

Steelers not falling for hype

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Tempe) to enjoy ourselves," Cowher said Monday. "We're going out for business, this is a business trip. There will be lot of time to enjoy this after this is over. I'll enjoy the heck out of it on the 29th."

Cowher wasn't predicting victory - he'll let the Cowboys do that - but he wasn't predicting a loss, either. The only time he glared during his 20-minute media session was when he was asked if these Super Bowl-seasoned Cowboys might intimidate his Steelers.

Cowher didn't need mention the words "Greg Lloyd" when he answered: "This team won't be intimidated by anybody."

Especially, it appears, by their words. Among Cowher's admonitions to his players were to avoid a war of words, which could escalate out of proportion and become a pre-Super Bowl distraction.

"You should say the right things," Cowher said. "You don't have to say what you really feel. We'll let our deeds speak for themselves."

Even if the Cowboys, from team owner Jerry Jones on down, were saying the wrong

things. They're already accusing the Steelers about as much respect as any NFC champion accords the AFC champion. And while the Steelers laughed off the Cowboys' words, they clearly had an impact.

Cowboys receiver Michael Irvin, for example, said, "We're not going to the Super Bowl, we're going home. It's our house. Last year, we just let somebody (the 49ers) borrow it."

Jones, the man who financed the mortgage on that house, was equally candid in his assessment: "Nothing against the Steelers, but we are the better team."

But, wearying of a seemingly endless run of defeats by teams such as the Bills, the AFC is finally sending a team to the Super Bowl that knows how to win it. The Steelers have been there four times and won every one of them. Sure, the Cowboys also have won four Super Bowls, too, but it took them seven shots - and they're 0-2 against the Steelers.

Those two games were played in the 1970s, when most of today's players were in

grade school, but if the Cowboys had won those two, they'd be the only six-time Super Bowl champions.

"We don't get caught up in all of that," receiver Andre Hastings said. "That's why Michael says all that stuff, so they will put it on TV. That's the way it is, we're entertainers."

That's OK with Cowher, as long as the Steelers don't become talk show hosts. Unlike last season, when they ran their mouths and rehearsed rap videos before losing the AFC championship to San Diego, the Steelers were a more focused, less controversial team before they beat the Colts 20-16 Sunday.

Cowher wants the same kind of no-nonsense approach when the Steelers arrive in Arizona on Monday. So, rather than going to a warm-weather climate this week to prepare, the Steelers will maintain their regular weekly practice schedule in Pittsburgh.

"Winning is paramount," Cowher said. "It's like I told the team, people don't remember the losing team."

"We are not satisfied at all to just be there."

Nets getting major minutes from Childs

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was based on good defense and being unselfish on offense.

"I couldn't hit a jump shot so I just tried to play hard and bring some intensity to the team," said Childs, who was 4 of 14 from the field but 9 of 10 from the free throw line. "We played an unselfish game. It was enjoyable. When was the last time you heard music in this locker room after a game?"

The win helped the Nets make up for an embarrassing season-opening 94-79 loss to the expansion Raptors. It also

handed Toronto its eighth loss in 11 games, and 16th in 18 road games.

Stoudamire led Toronto with 18 points, all but two in the second half. The seventh pick in the recent NBA draft also had 11 assists.

"The Nets killed us," said Stoudamire, who picked up three fouls in the first half, limiting him to 15 minutes. "I hated being in foul trouble so early. It threw us off."

New Jersey led 51-35 at intermission and only faced one challenge. The Raptors opened the second half with a

15-6 spurt and got to 57-50 on a 3-pointer by Stoudamire with 7:31 left in the quarter.

Gilliam then had six points and backup center Yinka Dare added five of his career-high 12 points in an ensuing 17-4 run that put the game away.

"We were able to cut a 16 point lead to seven, but then the bottom fell out," Raptors coach Brendan Malone said.

New Jersey's previous largest margin of victory was a 20-point win over Portland one game after the season-opening loss to Toronto.

Boxer wants to shoot hooks

By Ed Schuyler Jr.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK - Roy Jones Jr. headlined a boxing show in Madison Square Garden last week. He wished it was a basketball game and he was playing for the New York Knicks.

The best pound-for-pound boxer in the world is a basketball buff to the point that he's going to try out for a pro team - not the Knicks of the American National Basketball Association, but the London Towers of the Basketball League of England.

"I like basketball a little more because it's not quite as threatening as boxing," said Jones, the IBF super middleweight champion, who beat Merqui Sosa in a non-title bout in his Garden debut. "So why not try it while I have a chance?"

Jones plans to fly to London on Sunday for a tryout with the Towers.

Don't despair fight fans, the

5-foot-11 Jones, big for a super middleweight, but small for a guard, even in the Basketball League of England, is not about to quit boxing.

Boxing is his business, Jones said, "and I owe it to the public to fight a few years."

Besides, he still has at least two years to run on a contract with American cable television channel Home Box Office that could extend to five years and be worth potentially \$40 million. Small guards, whose experience in organized basketball totals one year in high school, don't make millions of dollars - or pounds.

HBO will televise the match scheduled for the championship distance of 12 rounds, but which Jones refused to make a title fight. Sosa, the North American Boxing Federation light heavyweight champion, was willing to make the 168-pound super middleweight limit. The contract weight is 171 pounds. Jones is not interested in the NABF

light heavyweight title.

Jones' stated interest in playing pro basketball seems to be fueled by a frustration stemming from challenges in boxing because of showcase opponents.

"The opposition is not equal to what I am," he said. "Therefore I can't impress the public."

However, he had better remember that boxing is an unforgiving sport that demands total dedication if the fighter is to remain on top.

The late Buster Mathis was right on target with his advice when his son, Buster Jr., told him he wanted to become a boxer.

"Son," said the father, a heavyweight contender in the 1960s, "you can play (gridiron) football and you can play baseball, but just remember, you can't play boxing."

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BLACK FAX

H: How many days did the Montgomery Bus Boycott last?

BT: What was the largest Black supermarket chain in 1980?

E: What was Jerry Butler's nickname?

S: Who was called "The Black, Red Grange"?

LA: From what Negro spiritual is the following verse taken:
"Comin' for to carry me home"?

P: Who plays the title role in the Broadway play "The Tap Dance Kid"?

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