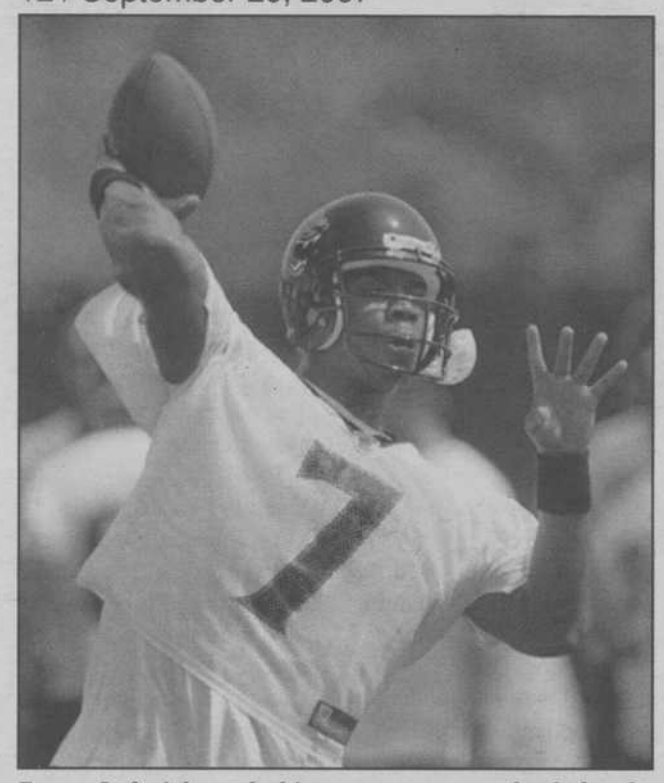


Byron Leftwich made his name as quarterback for the Jacksonville Jaguars. He's now with the Atlanta Falcons.

Falcons ink Leftwich to deal with Falcons

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. (AP) - The Atlanta Falcons signed former Jacksonville quarterback Byron Leftwich on Tuesday, giving the team immediate depth and a potential contender for the starting job.

"First of all, I'm a football player, and the last couple of weeks have been tough on me," said Leftwich, who was cut the week before the season by the Jaguars. "I appreciate the opportunity and I look forward to doing whatever I can to help our team."

Leftwich's agent, Tom Condon, said the former first-round draft pick passed a physical, worked out for the team and signed a two-year, $7 million deal. The 27-year-old Leftwich joins the Falcons for practice this week.

The Falcons needed help. Harrington, who took over as the starter when Michael Vick was suspended by the NFL, has lost his first two starts with Atlanta and the offense has scored only 10 points.

Harrington's other backup is Chris Redman, who has not played in an NFL game since 2003.

"As I've said for some time, we've been looking to add a quarterback to the mix since D.J. Shockley's injury in the preseason," coach Bobby Petrino said. "Joey Harrington remains our starting quarterback and Chris Redman is still No. 2, but signing Byron Leftwich presented us a unique opportunity to add a veteran with tremendous experience to our quarterback group."

Vick was suspended indefinitely last month following his guilty plea on a dogfighting charge. He is scheduled to be sentenced on Dec. 10.

Leftwich was cut by Jacksonville in a surprise preseason move when the Jaguars chose David Garrard as their starter. Ankle and knee problems have prevented Leftwich, who was taken seventh overall in 2003, from completing a full season recently. He missed 15 games the past two years, including 10 games with a bad ankle last year.

A poor showing in the preseason helped cost Leftwich his job in Jacksonville.

Leftwich was 19-of-38 for 226 yards and a touchdown in three preseason games. He was criticized for poor mechanics as he misfired on several passes and badly overthrew Dennis Northcutt on two deep routes against Green Bay.

Harrington has been sacked 13 times and Petrino has said the quarterback is holding the ball too long and showing a lack of confidence.

With Atlanta's pass protection problems, Leftwich, with limited mobility and a history of injuries, may not be a good match.

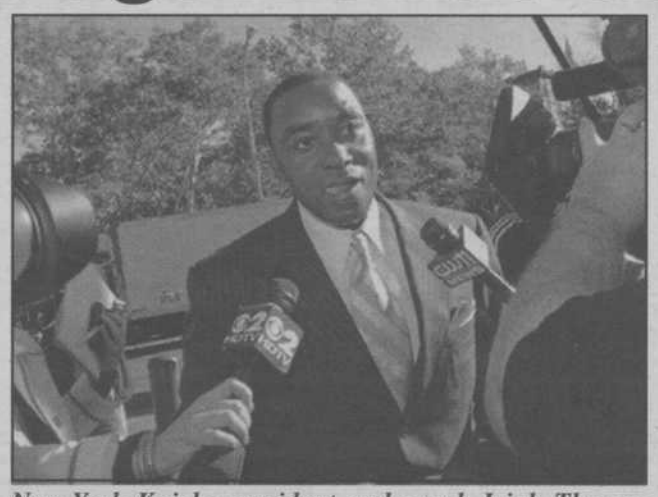
Harrington was 12-for-20 passing for 200 yards with no touchdowns and no interceptions in a 13-7 loss to Jacksonville on Sunday.

Leftwich played in only six games last season, when he was 109-of-184 for 1,158 yards, seven touchdowns and five interceptions.

Witness tags Thomas' character

(AP) - Months after berating her in expletive-filled tirade, New York Knicks coach Isiah Thomas moved from cursing to courting a fellow executive now suing the basketball hall of famer for sexual harassment, a former team employee testified Tuesday.

Jeffrey Nix, a 15-year employee of the NBA team, took the stand in U.S. District Court to recount a series of conversations he had with his friend and co-worker, plaintiff Anucha Browne Sanders, throughout 2004.



New York Knicks president and coach Isiah Thomas answers media questions as he enters a Manhattan court for the second week of his sexual harassment trial Monday.

Sanders, in tones of disgust, detailed how Thomas initially treated her with contempt shortly after his December 2003 arrival in New York, Nix testified.

At one meeting meant to resolve any issues between Sanders and Thomas, the two-time NBA champion guard, lashed out at her by calling her a "bitch" and reminding her in even harsher language that he is the president of the team, Nix said his friend told him.

Browne Sanders also told

(See Thomas, Page 11)

– Purpose • KUUMBA – Creativity • IMANI – Faith • UMOJA – Unity • KUJICHAGULIA

– Self-Determination • UJIMA – Collective Work & Responsibility • UJAMAA – Cooperative Economics • NIA – Purpose • KUUMBA – Creativity

BLACK POWER

A SHOW THAT WILL INFORM, STIMULATE, AND EDUCATE YOU...

BLACK POWER

A SHOW BUILT AROUND THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES OF KWANZAA...

BLACK POWER

A SHOW THAT YOU HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR...

FRIDAY 9AM
ON KCEP-88.1

BLACK POWER

A HALF-HOUR OF SPIRITED AND THOUGHT PROVOKING DIALOGUE...

TODAY'S HOT TOPICS

BLACK POWER

TUNE IN AND CALL IN!

702.647.3688
702.647.2145 FAX
E-MAIL: BLKPWR4US@YAHOO.COM
WWW.POWER88LV.COM

Hosted by
RAMON SAVOY

UMOJA – Unity • KUJICHAGULIA – Self-Determination • UJIMA – Collective Work & Responsibility • UJAMAA – Cooperative Economics • NIA

• KUJICHAGULIA – Self-Determination • UJIMA – Collective Work & Responsibility •