

sports

Draft brings new surprises

By MARK PATTERSON
Battalion Staff

When the name Lee Washburn was announced as the Dallas Cowboys' 12th round pick in this year's college football draft, many athletes from the 1977 football season were out of luck. And possibly out of a job.

When was the last time you heard of an all-American not being drafted by a National Football League team? It looks like it will become a common-day occurrence in the future. Under the new agreement signed by the Players Association and the team owners last year the college draft has been reduced from 17 rounds to the 12 rounds used this year. That marks a decrease of 140 players that were deleted from this year's draft of college talent.

Among those players forgotten in the first annual shortened draft were all-Americans Ken Smith and Zac Henderson. Smith, a quarterback out of Boston College, completed 58 percent of his passes last season and ranked third in the NCAA with an average of 16.6 completions per game his senior year.

Henderson, a defensive back out of the University of Oklahoma, was overlooked by the 28 professional teams as was John Pagliaro, a Yale running back who was fifth in the nation in rushing in 1977.

This year's draft made history, not only for having the fewest number of players drafted but being the quickest draft on record. This year's draft was completed in a total of 17 hours and 16 minutes, the shortest draft ever by more than two hours.

What team do you think led all the other schools in the number of players drafted this year? Not Notre Dame, who was the early leader with four players chosen in the first

40 taken in the draft. Nor was it Southern Cal or Ohio State.

Florida was the leader with 10 players selected in the 12 rounds. The Southeastern Conference was the most selected conference with 36 players chosen from its ranks.

But the Southwest Conference was well represented. The SWC had 16 players chosen this year with the frontrunner, Earl Campbell, bestowed with the honor of being the first player chosen this year.

Texas Tech led the way for the SWC schools with largest number of players chosen from its ranks. The Red Raiders had five players drafted, most notably Mike Mock of the New York Jets and tackle Dan Irons by San Francisco.

The Southwest Conference champion, Texas Longhorns had four players taken in the two-day affair. Other than Campbell taken by the Houston Oilers, the Longhorns lost Brad Shearer to Chicago, David Studdard to Baltimore and Alfred Jackson to the Atlanta Falcons.

Joining Studdard in Baltimore will be Texas A&M tackle Frank Myers. Center Mark Denard was another Aggie taken in this year's draft, being taken in the fifth round by the Miami Dolphins, while cornerback Mike Williams was drafted in the 11th round by the Washington Redskins.

Two other Southwest Conference players were drafted and will remain close to home. The University of Houston's running back Alois Blackwell was drafted by the Dallas Cowboys in the fourth round Tuesday while Mike Renfro, TCU's record-breaking wide-receiver, was drafted by the Houston Oilers.

Before the draft Renfro, with the help of his father Ray Renfro, an

11-year veteran of the NFL and a three-time all-pro receiver, wrote a number of teams asking the clubs not to draft him.

"My father helped me compile the list," said the younger Renfro. "We ruled out teams if there was something we didn't like about the climate, something we didn't like about the coach or something else we didn't like."

The teams included on Renfro's list included Green Bay, Detroit, Buffalo and the New York Giants.

"I don't know if the letters helped or not," explained Renfro. "But if one of those teams would have wanted me, I'm sure they would have drafted me."

Renfro was just another body the

Houston Oilers acquired to boost their offense. Seven of the nine players chosen by the Oilers were offensive players.

The Oilers acquired the rights to Brigham Young quarterback Gifford Neilson, tight end Conrad Rucker out of Southern, tight end Stephen Young from Wake Forest, wide receiver Willie Thicken of Alabama State and offensive lineman John Schuhmacher of USC, along with Campbell and Renfro.

Defensively the Oilers acquired cornerback James Wilson of Pittsburg and defensive end Jim Mol of Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa.

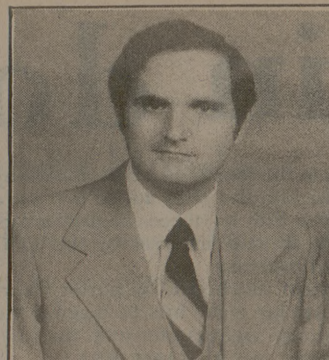
But the surprise of this year's draft had to be the selection of

kicker Steve Little by St. Louis. Little, the Arkansas graduate who holds the NCAA record for the longest field goal of 67-yards, was the first kicker taken in the first round of the draft since Oakland chose Ray Guy from Southern Mississippi State in 1973.

A total of 180 offensive players were taken in this year's draft. A total of 140 defensive players and 14 specialists were chosen by the pro teams.

The leading position chosen on offense was at running back with 44 players selected. Wide receivers were second on offense with 41 players taken.

Defensive secondary men led all positions drafted with 50 players.



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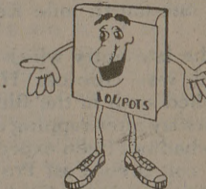
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Tennis tourney accepting entries

The Bryan-College Station Tennis Association is sponsoring the 1978 Brazos Open, a three day tennis tournament that will begin on May 20. Those wishing to participate can play on open, championship, intermediate, novice or junior levels.

Singles and doubles events will be held for men, women and special (mixed, father-son) entrants. Entry fees are required. Entry deadline is May 13. More information can be obtained from Sara Hoover, Box AC, College Station, Texas 77840.

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Marvin Eugene Wilson, 23, was booked on suspicion of burglary.

Now comes Miller time.

