

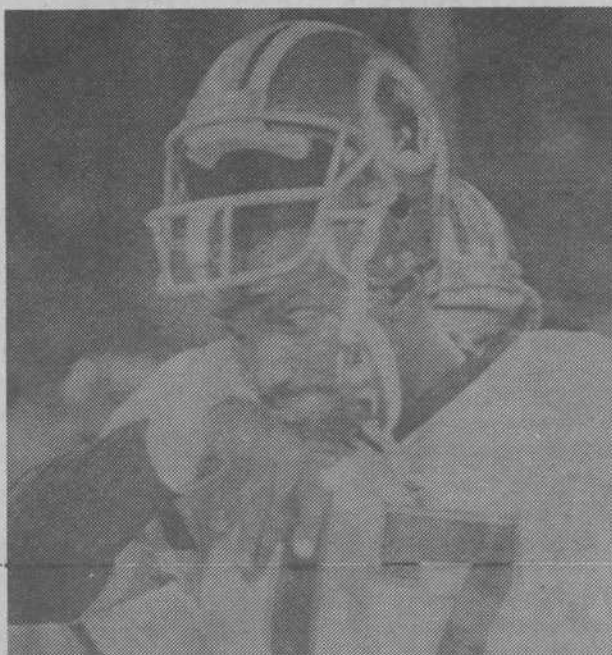
Williams Falling On Hard Times

Advanced age, brittle knees and an aching back have dumped Washington Redskins quarterback Doug Williams as no lineman ever could. Destined to ride out the rest of this season on the bench, he isn't sure whether the team wants him back next year.

Less than two years ago, Williams led the Redskins to a 42-10 victory over the Denver Broncos in the Super Bowl. He passed for 340 yards and four touchdowns, climaxing a whirlwind two weeks in which he had to prepare for the biggest game of his life while battling a media circus interested in learning everything about the five black quarterback to play in the Super Bowl.

But Williams, who will be 35 in August, has battled a series of injuries in the past two seasons, and this week Coach Joe Gibbs said he would use Mark Rypien as his starter. Gibbs also is fond of third-stringer Stan Humphries. Williams thinks his time with the team is near an end.

Williams, who is entering



Doug Williams

the final year of a three-year, \$3.3 million contract, expects to become an unprotected free agent in February.

"Why would you keep a guy who makes the money that I make to be third-team when you've got two young guys up front?" he said. "This is a business and money plays a factor."

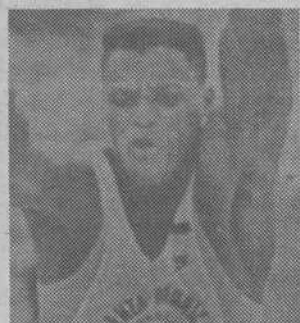
Williams, who was the runaway MVP of that 1988 Super Bowl, underwent knee surgery during the offseason but still started the opening three games of last season. He then was sidelined by an emergency appendectomy and missed four weeks, before returning to split time with Rypien.

Carl Lewis Awarded

Carl Lewis is the Jekyll and Hyde of track and field.

On the field of competition, Lewis is nonpareil. Off it, he is an enigma.

His accomplishments, unequaled in the overall scope of the sport, make him The Associated Press' outstanding male track and field athlete of the decade.



Carl Lewis

For example, there is the remarkable haul of 11 gold medals and one silver medal in 12 events covering each of the last two Olympics and World Championships, topped by the four golds at the 1984 Los Angeles Games, matching the feat of the legendary Jesse Owens.

Owens won golds in the 1936 Berlin Olympics in the 100-meter and 200-meter relay; Lewis won the same four golds in '84.

In addition, during the 1980s, Lewis set the world record for the 100, ran on two U.S. teams that set world records in the 400-meter relay and on one U.S.

team that set the world record in the 800-meter relay. He also won four national titles in the 100, two in the 200 and five in the long jump; one NCAA title in the 100 and two in the long jump; one World Cup title in the long jump, and one Pan American Games titles in the long jump.

He also produced the two best long jumps ever at sea

level, soaring 28 feet, 10 1/4 inches twice, once indoors and once outdoors, to challenge Bob Beamon's world record of 29-2 1/2 set at the 1968 Olympics in the high altitude of Mexico City. Lewis owns a record 62-meet unbeaten streak in the long jump. He has not lost a long jump competition since the 1981 national indoor championship.

Kings Fire Russell

NBA Hall-of-Famer Bill Russell was fired Tuesday as vice president of the Sacramento Kings, who appointed Coach Jerry Reynolds as director of player personnel.

