

Sports of The Times

When the Revolution Comes

NY TIMES By ROBERT LIPSYTE 30 MAY 70

"Pro football is a silly game," says Chip Oliver. "It dehumanizes people. They've taken the players and made them into slabs of beef that can charge around and hit each other. But where is their esthetic soul, the feeling they can accomplish higher things?"

On his way to a higher consciousness, Oliver, an Oakland Raider linebacker, announced recently he was forsaking the game to live in a commune in Larkspur, Calif. Within days, another linebacker, Dave Meggysey of the St. Louis Cardinals, announced his retirement and was quoted by The Associated Press as saying: "It's no accident that the most repressive political regime in our history is ruled by a football freak, President Nixon."

"When the revolution comes, football will be obsolete," says Meggysey.

Says Oliver: "I quit pro football because I felt I wasn't doing anything positive toward making this world a better place to live.

"The world I was living in, the world of making money, was leading me nowhere. You make money, you die at 70 and it goes in the form of inheritance.

In pro football, I was only a machine. I simply realized I wasn't doing the right thing by playing pro

football. It wasn't play, it was all profit motive instead. I enjoyed playing football in college, but not in the pros. That was too business-oriented."



United Press International

Chip Oliver

A Crime

Says Meggysey: "It's a crime what is done to the individual, from the little leagues to the pros. They're molded, warped, processed . . ."

"Sports can be a fundamental and beautiful form of self-expression. But sports like football will be obsolete. It is antithetical to the way human beings should act toward each other."

Meggysey, 28 years old, played football at Syracuse, but didn't get his head together, as he says, until he began taking graduate sociology courses at Washington University in St. Louis. He circulated antiwar petitions among the Cardinals and worked for Eugene McCarthy's Presidential nomination, both radical actions in pro football.

Meggysey is working on a book, "Out of Their League: Why I Quit Pro Football," with Jack Scott, the Berkeley teacher of progressive coaching techniques. Meggysey plans to tour high school and college campuses after publication with a message that includes: "Blind obedience to authority lends itself to the most fascistic type of mentality."

Silly Game

Other than the coincidence of their retirements, the two linebackers apparently have little or no relationship and Meggysey has indicated that Oliver's analysis of football as "a silly game" is rather unsophisticated. Oliver appears less political: He is working in the organic food restaurant of the commune and has given up his savings to the group.

"All I really need to live is to give," said the 26-year-old from the University of Southern California who has acted in the movies and on television. "Everything I need I'll get. There is no fear in our family. We've found the plan. Instead of projecting negativity we project love. Look at some of those demonstrations you're seeing all over now. People are terrified. There's total fear, but there's no fear in our One World Family because we are not involved in any kind of conflict or competition."

One other linebacker tried to drop out this month: Robert Lee Huff, called Sam, was beaten badly in West Virginia's Democratic primary for the Congressional nomination. Several days ago he announced he was rejoining the Washington Redskins.