

the sports

Aggies sign 19 schoolboys

Recruiting unpleasantries surface

United Press International
All the things that coaches, players and fans say are unpleasant about the recruiting of high school football players surfaced Wednesday in Texas.
The NCAA opened an investigation into the 1979 automobile now being driven by the state's No. 1 football prospect, a family in Houston was emotionally torn by recruiting blasts about the school their son had chosen, and in Amarillo the principal of a high school was upset because a recruiter came into the school Tuesday and took a student out of class without permission.
Wednesday was the first day high

school seniors could sign scholarship agreements binding within the Southwest Conference. Such agreements are not binding nationally until a "national letter" is signed next Wednesday.
The usual number of good players went to the usual number of top schools. But the activities in Sealy and Houston Wednesday could create turmoil in the conference ranks for weeks to come.
The highlights of the day included:
—Eric Dickerson, the Sealy running back recruited by more than 80 schools this year, backed off a previous promise to sign with Texas

A&M, saying he would wait until next Wednesday to choose a school. At the same time, SWC officials confirmed the NCAA is investigating the purchase of a 1979 Pontiac Trans-Am which Dickerson has been driving this month.
—Running back Craig James, the leading Class AAAA rusher in history, hedged on his commitment to SMU because of indecision within his family brought on by the intense effort of recruiters. James said he would almost certainly sign with SMU later in the week.
—James E. Garrett, principal at Amarillo Palo Duro high school, said he was displeased that a recruit

from TCU had taken linebacker Scott Loftis out of class on Tuesday. Loftis, previously committed to Texas Tech, signed with TCU Wednesday.
The situation involving Dickerson had already attracted NCAA investigators before signing day arrived. Texas A&M officials said as soon as they discovered Dickerson was driving a new automobile, they notified the NCAA.
Dickerson said his grandmother, who lives in Houston, made a \$4,500 down payment on the car and would continue to make payments.
In Houston, meanwhile, James said recruiters had used everything they could to persuade him not to go to SMU. James said his parents were so upset by some of the recruiters' comments that he had delayed his signing with the Mustangs.

"They (recruiters from other schools) are all trying to say something bad about SMU. That's why I want to go so bad. One of these days I want to be able to look 'em in eye and say 'I told you you were wrong. I want to stand my ground.'
"They persuaded my mother into thinking that SMU wasn't going to do this or that. They say everything they can think of — that I'll never run the ball or that the coach will leave.
Coach Ron Meyer said the attacks on his program mentioned by James were bothersome, but that they would be overcome.
"Yeah, it's upsetting," said Meyer. "It's got to be aggravating. But we certainly want to work with the family any way they desire. If there is a seed of doubt we want it to be cleared up. Anytime there is a delay like this the phone starts ringing."
"Recruiting is a long, hard, tedious job, but it really doesn't seem so bad to me. You get all of these (rumors) second or third hand. It just doesn't bother us. We know what we're going to do. We know we're going to have an outstanding program."

Aggies down Horned Frogs

From staff and wire reports
FORT WORTH — Vernon Smith scored 21 points and Texas A&M brought off a TCU comeback Wednesday night to help the Aggies break a three-game losing streak with a 61-56 victory over the Horned Frogs.
"We didn't play well," Texas A&M coach Shelby Metcalf said. "But we've played well and lost. I'd rather play bad and win."
"We just needed a win. I'm tickled to death to get out of here alive."
Texas A&M opened a 19-4 lead, but TCU trimmed that to seven at the half on the shooting of Steve Scales.

"We do need rest," Metcalf said. "We've played 15 straight games without a bye and we're very, very tired." The Aggies will be off until Tuesday, when they host Rice in their final SWC regular season game.
The Aggies, trying for a third-place finish in the Southwest Conference that would win them a bye in the first round of the SWC post-season tournament, boosted their league record to 10-5 and their overall record to 21-7. Those 21 wins equal a school record.
TCU has won only one conference game in 14 tries and is 6-18 for the season.

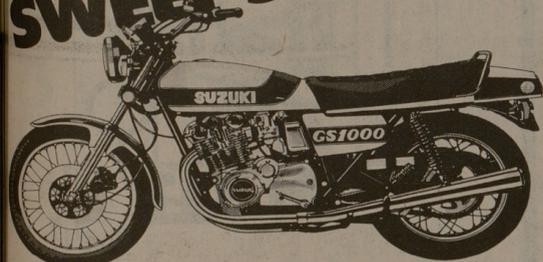
"Rynn (Wright) is our most solid performer," Metcalf said. "Night after night you can count on Rynn Wright."
Wright added 15 points for the Aggies and David Britton scored 11 while TCU was led by Scales with 17 points.
TCU (56)
Wineinger 1 2-3 4, Mansbury 2 2-2 6, Thompson 0 0-0 0, Blackwell 3 0-0 6, Hund 0 0-0 0, Tibbs 5 0-0 10, Scales 5 7-9 17, Nickens 4 3-4 11, Vincent 1 0-0 2. Totals 21 14-18 56.
Halftime — Texas A&M 35, TCU 28. Fouled Out — Scales, Total Fouls — Texas A&M 15, TCU 15. Technical Fouls — Smith, TCU bench. A — 3, 105.

The 18th-ranked Aggies jumped back in front by 14 early in the second half, but the lowly Horned Frogs again came back to make a game of it in the final eight minutes.

A&M slowed the pace of the game, however, and TCU could get no closer than five points.

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