

Ag soccer team back on field

By RICHARD OLIVER
Sports Editor

When the Texas A&M University men's soccer team lines up against a high school team from Dallas named the Titans Saturday morning, they may be looking at the future of the soccer program at A&M.

The Titans are a high school team currently competing in an under-19 league in Dallas, and if Aggie Assistant Soccer Coach David Flentge has his way, these players may someday be part of his squad.

"We went up to a tournament called the Cotton Cup in Dallas a few weeks ago," said Flentge Thursday, "which is one of the few tournaments set up for (high school) seniors in the nation. The Titans were one of the

best teams there. While they're here Saturday, we'll play them and then take them to lunch and show them around the campus. We'd really like them to come here."

Although none of the players will be eligible to play at A&M until 1982 because they won't graduate until next year, the varsity-minded Flentge is hoping their arrival at that time will be on the dawn of a revised A&M soccer program.

"We'd like to induce these players to come here," he said. "They won their division of the (Cotton) tournament. These are such good players that if you kept all the starters together and let them keep playing, you'd have a World Cup level team ... They could just dominate the Southwest Conference someday."

The Titans are taught by Ken Norton, a man who learned the mechanics of coaching from current Texas A&M Head Coach Telmo Franco. Norton has responded by leading the Titans and forming one of the more respected teams in the Dallas area.

Franco, in turn, came to A&M this past summer to coach the Aggies. His presence has been beneficial, as

the Ags have stamped to a 7-3-3 record, finishing the fall season in third place in the SWC standings. It is the best performance by an A&M team in the history of the school.

The Aggies have not played since Nov. 17, when they stopped Lamar in Beaumont, 6-1. The team had originally planned to travel to a tournament in Monterrey, Mexico over Thanksgiving, but that event was postponed. There is still a chance the Aggies may travel in the spring.

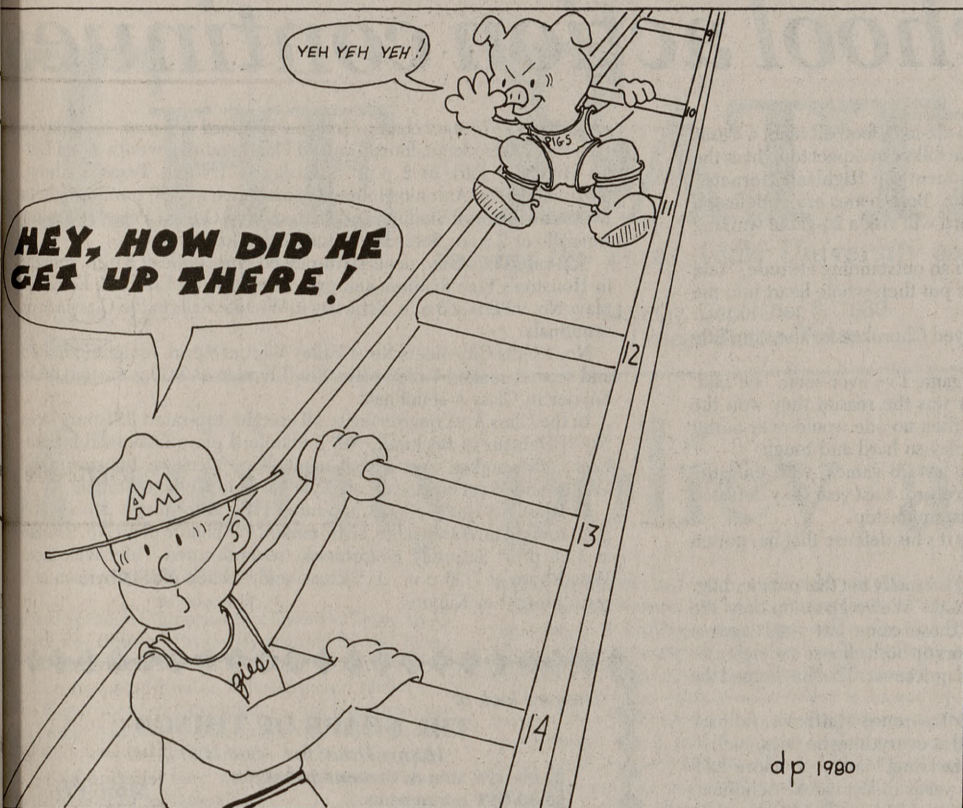
In the meantime, Franco and Flentge have been hot on the re-

cruiting trail, and already have confirmed two new players will be arriving in the spring, and nine by next fall.

"Most are coming from the Dallas area," said Flentge. "These players are really razzle-dazzle; I mean, they're really, really good."

Some of the players will be attending Texas A&M straight from high school, while two of them are junior college transfers.

The game against the Titans will begin Saturday morning at 10 on the drill field.



dp 1980

Reinfeldt intercepts two

Oilers halt Steelers, 6-0

United Press International
HOUSTON — The first shutout of the Pittsburgh Steelers in 114 games may have ended a proud streak but it did not sound a death knell on a dynasty, Bum Phillips said.

