

TFL Today

"A Beacon of Truth and Justice in a Topsy-Turvy World"

TFL coaches pick Armadillos No. 1

By Yelnick McWawa

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The Arcadia Armadillos, perennial embarrassments to the Times Football League, were the stunning No. 1 pick of TFL coaches this week in the league's first-ever preseason coach's poll.

Arcadia, which finished 6-8 last year, earned five first-place votes and was picked in the top five on all but four ballots.



Coggins

"What could be next? The Apocalypse?" Bagdad owner Scott Lacy said. "Last year I said I'd ride a pogo

stick naked if Dugway won its division. As unbelievable as that was, Arcadia as the No. 1 team is as unlikely

Preseason Coach's Poll

(First-place votes in parentheses)

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|-----|------------------|----|
| 1. | Arcadia (5) | 35 |
| 2. | Denver (4) | 30 |
| 3. | Bagdad (1) | 30 |
| 4. | Alaska (1) | 20 |
| 5. | Broad Street (1) | 17 |
| 6. | Gaithersburg | 13 |
| 7. | Lackawanna | 13 |
| 8. | Limerick (1) | 9 |
| 9. | Narcoossee | 7 |
| 10. | Dugway | 7 |
| 11. | West Hartford | 6 |
| 12. | Marley | 4 |
| 13. | Maryland | 3 |
| 14. | Flint | 1 |

Based on inverted scoring system of five points for first, four points for second, and so on.

as going to the beach and spotting a pig on a surfboard."

TFL coaches who ranked the Ar-

madillos highly said they were impressed by Arcadia's potent tandem of quarterback Warren Moon and running back Emmitt Smith, who both were first-round picks a year ago. Arcadia's roster also includes wide receivers Michael Haynes and Webster Slaughter, kicker Al Del Greco and running back Terry Kirby.

The top four spots in the poll were held by teams in the newly created Barbarino Division: Arcadia, Denver, Bagdad and Alaska.

Denver, a disappointment since winning the regular season title in 1991, finished a surprising second with four first-place votes and 30 points. Bagdad also amassed 30 points but received only a lone first-place vote.

Maryland finished a woeful 13th in the poll, earning its only vote from Mania owner Steve Katz.



Katz: No boners this time

'94 draft: Optimism rampant

The Times Football League's fifth draft featured no blunders, no miscues, just 14 satisfied owners with eyes on the Sweeney Bowl.

"The draft for me was like shopping for Christmas gifts, when everything I sought was readily available," said a giddy Mike Taylor, owner of the lowly Denver Pyles. "Calling in my lineup will be like wrapping those presents in the

finest paper. And the game Sunday will be like unwrapping a large, beautiful, shining 'W.'"

Taylor's unwarranted optimism typified the zeal of owners in the week before the opener. Consider this remark from underachieving Armadillos owner Chuck Coggins.

"The Armadillos are all armored up and ready to go. Nobody will touch us," Coggins said.

Taylor still clamoring for attention

Mike Taylor has been overzealous in his quest to redeem himself as a functional fantasy owner. Over the years the Denver Pyles owner has resorted to an array of promotional gimmickry, like the time he tried to woo indifferent fans by constructing a frog pond in the South Stands of Pyle Pavilion.

But the tadpoles he installed as the first residents of the Pyle Pavilion frog pond grew up and hopped away, much like the lonely brain cells in Taylor's head that wandered off in search of a better operating environment. It was a typical scene in Pyleland: a Taylor scheme gone awry.



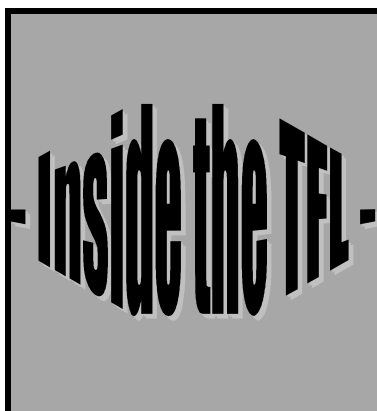
Lacy

But Taylor, whose Pyles have not enjoyed a winning season since 1991, remains undeterred. Hoping to capture the attention of his indifferent competitors, he expended the 158th pick in the TFL draft on celebrity defense attorney Robert Shapiro.

Fantasy pundits were aghast. Had Taylor gone too far this time? Or was he just a lovable eccentric, the Charley O'Finley of fantasy football?

"He's an absolute moron," said Bagdad owner Scott Lacy. "I think it's the classic case of a fading virtuoso fighting against the erosion of his skills. Ernie Hemingway blew his head off because of it. And, actually, that might not be a bad idea for Mr. Taylor, too."

Taylor defended the Shapiro acquisition, saying the attorney was a "defense adept at handling a slashing offense."



TFL Commissioner Scott Lacy, a paragon of truth and knowledge, said the league would make a special rules dispensation to accommodate Taylor's unorthodox pick: six points for the Pyles if Shapiro gets O.J. Simpson an acquittal on any Sunday during the season.

Katzline a success

Due to increasing levels of Katz-bashing throughout the TFL, league officials have installed a special mailbox in which owners can diss, disparage and denigrate the addle-brained Maryland owner.



Katz

So far, the new line has been a success. F. Butch Shushitzimu, the league's public relations director, said the Katzline logged 23 calls in its first two days of operation.

"He is clearly disrespected throughout the league, even by owners who have yet to meet him," Shushitzimu said. "Many of the calls were about his woeful draft. I think the word 'abomination' was

used in about half the calls. One owner called to advise Katz to hold his fantasy magazines right-side-up during the draft. Another called to suggest Katz fly his players to New York and audition them for the stage version of *thirtysomething*."

Owners interested in lambasting Katz are urged to call the new line. The number is (410) 715-3989, Mailbox 5.

Insain

The week's most ridiculous assertion belongs to Dugway owner Ken Sain, who inexplicably picked his team among the top five in this week's TFL Preseason Coach's Poll.

"I think my team is very strong," Sain said, without laughing.

The rest of the league, however, was unimpressed by Sain's collection of NFL leftovers. Rival owners gave the Experiments just seven points in the coach's poll.

Said Narcoossee owner Wit Tuttell: "The boy [Sain] has got balls the size of church bells to put his team anywhere in the top 10."

A bean by any name

Embarrassed by his drafting of no-name Steve Smith, Gaithersburg's Mike Creamer changed his team's name to avoid expected post-draft ridicule.



Creamer

The Gaithersburg team will be known as the Garbanzo Beans, Creamer announced

Creamer said the Beans will play home games in newly renamed