

Up, up and away

o, that's not Superman trying to block a ony Franklin extra point attempt, it's SMU's K. Perry. His efforts were in vain, hower, as Franklin's kick was good, adding to

his career kick-scoring total. Franklin's bare foot has produced 282 points in his collegiate career, an NCAA record.

Evangelista said. "I think I have the

style to do it. My intention is to take the heavyweight title back to

champion, Norton, who is matched

against Randy Stephens of Dallas in a scheduled 10-rounder.

lolmes says he's prepared

S VEGAS, Nev. — Newly ed World Boxing Council

yweight champion Larry mes, getting his biggest purse of million, said Wednesday he in twant to copy former Ken ton and blow the duke his first nes defends for the first time

night at Caesars Palace Spain's Alfredo Evangelista. champion said Wednesday otally prepared for the bout. nes won the heavyweight on a split 15-round decision in orton's first championship de-

don't want to be like a Ken on and lose the first time as a mpion," said Holmes, 29, of Eas-

"I've sparred 170 rounds for this fight compared to the 140 I sparred for the Norton fight. I've taken this Evangelista said. "I think I have the fight very seriously because this guy (Evangelista) has probably worked just as hard as I have.

Despite Holmes' projections of a tough fight, he is a heavy favorite to knock out the Uruguayan-born contender in Friday's 15-rounder. Evangelista lost a 15-round decision in a title bid against Muhammad Ali at Landover, Md., May 16, 1977. Holmes, who has perfect 28-0 record with 19 knockouts in a pro-

In from Norton June 9 at Las fessional career that began in 1973, jumped into prominence March 25 when he scored a unanimous 12round decision over Earnie Shavers

at Las Vegas. Evangelista, 22-2-1 with 18 KOs, spoke, through an interpreter, to reporters after Holmes had left the

ALTERATIONS

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Phillips hopes for edge at home

United Press International
HOUSTON — Looking ahead to
a possible wild card berth in the
playoffs, coach Bum Phillips said the Houston Oilers home game advantage in coming weeks might provide the edge for victory.

Houston boosted its season record to 6-4 Sunday by beating the Cleveland Browns, 14-10, in what Phillips said was one of the ball club's better efforts.

"We were a lot more physical Sunday," Phillips said. "Our football team played probably the best football game they've ever played as a unit other than we did in that Monday night Pittsburgh game. It was an excellent football game.

"Of course, there is a lot to be said for playing at home. After we get back from New England, we will have played seven of our 11 games on the road. That's a whole lot. That's just the way our schedule worked out.

"Everybody had the opportunity to make big plays and everybody made big plays," Phillips said. Numerically, the Oilers can see

some light at the end of American Conference tunnel. They are among

berths.

Phillips laid out the challenge in his typically plain language:

"If we win our ball games, we're in it," he said. "We've got to win. As long as we win, we're all right. If we least a start of the said." lost more than two games, we're

definitely out of it."

The Oilers meet an inspired New England Patriots ball club this week



Bum **Phillips**

in Foxboro, Mass., and defensive standouts Curly Culp and Elvin Bethea — who were responsible for seven sacks in Sunday's contest — will have their hands full with Steve

Grogan.
"You can't rush him from the in-

Offense is drawback for Atlanta Falcons

NFL statistics, you might wonder how the Atlanta Falcons, who have gained less yardage and committed more penalties than any other team in the league, have won a game this

But despite those drawbacks, only six NFL teams have better won-lost records than the Falcons' 6-4 mark and right now they are tied with the defending Super Bowl champion Dallas Cowboys and perennially contending Minnesota Vikings in the battle for the NFC's two wildcard berths in the postseason playoffs.
"I think we have an excellent

chance to make the playoffs for the first time," said Falcons Coach Leeman Bennett at his Tuesday news conference. "But, to do that, we've got to be more consistent on offense and we've got to do something about all those silly penalties.

The Falcons were assessed with 17 penalties in last Sunday's 21-10 win over San Francisco, penalties that ranged all the way from holding to "taunting" an opposing player, and now have 90 in 10 games. "I'd like to think that most of

those penalties came about because our players were fired up, maybe being a bit overaggressive," said Bennett. "But that wasn't the case last Sunday. Some of the things we were doing was just silly.

The Falcons have won four straight for the first time since 1973 and five of their last six games. They also have five home wins and that's a

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"Our streak will be sorely tested Sunday when we play at New Or-leans (5-5)," said Bennett. "The Saints had some problems earlier but now that Archie Manning is back at top form, they are going to be hard to handle."

Manning completed 22 of 32 passesfor 374 yards last Sunday when once-beaten Pittsurgh had to come from behind in the fourth quarter to nip the Saints, 20-14.

"The Saints (who beat Los Angeles and the New York Giants prior to losing at Pittsburgh) are playing as well as anybody in the National Football League," said Bennett. "Defensively, they present a number of problems because they have such excellent skilled

'Last year, we had trouble against Archie Manning and he is having an even better season this year (leading the NFC in passing by hitting on 168 of 277, 60.6 percent, for 2,071 yards and 11 touchdowns)," said

Bennett said it will take a better offensive performance at New Orleans than the Falcons had in last Sunday's win to beat the Saints.
"We have only to look at our game films from last Sunday to see that we did not play very well, even though

But Bennett said he wasn't surprised that the Falcons were flat last Sunday after having reached "an emotional high" the previous Monday night in their upset win over Los Angeles. "That is a luxury we cannot afford this week."

outside, or he'll run at it and kill you," Phillips said. "He'll call a running play and bootleg it."
Phillips said the contest was going

to appear very familiar to the Oilers

"They are like playing yourself. Same defense. Same gun. Same dog," he said.

But Phillips said he anticipated New England being one of the

seven teams fighting for five playoff side. You have to rush him from the foremost challengers of the 16-game

"They are a good football team, a sound, sound, football team. They've got a lot of talent," he said. Phillips said Earl Campbell will be at full speed for the Sunday game, but Billy "White Shoes" Labason will be out of the lineur. Johnson will be out of the lineup — possibly for the remainder of the season. The rest of the team he pronounced in good shape.



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