

Davis: Trading Rice was difficult

ALAMEDA, Calif. (AP) - Al Davis never considered releasing Jerry Rice — that's just not the way the Oakland Raiders' owner wanted to treat the NFL's most prolific receiver.

So, when the 42-year-old Rice told Davis he could no longer handle his limited role with the Raiders and wanted to go elsewhere, Davis did all he could to accommodate him.

Davis called two teams, and had Raiders senior personnel executive Michael Lombardi call three more. Rice finally landed with the Seattle Seahawks on Tuesday, with Oakland getting a conditional seventh-round draft pick in return.

"It was Jerry Rice who made the decision, and we honestly tried to accommodate him the best we can," Davis said.

Davis called it an "emotional day," adding "it's not fun when the great ones leave you, either because of age or ability or some reason."

Davis also acknowledged all the problems of the Raiders (2-4), who have lost three straight games and are still making the same mistakes that defined their 4-12 season a year ago.

Davis met with Rice last Wednesday to work out a plan to make both parties happy. Davis said Rice asked the 75-year-old owner for more re-



Wide receiver Jerry Rice smiles as he answers questions from reporters Tuesday at Seahawks headquarters in Kirkland, Wash. Rice was traded from the Oakland Raiders.

sponsibility in Turner's offense, but Davis couldn't give Rice any guarantees.

The Raiders are trying to develop a handful of talented young receivers, and Rice has only five catches for 67 yards and no touchdowns this season after leading Oakland with 63 catches for 869 yards last season. He's gone without a reception three times in five games, ending a record run of 274 straight games with a catch, and causing the 20-year veteran to complain on several occasions.

"It's not a distraction for me, but it was a distraction

for the coach," Davis said. "He didn't deserve it."

Rice holds league records for most career receptions (1,524), most yards receiving (22,533) and most touchdown receptions (194).

"He's one of the truly great players of all time," Davis said. "We've had some great players here. There's no question Jerry Rice is one of the great players of all time."

Rice claimed he hadn't been warned his role would be minimal this season. Davis said Rice was expected to be a contributor in the offense but that it just didn't happen.

Receiver Tim Brown, formerly the longest-tenured member of the team, was released in training camp when he was told he might not even be active some Sundays. Rice was always thought of as a starter, Davis said.

"He didn't have a diminished role with the offense," Davis said. "He was told he'd be in the mix and that he'd be a starter. Jerry was given a pretty honest approach to where he would be. It was nowhere near where I sat down and talked to Tim Brown."

Davis believes Rice can still be productive, and will always appreciate the fact Rice joined the Raiders when he was let go by the San Francisco 49ers four years ago.

They spoke Monday. "My parting words to him were that we appreciated that he came through and wore the silver and black, and that his greatness can never be questioned," Davis said. "And we hugged each other. It doesn't mean our friendship or our relationship is over."

Woods not fined for entering port

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) - Tiger Woods will not be fined for entering San Juan's port aboard his yacht without notice following his wedding, but the U.S. Coast Guard warned him not to do it again.

Since July 1, new U.S. Homeland Security Department regulations require many boats to submit an arrival notice at least four days before entering a U.S. port. The Coast Guard briefly detained Woods and his new wife aboard their 155-foot yacht, the Privacy, after it entered San Juan's port Thursday.

The Privacy's captain said he did not know that the new regulations applied to Puerto Rico, a U.S. Caribbean territory, officials said. The skipper said he stopped in San Juan only to refuel. The Privacy, registered in the Cayman Islands, was allowed to refuel as immigration authorities spoke with those aboard, including the newlyweds.

The Coast Guard's captain of the port could have fined Woods up to \$32,500 but since it was a first offense a letter of warning was sent instead, spokesman Lt. Eric Willis said Sunday. He added the letter was issued Friday. "The yacht will be subject to a fine if it happens again," Willis said.

The golf great and Swedish model Elin Nordegren were married Oct. 5 at a Barbados resort. It was not clear where the yacht went after leaving Puerto Rico.

Woods had been expected to return to the PGA Tour on Oct. 21 for the Funai Classic in Florida, but he decided to skip the tournament. Before his wedding, Woods played in the American Express Championship in Ireland. He finished ninth and slipped to a No. 3 world ranking.

Boston's most unbelievable comeback

NEW YORK (AP) — Believe it, New England — the Boston Red Sox are in the World Series. They got there with the most unbelievable comeback of all, with four sweet swings after decades of defeat, shaming the New York Yankees, the Evil Empire to the south.

Just three outs from getting swept in the AL championship series three nights earlier, the Red Sox finally humbled the dreaded Yankees, winning Game 7 in a 10-3 shocker Wednesday night to become the first major league team to overcome a 3-0 postseason series deficit.

Cursed for 86 years, these Red Sox just might be charmed.

"All empires fall sooner or later," Boston president Larry Lucchino said.

There is no torture this time, no hour of humiliation. Better yet for Boston fans, it's the Yankees who are left to suffer the memory of a historic collapse.

"It's very amazing," Red Sox manager Terry Francona said.

Boston didn't need any of the late-inning dramatics that marked the last three games, leading 6-0 after two innings.

Ortiz, the series MVP, started it with a two-run homer in the first off broken-down Kevin Brown, and Damon quieted Yankee Stadium

in the second inning with a grand slam on Javier Vazquez's first pitch.

After Derek Jeter sparked hope of a comeback with a run-scoring single in the third, Damon put a two-run homer into the upper deck for an 8-1 lead in the fourth.

Lowe, pitching on just two days' rest, silenced the Yankees' bats and their boasting fans, who just last weekend assumed New York's seventh pennant in nine years was all but a lock. He allowed one hit in six innings.

Pedro Martinez started the seventh, his first relief appearance in five years, and immediately sparked chants of the now famous "Who's Your Daddy?"

Three hits and two runs got the crowd going, but the rally stopped there and Mark Bellhorn added a solo homer in the eighth for a 9-3 Boston lead.

"The greatest comeback in baseball history," Red Sox owner John Henry said.

Yankees players slowly walked off, eliminated on their home field for the second straight season. "They had a lot of heart. They never gave up," Yankees general manager Brian Cashman said. "That team never dies. I give them a lot of credit."

The World Series will start at Fenway Park on Saturday night against St. Louis or Houston.

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