

American Football – Warner says the future is bright in Britain

✘ Kurt Warner believes it is a matter of time before American Football becomes part of the sporting culture here.

The biggest hurdle the 45-year-old from Iowa believes is making a level playing field when North American teams travel.

The former Super Bowl winning quarterback says there is great passion and knowledge about his sport in Britain.

And he experienced some of that passion during the packed NFL UK Live Tour event which checked into Edinburgh on Thursday night.

Around 500 fans – many wearing the colours of their favourites – crammed into the Edinburgh International Conference Centre to hear Warner and hear about plans to bring more games to Britain.

Also there were Danny Shelton of the Cleveland Browns, former player now pundit Steve Smith Jr and respected American Football journalist Peter King.

They took part in a lively, two-hour forum hosted by Sky Sports presenter Neil Reynolds and it included a lively question and answer session.

It also highlighted the forthcoming series of fixtures in London at Wembley and Twickenham which will feature a number of teams including New Orleans Saints, Miami Dolphins, Jacksonville Jaguars and St Louis Rams. Tickets go on sale soon.

Some, including panelist King, believe the best way forward

would be to have a British-based team not North American teams jetting into this country for a series of games.

Warner, who also played for the New York Giants and the Arizona Cardinals currently holds a number of records including being the seventh-highest career passer of all time and his achievements are a far cry from his spell as a supermarket shelf stacker.

He was also a visitor to Murrayfield after joining the Amsterdam Admirals who played against the Scottish Claymores in the NFL Europe League and the rest is sporting history.