro Lou Hudson, Jamaal Wilkes and Ernie DiGregorio already in the fold.

In their first outing together, Dantley had 19 points and 14 rebounds, Robisch added 14 rebounds in 22 minutes and Scott hit 12 points and 9 assists in 29 minutes.

Scott also got reacquainted with an old friend. He and center Abdul-Jabbar played boyhood ball together on the blacktop courts of New York City.

Laker coach Jerry West said "the lack of a top flight guard has been a problem for us. The addition of Scott marks the beginning of our second season."

Chaney was a defensive standout on the Celtics' NBA championship team of 1974. Washington is under a 60-day suspension after he broke the jaw of Houston Rocket Rudy Tomjanovich during a Dec. 9 game in Los Angeles.

The Lakers said the trade also involved "future considerations" for the Celtics

Weekend basketball

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Saturday

Va. State at Howard

Xavier at Spring Hill

Monday

St. Paul's at North Carolina

Philander Smith at Langston

NBA SCHEDULE

Friday

Golden State at Boston
Cleveland at Nets
San Antonio at Atlanta
Phoenix at New Orleans
Philadelphia at Chicago
Washington at Denver
Detroit at Indiana
N.Y. Knicks at Milwaukee
Seattle at Los Angeles

Saturday

Chicago at N.Y. Knicks
Cleveland at Philadelphia.
Phoenix at Houston
Buffalo at Detroit
New Orleans vs. Kansas City at Omaha
Washington at Portland

Giants' owner nixes DC shift

SAN FRANCISCO (UPI) — San Francisco Giants part owner Bob Lurie has discotninued a report the club would be sold and moved to Washington, D.C.

Emil Bernard, a New York investor, was reported over the weekend as ready to exercise an option to purchase the 50 percent interest in the Giants held by Bud Herseth of Phoenix, Ariz., and would then deal for Lurie's share of the National League team.

"We think we can deal for Bob Lurie's 50 percent," Bernard was quoted as saying.

However, Lurie said he has no intention of selling his share and added, "Bud Herseth can't sell without coming to me first."

Herseth is out of the country and not available for comment.

Ted and Chuck

Ted Marchibroda of the Colts will coach the AFC team and Chuck Knox of the Los Angeles Rams will direct the NFC in the eighth annual AFC-NFC Pro Bowl at Tampa Stadium on Monday, Jan. 23.

Northeast Y plans for indoor track

The Northeast YMCA will begin indoor track practice Jan. 18, at Essex Community College.

Youngsters between the ages of nine and 18 should attend an organizational session at 4:30 p.m., Jan. 9, at the Northeast Y.

Coach Joe Brownlee, 426-2457, can supply further information.

NFL playoffs

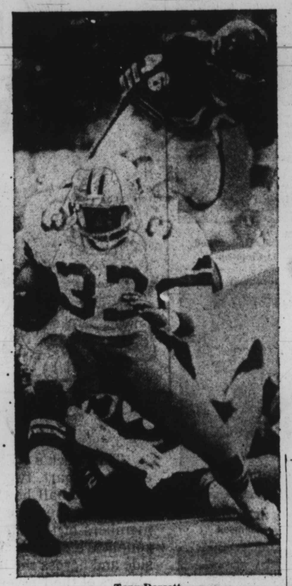
National Football League starting times for Sunday's playoff are scheduled as follows:

American Football Conference championship —Oakland at Denver, 2 p.m.

National Football Conference championship—Minnesota at Dallas, 5:30 p.m.

Reno odds favor Cowboys, Raiders

RENO, Nev. — The Dallas Cowboys have been made an 11-point choice over the Minnesota Vikings and the defending Super Bowl Champion Oakland Raiders a four-point pick over the Denver Broncos in Sunday's National Football League Conference Championship games according to odds posted by Harrah's Reno Racebook.



Tony Dorsett problem for the Vikings

Dallas, Oakland Super Bowl picks

By Sam Lacy

The miracles appear to be finished for the National Football League season.

The Denver Broncos stunned the experts, and many of their zany fans, by winning the Western Division title in the American Conference, and the Minnesota Vikings dropped a bomb on the Western Division of the National Conference.

Denver climaxed a year of surprises by whipping two-time Super Bowl champion Pittsburgh last weekend. And 24 hours later, Minnesota outplayed heavily favored Los Angeles.

Both victories were shockers.

Now, it is the feeling at this desk that the bullets are about to burst.

Old tried and proven Oakland is the AFRO choice to beat upstart Denver Sunday, and power-laden Dallas must be picked to stop Minnesota.

That means the Raiders against the Cowboys in Super Bowl 12 at the New Orleans Superdome, Jan. 15.

Undoubtedly, Oakland figures to have the more difficult task. The game is to be played at Denver (2 p.m.) and the combination of a wild home crowd and a fresh, frisky, hungry young Bronco team will be tough to beat.

But the Raiders survived an equally hostile crowd in Baltimore last weekend, and probably will be able to cope.

The brilliant corps of receivers — Cliff Branch, Fred Biletnikoff, Dave Casper and Mike Siani (who could start on any other team) — and quarterback Ken Stabler on target give the defending Super Bowl champs a distinct edge.

At Dallas, the Cowboys are not faced with the Oakland problems.

Aside from playing before their own fans, they have what is perhaps the best balanced team in the league. This is especially true on offense, with Tony Dorsett, Robert Newhouse, Preston Pearson and Doug Dennis running; Drew Pearson, Golden Richards, Billy Joe Du Pree and Butch Johnson catching, and Roger Staubach throwing.

That's awesome.

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