

Stallworth apologetic

Judge lets him leave home for conditioning

By Sarah Larimer
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIAMI — Suspended Cleveland Browns receiver Donte Stallworth will be allowed to leave home confinement to train with a strength and conditioning coach, a judge ruled yesterday.

The ruling came the same day that Stallworth described the accident that led to his conviction on DUI manslaughter in an interview with ESPN.

Stallworth said he was driving about 40 mph the morning of March 14 when he saw Mario Reyes, a 59-year-old construction worker, run into the street.

He recounted flashing his headlights and honking the horn to warn Reyes, then slamming on the brakes.

"We collided," Stallworth said. "That's one of the many vivid things that still plays in my head to this day is the sound of that accident and you know, that's something to this day I can still hear as clear as it just happened."

Stallworth, who had a blood-alcohol level of 0.126 percent — in Florida, a driver is presumed drunk at 0.08 percent — was given a 30-day jail sentence and reached an undisclosed financial settlement with Reyes' family. Besides jail time, Stallworth's sentence included two years of house



BROWNS TRAINING CAMP

No. 3 QB impresses Mangini

Ratliff shows poise in snaps with first team

The fight for starting quarterback has always revolved around Brady Quinn and Derek Anderson. But third-stringer Brett Ratliff inserted his name into the discussion yesterday in practice.

Ratliff, a second-year pro from Utah, was the surprise quarterback in a two-minute scenario between the starting offense and defense, and he led a rare touchdown drive.

"I like his presence in the pocket," said first-year coach Eric Mangini, who brought Ratliff with him from the New York Jets. "He sits in there. He's calm. He has a nice calm presence in the huddle as well. I think his situation recognition is pretty good, but he hasn't played a significant amount in real games so it's hard to say how it translates."

Mangini said he wanted to give Ratliff and fourth-stringer Richard Bartel some experience with the first string.

"It was fun," Ratliff said. "Two minutes is one of my favorite things to do."

— From wire reports

► **Today's practice schedule:** One session, 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

► **First exhibition game:** at Green Bay, 8 p.m. Saturday

► **Season opener:** Sept. 13, vs. Minnesota, 1 p.m.

arrest, eight years of probation and other restrictions.

"As the case goes, there is a lot more to it than that and it doesn't take away from the fact that I used poor judgment," Stallworth told ESPN, when asked if he got off easy. "But at the end of the day, I think that I have to take full responsibility for the choices that I made that morning."

Stallworth was suspended indefinitely by NFL commissioner Roger Goodell after the crash. He met with Goodell in New York last week about possible reinstatement.

Stallworth said he has been meeting weekly with a psychiatrist to cope with the "mental pictures that I get."

"It's very hard to deal with every day, every single day," he said.

He acknowledged that his suffering is nothing compared to that of Reyes' family.

"I can't imagine how they feel," he said. "If I ever so much as take a sip of alcohol and I get behind the wheel and drive after what had happened on March 14, I would be spitting on Mr. Reyes' grave."

"If I ever so much as take a sip of alcohol and I get behind the wheel ... I would be spitting on Mr. Reyes' grave."

DONTE STALLWORTH suspended Browns receiver

Miami-Dade Circuit Judge Dennis Murphy granted a motion to modify the conditions of Stallworth's house arrest. Stallworth, 28, will now be allowed to train outside of his home with a coach five days a week in southern Florida, according to court documents.

Under the previous terms of his house arrest, Stallworth could not leave his residence except for work, community service or other approved activity. He will now be allowed to train with coach Pete Bommarito at a local high school, according to court documents.

The Browns are not counting on a quick return by Stallworth, signed to a seven-year, \$35 million contract in 2008. Once it became apparent he could miss significant time, the Browns signed 12-year veteran David Patten and added Brian Robiskie and Mohammed Massaquoi in April's draft.

"At this point, we're just working with the guys we have here right now, and we'll see what happens and assess it as we go," coach Eric Mangini said.

SOCCER | WORLD CUP QUALIFIER

Donovan a problem for Mexico

By Grahame L. Jones
LOS ANGELES TIMES

UNITED STATES VS. MEXICO
4 p.m. today

Mexico fears no one. That, at least, is the image that coach Javier Aguirre and the players on Mexico's national soccer team like to project. Fans of "El Tri" feel the same way.

