

Talons add owner, look to become af2's home

League's winningest franchise is looking to expand its potential.

BY MIKE BROWN
World Sports Writer

Tulsa Talons executives introduced new additions to their ownership group at a Wednesday press conference in the BOK Center lobby. They also discussed the future of the city's arena football team.

On the immediate horizon, the arenafootball2 league — or af2 — is looking to relocate its headquarters from Chicago, and Tulsa is entering the bidding process, Talons co-owner Henry Primeaux said. Representatives of the Tulsa Metro Chamber and Tulsa Sports Commission joined in making the announcement.

League president Jerry Kurz said by cell phone that Tulsa will join five other af2 cities, along with Nashville, Tenn., and Jacksonville, Fla., in making proposals over the



Michael Johnson (left), new Tulsa Pro Arena Football partner, speaks at a press conference Wednesday as David Box (center), another new partner, and Paul Ross, co-owner of the Tulsa Talons, listen. SHERRY BROWN/Tulsa World

next few weeks. Kurz will be in Tulsa for Saturday's Talons-Oklahoma City game and will hear an informal version of Tulsa's proposal Friday night. He said he hopes to recommend a new

host city to af2's executive committee by June 1. The move would have to be ratified by the league's board of directors, consisting of one vote for each of the league's 25 teams. Primeaux and Paul Ross, Talons

owners since 2004, have been looking for new partners to expand their growth potential.

They added Oklahoma City businessmen Bill Cameron and David Box in the offseason. On Wednesday, they announced that Michael Johnson, retired former chief administrative officer and senior vice president of the Tulsa-based Williams Cos., has joined the team.

"(Primeaux) said there was a need for some leadership here and he hit one of my hot spots. I have a warm spot for football," said Johnson, who played football on scholarship for North Carolina Central University in Durham, N.C. "We have the capability to take the Talons to a new level."

Cameron is a part-owner in the NBA's Oklahoma Thunder. Box founded Box Talent Agency in 1987 and is majority owner of The Greens Country Club in Oklahoma City.

Johnson was identified in a 2008 Tulsa World article as one of Tulsa's most influential black leaders. "(Johnson's) addition, together

with Cameron Box Sports, will make the Tulsa Talons the most viable medium-market sports franchise in Oklahoma," Ross said.

Ross said opportunities could abound for af2's winningest franchise. The Arena Football League, af2's parent entity, suspended operations for the 2009 season, and Ross said a radically different arena football landscape could exist next season.

"We're continuing to play and we're continuing to take steps toward having a season in 2010," Ross said. "Whether that will be af2 (or) a combination of both (leagues) ... or some other type of forum are all things we're going to be considering."

"Just a personal opinion from being on (af2's) executive board and head of the finance committee, I think we're going to have an opportunity to have something that's a lot stronger."

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GOLF

LOCAL CALENDAR

MAY

Mother Ball Tournament

Where: Bailey Ranch
When: 1 p.m. Saturday
Entry fee: \$10 for members, \$30 for public players.
Information: 274-4653.

Mother's Day Golf Scramble

Where: White Hawk
When: 7:30 a.m., May 10
Entry fee: \$35 each (four-person scramble).
Information: 366-4653.

TGA Senior Series Tournament

Where: Battle Creek
When: May 13
Information: tulsaworld.com/tga

Couples Nine and Dine

Where: Forest Ridge
When: 3:15 p.m. May 17
Entry fee: \$70 per couple (\$40 for annual members).
Information: 357-2282.

