

Oiler costs grow with good record

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston Oilers owner K. S. "Bud" Adams said Tuesday the Oilers were fined \$15,000 by the National Football League last year for having 68 players on the payroll during the regular season.

"He (Coach Sid Gillman) had 68 guys on the payroll and hidden out," Adams said in an interview. "I didn't know about it at first. None of those guys are on the team today. These things cost money and don't help you win. In fact, they hurt you."

Adams made the statement during a discussion of the Oilers' budget during the past two years. While Houston's success has soared on the field this season with a 6-6 record, so have expenses and Adams said many costs were unnecessary.

"They got caught with extra players and were fined \$15,000 for it," said Adams, who admitted he has been trying to curb Oiler spending.

"We spent \$85,000 on filming last year and they were going to spend \$100,000 this year," Adams said. "We had \$60,000 budgeted for filming both years and this year I told them we were going to spend \$60,000."

"I'm for spending money where it will help you win, not unnecessarily. They can't look at all the film they have now so what good will it do to have it."

Adams said another unnecessary expense came during pre-season when Gillman cut seven veteran Oilers shortly after they arrived in camp. "That cost us about \$10,000 to bring them down here and send them back home," Adams said.

"That's what I mean by needless expense. These things add up if you don't watch them."

When Gillman, now a candidate for coach of the year honors after a 1-13 season last year, took over as head coach last year he said he would be looking for a new head coach to take his place.

After last season, Gillman said he had decided to remain this year at the request of some of the Oiler players who did not want to break the continuity.

Adams said Gillman's contract is up this year and he doesn't know what Gillman's plans are for next season.

"I get a lot of second-handed conversation, not from him, that he is going to retire at the end of this season," Adams said. "... that his family very much is anxious for him to stop coaching because of his health."

"I'll have to admit that he had me worried about three weeks ago. He had to go into the hospital for three days. Just how much strain coaching is putting on him I just don't know until we sit down and talk."

"You've got to keep in mind that he is 63 years old and isn't a youngster any more."

Baylor's Beard in select company

DALLAS (AP) — The final Southwest Conference statistics — printed in Baylor green ink — showed Tuesday that Bear tailback Steve Beard joined a select list of triple winners in the league's football history.

The stubby 5-foot-7 Beard, who became Baylor's first 1,000-yard ground gainer in history, rushed for 1,104 yards to take the rushing title. He dominated the scoring race with 16 touchdowns for 96 points and won the tandem offense yards gained rushing and receiving with 120.7 yards per game.

Other such triple winners in SWC history include Davey O'Brien of Texas Christian in 1937, Bobby Layne of Texas in 1946, Don Trull of Baylor in 1963, and Bill Burnett of Arkansas in 1969.

In team offensive categories, Texas won its seventh straight rushing title with an average of 317 yards per game and its 18th in the 38 years the SWC has kept such records. Texas paced the SWC in total offense at 361.7 yards. TCU won the passing title in a close race with Baylor 147.1 yards to 145.7.

Southern Methodist sophomore Ricky Wesson led in total offense, and Lee Cook of Texas Christian led in passing.

On team defense, Texas A&M was the winner, limiting foes to 206.5 yards per game. A&M's Mark Stanley averaged 42 yards to take the punting trophy while Pat Thomas of the Aggies was the top defender with six interceptions.

Ed Lofton of Rice was the top receiver.

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