

S P O R T S

Players plead innocent in drug cases

CLEVELAND (AP) - Two Browns players pleaded innocent to drug charges Wednesday and a third, top draft pick Gerard Warren, faces a firearm charge following their arrests in separate cases in two cities.

Fullback Mike Sellers and cornerback Lamar Chapman were charged with drug abuse of cocaine after police pulled them over in a traffic stop last week in Cleveland.

They pleaded innocent to the felony charges and several misdemeanors, including use of a vehicle to solicit

drugs, drug abuse of marijuana and not wearing seat belts.

Warren was arrested on a charge of carrying an unlicensed firearm following his arrest outside a nightclub in Pittsburgh.

The arrests came less than 48 hours after the Browns had beaten the Super Bowl champion Baltimore Ravens to improve to 5-4 and move back into the AFC playoff race.

A dollar bill containing a white powder suspected of being cocaine was found in a

patrol car after Sellers and Chapman were taken to the police station, a police report said.

Warren, a rookie defensive tackle who earlier this season was fined \$35,000 by the NFL for a vicious hit on Jacksonville quarterback Mark Brunell, was arraigned Tuesday and released after posting bond. Warren is due in court Nov. 30.

Police were questioning a passenger for suspected drug use in Warren's sport utility vehicle parked outside the nightclub at 2:35 a.m. when

they spotted an empty gun holster.

According to the police report, a passenger in Warren's SUV told officers he had a .45 Glock handgun locked inside a console in the vehicle. After towing and searching the vehicle, police found the gun, which belonged to Warren.

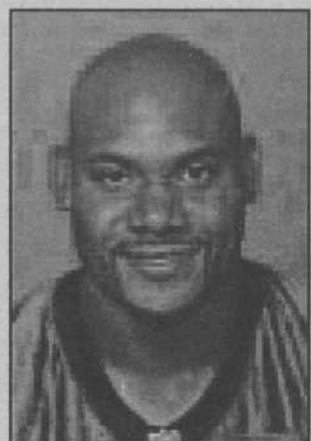
Sellers and Chapman posted bond and have court appearances Dec. 20 on the misdemeanors charges and Jan. 30 on the felony charges. Sellers refused to submit to a urine test, police said.

Tests reveal cocaine in Smith's system

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) - Jacksonville Jaguars receiver Jimmy Smith tested positive for cocaine after police stopped him Nov. 11 on suspicion of drunken driving, but he will not be prosecuted.

Smith could face disciplinary action from the NFL for violating the league's substance abuse policy.

Officials from the NFL did not immediately return phone calls seeking comment



JIMMY SMITH

Monday.

Smith passed two breath tests after he was stopped, but police took a urine sample, which was sent to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement for analysis.

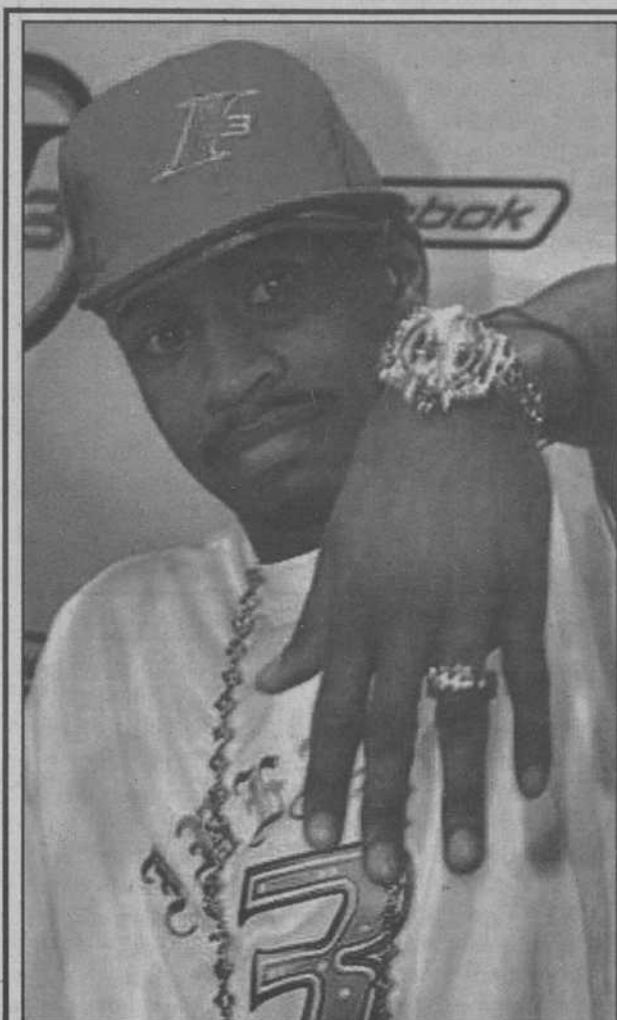
Smith tested positive for cocaine, Assistant State Attorney John Guy said Monday.

Guy said his office would not prosecute Smith for drunken driving because he

did not have a blood-alcohol level above the state's .08 limit. Smith also will not be prosecuted on drug charges.

"He didn't have anything on his person when he was arrested," Guy said. "There was only cocaine in his system, and for that I can't prosecute."

Smith, who has been to the last four Pro Bowls, was third in the AFC in receptions with 70. He couldn't be reached for comment.



GOLD FOR A LIFETIME
Philadelphia 76ers' Allen Iverson shows off a Breitling watch given to him during a news conference announcing his lifetime contract with Reebok held before the Washington Wizards game Wednesday, in Philadelphia.



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