Salvation Army Women's Tournament

Where: Indian Springs Country Club
When: 8:30 a.m., May 18
Entry fee: \$100 per individual or \$400 per team.
Information: 587-7801, ext. 121 or sherry_sims@uss.salvation-army.org

WOGA Spring Mixer

Where: Clary Fields, Sapulpa
When: 9 a.m. May 18
Entry fee: \$65
Information: Susan Hall, 794-6554, 640-3914 or susan-hall4@cox.net

OGA Senior Spring 4 Ball Championship

Where: Dornick Hills, Ardmore
When: May 18-19
Entry fee: \$200 per team (deadline May 11)
Information: tulsaworld.com/okgolf

Trina (Wheeler) Shepperd Golf Tournament

(Proceeds go to Wheeler's lung transplant surgery)
Where: Pryor Creek Golf Course.
When: 8:30 a.m. May 23.
Entry fee: \$200 per four-person scramble team.
Information: Derek Stafford, 918 476-4792 (derekstafford@yahoo.com); Nancy Stafford, 918 476-5245.

TGA Senior Series Tournament

Where: Emerald Falls
When: May 27
Information: tulsaworld.com/tga

TGA Parent Child Championship

Where: South Lakes
When: May 30-31

Entry fee: \$35 per team (course fees not included)
Information: tulsaworld.com/tga or gglenntulsagolfassociation.com

JUNE

Junior Clinic and 5-hole parent/child scramble

Where: Forest Ridge
When: June 1-5
Entry fee: \$125 per child.
Information: 357-2282

TGA Senior-Junior Championship

Where: Battle Creek
When: June 6-7
Information: tulsaworld.com/tga

OGA Junior Boys Championship

Where: Fairfax Golf Course.
When: June 8-11.
Entry fee: \$125.
Information: www.okgolf.org.
June

Pryor All Sports Booster Club Tournament

Where: Pryor Creek Golf Course.
When: 8 a.m. June 27.
Entry fee: \$50 per person, \$200 per team.
Information: j-mccoy5@sbcglobal.net or Jerry McCoy, 373-1152

Golf calendar information may be submitted to Jimmie Tramel at jimmie.tramel@tulsaworld.com.

THIS WEEK'S TOURNAMENTS

PGA TOUR

The Players Championship

Site: Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.
Schedule: Thursday-Sunday
Course: TPC Sawgrass, Players Stadium Course (7,215 yards, par 72).
Purse: TBA (\$9.5 million in 2008). Winner's share: TBA (\$1.71 million in 2008).
Television: Golf Channel-260 (Thursday-Friday, Noon-6 p.m., 8-11 p.m.) and KJRH-9/2 (Saturday-Sunday, 1-6 p.m.).
Last year: Sergio Garcia won his seventh PGA Tour title, making a clutch par putt to force a playoff and hitting the island green 17th on the first extra hole to beat Paul Goydos.
Last week: Sean O'Hair won the Quail Hollow Championship for his third PGA Tour victory.
Notes: Tiger Woods won the 2001 tournament, his last top-10 finish at TPC Sawgrass. He won the first of his record three straight U.S. Amateur titles in 1994 on the Stadium Course.
On the Net: www.pgatour.com

LPGA TOUR

Michelob Ultra Open

Site: Williamsburg, Va.
Schedule: Thursday-Sunday.
Course: Kingsmill Resort & Spa, River Course (6,315 yards, par 71).
Purse: \$2.2 million. Winner's share: \$330,000.
Television: ESPN2-26 (Friday-Saturday, 1-3 p.m.; Sunday, 3-5 p.m.).
Last year: Annika Sorenstam won her 72nd and last LPGA Tour title. She retired at the end of the season.
Last event: Lorena Ochoa won the Corona Championship in her native Mexico for the second straight year and third time in four years.
On the Net: www.lpga.com

PGA EUROPEAN TOUR

Italian Open

Site: Turin, Italy.
Schedule: Thursday-Sunday.
Course: Royal Park I Roveri (7,222 yards, par 71).
Purse: \$1.74 million. Winner's share: \$290,155.

