

Haddox in fold with Dallas

Six Aggies expected to ink NFL contracts

By ROBERT CESSNA
Staff Sports Writer

The 1975 National Football League Draft is history and with it came some surprises in Aggieland. The first surprise was when the St. Louis Cardinals made Tim Gray their first round draft choice. Gray appears to have an inside track on a chance for a starting position. Even though the Cardinals won the NFL's Eastern Crown they appear to be shaky in the secondary. Last year the only man they could depend on for outstanding play was Roger Wehrli six year vet out of Missouri.

The Cardinals also picked up Ken Reeves from the New Orleans Saints early in the year in an attempt to bolster their defensive secondary.

Aggie defensive coach Melvin Robertson who was recently promoted to assistant head football coach said, "I thought he'd go before the third round. We thought Miami, Buffalo and Los Angeles needed secondary people. Tim has an excellent chance at right corner. They feel if he could play there three years at right cornerback he could then move to strong safety," Robertson added.

Gray was unavailable for comment on his selection because he was in New York talking with St. Louis officials. The procedure for all first round draft choices to be flown to New York as soon as they are drafted.

The next Aggie to go was John Paul McCrumbly who was chosen by Buffalo in the fifth round.

McCrumbly got word of his selection when he was in Houston. McCrumbly said, "I thought I was going to Houston, Chicago or the New York Giants. They were calling last week."

McCrumbly said, Buffalo officials

stated they now have the linebackers they needed. In the first two rounds the Bills chose the linebacker duo of Tom Rudd and Bob Nelson both from Nebraska.

Jim Cheyanski, John Skorupan, Dave Washington and Doug Allen were the main bill linebackers last year. Washington was injured most of the year and was sorely missed. Out of these seven six should stay. McCrumbly's chances appear good. Robertson said, "I thought they'd take him. If he (McCrumbly) was still on the board when they (Buffalo) picked, then they'd choose him." Robertson feels McCrumbly has a good chance at middle linebacker because there is not that many of them. And with the type of defense A&M plays he should adjust very easily into the pro setup.

Now all that's left is for McCrumbly to fly up to Buffalo and meet the Bill officials. His contract negotiations will be taken care of by his lawyer in Dallas.

McCrumbly looks forward to playing in Buffalo where he will meet his idol, O.J. Simpson.

James Daniels was picked in the seventh round by the Oakland Raiders, a fine organization noted for their selective drafting.

But Daniel's work appears cut out for him. Oakland chose two defensive backs ahead of him. They took Neal Colzie of Ohio State in the first round and Charles Phillips of USC in the second round. Add Daniels and you have three top-notch defensive backs.

Last year's Oakland's defensive backs included: Willie Brown, Jack Tatum, Nemiah Wilson, George Atkinson and Skip Thomas. For Daniels to make it he will have to beat out some fine individuals.

Robertson said, Oakland is aware of Daniels experience on offense and this avenue is open. Daniels

will be flown out to Oakland for meetings with officials.

The last Aggie to get drafted was Ricky Seeker taken by the Houston Oilers in the seventeenth round. Seeker said, "I was happy that's for sure. The main reason is because they have had their center problems. There's a better chance to play there and it's in Texas."

Fred Hoaglin was the Oiler starting center as the season ended. But it is believed Hoaglin did not fill the position the way Houston had hoped. And since the Oilers did not draft another center it appears Seeker has a good chance.

Robertson on Seeker: If he can make the deep snap and put on some weight that should help him. He has a better shot at Houston than somewhere else.

While it was a happy day for Ag fans that these individuals were drafted, it surprised most that Randy Haddox and Warren Trahan were not selected. But teams have contacted them as Haddox put his name on the magic line yesterday and Trahan was contacted by Pittsburgh and Dallas.

A man from Pittsburgh was to fly in today to talk with Trahan.

For Haddox it appears he has an excellent chance to make the pro even though he signed as a free agent. Toni Fritsch broke his leg last year and his strength has to be questioned. Mac Percival was at Dallas for a cup of coffee but was released. Efraim Herrera ended the season as the Cowboy kicker.

