

# NFL realignment will go to June 1

NEW YORK (AP) — The NFL, which must realign its divisions when Houston rejoins the league for the 2002 season, will go down to the June 1 deadline before making a final decision.

The league made that official Wednesday, saying the teams would not be realigned next week at the annual spring meetings in Palm Desert, Calif.

"We'll limit the plans to a reasonable number next week," said Roger Goodell, the NFL executive vice president, who is in charge of realignment. "But we will not have the final vote at this meeting. It's very complicated and we haven't been able to come up with the right formula to be fair to all sides."

Last-minute decisions are the norm for the NFL, particularly on subjects where emotions run high. Some of the older owners have said the last major realignment, when the NFL and AFL merged in 1970, was the hardest task in which they've ever been involved.

In this case, realignment probably will be voted on at a meeting scheduled for Chicago during the final week of May.

The basic format for the increase from 31 to 32 teams already is approved: eight divisions of four teams each with a 16-game schedule that will include home-and-home games within the division, four more games against another division in their conference and four games against a team in the other conference.

The other two games will be based on standings — first-place teams vs. the first-place teams in their conference and second-place teams against second-place teams and so on.

Goodell said that some of the alignments would be similar to current ones but that there was no consensus on geography. League and team officials have said, for example, that a division like the NFC East could remain relatively intact, with Washington, Philadelphia and the New York Giants in a division with Dallas, nearly 2,000 miles away.

"Having teams that are not necessarily geographically aligned is attractive," Goodell said. "We heard that from the networks. We believe we're a national game and there's been less focus on geography than many people

think."

The positive factor of the new plan is that it will guarantee teams meet once every four seasons. Under the current system, teams can go many years without playing each other. For example, Miami and Denver met only once between 1983 and 1997, depriving fans of seeing John Elway against Dan Marino at the height of their careers.

These meetings also might end the annual debate over instant replay.

George Young, the league's vice president for football operations, said he sensed a consensus for extending

the current system beyond the one year that's been the norm. Replay was voted in for the 1986 season, out after 1991 and returned in a new form two seasons ago.

"We think we're in position now to approve replay for more than one year," said Young, who as general manager of the Giants and co-chairman of the competition committee, was one of the leading opponents of the system.

Other than that, there are likely to be only minor adjustments to the rules.

"Our consensus is that there is a high level of competition," Young said. "We'd like to keep it that way."

## Cubs homer beats Rockies

MESA, Ariz. (AP) — Sammy Sosa hit his sixth home run of the spring and Julian Tavarez pitched six scoreless innings Wednesday as the Chicago Cubs beat the Colorado Rockies 4-0.

Both benches were warned about beanballs in the top of the fourth inning, when Tavarez hit Jeff Cirillo with a pitch. The two players exchanged words as Cirillo walked to first base.

Tavarez (1-3), who pitched for the

Rockies last season, allowed five hits.

The game was scoreless until two outs in the sixth. Bill Mueller then singled and Sosa followed by hitting a towering homer over the wall in left-center on a 2-1 pitch from Brian Bohanon.

Bohanon (1-1) pitched six innings, giving up seven hits and two runs.

The Cubs added two more runs in the eighth on Jose Nieves' home run and Todd Dunwoody's RBI double.

# T-shirts are gobbled up as KU fans catch fever

LAWRENCE (AP) — Kansas fans are going bananas.

As basketball fever escalates, T-shirts featuring the image of coach Roy Williams and an imaginary monkey named Stank'em are the hottest item in the state.

Well, maybe the second-hottest next to a Jayhawks team that out-rebounded Syracuse last week by 33.

"This is just a little embarrassing," said a grinning Williams, holding up one of the shirts.

He almost wishes he'd dreamed up some other strategy to motivate his team before last week's second-round NCAA game against the Orangemen. But the monkey did his job.

At the suggestion of his wife, Williams took a stuffed toy monkey to a team meeting before the game and invited his players to knock it off his back, pummel, punch and kick it. The idea was to "get the monkey" off their coach's back for failing to get out of the second round of the NCAA tournament the past three years.

Now they're headed for San Anto-

nio and a meeting with top-seeded Illinois in the Midwest Regional semifinals on Friday and hot on their heels will be another shipment of the \$16 T-shirts.

"We're going to San Antonio and see what happens," said Pat Warren, the athletic department employee who is in charge of such things.

Besides selling them on line, the school planned to have the T-shirts in shelves Wednesday in Topeka. The initial printing was a little less than 1,000 but there's no telling how many they will eventually hawk.

## VOTE

**DEAN BLUME**

for  
**CITY COMMISSIONER**  
**April 3rd**

Political ad paid for by Dean Blume.

The Goodland Daily News Service Directory • 785-899-2338

## Your KEY to business success.

Have your name up front when a customer needs you.

Repetitive advertising is the key to opening the door to new customers.



Combined rates are available to feature your services in the Daily and The Country Advocate.