Television: Golf Channel-260

(Thursday-Friday, 8:30-10 a.m.; Saturday-Sunday, 8:30-11:30 a.m.).
Last year: South Africa's Hennie Otto won his first European tour title.
Last week: Thomas Levett won the Spanish Open to become the first Frenchman to win five European tour titles.
On the Net: www.europeantour.com

CHAMPIONS TOUR

Next event: Regions Charity Classic, May 15-17, Robert Trent Jones Golf Trail at Ross Bridge, Hoover, Ala.
On the Net: www.pgatour.com

NATIONWIDE TOUR

Next event: BMW Charity Pro-Am, May 14-17, Thornblade Club, The Carolina Country Club and Bright's Creek Golf Club, Greer, S.C.
On the Net: www.pgatour.com

— THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

PGA TOUR FEDEX CUP LEADERS

Through May 3	Points	Money
1. Geoff Ogilvy	1,387	\$3,076,204
2. Phil Mickelson	1,363	\$3,217,165
3. Sean O'Hair	1,336	\$2,963,842
4. Nick Watney	1,236	\$2,497,253
5. Kenny Perry	1,228	\$2,625,934
6. Zach Johnson	988	\$1,979,151
7. Paul Casey	968	\$2,152,700
8. Brian Gay	927	\$1,690,375
9. Steve Stricker	911	\$1,880,911
10. Tiger Woods	855	\$1,872,313
11. Retief Goosen	852	\$1,676,667
12. Dustin Johnson	789	\$1,637,766
13. Pat Perez	788	\$1,408,916
14. Charles Howell III	772	\$1,392,779
15. Angel Cabrera	716	\$1,543,445
16. Lucas Glover	703	\$1,254,513
17. Charley Hoffman	696	\$1,254,000
18. Y.E. Yang	690	\$1,347,698
19. Jery Kelly	689	\$1,425,130
20. John Rollins	684	\$1,372,413
21. David Toms	664	\$1,252,655
22. Luke Donald	651	\$1,206,576
23. John Merrick	586	\$1,064,838
24. Rory Sabbatini	581	\$1,218,973
25. Kevin Na	581	\$1,144,869
26. Davis Love III	575	\$986,585
27. Mike Weir	571	\$1,119,335
28. Camilo Villegas	568	\$1,104,065
29. Briny Baird	547	\$886,399
30. Charlie Wi	515	\$997,913
31. J.B. Holmes	508	\$947,969
32. Bubba Watson	493	\$958,929
33. Chad Campbell	493	\$991,653
34. Jim Furyk	482	\$927,356
35. Brett Quigley	469	\$927,356
36. Hunter Mahan	464	\$851,427
37. Steve Marino	462	\$731,944
38. Tim Clark	459	\$821,206
39. Jason Dufner	441	\$678,093
40. Jeff Klauk	440	\$637,135
41. D.J. Trahan	438	\$726,775
42. Mathew Goggin	423	\$673,681
43. Anthony Kim	416	\$792,002
44. Mark Wilson	412	\$845,772
45. Scott Piercy	410	\$658,099
46. Ernie Els	406	\$740,515
47. John Senden	398	\$599,683
48. Ben Crane	398	\$729,517
49. Justin Leonard	397	\$782,010
50. Boo Weekley	380	\$758,922
51. Bob Estes	376	\$695,495
52. Bo Van Pelt	375	\$598,359
53. Ted Purdy	365	\$560,308
54. Stewart Cink	355	\$796,190
55. J.J. Henry	345	\$640,810
56. Webb Simpson	343	\$576,233
57. K.J. Choi	342	\$671,054
58. Ruyji Imada	339	\$452,276
59. Kevin Sutherland	326	\$428,712
60. Robert Allenby	325	\$566,317

— THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cowboys' structure is not alone in building collapse

BY DANNY ROBBINS
Associated Press

DALLAS — The company that built the collapsed Dallas Cowboys' training facility also manufactured at least three other buildings that have fallen in heavy weather since 2002, according to court records.

The other tentlike facilities manufactured by Allentown, Pa.-based Summit Structures LLC or its related company, Cover-All Building Systems, were warehouse-type buildings in Philadelphia and upstate New York and an indoor arena for horse competition in Oregon. All the buildings fell in conditions that included heavy snow, according to records and interviews.