Haddox said Dallas called in the morning and told him some guy was on the way up. As far as the draft goes Haddox thought he would go somewhere but didn't as few kickers were picked by NFL clubs.

"Within a month I'll be going to

Dallas for an orientation," Haddox said. He will now work in the meantime on his place-kicking until spring camp. "I'd rather sign with Dallas than anyone else. They've made the playoffs most of the time," he added.

Haddox said he is confident and knows he will be given a good chance of making the team. Terms of Haddox's contract were not announced.

Trahan was expected to be drafted but was shunned for some unknown reason. Robertson said he thought Trahan would go in the tenth round.

But it does appear he will sign with someone. Dallas has offered a contract but he is going to listen to Pittsburgh's offer before he decides.

It's an unusual position to be in sit through two days hoping and waiting and then to find out that you have not been selected. I asked Trahan how he felt during this time. "I freaked out. After the tenth round I just gave up. If I didn't get the tenth round I didn't feel like going. I might as well just wait and sign as a free agent."

Trahan summed up his feelings by saying, "They didn't draft me but I'm going to show them I can play."

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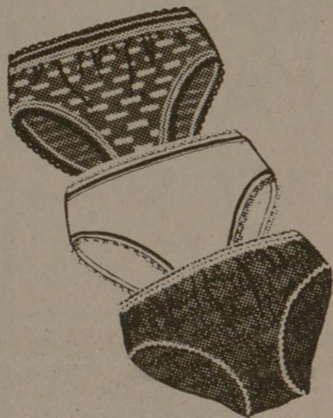
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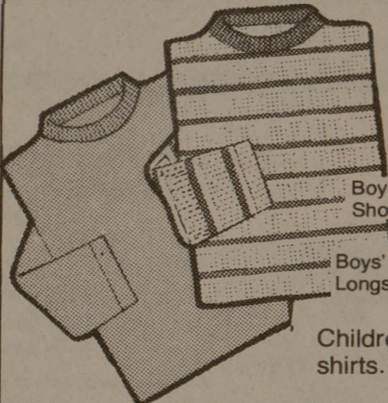
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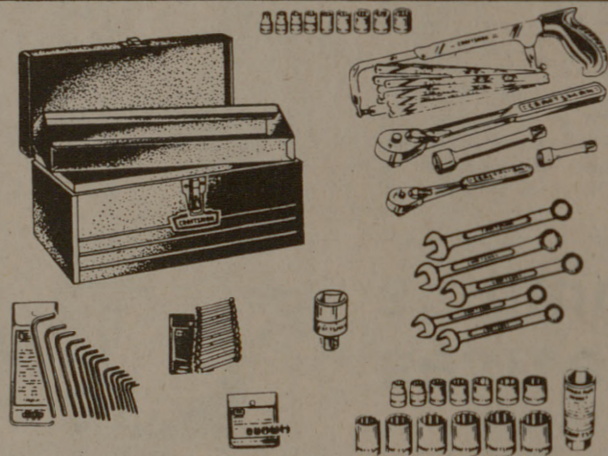


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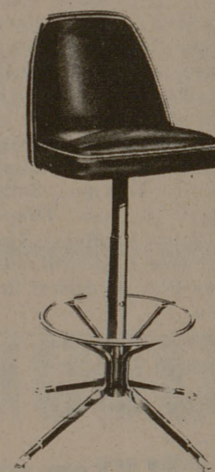
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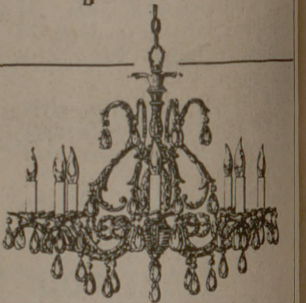


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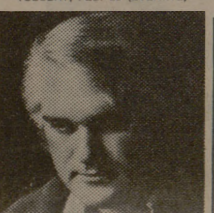
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