

Williams would like to see Young return

By Steve Schoenfeld
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CARDINALS NOTES

Nobody is happier that quarterback Steve Young might resume his NFL career than Cardinals cornerback Aeneas Williams, whose vicious hit ended Young's season a year ago.

Now, Young is considering returning to the San Francisco 49ers or joining the Denver Broncos if the 49ers, as expected, release him this week.

The Broncos open the pre-season against the Cardinals on Aug. 5 at Sun Devil Stadium, which was the site of Young's last game.

"I definitely would love to see him playing again," said Williams, who became friends with Young when they were teammates on the NFC Pro Bowl team. "You never want to end a person's career."

Young was knocked out of the first half of the Cardinals-49ers game on Sept. 27 after being blitzed by Williams. He suffered a concussion, and 49ers doctors refused to give him clearance to play again.

Recruiting pitch

The Cardinals have shown some interest in free agent return specialist Brian Mitchell, the former Washington Redskins running back who was released last week because of salary cap reasons.

But the Cardinals likely won't pursue Mitchell until they resolve some of the unanswered questions on their defensive line.

Mitchell is scheduled to visit the Philadelphia Eagles today.

FlexPack sales begin

Again this year, the Cardinals are offering a FlexPack ticket plan — tickets to the

Sept. 10 home opener against the Dallas Cowboys and at least three other home games of the customer's choice.

FlexPack sales begin today. Those interested can order by coming to the team's Tempe training facility, calling (602) 379-0102 or visiting the team's Web site at www.azcardinals.com.

In addition to the Dallas game, other hot sellers figure to be the Sept. 24 game against Green Bay and the Oct. 8 game against Cleveland. The Southwest Browns Backers, the Browns' Valley fan club, has committed to buying 1,018 tickets for the Oct. 8 game.

Hearing set

Cardinals running back Mario Bates, who has pleaded innocent to misdemeanor charges of domestic violence, has a hearing scheduled for 8:30 a.m. Friday at Scottsdale magistrate court, a Scottsdale police spokesman.

Bates was arrested March 15 after his girlfriend told police that he slapped her in the face.

If Bates is convicted, he likely will face discipline from the NFL, which could fine him or suspend him as part of their new personal conduct policy.

Short shots

Former Cardinals tight end Johnny McWilliams, an unrestricted free agent, visited the Redskins on Tuesday. The Redskins are looking for a backup to Stephen Alexander.

Free agent acquisition Norberto Davidds-Garrido, who is expected to play right offensive tackle, has been working at right guard during this week's rookie and free agent camp.