The truth is somewhat different. Mexico should fear Landon Donovan.

The U.S. national team forward's blazing acceleration and blistering shot are game-changers. He can beat anyone. Even Mexico. Even at Azteca Stadium.

Today, he will have the chance.

The United States has never defeated the Mexican national team in Mexico, a fact that has been trotted out ever since the teams first played each other in 1934. The Americans' record is 0-22-1.

But statistics don't interest Donovan. Playing Mexico, he says, is always enjoyable.

"The games are fun," he said. "They're intense. And the other thing is, I know them so well that there's also a comfort level. I know what their strengths are, what their weaknesses are. A lot of us do, and it helps."

Today's match in Mexico City is a World Cup qualifier. If Mexico wins, it is squarely back into contention for a place in next year's tournament in South Africa. If the U.S. wins, its ticket to the World Cup is all but booked.

Both teams have capable players throughout their lineup. In Donovan, though, the U.S. has one of the few players on either side who can decide the

TV: mun2, which Time Warner is making available on channel 24. Mun2 is also available on Time Warner channel 802, Insight channel 380, DirecTV channel 410 and Dish Network channel 838. It is not available on WOW. Telemundo will broadcast the game in Spanish.

outcome in a single play. One burst of speed that shreds the Mexican defense, one dramatic volleyed goal, and the game can be won.

That's why Mexico should fear Donovan. It knows his potential.

The U.S. is 7-1-2 against Mexico in the 10 games that Donovan has played and 4-0 in games in which he has scored against Mexico.

A single goal has separated the teams in four of the six games they have played in Mexico City in the last quarter-century.

Mexico won the team's last meeting, a 5-0 victory in the final of the CONCACAF Gold Cup in which U.S. coach Bob Bradley rested his starters. Donovan, the all-time U.S. scoring leader with 41 goals in 115 international games, watched from his home in Manhattan Beach, Calif. "I thought the first half we played pretty well," he said. "We put some pressure on them had some decent chances."

Mexico scored on a penalty kick and it was downhill from there for the U.S.

"Until you play in games like that at that level, you don't understand what that's like. In an MLS game, you can get away with starting to push forward and throw numbers forward. Against Mexico, in a Gold Cup final, when it's hot and you're tired, they're going to make you pay for that and they did. We have to learn from that."



Landon Donovan

NFL NOTEBOOK

Woodson wants LeBeau in Hall, too

FROM WIRE REPORTS

Rod Woodson was determined to make sure his night didn't pass by without it becoming Dick LeBeau's night, too.

Woodson, the former Pittsburgh Steelers cornerback, turned his own induction speech into a campaign rally for LeBeau's election to the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

To Woodson, his former defensive coach — a 14-year cornerback for the Detroit Lions and an innovative NFL coach for 37 seasons — has waited too long to be recognized.

As a player, LeBeau's 62 interceptions were the seventh-most in NFL history and only nine fewer than Woodson's 71. Once he began coaching, LeBeau became one of football's most-copied coordinators, with many versions of the zone blitz defense he first tried in Cincinnati still in use by every NFL team.

To Woodson and many of the Steelers' current players, LeBeau has done enough to be enshrined as a player or a coach — though he won't be eligible for induction as a coach until he retires.

"I hope the voters, seriously, get it right. He deserves to be in as a player

and, if you don't put him in as a player, put him in as a contributor," Woodson said during his Saturday night speech in Canton.

LeBeau, a native of London, Ohio, was a two-way player on the 1957 Ohio State team that shared the national championship and was coach of the Bengals for two-plus seasons, beginning in 2000.

Rogers steered ex-Brown to Lions

The Detroit Lions' search for a defensive tackle got some help from an unexpected source — disgruntled former player Shaun Rogers.

When the Browns cut Shaun Smith last week, Rogers urged Smith to go to Detroit, even though Rogers left Detroit on unhappy terms a year ago. Smith took the advice, choosing Detroit over several other teams on Monday.

