



Philadelphia Stars' Kelvin Bryant

... former Tar Heel rushed for 89 yards in championship loss

## Panthers outshine Stars, win USFL's first title

From staff and wire reports

DENVER—The passing battery of Bobby Hebert and Anthony Carter led the Michigan Panthers to the first United States Football League championship, a 24-22 victory over the Philadelphia Stars Sunday night.

Hebert, a rookie from Northwestern Louisiana who chose to sign quickly with the Panthers rather than wait for the NFL draft, completed 20 of 39 passes for 314 yards. The performance earned him the game's Most Valuable Player honor and capped a season in which he was the USFL's leading passer.

Philadelphia quarterback Chuck Fusina hit 25 of 47 attempts for 191 yards and was sacked five times, twice by linebacker John Corker, the USFL's Defensive Player of the Year.

Philadelphia had overcome a three-touchdown deficit in the final minutes to force an overtime and beat Chicago in the semifinal the week before. So when the Stars shaved a 17-3 Michigan lead to three points in the fourth quarter, there was concern on the Michigan bench.

But Carter, the speedster out of the University of Michigan, caught his final touchdown pass, giving the Panthers a cushion that allowed them to surrender a final touchdown to Philadelphia without harm.

The Star's Kelvin Bryant, former UNC running back and the USFL's Most Valuable Player, carried 13 times for 89 yards.

The attendance at the game, played in Mile High Stadium, was 46,535.

### Scoring Summary

<b>Michigan</b>	<b>3 7 7 7—24</b>	Sacks by-yards	4—29	4—23
<b>Philadelphia</b>	<b>0 3 0 19—22</b>	Return yards	15	20
Mich-FG Bojovic 33		Passes	20—39—1	26—48—1
Phil-FG Trout 30		Punts	4—58.8	6—52.5
Mich-Holloway 12 pass from Hebert (Bojovic kick)		Fumbles-lost	1—1	4—0
Mich-Holloway 14 pass from Hebert (Bojovic kick)		Penalties-yards	12—87	5—68
Phil-FG Trout 28		Time of possession	31:36	28:24
Phil-Collier 21 pass from Fusina (Collier pass from Fusina)		<b>Individual Leaders</b>		
Mich-Carter 48 pass from Hebert (Bojovic kick)		RUSHING—Michigan-C. Miller 12-80, Lacy 15-56, Hebert 1-20, Philadelphia-Bryant 13-89, Harvin 6-21, Fusina 4-7.		
Phil-Parker 2 pass from Fusina (Fitzkee pass from Fusina)		PASSING—Michigan-Hebert 20-39-1-314, Philadelphia-Fusina 25-47-0-192, Harvin 1-1-0-44.		
A-46,535		RECEIVING—Michigan-Carter 9-179, Holloway 3-39, Lacy 3-23, C. Miller 3-17, Cobb 1-37, McClain 1-19, Philadelphia-Fitzkee 5-58, Donovan, 5-36, Harvin 4-24, Bryant 4-15, Collier 3-38, Folsom 3-19, Parker 2-46.		
First downs	Mich 25 Phil 24			
Rushes-yards	28—156 23—117			
Passing yards	291 207			

## USFL head pleased with 1st year

### Claims problems are sign of getting started

The Associated Press

DENVER—It was, at the outset, a questionable premise—professional football in the offseason.

Yet the United States Football League took hold and, one year into its existence, is mushrooming—on paper, anyway.

Sunday's USFL championship game between the Philadelphia Stars and the Michigan Panthers came at a time when football training camps are supposed to be opening, just as the established National Football League's are. This is when pennant races are supposed to begin warming up in baseball.

But the USFL is warming up to the idea of being the alternative. What began amid a binge of broken promises—re-evaluations, as Commissioner Chet Simmons calls them—as a 12-team league last spring is expanding to 18 teams in 1984 and 22 in '85.

There have been some big problems for the USFL, headed by spotty attendance and plummeting television ratings. Simmons, the eternal optimist, has ready answers.

"It's hard to know what's right and what's not unless you've done it before," he said. "Like someone once said, 'You never know what it's like to have a child until you have one.' We're in the process of having the child."

When the USFL was formally announced in 1982, the names were of NFL warhorses—coaches such as George Allen, Red Miller, John Ralston and Chuck Fairbanks, and players such as Greg Landry, Mike Livingston, Cedrick Hardeman and Raymond Chester.

