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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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INVADERS OPEN REGULAR SEASON AT COLISEUM vs. DENVER GOLD

With high hopes and great expectations, the Oakland Invaders open the 1985 USFL season in the Oakland Coliseum Sunday, Feb. 24, against the Denver Gold. Kickoff is set for 1 p.m. PST.

Head Coach Charlie Sumner, debuting as a head coach after 21 years as an assistant, has spent four weeks at training camp in Mesa, Ariz., bringing together a talented group of players. Sumner and his coaching staff saw training camp come to a close on Feb. 17 with a 31-13 preseason win over the Arizona Outlaws in Fresno.

Sumner has chosen Bobby Hebert over Fred Besana to start at quarterback against the Gold, a choice Sumner said was not easy.

"They're very talented quarterbacks and it wasn't a decision I came to lightly," Sumner said. "I thought they both played well against Arizona and, for the most part, they put the ball right where it was supposed to be.

"I started leaning toward Hebert during the last week of camp, but it wasn't until Monday morning that I made up my mind. I don't believe in a two-quarterback system. If Bobby digs a hole, he'll have a chance to climb out of it."

Hebert, the USFL's top-rated passer in 1983 and MVP of the 1983 USFL Championship Game while with the Michigan Panthers, said, "I'm excited. It's a sad situation for Fred. He's a good guy."

Against the Outlaws, Hebert played the first half and completed 8 of 11 passes for 121 yards with 1 touchdown and 2 interceptions. Besana completed 6 of 8 for 105 yards.

"We used a three-wide receiver offense a good deal of the time against Arizona," Sumner said. "I like a wide open game, so don't be surprised to see us in that formation a lot."

The three wide receivers Sumner speaks of are Anthony Carter, Gordon Banks and Derek Holloway--all very dangerous, exciting players.

Carter has a career reception average of 19.1 yards and has caught 13 touchdown passes in the 24 regular season games he's played. Banks is one of only two receivers to have caught a pass in all 36 USFL regular season games and Holloway is the USFL's career leader with a 20.1 average per catch.

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OAKLAND INVADERS DEPTH CHART

(As of 2/19/85)

OFFENSE

WR -- 1 Anthony Carter	85 Mike Shumann	
LT -- 74 Ray Pinney	70 Steve Wright	
LG -- 62 Jeff Wiska	65 Reggie Irving	
C -- 63 Jim Leonard	56 Tom Turnure	
RG -- 64 Tracy Franz	65 Reggie Irving	
RT -- 72 Dale Markham	70 Steve Wright	
TE -- 81 Brian Williams	86 Lewis Gilbert	89 Doug Cozen
WR -- 88 Gordon Banks	29 Derek Holloway	80 Wes Howell
QB -- 11 Bobby Hebert	14 Fred Besana	15 J Torchio
HB -- 43 John Williams	28 Shawn Faulkner	
FB -- 45 Tom Newton	32 Albert Bentley	23 Otis Brown

DEFENSE

LE -- 91 Monte Bennett	96 Carl Sullivan	99 Doug Hollie
NT -- 92 Tim Moore	77 Ruben Vaughan	
RE -- 73 Dave Browning	79 Larry Bethea	
OLB -- 48 Tim Lucas	52 Thomas Carter	
ILB -- 51 Gary Plummer	57 Randy McClanahan	
ILB -- 50 Ray Bentley	57 Randy McClanahan	
OLB -- 58 David Shaw	52 Thomas Carter	59 Angelo Snipes
LC -- 36 Vito McKeever	7 Daryl Hart	
RC -- 24 Derrick Martin	7 Daryl Hart	
SS -- 40 Marcus Quinn	21 Oliver Davis	31 David Greenwood
FS -- 41 John Sullivan	21 Oliver Davis	

SPECIALISTS

P -- 10 Stan Talley	31 David Greenwood
K -- 3 Novo Bojovic	10 Stan Talley
H -- 14 Fred Besana	11 Bobby Hebert
PR -- 28 Shawn Faulkner	88 Gordon Banks
KR -- 28 Shawn Faulkner	23 Otis Brown
PC -- 56 Tom Turnure	63 Jim Leonard
KC -- 56 Tom Turnure	63 Jim Leonard