

Tillman only key vet not in camp

By Kent Somers
The Arizona Republic

CARDS NOTES

There was just one notable veteran absent Tuesday when the Cardinals opened their weeklong veterans voluntary camp.

Pat Tillman, the starter at strong safety the past two seasons, remains unsigned and has yet to make an appearance at off-season workouts. The Cardinals have made an offer to Tillman, the club's only remaining unrestricted free agent, but there apparently has been little movement in negotiations.

Tillman was married Saturday and is on his honeymoon. His agent, **Frank Bauer**, has not returned numerous phone calls over the past several months.

"We want Pat Tillman back," coach **Dave McGinnis** said.

Tillman faces a strong challenge from **Adrian Wilson** for his starting job, but Tillman is

important to the defense even if he's not starting.

In nickel situations, he moves to the "H" linebacker position, giving the club a solid run defender who can also cover.

The club will use that package even without Tillman, with **Justin Lucas** filling his role and **Wilson** staying at safety.

"Adrian Wilson can be a pretty dominating safety in this league," McGinnis said. "I'd like to keep Adrian and **Kwamie (Lassiter)** back.

Tillman's absence was not the reason for the team cross-training cornerback **Mike Stone** at safety in last week's minicamp.

The Cardinals want at least one defensive back who can play both spots.

Corey Chavous, now with Minnesota, filled that role the past few seasons.



Strong safety **Pat Tillman** is the club's only remaining unrestricted free agent.

In the tank

Linebacker **Johnny Rutledge** had no sympathy for his former agent, **Tank Black**, who was sentenced Tuesday to five years in prison for swindling former clients out of millions.

Rutledge didn't lose money with Black, but he did admit to taking money from the agent while playing at the University of Florida.

"He had it coming to him," Rutledge said. "The guy was stealing money, so I guess all of it just caught up with him."

Black is currently serving a six-year, 10-month sentence

for laundering money from a Detroit drug ring.

Jacksonville Jaguars running back **Fred Taylor** said Black took most of his \$5 million signing bonus, and New York Giants receiver **Ike Hilliard** testified that he lost about \$2.5 million.

David Dunn currently represents Rutledge.

A nifty 180

You can't get much lower in pro football than being on the practice squad in NFL Europe.

That's where Cardinals running back **Anthony White** found himself to start the spring season, but he's done a nice turnaround.

White was cut by the Berlin Thunder in training camp and played on the league's practice squad. McGinnis called White last week to see how he was doing.

"Just waiting for my chance, Coach," White said.

White got it last week. The

Thunder had injuries to two other backs and brought White up from the practice squad.

In his first game, he rushed for 97 yards and caught five passes for 89 yards. He was named the league's Offensive Player of the Week.

One-hit wonder

McGinnis was unable to defend his title at the Cardinals' charity golf tournament Monday.

McGinnis' foursome won the event last year. This year, however, it finished out of the money.

"Fourteen under and we didn't get a sniff," McGinnis said.

"That has to be a professional tour out there."

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Go to cardinals.azcentral.com for an updated chart of the Cardinals' salary-cap situation.