But the new league quickly signed prospective NFL talent. Although the premier college senior, quarterback John Elway, got away, the USFL signed running backs Kelvin Bryant, Gary Anderson, Craig James and Tim Spencer, quarterbacks Jim Kelly and Reggie Collier, wide receivers Trumaine Johnson and Anthony Carter, safety David Greenwood and tackle Irv Eatman.

And during the season the league signed "futures" contracts with current NFL stars like Cincinnati's Cris Collinsworth and Buffalo's Joe Cribbs.

The bombshell, though, came last February, only weeks

before the start of the season, when the New Jersey Generals signed Heisman Trophy-winning running back Herschel Walker, a junior at the University of Georgia. Despite Simmons' previous insistence that college talent would remain off limits to the pros, the USFL invaded the campus.

Saturday, Simmons said he thinks sophomore Marcus Dupree of Oklahoma could be the next undergraduate to bolt campus for a pro career.

"It's happened before and it's going to happen again," Simmons said. Simmons also said he wouldn't be surprised if Dupree considered turning pro before the end of his college eligibility.

Although the new league will have an expansion franchise in Tulsa in 1984, the Generals still hold the territorial rights to Oklahoma—and therefore to Dupree.

"Walker and Dupree," Simmons mused. "Make a heck of a backfield."

Walker became the new league's Hope Diamond. But with the Generals, he was surrounded by zircons, and although he won the league rushing title, New Jersey lost 12 of its 18 games.

### Year-end summary

Walker was worth big numbers for the USFL. The Generals sold nearly half of their 36,000 season tickets in the 11 days between his signing and the start of the season. New Jersey's road appearances drew an average of 9,303 more than normal for the host team, and ratings on ABC and ESPN were highest when Herschel was running.

But after early bursts of fan interest, attendance at most parks and television ratings dropped, sometimes precipitously. Still, an average of nearly one million more TV viewers watched each USFL game than had been expected, and a league-record 60,000 fans showed up for the Panthers' playoff victory over Oakland in the Silverdome. Simmons hoped to draw 45,000 for the championship game.

The rosters for the championship underscore the fact that the USFL does not wear a "made in the NFL" label. Allen's Chicago Blitz and Ralston's Oakland Invaders were beaten in the playoffs, and Fairbanks' Generals never got that far. Mil-

ler never even made it to the end of the first season in Denver.

Most of the standouts of the Stars and Panthers—Bryant, Greenwood, Carter, Ken Lacy and passing champion Bobby Hebert—are home-grown.

Simmons sees good in just about everything bad that has happened to his league.

Terrible attendance in Philadelphia, where the Stars were the USFL's winningest team, has been accompanied by "terrific television ratings," he said. "Their people were out there, watching us. Someday that will translate into ticket sales."

Last month, for the second time, the league failed in efforts to place a franchise in San Diego. It settled for Tulsa, and Simmons emphasized that "Oklahoma has a rich football tradition."

The new league promised no assaults on the NFL, then staged selective raids. It established a salary cap, then handed out million-dollar contracts. It pledged to stay away from college underclassmen, then signed Walker.

"All that is just the beginning of a league, getting started," said Simmons. "You evaluate, you make judgments, then you look back and admit maybe you should have done things differently."

"There were so many of our rules that were just mirror images of what was being done by the NFL after 60 years of play. When you start something, why do you have to be a copycat? Why can't you do things the way you want to do them?"

"It took a while for us to decide what was in the best interest of the league. The Walker thing, the Collinsworth thing, there were never any rules against it."

The USFL plans to almost double within two years, adding franchises in Houston, Pittsburgh, Jacksonville, Tulsa, San Antonio and a sixth city, most likely Memphis, in 1984 and four more—probably Indianapolis, Miami, Minneapolis and New Orleans—the following year.

The USFL has been called a made-for-TV league, fueled by an estimated \$35 million from ABC and ESPN for rights to carry the first two seasons. Simmons, a TV executive before becoming commissioner, doesn't exactly deny it.

"There is no league that can exist without it. So if we were made for television, that only means we're in the same category as everybody else," he said. "Take television away from the NFL or baseball, they're going to be in very, very difficult straits."