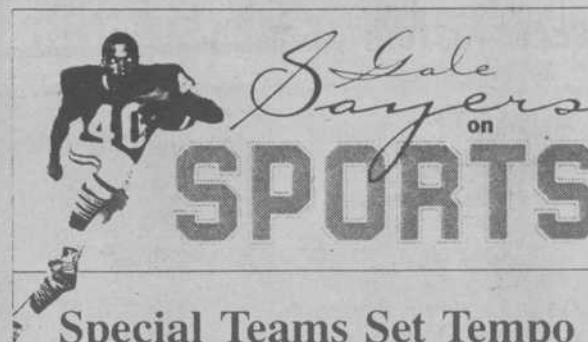
"It was in the best interest of the organization," Managing General Partner Gregg Lukenbill said in a statement. "It has become evident that our franchise was not moving in a positive direction."

The Kings (6-14) are in last place in the Pacific Division. There was no comment from Russell, whose aloofness from fans and sports writers contributed to escalating criticism of his performance.

Reynolds will continue as interim coach, the statement said. Rick Benner, vice president for business, will replace Russell.

Russell coached the Boston Celtics and the Seattle Super Sonics after concluding a playing career in which he was a five-time NBA Most Valuable Player for the Celtics. The 55-year-old Russell, selected in 1980 as the greatest player in history by the Professional Basketball Writers' Association, was named head coach of the Kings on April 27, 1987, ending a 10-year stint as a television commentator.

Russell was relieved of his coaching duties 11 months later, after compiling a 17-41 record at the end of the 1986-87 season and start of 1987-88.



Special Teams Set Tempo

We've seen the outcome of many games this season dictated by special teams. While offensive and defensive units spend more time on the field, special teams often control the tempo and flow of a game. Let your special teams break down and your team is finished.

A good example was the recent Monday night game between the Minnesota Vikings and New York Giants. The entire mood of the game changed as the Vikings' kick returner fumbled two kicks in a row, allowing the Giants to score easily and take control of the game. For a team that is supposed to be good, the Vikings' special teams were awful.

Quality play by special teams is often the difference between a winning and a losing team. Look at the NFL standings. The division leaders all have excellent special teams. And in college football, look no further than Notre Dame to see where concentration on special-teams play will get you.

There's a lot at stake when special teams are on the field. A kick returned for a touchdown can break an opponent's spirit. Likewise, a great hit on a returner can fire up a defense and shift the momentum of a game. Teams should look at every kickoff and punt return as a great opportunity to move the ball downfield. On the other side, it's a great defensive opportunity to trap the opposing team in poor field position.

Today, with specialization the name of the game, many professional football teams will look through the entire college draft to find that one special-teams player who can make a difference. It may be a punt and kickoff returner or a "wedge breaker" who isn't afraid to stick his head out to make a tackle. With this kind of specialization, many players now spend their entire NFL careers playing only on special teams.

It's a little different from when I was with the Chicago Bears. I returned kickoffs and punts, as well as starting at running back.

I think it's too bad football is so specialized today that you almost never see a starting running back getting the chance to return kicks and punts. There are some running backs in the NFL who could be outstanding kick returners. It's the fear of injury to a star player that keeps teams from using their running backs.

I believe the fears are unrealistic. A great running back has excellent peripheral vision and can see everyone on the field. He knows where to run and where to cut. Many of the guys who are returning kicks don't have that great peripheral vision and are in much more danger of being hurt.

Just look at Herschel Walker in his first game with the Vikings. Because he was unfamiliar with the new offense, they put him back as a kick returner. His first return was for more than 50 yards! If they had stuck with Herschel, they might not have lost that game to the Giants!

Gale Sayers is considered one of the greatest running backs of all time. The former Chicago Bear is a member of the National Football League's Hall of Fame.

©1989, PM Editorial Services

Keep Hope Alive

STOP THE VIOLENCE

1990 MADD™ Poster/Essay Contest

"Make This the Decade of Difference—Drive Safe and Sober!"

Entry Deadline: February 12, 1990

Posters—Students in Grades 1-12

Essays—Students in Grades 4-12

Entries in English or Spanish are welcomed.

For official contest rules and entry blanks, contact your local MADD Chapter or MADD National Youth Programs, 669 Airport Freeway, Suite 310, Hurst, Texas 76053

21 National Awards: **1st Place: \$1,000** and trip to Awards Ceremony
2nd Place: \$500
3rd Place: \$250