

Backup role is OK with Cunningham

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good, too, at least in the controlled situations of minicamp. He still has the strong arm, still moves well at age 34. What he lacks is the attitude.

"It's just a grooving situation," Cunningham said. "I've got to groove myself into everything, and there's not that pressure to go out and be the Pro Bowl player, because there's already a man here who's starting. I know my role."

The Vikings have been very clear about that role. Johnson is their unquestioned starter, the guy whose surprisingly poised performance in relief of Warren Moon last season earned him a \$15.5 million contract.

When Minnesota released

Moon, they coaxed Cunningham out of retirement with the offer of a low-stress job as Johnson's backup. Cunningham might have had other chances to compete for a starting spot elsewhere, but he chose the Vikings because they weren't offering that opportunity.

"It's good to be just another guy," Cunningham said.

Cunningham earned his place in the spotlight after the Eagles took him in the second round of the 1985 draft, the first quarterback picked that year. He was Philadelphia's full-time starter by 1987, a Pro Bowl starter the following season.

His best season was 1990, when he threw for 3,466 yards and 30 touchdowns while run-

ning for 942 yards and five more TDs. But a knee injury in the season opener in 1991 - and Rich Kotite's ascension after Buddy Ryan was fired - began his decline.

He returned in 1992 to earn his only playoff victory in a wild-card game against New Orleans, and was NFC Offensive Player of the Month in September 1993 before breaking his leg in the first game of October.

He lost his starting job to Rodney Peete by the end of '94, and was benched in favor of Peete after four games in '95. After skipping a week of practice for Randall II's birth, Cunningham played the final three quarters of Philadelphia's playoff loss at Dallas Jan. 7,

1996, after Peete was hurt.

It was the last game Cunningham played. The Eagles released him, and he retired the following August.

"I probably should have asked to be traded before Ray Rhodes got there (in 1995)," Cunningham said. "My agent told me to do that, but I wanted to be loyal. And that loyalty got me basically in the wrong situation."

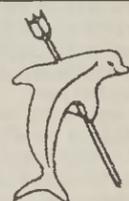
Cunningham, whose 4,384 rushing yards are the most ever for an NFL quarterback, believes he's in the right situation now, even though it might seem an uncomfortable fit for Johnson.

"I think it could be, but I really don't feel that way," Johnson said. "I really feel good about it."

So does Cunningham, even if it means putting aside his family life. On Thursday he could only listen over the phone as wife Felicity told him of his son's accident. Randall II wailed in the background.

"That hurts my heart," Cunningham said. "I'm like,

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N.C. junior golf classic registration

The Independent Insurance Agent Junior Golf Classic tournament begins next month with nine regional tournaments.

The regional tournaments are qualifying rounds for junior men who are 18-under as of Aug. 13. Top scorers of the regional tournaments and junior women will play in the state tournament July 12-13 in Southern Pines.

The deadline for junior men registration is June 2. Deadline for junior women is June 16. Junior men must play in a regional tournament in order to

qualify for the state tournament.

To register, call Linda Ward at (919) 828-4371 or (800) 849-6556.

• Donald Littlejohn finished fourth in a golf tournament in Orangeburg, S.C., last week.

Littlejohn shot a two-round score of 150, best among Charlotte golfers. Robert Parker was first in the senior flight with 151, followed by Otis Worthy at 152 and third place, followed by Arthur McDonald at 152.

The entry fee for the junior men's tournament is \$25, \$10 for 11-and-under

• Charlie Barnette finished fourth in the super senior flight with a score of 173. Ace Drakeford won the closest to the pin competition, while Doc Mangum had the longest drive Saturday and Sunday's longest drive belonged to Arthur McDonald.

Top 10 Charlotte finishers in the Orangeburg golf tournament:

Donald Littlejohn 150; Robert Parker 151; Otis Worthy 152; Arthur McDonald 152; James Barrett 156; Doc Mangum 160; John Love 161; Phil Neely 161; Bill Johnson 163; John Crawford 163.

Herbert L. White

Track more of big deal at Livingstone

Continued from 1B

ety of the track team, and he believes the program has been successful. As good as the Bears have been on the track, they've performed with honors in the classroom.

