



Harry Francis, left, and Simon Glenn, right, console each other after the Aggies lost to Texas Tech in the SWC post-season tournament May 18, dropping them out of the tournament. Both Francis and Glenn were picked by major league clubs in last week's college draft.

4 Ags picked by pro ranks

by RICHARD OLIVER
Sports Editor

The entire left side of the Texas A&M University baseball team's infield was wiped out last week in one day, but Aggie coach Tom Chandler doesn't seem too perturbed.

Harry Francis, third baseman for this year's baseball team, and Bryan "Twig" Little, the shortstop, were swooped up last week by the pro ranks in the annual college draft.

Francis and Little, both juniors, opted to sign with the clubs that drafted them, which means, of course, they won't be back in Aggie uniforms next season.

Francis, picked in the sixth round, signed Friday with the California Angels, and has been assigned to the Angels' Idaho Falls, Idaho rookie camp. He will leave Sunday.

Little, picked in the 14th round by the Montreal Expos, signed with that club and has reported to rookie camp.

"Little's going to be hard to replace," said Chandler, "but in their third year college coaches realize that professional coaches can sign them."

"The pros kinda wiped out the left side of our infield, though."

Two other Aggie seniors were also signed by pro clubs. Mike Hurdle, the Texas A&M right-fielder who holds most of the school's hitting records, was taken in the 12th round by the Toronto Blue Jays, and will report tomorrow to their rookie camp in New York.

Simon Glenn, who holds the Texas A&M record for most stolen bases in a career, hasn't signed yet with the Boston Red Sox, who signed him in the 13th round.

"We're pleased that professional baseball has given us such attention," said Chandler. "It's a real boost to our program."

"We've had nine picked in the last two years. Five of six players drafted were signed last year, and four of six this year. That says a lot for our program."

Reeves and White both take new jobs

United Press International
DALLAS — On Aug. 9, what will probably be a hot, muggy night at Texas Stadium, a former college quarterback with a syrupy drawl will call out a series of cryptic words and numbers to a waiting messenger and open a new chapter in his career.

Danny Reeves is anxiously awaiting that night, for it will be the one he takes over — at least temporarily and perhaps permanently — as play-calling duties for the Dallas Cowboys.

Because of a dramatic slump in defensive statistics last season, head coach Tom Landry plans to devote the vast majority of his time during training camp this year to bringing the defense back into gear.

As a result he has told Reeves that the job of calling the plays for the 1 quarterback Danny White will be his.

"Coach Landry and I have talked about it," said Reeves, "and only thing he said to me was that I would call the plays during exhibition season and we would see how it goes from there."

"I think how we do during the exhibition games depends on what I keep calling the plays when the regular season starts. It's going to be an exciting time for me."

Reeves, one of the Cowboys' stalwart running backs of the late '60s and early '70s, has been offensive coordinator the last three seasons, planning practice sessions and meeting with the quarterbacks throughout the week.

So the things he does during the week won't change that much, but the chief difference will come on game days.

"I do think it's going to cause me to study more and to concern myself more about how we want to attack the opponent," Reeves said. "I'll put a little more pressure on me, which I will enjoy."

"I will be able to put my own personality into the game. Sometimes I think the same as coach Landry does and sometimes I don't. I always wonder how you would do. Sometimes I think to myself that's a good call and sometimes I would think that I might have called something else. Now I'm the one everybody will have a chance to second guess."

Astros drop Cubs, scramble into first

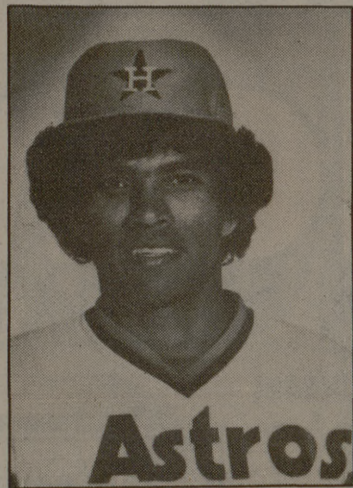
United Press International
HOUSTON — Jose Cruz doubled home two runs to trigger a three-run third inning and Vern Ruhle allowed only two hits in seven innings Tuesday night to lead the Houston Astros to a 5-2 victory over the Chicago Cubs.

The triumph, which put the Astros into first place in the National League West, was their seventh straight and 11th in the last 14 games.

Ruhle, 3-1, retired the first 12 batters until Dave Kingman was safe on Rafael Landestoy's error opening the fifth. The first Chicago hit came with one out in the sixth when pinch-hitter Jesus Figueroa doubled. Ruhle was replaced for the final two innings by Dave Smith, who allowed both runs.

