McMullen fires Astros'Smith

is positive things" about the team's new general manager, Al Rosen, but it was clear nothing could erase his disappointment at the firing which made room for Rosen.

Tal Smith, the Astros' architect and a "very close friend" of Virdon, was given his pink slip Monday by "You go a long time until you find a man as knowledgeable about base-

HOUSTON — Houston Astros

Manager Bill Virdon said "all I hear ago, the Astros completed their most successful season.

Virdon, reached at his home in Springfield, Mo., said Smith "needs most of the credit" for the National League West Division champion-



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contract with Smith.

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disappointed. It came as a surprise. It was a shock to start with."

News of the high level personnel

change came in a one-page statement distributed to reporters Monday afternoon. In it, McMullen said

Rosen "brings to the Houston Astros

a depth of experience and a sophisti-cation unique to baseball and

Smith said he was shocked and was given no reason for the move when he was called into McMullen's office

at 11:30 a.m. and fired.
"He didn't say why, not really. I recognize that that is unquestionably

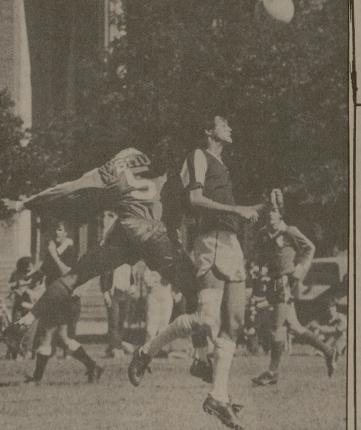
the perogative of any owner to do what is best. Obviously he inherited

my contract and inherited my services, and if he wants to make a change, there's nothing that I can say or do that can dissuade him," Smith

The Astros were required to inform Smith this year if they desired

to sign him to a new contract when

his current agreement expired Nov. 30, 1981. The statement said the decision was made not to seek a new



Staff photo by Jeff Kerber

Heads up

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Texas A&M soccer team captain Paul Winston (right) "heads" the ball upfield during Saturday's game against nationally ranked SMU. The Mustangs shut out the Aggies, 4-0, to drop Texas A&M to 5-3-2 on the year.

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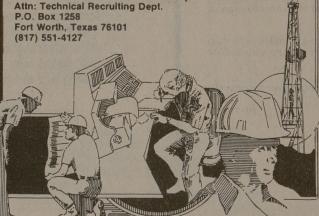
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Reflections

by Richard Oliver

Soccer team gets better

Eurekal Just when all seemed lost in the up and down world of A sports, I discovered soccer.

The discovery occurred as I sat happily under a beautiful sky in makeshift stands bordering the drill field. The surprising Aggie me who have taken themselves by the seat of the pants and determined become a quality team worthy of varsity status at the Universit year, were preparing to take on the extremely powerful SMUM tangs. SMU has already been awarded varsity status, and came College Station ranked No. 4 in the United States.

Most less-than-status teams might consider simply trying to keep with SMU and make it look respectable. Texas A&M, however, upset on the brain.

It was obvious from the first, as the Aggies came out running inspired by the over-400 fans crowded around the field. Playing unclear blue skies and before a biased crowd, the upset effort seem

But, as the day wore on and the crowd thinned toward Kyle Fit and the Rice-Texas A&M football contest, the Aggies felt their streng finally begin to sap, and fell to the reliable, steady passing and define of the Mustangs.

The final score, 4-0, was a blow to the hopeful Aggies, but a present at the game will probably say otherwise. The spirited pla the young Aggies against the much more experienced SMU squad a pleasure to watch, and made one wonder if that same spirit on ot Texas A&M teams might result in a few better performances. The soccer team isn't powerful yet, by any means, yet there is fin a spark there. Behind the positive prodding of new Head Coach Te

Franco, an expert tactician who starred in Peru years ago, and assistant David Flentge, the Aggies are gradually becoming a team be reckoned with. Baylor, an annual powerhouse in the SWC, knows all too well with the inexperienced Aggies are capable of. They fell to the Aggies early

this year, 3-2.

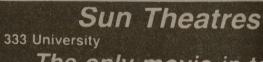
The sudden upward surge of the "small" women's and men's te on the campus is a great thing to see, and the soccer team seems to leading the way. Let's hope the support these teams receive does come only from girlfriends, boyfriends and reporters. There's some good things going on out there in sports, folks.

Phillips upst when things le at criticism That boost A&M officials of use of Ear culties this sea United Press International HOUSTON — Head Coach Phillips Monday admitted to the extra mondaggravated at criticism of the liment, the mai ton Oilers' utilization of strong the players. The tailback Earl Campbell, whether the players are the players. The ton much or too little. Campbell has shown no sept to think it should fatigue despite the continual to the players. We've play four years now the players are the continual to the players. We've play four years now the players are the continual to the players. We've play four years now the players are the players. We've play four years now the players are the players. rushing in the last three games number of carries has steadily reduced from 38 three games at 27 in the Oilers 23-3 win over

(Bengals' General Manager) 26-14 on the a Brown said he (Campbell) must versus Georg carried the ball 40 times. It may be failed to "I read," Phillips said, looked like he carried it 40 the's in for a to because he made 200 yards. "I'm very in

Cincinnati Bengals Sunday.

'If you've got a back, you'veg use him," Phillips continued like anything else. We let him like anything else. We let him Every one of t it 12 times and everybody bit You put that because we didn't run him enc quarterback a We let him carry it 38 times and got too damn many carries he carried 27 times and I don't what the hell's wrong this wee aggravates me.



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