

Starless cast sheds no light on Bears

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UNDER THE CRITICAL gaze of 15,521 fans, probably the largest crowd to stick around for the finish of a July football game in Soldier Field these recent years, the Bears produced a 6-0 controlled scrimmage Monday night.

But they did not produce all their headliners for the show in our lakefront tureen. Walter Payton, Roland Harper and others remained in Lake Forest to attend Town Hall meetings or something.

Admitting that some of the absentees would have been physically able to scrimmage on the cool summer eve, Coach Jack Pardee said: "We know what they can do."

Nonetheless, one has the hunch that the folks who paid \$4 each would have been happier to see guys like

In the wake of the news

By David Condon



Payton and Harper have a few chances to, as we say in the trade, "advance the pigskin spheroid."

Delighted though they may have been to contribute \$4 portions to the Chicago Public League athletic fund, the fans probably would have gone home happier if they'd seen a bit more action.

THE SCOREBOARD CLOCK showed 9:01 p.m., and only a few more plays were scheduled to be run, when quarterback Bob Avellini unleashed the game's solo firecracker. That was the 13-yard scoring aerial to Larry Schreiber.

If that was the big event of the evening, it also was a big event in the Bear career of Lawrence Anthony Schreiber. In league play last year, Schreiber caught only one pass. Monday night he caught two, which is more like the Schrieber who bagged 40 missiles for the San Francisco 49ers in '75.

Schreiber, listed as a third-string running back in the depth charts, also rushed for 33 yards in seven carries. His average gain was the best among four Bears assigned to transport the ball when Avellini and Mike Phipps were not throwing it.

FOR THOSE WHO did not want to watch the postgame rockets, Pardee was available to offer profound thoughts. One was that the defense, at this point, was ahead of the offense.

Of course, the scoreboard [6-0] already had told us that.

Enough rockets were exploding in the air to send a nervous man scurrying for a foxhole in the artificial turf, and I was apprehensive if not completely nervous. So I missed it if the Bears' peerless leader uttered

some postgame remarks that are going to become historical.

It seemed, though, that Pardee was suggesting the scrimmage hadn't given him a total insight on the potential of the Bears' offense.

WELL, IF THAT is true, Pardee is in the same cahoe with me. The opening scrimmage did not leave me much wiser, either.

However, I did not expect to be after noticing that both offensive and defensive standouts were playing hooky.

I will not pass judgment on the quarterbacking performances of Avellini and Phipps. It is hereby submitted that their abilities to advance a team, by air and by land, may be more thoroughly understood when people like Payton and Harper are working alongside them.

Coach Pardee thought that, on the whole, the quarterbacks ran the plays well. No quarrel with that. The squad assembled in camp only last week, and the quarterbacks executed as well as available talent and timing permitted.

THE BEARS DRESSED in camp and also wore their work togs home. Several cases of beer were aboard the lorries that carted them back to Lake Forest, where they headed with the haste of desperados fleeing the scene.

I had some questions in mind for Pardee, but he sprinted for the bus too vigorously for this obese older.

I settled for a talk with owner George Halas, who was pleased with the drills and the turnout for the benefit scrimmage. By donating the proceeds to the impoverished school athletic program, Halas made more points than the Bears did winning all their championships.

All in all, the Bears looked good. Halas looked fine. The Honey Bears, those cheerleaders the Bears have added to the stadium entertainment, made their debuts and looked great. So great they left no doubt that pro football is a physical attraction.