**RAIN or SHINE**  
Cleaning Service

\*Complete Janitorial Service\*  
\*Commercial & Residential\*  
\*Carpet Cleaning\*

721 Grand (785) 899-2900  
Goodland, KS 1-877-811-2900  
Jerry & Trish Langley, Owners

**The Framing Place**  
Custom Matting & Framing

**Shadowbox Framing**  
Turn Precious Keepsakes  
into  
Framed Memory Heirlooms.  
Cheryl Peck

404 Main (785) 899-5528  
M-F 10-4 or by appointment

**Now YOU CAN BUY**

**Troy Bilt & Garden Way engines & parts locally!**

• Replacement Engines  
• Engine Parts  
• Tiller Parts

Distributor for Briggs & Stratton  
Tecumseh & Kohler

**CLAWSON AUTO SUPPLY**  
110 E. 13th • Goodland, Kan. • (785) 899-6119

**Repair Service Available**

Stop by our newest location  
and check out  
our Mexico,  
Las Vegas,  
Hawaii, &  
Cruise Packages.

**ROUND TRIP TRAVEL**  
Full Service Travel Agency  
1302 Main • Goodland, KS 67735  
(785) 899-7505

**FCS Services**

**Frank Serrano**  
(785) 734-2607

**K-Lawn 4 Step Lawn Care Program**

FCS Services is an authorized K-Lawn dealer.  
Serving Cheyenne, Sherman and Rawlins County

**Services Available:**  
K-Lawn Lawn Care Program  
Weed Control  
Lawn Edging  
Lawn Aeration  
Plus Any Other Property/Home Need

**Hot Brush** Since 1974

**SIGNS-LETTERING & PINSTRIPES**  
**Custom Vinyl & Painting**

Box 309  
BIRD CITY, KS 67731  
FAX-785-734-2459

**800-886-2423**

For Home Purchases  
or Refinancing  
**CALL ME FIRST**

**Monica Stramel**

**Commercial Federal Bank**  
Insured by FDIC  
(785) 899-3941

**Power Loan - Pre Approval**  
Conventional • VA • FHA • RECD  
BI-WEEKLY MORTGAGE

H.L. Financial Services, Inc.  
1302 Main • Goodland, Kan.

**OVERHEAD DOOR**  
OF NORTHWEST KANSAS

1-800-203-5691 • (785) 899-2426  
Goodland, KS

**Sales • Service**  
**Installation**  
**24 Hour Emergency Service**  
Credit Cards Accepted

**NEW SYSTEM**  
Professional  
**WINDOW CLEANING**  
Colby, Kansas

COMMERCIAL-RESIDENTIAL-FREE ESTIMATES

Now Scheduling  
Spring Cleaning

(785) 462-6995  
(800) 611-6735

**A+ CLEANERS**

• Carpet  
• Furniture  
• Vehicles

**JOHNENE CHENEY**  
785-399-2999

**NEED A HELPING HAND?**

- Home repairs  
- Garage & yard clean out  
- Lawn maintenance  
- What else??

CALL 899-3267

**TRUST YOUR HOME COMFORT TO**  
**CB HEATING & COOLING**

**TAPPAN**  
Heating and Cooling Products  
Trademark Tappan Used Under License

**CHAD BRINEY** 462-2445  
1180 W. 4th • Colby, Kansas

**travel & tours**

It's time to book your Disney and cruise vacations!!

**COLBY TRAVEL**  
438 N. Franklin  
785-462-3163 or 800-648-0862

**nwkansas.com**

Your local internet service provider with connections in St. Francis, Bird City, McDonald, Oberlin, Colby, Goodland, & Norcatour.

Call (785) 899-2338  
(785) 332-3162  
(785) 462-3963 or  
(785) 475-2206 for information.

**With monthly costs as low as \$16.50 per month!**

**Fitzgibbons Inc.**

1216 Main  
Goodland, Kan.  
(785) 899-2340  
8-12 Mon.-Sat. or by appointment

**Services we do:**

- We work on all small engines, lawn mowers, chainsaws, & String Trimmers
- We mow lawns
- We powerake & aerate lawns
- We sell parts for small engines and lawn mowers
- We fertilize lawns
- Fertilizer is purchased from us, we apply it FREE

• We sell Honda Power Equipment  
• Mowers - Roto Tillers - Generators  
• We sell Shindaiw  
• Chain Saws & String Trimmers  
• We sell New Engines for Lawn Mowers, Roto Tillers, etc.

**Remember we SERVICE what we sell!**

**EARN \$\$\$ ON YOUR IRA**  
Roth IRA or Traditional IRA...

**Hazel R. Estes, Agent**  
1610 Main  
Goodland, Kan. 67735  
(785) 899-2378 • Fax: (785) 899-2370

**FARM BUREAU FINANCIAL SERVICES**

Securities products and services offered through: EquiTrust Marketing Services, LLC, 5400 University Avenue, West Des Moines, IA 50266, 1-800-247-4170

Manhattan Regional Office, Manhattan, Kansas  
Farm Bureau Life Insurance Company, West Des Moines, Iowa

Have you heard about the 800 lb. Gorilla?

Call Doug or Eric for details!  
**899-2338**

We'll always be there for you.

**LIFE • HOME • CAR • FARM • BUSINESS**

**SHELTER INSURANCE**

**Jim Alcorn, Agent**  
1624 S. Main Street  
Goodland, KS 67735-0727  
Business: (785) 899-2553  
Home: (785) 899-3974  
www.shelterinsurance.com