A Summit spokeswoman didn't immediately return a call or e-mail seeking comment Wednesday.

The collapse of the Cowboys facility in heavy winds Saturday left 12 people injured,

including a 33-year-old team staff member who is paralyzed from the waist down. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has opened an investigation into the incident.

Scouting assistant Rich Behm, whose spine was severed in the accident, remains at Parkland Hospital along with special teams coach Joe DeCamillis, who had surgery to repair vertebrae in his neck. Assistant athletic trainer Greg Gaither, who suffered a broken leg, was released Wednesday from Baylor University Medical Center, the team said.

Beth Hungville, executive director of the Lightweight Structures Association, said four of the membrane-style buildings collapsing in seven years is far from normal.

"That is certainly very unusual," she said. "You would not usually find that many failures in that short a time."

Hungville said her organization, an industry group,

aware of the Philadelphia collapse, which occurred just four months before work began on the Cowboys' facility, but did not know about the others until the last few days. The other accidents likely didn't attract widespread attention before the failure of the Cowboys' structure because they didn't involve injuries, she said.

The collapse of the Cowboys facility, built in 2003 and upgraded in 2008, has focused attention on Summit as well as Cover-All, based in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Summit sells and sometimes installs structures fabricated by Cover-All, according to court testimony from Nathan Stobbe, Summit's president.

When a Summit structure covering freight for the Philadelphia Regional Port Authority collapsed in February 2003, it spawned a lengthy court battle that ended with a jury awarding the port more than \$3.4 million.

NFL NOTEBOOK

Bengals expected to sign ex-Sooner Roy Williams: The Bengals expect to sign former Cowboys safety Roy Williams, reuniting him with former defensive coordinator Mike Zimmer.

Williams will be in Cincinnati on Thursday to meet with the team and have a physical. He broke his right forearm twice last season, and the Cowboys released him in March.

Zimmer was the Cowboys' defensive coordinator from 2000-06. Williams, 28, was the Cowboys' first-round pick in 2002 out of Oklahoma.

Rayburn charged in hometown: Former Philadelphia Eagle and University of Tulsa player Sam Rayburn is facing drug-related charges in Chickasha.

The 28-year-old Rayburn was charged Tuesday in Grady County District Court with two felony counts of obtaining or attempting to obtain a controlled

substance by forgery or fraud.

According to court papers, prosecutors are alleging that Rayburn presented forged prescriptions to try to obtain Percocet and Lortab, which are addictive painkillers.

Rayburn was arraigned Tuesday and is free on \$2,000 bond.

Cowboys' Folk has hip surgery: Dallas Cowboys kicker Nick Folk is recovering from surgery to repair a torn cartilage in his hip.

The Cowboys said Wednesday that Folk should resume light kicking work in about eight weeks.

The Cowboys picked USC kicker David Buehler in the fifth round of the draft last month.

Favre saga continues: Whether Brett Favre and Minnesota Vikings head coach Brad Childress dined by candle light Wednesday night or sat on a bench in the back yard of Favre's Mississippi home and shot the breeze about the quarterback playing for the Vikings is unknown.

But Childress did leave the

Twin Cities on a commercial flight Wednesday and, according to people with knowledge of the situation, he was scheduled to begin meeting with the for-now-retired record-setting quarterback over dinner. Discussions about Favre wearing a Vikings uniform this fall will continue on Thursday, most likely in Hattiesburg.

One key topic will be the condition of the partially torn biceps in Favre's throwing arm that derailed his only season as a member of the New York Jets. But a resolution to that situation appears close — and the sides could reach a deal quickly.

Lions sign Foote: Linebacker Larry Foote had other offers in other cities. But in the end, the chance to come home and help the Detroit Lions rebuild was all the incentive the free agent linebacker needed.

Foote, who spent the past seven years with Pittsburgh, signed a 1-year deal with the Lions.