"He's my best friend, and he said he wishes he could come back and play here again," Smith said yesterday. "He said there are good people in the building here, good people in the locker room, and that I should just come here and play ball."

Smith played for three seasons in Cincinnati before joining the Browns in 2007. His career in Cleveland was

checked, most notably by a weight-room fight with quarterback Brady Quinn. He was waived on Saturday.

"I went to camp thinking I would get a fair shot to make the team, but it didn't work out," Smith said. "I knew there was a chance I was going to get cut, so my agent had done the research about other teams that might want me."

Carolina star glad injury not worse

Steve Smith's right arm is in a sling and he might miss several weeks of the preseason, but Carolina's star receiver says he's relieved his injury wasn't more serious.

"I thought it was broke, because it started hurting immediately," Smith said.

Smith fell hard after colliding with cornerback Chris Gamble, a former Ohio State player, in a passing drill Monday night during a practice without pads. The Panthers' top playmaker kicked his helmet in frustration before being carted to the locker room.

X-rays were negative, and while Smith declined to say whether he had separated his shoulder, the four-time Pro Bowl selection appeared confident he'll be ready for the regular-season opener Sept. 13 against Philadelphia.

BENGALS

FROM PAGE C1

Palmer, Ochocinco and Henry. The Bengals have added experienced players such as safety Roy Williams and receiver Laveranues Coles, but the goal of returning to the postseason lingers.

"Too many times you look at Carson as the experienced guy on this football team," coach Marvin Lewis said. "So we made a transition from an older, more mature football team, to a young, fresh football team, which is a good thing."

Of the 20 rookies in camp, 10 played in conferences that have automatic bids to Bowl Championship Series games. When that happens, Lewis said the transition to the NFL is relatively easy at worst and virtually nonexistent at best.

"I don't think it's that much different than coach (Pete) Carroll," rookie linebacker Rey Mauluga said of his days at Southern California. "It's an NFL-style practice. He coached us and helped us to the next level, and that's what's made us prepared for this."

"I came in expecting definitely worse than what it's been," said rookie receiver Freddie Brown, who played for an undefeated Utah team



BENGALS TRAINING CAMP

Father, son to match defensive strategies

Saints assistant is son of Bengals coordinator

In the Bengals' exhibition opener Friday, defensive coordinator Mike Zimmer will be on the opposite sideline as his son, Adam, who coaches linebackers for the New Orleans Saints. Adam Zimmer has been with the Saints since Sean Payton became the coach in 2006.

"He kind of knows my defense pretty good. During the summer, we watch cutups of each other's defenses, so there are no real secrets," Zimmer said.

Zimmer and Payton worked together on Bill Parcells' staff in Dallas from 2003 to '05.

Said Zimmer of Payton: "He's starting to get more of the pieces that he wants in there so I think he's progressing well. Plus, he just signed a contract for \$5 million for five years so he must be doing something right."

— Joe Reedy | Cincinnati Enquirer

► **Today's practice schedule:** One session, 3 to 5 p.m.

► **First exhibition game:** at New Orleans, 8 p.m. Friday

► **Season opener:** Sept. 13, vs. Denver, 1 p.m.

that went to the Sugar Bowl last year.

Palmer, Ochocinco and Henry are left as three of the longest-tenured Bengals. As the quarterback, Palmer is the natural leader, but Ochocinco, who has seen his share of NFL fines, and Henry, who has been arrested five times

in his career, are becoming the others.

Henry, cut and then given another chance by Cincinnati last season, sees that as an advantage.

"I can steer them in the right direction," Henry said. "For me as a rookie, I really didn't follow behind too

many veterans. I did my own thing, and that led me into getting into a lot of trouble. I wish I could take it back and start over, but now I'm just trying to focus on the future and making a positive out of everything."

Henry and Palmer acknowledged that part of their role in training camp is to help younger players. But Palmer was also quick to point out that every year is a new team, regardless of the number of newcomers.

"It's just different every year," he said. "This is a different unit than (2005's roster) was. This is a different unit than last year. This is a different unit than (Cincinnati's Super Bowl team of) 1988. There's just so much turnover now with free agency."

"You've just got to lend as much experience and guidance and wisdom as you can and try to guide them along," zswartz@dispatch.com

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