Coach Phillips' Houston Oilers, led by a tenacious, ballhawking defense, had just beaten the Steelers 6-0 Thursday night, but Phillips' comments did not seem to bode the occasion since transition.

"It makes me a little sad to think we may not be playing them in the playoffs, providing we get in," he said. "We're used to seeing them in the shooting gallery and they are a class bunch of boys."

The Oilers, 9-5, are not assured of a playoff berth, nor are the Steelers, who are locked out of the playoffs. But both are in situations that are likely to change.

Pittsburgh, a four-time Super Bowl champion in the past five seasons, may miss the playoffs for the first time in nine seasons.

In answer to a question, Phillips said, "I don't think you can say we added a dynasty. Those people can never be counted down. But anytime you beat Pittsburgh it's a great victory."

Two consecutive losses had put the Oilers in danger of not making the playoffs, but Houston linebacker Gregg Bingham said his team's stock went back up.

"Everybody's on the bandwagon now. No more 30 percent discount on 'Luv Ya Blue' stuff at Penney's," Steelers quarterback Terry Bradshaw, who was intercepted three times, took responsibility for the loss.

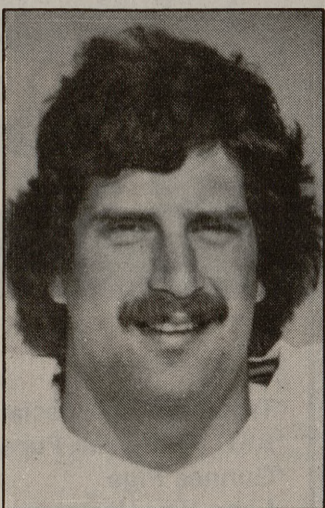
"I guess we have a right to feel a little down losing a game that we knew we had to win. I feel like I let the team down. Some days you have and some days you don't. Today I wasn't sharp."

Oilers safety Mike Reinfeldt said the key to controlling the Steelers' passing game was containing their wide receivers.

"We tried to bracket both wide receivers, taking them out of the game on first down passes. That's where they've hurt us in the past, and tonight we were successful in doing it," he said.

The only scores came from two Fritsch field goals in the second half, both of which followed Steelers turnovers. In addition to Bradshaw's interceptions, Franco Harris lost two fumbles.

Safety Mike Reinfeldt intercepted Bradshaw's pass in his own end zone as the Steelers moved to break a scoreless game on their first possession of the second half. The Oilers followed that interception by driving 75 yards in eight plays to the Pittsburgh 20. Fritsch then kicked a 37-yard field goal.



Mike Reinfeldt

Linebacker Gregg Bingham recovered Harris' fumble at the Pittsburgh 33 early in the fourth quarter. After tight end Dave Casper caught a 17-yard pass, Fritsch delivered a 33-yard field goal.

Brazile sacked Bradshaw once and continually blitzed the harried quarterback out of his passing pocket. Brazile also batted two passes.

The Steelers, who have won four Super Bowls in the last five seasons, had scored in every game since being shut out Sept. 24, 1974. Stabler was the opposing quarterback in that game too, leading the Oakland Raiders to 17-0 victory.

Bradshaw was also intercepted by cornerbacks J.C. Wilson and Greg Sterrick.

The Oilers got two breaks in the first quarter, one when Greg Sterrick intercepted Bradshaw's pass on Pittsburgh's 38, and another on Elvin Bethea's recovery of Harris' fumble. But they were unable to capitalize against a tough Steeler defense.

The field goals were the first by Fritsch in three games. He had missed three of his last four attempts after injuring a leg muscle three weeks ago.

Oilers running back Earl Campbell led all rushers with 81 yards on 21 carries, but he was held to only 13 yards in the scoreless first half.

Bradshaw completed 10-of-26 pass attempts for 138 yards and was sacked three times.

The victory ended a two-game losing skid for the Oilers and put them in line to possibly earn a wild card playoff berth. They can still win the Central Division if the Browns stumble in their final three games.

Cruz OK; will play

United Press International
HOUSTON — Houston Astros leftfielder Jose Cruz, who injured his knee last Saturday during winter league baseball in his native Puerto Rico, will be healthy in time for spring training, team physician Dr. Harold Brelsford said Thursday.

Cruz, who batted .302 and drove in 91 runs for the Astros last season, suffered a partial ligament tear in his left knee when he slid into second base while playing for the Caguas.

Aggie women to play SFA

The A&M women's soccer team will be back on the road again this weekend against Stephen F. Austin in Nacogdoches.

The Aggies began a successful season in September against SFA with a 4-3 win.

The last time the Aggies competed was at the intercollegiate women's soccer championships in Colorado three weeks ago, where they finished a respectable fifth. In the process, Aggie Adele Fairman was placed on the first All-America team in women's intercollegiate soccer.

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