Houston broke the game open in the third off starter Mike Krukow, 3-7. Ruhle singled, Landestoy walked and Terry Puhl singled Ruhle home while Landestoy was thrown out at third on the play. After Joe Morgan walked, Cruz doubled into the right field corner for two more runs.

Cesar Cedeno hit his fourth homer in the sixth inning off reliever Bill

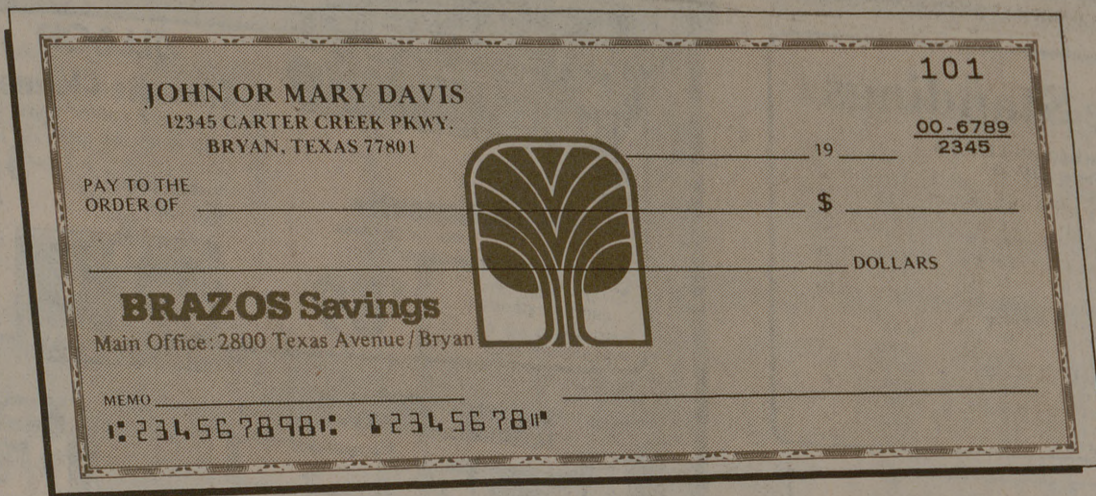


Jose Cruz

Caudill and Houston added its fifth run in the seventh when Morgan singled home Landestoy, who had walked and advanced on Puhl's single.

A double by Jerry Martin and two infield outs produced Chicago's first run in the eighth and Dave Kingman doubled home a run in the ninth.

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Chronicle sports editor dies after heart attack

United Press International
HOUSTON — Longtime Houston Chronicle sports editor and columnist Dick Peebles collapsed on a heart attack in Houston Intercontinental Airport Tuesday and died before he could be taken to a hospital. He was 61.

Peebles was en route to Springfield, N.J., to cover the U.S. Open Golf Tournament, and an airport spokeswoman said he suffered the heart attack in a concourse while awaiting a flight.

Director of Nurses Judy Withers at Northeast Medical Center Hospital in Humble, where Peebles was taken by ambulance, said he was dead on arrival.

George H. Lewis & Sons funeral directors were handling arrangements.

Survivors include his wife, Mary Theresa Holman Peebles, and two sons, Michael and Timothy. Peebles was a member of St. Vincent de Sales Roman Catholic Church.

An Oil City, Pa., native who attended high school in Erie, Pa., and college at the University of Michigan, Peebles worked as sports editor of the Sharon (Pa.) Herald and the San Antonio Express before moving to Houston in 1958.

He was sports editor of the Chronicle for 22 years and still actively covered golf, football and baseball. He wrote five columns a week, and in the final one published Tuesday,

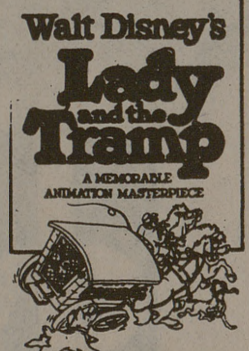
he had expressed empathy for a San Francisco Giants player who was continuing his career despite losing the tips of four fingers in a power saw accident.

"You have to feel sorry for shortstop Roger Metzger, who was playing before relatives and friends. To come off the bench and have to face a pitcher of the caliber of (J.R.) Richard when Richard's at his best is no fun," he wrote.

Peebles was an active golfer who covered the Masters and the U.S. Open each year.

Last decade Peebles served as president of the Texas Sports Writers Association and chairman of the Houston Chamber of Commerce Athletic Committee. He was a member of the Baseball Writers Association of America and Golf Writers Association of America.

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2:30 4:50 7:10 9:30

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2:40-5:00-7:20-9:40

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