— FROM WIRE REPORTS

DRILLERS ON THE ROAD

Drillers split doubleheader

Summary: The Drillers split a doubleheader with the Arkansas Travelers, winning the second game 5-3 after a tough 1-0 loss in the opener.

In game two, the Travs jumped to a 3-0 lead after two innings, but the Drillers answered with two runs in the top of the third and another run in the fourth to tie the game at 3-3. They took the lead with a two-run fifth as Anthony Jackson singled and scored on a triple by Chris Nelson. Mike Paulk increased Tulsa's lead to 5-3 with a run-scoring double.

In the first game, the Drillers' Esmlt Rogers held the Travelers hitless for six innings before giving way to reliever Tommy Baumgardner for the bottom of the seventh. The first batter Baumgardner faced, Hank Conger, led off with a single and eventually scored the winning run on a one-out single by Ryan Mount.

Notable: In the first game, the Drillers' best scoring chance came in the first inning. Mike Paulk single to center with two

Game 2

Drillers 5, Travelers 3

TULSA	ab	r	h	bi	ARKANSAS	ab	r	h	bi
Jackson, cf	4	1	1	0	Smith, lf	3	1	1	0
Nelson, c/ss	4	2	3	2	Bourjos, cf	4	0	0	0
Paulk, lb	4	0	1	2	Mount, 2b	2	0	1	0
Harvey, rf	3	0	0	0	Conger, dh	4	0	2	1
Holcomb, dh	3	1	1	0	Johnson, lb	4	0	1	0
Carte, lf	2	0	0	0	Breen, rf	3	1	0	0
Mayora, 3b	2	0	0	0	Nieves, 3b	3	0	0	0
Rundgrn, 2b	2	0	0	1	Wipke, c	3	1	1	1
Gonzalez, c	3	1	1	0	Statia, ss	2	0	1	0
Total	27	5	7	5	Total	28	3	7	2

E: Rundgren (3), Bell (1), Statia (4). **DP:** Tulsa 1. **LOB:** Tulsa 5, Arkansas 9. **2B:** Holcomb (7), Paulk (7), Smith, Coby (5), Wipke (2). **Nelson 2 (2).** **S:** Carte. **SF:** Rundgren. **SB:** Mount (3), Statia (6).

Tulsa	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Graham	3 2/3	3	3	2	2	6
Cedeno W, 1-0	1 1/2	2	0	0	1	2
Lindsay	1/2	0	0	0	0	1
Johnston S, 6	1 1/2	2	0	0	1	2

Arkansas
Bell L, 2-1 6 6 5 4 1 5
Blackwell 1 1 0 0 0 0
HBP: Breen (by Graham), Harvey (by Bell). **T:** 2:26. **A:** 4,288.

Game 1

Travelers 1, Drillers 0

TULSA	ab	r	h	bi	ARKANSAS	ab	r	h	bi
Jackson, cf	3	0	0	0	Smith, lf	3	0	0	0
Nelson, c/ss	3	0	0	0	Bourjos, cf	3	0	0	0
Paulk, lb	3	0	2	0	Sutton, 3b	3	0	0	0
Harvey, rf	3	0	1	0	Conger, c	3	1	1	0
Holcomb, 3b	3	0	1	0	Johnson, rf	2	0	0	0
McKenry, c	3	0	1	0	Trumbo, lb	1	0	0	0
Carte, lf	3	0	0	0	Mount, 2b	3	0	1	1
Mayora, 2b	2	0	1	0	Breen, dh	2	0	0	0
Rundgren, dh	0	0	0	0	Statia, ss	0	0	0	0
Total	24	0	6	0	Total	19	1	2	1

Tulsa 000 000 000 0 — 0 0 0
Arkansas 000 000 1 — 1 2 0

DP: Tulsa 1, Arkansas 1. **LOB:** Tulsa 4, Arkansas 3. **2B:** Harvey (4), Mayora (4). **S:** Johnson, Be. **SB:** Statia 2 (5). **CS:** Paulk (1), McKenry (1).

Tulsa	IP	H	R	ER
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