

Saturday Briefs

Bears say cheerio to cheerleaders

The unbeaten Bears may be heading toward their first Super Bowl, but their cheerleaders soon will be prancing into the unemployment line.

General manager Jerry Vainisi Friday told a Plus Talent Agency, which provides 32 Honey Bears for each home game, that its contract will not be renewed after this season, said Cathy Core, founder and den mother of the cheerleading squad. "He told us if the team makes it to the Super Bowl, then they'll take the girls with them," Core said.

Vainisi said the issue isn't money. The Honey Bears cost the team \$50,000 a year, with each woman being paid \$20 a game. The question, as Vainisi saw it, was: "Do we feel cheerleaders have become passe, or are they still a part of the game?" He said nine National Football League teams don't have cheerleaders. Vainisi suggested the Bears could bring in a high school band to replace the Honey Bears' cheering and dance routines.



● The Dallas Cowboys are known as "America's Team" in some parts of the country, but they are especially big in Houston, it seems. Because of an outcry from Cowboy fans in Houston, the NFL will bend its policy and allow a tape-delayed broadcast of the Dallas-Bear game in Houston. The broadcast will be tape-delayed because the Houston Oiler game with Pittsburgh will be on at the same time. "This is a vary rare situation," said NFL spokesman Mike Gigante. "We got a lot of grief from the people in Houston. They expressed their point of view—some of them nicely and some not so nicely."

● A California appeals court has rejected Oakland's attempt to move the Raiders back from Los Angeles, saying it would place an unconstitutional burden on interstate commerce. "Relocation of the Raiders would implicate the welfare not only of the individual team franchise, but of the entire league," said a three-judge panel of the 1st District Court of Appeal. Oakland has been trying to get the Raiders back by using its power of eminent domain, which allows a city to acquire something it deems valuable.

● Green Bay Packer coach Forrest Gregg has closed practice and the locker room indefinitely after the filing of a sexual assault charge against Mossy Cade, but Gregg said the defensive back would play Sunday if he wants. "What I don't want to do is make a circus out of this," Gregg said, adding that players would be made available to news personnel on request. "I haven't put a gag on them," Gregg said. Cade was freed after posting \$25,000 bail on a charge of second-degree sexual assault.

● Former Notre Dame coach Dan Devine and ex-Bear Gale Sayers are two of the candidates to become San Diego State's athletic director. Other possibilities include Ray Nagel, former Washington State and Hawaii athletic director; Fred Miller, former athletic director at Arizona State; and Vance Redfern, associate athletic director at Illinois.