Oilers draft lineman

USTON — The Houston Oil-

uesday added some beef to a gy offensive line, using their be the two choices in the NFL draft to rounds. t big, fast linemen.

order to move the football you to have somebody block for "said head coach Bum Phillips, se team finished 26th in rushing

forris Townes, a 6-4, 275-pound e from Missouri, was the Oilers pick in the first round. Then, n other teams depleted the all list of top wide receivers, puston picked George Reihner, a 4,263-pound offensive guard from an State.

United Press International EVELAND — The Cleveland

s chose middle linebacker

t Jackson of Texas A&M Uni-

ty, whom they considered the best athlete available, with

17th pick in the first round of

ckson was the third highest

athlete by our scouting said Vice President Nate

ack. "Only Tony Dorsett and Bell were rated higher. We

ghted to have chosen him.'

Browns had been expected to

ra lineman but changed their when they found Jackson was

e 6-1, 230-pound defensive ace e 143 tackles last season —

than 10 per game — to lead

gies' resurgence to college

II. One hundred of them were

VFL draft yesterday

the first two picks and he said wide receivers and offensive backs would be the top priorities in the next few

Houston's opportunity to select offensive linemen opened up when a much talked about trade of quarterback Dan Pastorini to Los Angeles for five draft choices was never consummated.

Phillips looked enviously at the deal which the Seattle Seahawks made in the first few minutes of the draft. Seattle gave up the second choice in the draft to Dallas for four draft choices.

We needed some depth, also,"

He recovered one fumble, had

three quarterback sacks, and re-

Named to the UPI All-America team, he played with the South team in the Senior Bowl against the

North, coached by Brown's Coach

"He has 4.65 speed in the 40-yard dash," said Wallack. "He has the speed to play any of the linebacking positions although we chose him for

In the middle for the Brown's last

season, when they racked up a 9-5 record, were veteran Bob Babich of

Miami-Ohio and second-year man Dick Ambrose of Virginia. Babich

has NFL experience playing outside

give high priority to choosing line-man in the rest of the day's selec-

The Browns still were expected to

Forrest Gregg.

linebacker as well.

turned one interception 38 yards.

son this thing with Pastorini came

Phillips said he had not talked with Los Angeles in the past week.

Townes, a three year starter for Missouri, was the third offensive lineman selected in the draft after New York Jets selected Marvin Powell and Atlanta took Warren Bryant. Phillips said Townes was No. 1 on his list of linemen.

Townes appears to have a history of good health. Contacted at Columbia, he said his only serious injury occurred on the first day of spring practice during his sopho-

and they moved me to the offensive line the first day of spring practice," Townes said. "That first day I got teed off at a defensive tackle across the line and when I took a swing at him he ducked and I hit his helment. It fractured my arm.

Oilers offensive line coach Joe Bugle disputed claims Townes allowed a sprained ankle to slow him significantly the past season and said he expected him to start his first

"Missouri Coach Al Onofrio said the kid played every game like he was a sophomore this last season," Bugle said. "Al said that Morris knew the difference between pain

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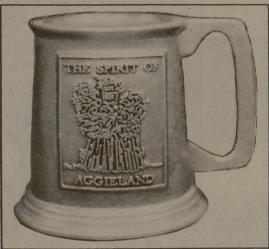
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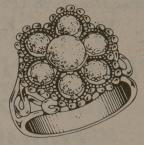
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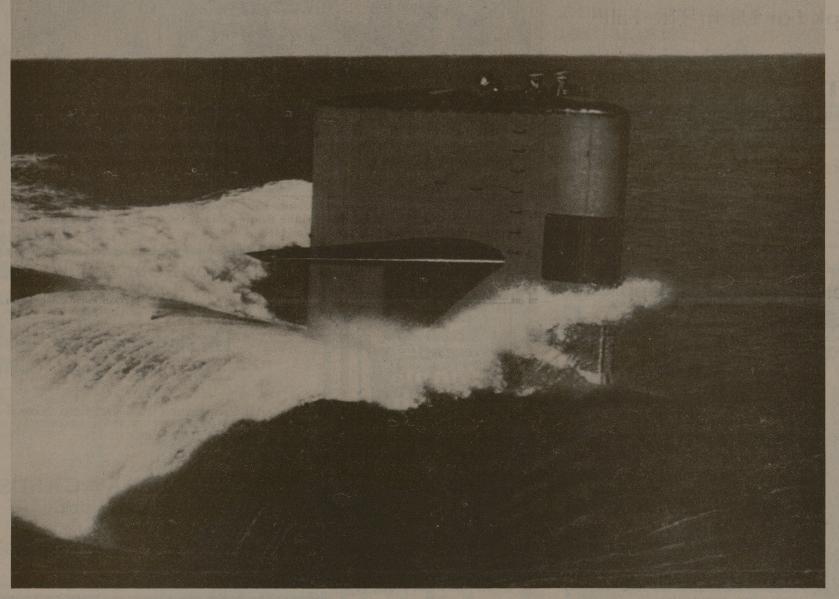
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