

Ags lose Hardin for next season

When it rains, it pours. Texas A&M head football coach Emory Bellard announced Wednesday that senior fullback Eddie Hardin will not be able to play football this fall due to a neck injury suffered in spring training.

"At the time of his injury, it was our understanding that Eddie would be fine if he had no more contact drills during spring training," the Aggie coach said. "It has since been determined that he will not be able to participate further in any contact sports."



Eddie Hardin

Hardin was expected to start in the fall for George Woodard, who was red-shirted earlier this month with a leg injury.

A 6-foot-4, 229-pound Houston Madison graduate, Hardin missed the Maroon and White game last spring with the injury. In his place, Bellard played another senior, 195-pound Raymond Belcher. Belcher, a newcomer to the Aggie team, gained 107 yards on 16 carries in the annual intra-squad game.

"There will be position shifts this fall to compensate for the loss of Hardin and Woodard,"

Bellard said. He was unavailable for detailed comment.

Other players mentioned by Bellard as possibly playing the fullback position after Woodard was injured include David Brothers and Adger Armstrong, who both saw action at the halfback position last season.

Brothers gained 330 yards on 59 carries and Armstrong picked up 53 yards on 15 carries.

Buffalo won't shuffle off to Dallas

United Press International DALLAS — The decision by Buffalo Braves owner John Y. Brown to rule out Texas as a possible home for his NBA team didn't stun local officials as much as it did his own club president.

"When the wire service story was read to me, I almost died," said Norm Sonju, who was in Dallas writing up lease arrangements for the local convention center.

"In talking to John, I had no idea he was close to a decision. I feel very bad. I believed very strongly in Dallas. That's why I can on as strongly as I did."

"I just don't know what to say. I'm afraid this (Brown's decision) will hurt a lot of people."

Brown said Tuesday night that he had decided against Dallas primarily because of the city's temporary arena, which would have to be used until an 18,000 seat facility would be ready in 1980.

"We took a close look at Dallas, it is a fine market," Brown said. "But, I didn't want to go in there with the same problems that Houston had when they went into the temporary arena."

"You're going into a second class facility and you don't want to get off on the wrong foot," he added.

Brown also said he was concerned about competing with the Super Bowl champion Dallas Cowboys for fans.

"How are you going to fit in as a pro sport with the Dallas Cowboys?" he added. "If you're going to compete against the Cowboys, you better be prepared to take your best step."

Brown was granted a 20-day extension from the NBA Board of Governor's last week to give him additional time to decide on a location for his team.

He says his first choice still remains his hometown of Louisville.

"My first preference has been to try to justify Louisville, but they haven't reacted that quickly," Brown said. "I thought if I got the extension — at least we could take one last look and come up with the best decision."

Brown said several officials in Louisville are still hoping to attract the Braves, and added that he hoped to give his hometown a decision by the end of the week.

"I want to have it in Louisville if the support is there," he said. "They're trying to mount a campaign. In the next two days, we'll know if it's going to be viable."

Brown said he would send staff

members to both Minneapolis and San Diego in the next few days to complete studies of the cities.

"I don't like to keep these cities hanging and waiting," he said. "I'll be glad when this is over and we can make a decision."

Dallas mayor Robert Folsom, who had worked long and hard at obtaining a basketball franchise for the country's eighth largest city, was noncommittal over the about face by Brown.

"Brown's decision to go someplace else is his loss," the mayor said.

"The decision came as no surprise. We've known from the start

that the temporary facilities were a handicap. If that's the way it's going to be, that's the way it's going to be. I still think Dallas was the best decision for him."

"I know this. When our new arena is finished, the NBA will be here knocking on our door. Dallas has got to be on the top of the list for everything so we'll be hearing from them. And who knows, maybe we'll be hearing from them (Buffalo) again next year."

Meanwhile the artist's rendition of a Dallas Express logo will become a collector's item and the home Mrs. Sonju had picked out in Dallas will go back on the market.

Lopez is having fun; Nelson says that's key

United Press International HOUSTON — It may be some time before golf sensation Nancy Lopez fails to win an LPGA tournament because she is still having fun and that is the secret to staying on top, said Byron Nelson, a man who should know about streaks.

Nelson holds the PGA record for consecutive four victories — 11 — and even though he performed that feat 33 years ago he suspects Lopez, 21, has captured the special feeling the once knew.

"Her toughest job will be to keep the momentum going and not get stale," Nelson said. "She may be like I was. I was having so much fun during my streak and making money for the first time that every week seemed like a joyride."

Lopez tries for her sixth consecutive LPGA win at the Lady Keystone Open this weekend. She set the LPGA record with her fifth in a row and set herself as the only pro golfer besides Nelson to win five or more in a row.

Nelson was in town to announce the first British Caledonian Airways TransAtlantic Golf Trophy, a one-day \$20,000 tournament to be

played by Texans and Britons in September. He said the biggest winner's check he ever received was \$10,000, "and that was far above the norm."

Nelson, a coach of many of the top pros, said he has studied Lopez' game by watching television.

"They talk about her being a great putter. She is. She rolls the ball beautifully," he said. "But you have to get yourself in position to putt. And her irons are flawless. In fact, I don't find a weakness in her game from tee to green."

Nelson said he hoped Lopez was not reading the news stories about her success.

"She can't read her press clippings too much and she also has to keep her concentration," Nelson said. "But I like her attitude. Nancy is an outgoing person. She relates to people. And it seems a natural thing with her. It's hard to be somebody you're not, and Nancy impresses me as being a warm, lovable person."

Nelson's 11 straight victories in 1945 was only a part of the hottest year in PGA history. Nelson played in 30 of 32 PGA events that year, winning 18 of them.

Aggie notes

The Texas A&M athletic department has announced that Bob Wright will replace Donnie Wigginton as the Aggies' offensive backs



Bob Wright

ball staff this fall as part time coaches. Both men were members of the Port Neches-Groves High School football staff last year. Davis, a graduate of McNeese State, will work with the offense and Nunez, a Lamar University graduate, will work with the defense.



Mark Ross

coach next fall. Wigginton retired from the department last week to go into the real estate business. Wright, a graduate of Howard Payne College, has served Texas A&M since 1972 as the Aggies' recruiting coordinator and public relations director, positions which he will continue to hold along with his new duties.

Athletic director Emory Bellard announced that Greg Davis and Tim Nunez will join the Aggie foot-

This summer, Mark Ross, pitcher for the Texas Aggies, is playing baseball in the Alaska League, and he is off to a good start. Playing for the Peninsula Oilers, Ross has a record of 2-0. Both victories were shutouts. Ross, who will be a senior next season, had an 11-4 record last season for the Southwest Conference champions.

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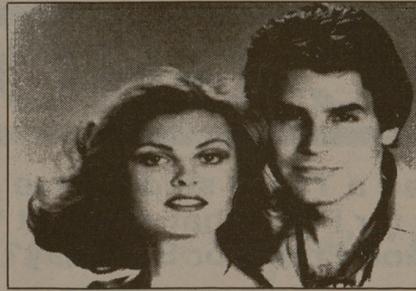
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