"There's a formula that we have used and this is how we attracted the kind of scholar athletes we have," Huff said. "Instead of going out and trying to lure the big name athletes, we

went towards the good students who loved the sport for what it was.

"That's how we landed athletes like Denice Brown with a 3.8 GPA, and the other three young ladies who also boast 3.0-plus GPAs. This way, you don't have to worry about athletes being ineligible or dropping out of school."

From the start of the season, Livingstone set high expectations. Huff said that though the

women's times are fast now, they'll drop dramatically as the weather warms.

"The funny thing about it is, these young ladies ran together for the first time during this meet," Huff said. "Before the CIAA championships, I tried to equally distribute our talents to all events. So I'm glad we put it together when we did."

Risk to women boxers is focus of international conference

By Marion Lloyd
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ORANJESTAD, Aruba - Breast protectors in place, the boxers let fly, bloodying their opponents with the vengeance of their male counterparts. But at what cost?

Four years after Seattle teenager Dallas Malloy won a court battle allowing her to fight alongside men, the risks for hundreds of women who followed remain a mystery, according to doctors at boxing's first medical conference.

"The case histories just aren't there," said Virginia orthopedic surgeon Joseph Estwanic, whose recent book "Sports Medicine for the Combat Arts" may be the first medical text to address female boxing.

After consulting dozens of medical experts throughout the United States, Estwanic concluded there were "no major red flags" signaling the sport posed greater health risks to women.

But he cautioned, "The hard research has yet to be done." He said, for example, that women's bone structure was more fragile than men's.

Most of the medical experts from 83 countries said they had never seen a female fight. Supporters of women's boxing charged medical concerns masked sexism, while doctors snickered at breast protectors displayed at the four-day conference, sponsored by the World Boxing Council.

The number of women taking to the ring is soaring, particularly in the United States, Europe and Australia. Mexico already has two world champions among its 30 women fighters.

The sport's main promoter, the Miami-based Women's International Boxing Federation, boasts about 1,000 members worldwide, said general secretary Jimmy Flynn.

Unlike male boxers, who come from largely humble backgrounds, Flynn said most of the women are educated profes-

sionals who looked to boxing primarily as an exciting hobby. Many come from martial art disciplines such as kick boxing.

"They're not in it for the money because, right now, there's none to be made," he said.

The federation has sponsored 26 title fights since its founding in 1993, many fought by women with wildly differing abilities and equipment.

Doctors at the conference snickered at the display of conical and rounded breast protectors and brochures of pink-lipsticked women displaying their world title belts and grinning, fists raised.

"You don't see male boxers trying to look sweet," one commented.

"I can't imagine any of these (protectors) would do a damn thing," said Charles Wilson, medical director of New Jersey's boxing commission.

He cited concerns ranging from potential breast trauma, undetected pregnancies and damage to women's wrists and shoulders, which he said were more vulnerable to injury than men's.

But Wilson said efforts to reduce the risks, such as requiring women to wear breast and groin protectors, could backfire by encouraging female fighters to aim for the head. Some breast protectors cover much of the stomach area, a traditional target for male boxers.

Other veteran ringside doctors warned of the dangers of the inevitable mismatches within a limited pool of women fighters.

One such fight, in Philadelphia, pitted a 5-foot-8, 145-pound novice against a 6-foot-3 165-pound unbeaten Indiana Golden Gloves winner at the U.S. amateur boxing championship.

Kate Seules, the rookie, lost the fight after a blow from Jen Childers shattered her nose.

Malloy, the pioneer, fought her first and only bout under the U.S. Amateur Boxing League flag in 1993.

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He put up signs on the highway telling how good they were.

He stood by the side of the road and cried **"Buy a hot dog, Mister."** People bought.

He increased his meat and roll orders. He bought a bigger stove to take care of his trade.

He finally got his son home from college to help him out. But then something happened:

His son said: "Father, haven't you been listening to the radio? There's a big depression coming on. The European situation is terrible. The domestic situation is worse."

That made his father think: "Well, my son's been to college, he reads the papers, and he listens to the radio, and he ought to know."

So the father cut down on his meat and roll orders, took down his advertising signs, and.....

no longer bothered to stand on the highway to sell his good hot dogs. Sales fell fast, almost overnight.

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