

# Sports

## TANK McNAMARA



# Stabler OK with Shofner

**HOUSTON** — Just hired offensive coordinator Jim Shofner Wednesday said he was prejudiced in favor of Kenny Stabler retaining the Houston Oilers top quarterback job.

Oilers head coach Ed Biles said Stabler would be placed on a weight-training program before the 1981 season, and even then he will not keep Gifford Nielsen on the bench automatically.

The two coaches agreed on one thing at a news conference announcing Shofner's hiring. They both said the run-oriented Oilers of 1980 would "open it up" regardless of the quarterback.

"I've been a fan of Ken Stabler's for years. He's the quality quarterback in the league," Shofner said. "It's hard to have a completely open mind (on the quarterback situation). I don't know that much about Nielsen and I've seen Kenny so much over the years."

At that point, Biles interjected, "Let me answer that question. Gifford Nielsen will be given every opportunity to win the job."

Shofner, the Cleveland Browns quarterback coach for

the past three seasons, said he has seen no sign that Stabler, 35, cannot throw as powerfully as he did in the past.

Biles, who replaced Bum Phillips as head coach Jan. 2, said a "primary offensive objective" was to get Stabler back on a weight-training program which he went through for many seasons at Oakland.

"I have talked to Kenny Stabler since the season ended and I believe in him — or I would have traded him," Biles said. "Kenny wants to win. He was probably the most disappointed guy in the world when we lost to Oakland. After the season ended, Stabler was probably a beat-up, disgusted man."

Shofner was Biles' second choice for the offensive coordinator job after his first choice, former Baltimore Colts head coach Ted Marchibroda, could not get together with Biles on a salary.

Meanwhile, Atlanta Falcons linebacker coach Doug Shively had an interview scheduled with Biles Wednesday, and that talk gained importance after Pittsburgh Steelers assistant coach Woody Widenhofer rejected the Oilers' offer to become the defensive coordinator.

## by Jeff Miller & Bill Hinds

# Dodge to attend Texas, not A&M

**United Press International**  
**PORT ARTHUR** — The record setting pass-catch combination of Todd Dodge and Brent Duhon will play their college football at the University of Texas, the Port Arthur News reported Wednesday.

Dodge threw for 3,135 yards last year and Duhon caught 89 passes for

1,298 yards in leading Port Arthur Jefferson to the state Class 5A finals.

Duhon and Dodge, recruited by colleges throughout the nation, had said previously they planned to attend the same school. They visited the Texas campus last week and cancelled a trip this weekend to Brigham Young.

# NFL free agents free

**United Press International**  
**NEW YORK** — Quarterback Vince Ferragamo of the Los Angeles Rams wasted no time.

Ferragamo, one of 137 National Football League players who became free agents Sunday, went to Toronto Tuesday night with his agent to discuss a possible deal with the Hamilton Tiger-Cats of the CFL.

Here is the complete list of free agents:

- Atlanta (1) — WR Billy Ryckman.
- Baltimore (7) — TE Mack Alston, P Mike Bragg, WR Randy Burke, DE Fred Cook, T George Kunz, WR Mike Siani, T Bob Van Doyne.
- Buffalo (6) — DB Mario Clark, T Joe Devlin, LB Tom Ehlers, T Dee Hardison, QB David Humm, WR Len Willis.
- Chicago (11) — QB Bob Avellini, DB Gary Fenick, DB Wentford Gaines, G Noah Jackson, DB Virgil Livers, C Dan Neal, RB Walter Payton, DB Bill Perrin, QB Mike Phipps, DB Terry Schmidt, WR James Scott.
- Cincinnati (2) — TE Jim Corbett, LB Bo Harris.
- Cleveland (1) — RB Calvin Hill.
- Dallas (2) — LB D.D. Lewis, RB Preston Pearson.
- Denver (7) — DB Steve Foley, T Glenn Hyde, RB Jim Jensen, QB Craig Morton, LB Joe Rizzo, K Fred Steinfort, LB Bob Swenson.
- Detroit (10) — DT Curley Culp, RB Rick Kane, G Burton Lawless, LB Derrel Luce, DT Mike McCoy, DB Ray Oldham, C Willie Parker, WR Jesse Thompson, G Rod Walters, DT John Woodcock.
- Green Bay (0)
- Houston (10) — DE Elvin Bethea, RB Boobie Clark, LB Thomas Henderson, WR Billy Johnson, K Chester Marcol, DB Mike Reinfield, WR Mike Renfro, LB Ted Thompson, G Morris Towns, G Bob Young.

Kansas City (2) — LB Charles Jackson, DT Don Parrish.

Los Angeles (6) — T Bill Bain, LB Bob Brudzinski, QB Vince Ferragamo, RB Lydell Mitchell, LB Jack Reynolds, LB Greg Westbrook.

Miami (4) — DE Vern den Herder, G Larry Little, QB Don Strock, LB Steve Towle.

Minnesota (7) — DB Tim Baylor, DB Bobby Bryant, LB Fred McNeill, C Mel Mitchell, LB Scott Studwell, TE Bob Tucker, DB Nate Wright.

New England (8) — G Sam Adams, LB Ray Costic, NT Ray Hamilton, TE Don Hasselbeck, RB Horace Ivory, LB Steve King, QB Tom Owen, LB Rod Shoate.

New Orleans (1) — DE Tommy Hart.

New York Giants (2) — C Jim Clack, C Keith Eck.

New York Jets (0).

Oakland (2) — WR Bob Chandler, LB Bob Nelson.

Philadelphia (1) — DE Claude Humphrey.

Pittsburgh (3) — C Sam Davis, WR Lynn Swann, DE Dwight White.

St. Louis (14) — DB Carl Allen, LB Mark Arneson, LB Johnny Barefield, C Tom Brannan, T Dan Dierdorf, WR Mel Gray, QB Jim Hart, QB Jerry Holloway, LB Steve Neils, K Neil O'Donoghue, TE Garry Paris, RB Rod Phillips, P Larry Swider, DE Ron Tankowski.

San Diego (2) — RB John Cappelletti, DB Bernard Jackson.

San Francisco (1) — T Jean Barrett.

Seattle (9) — DE Fred Anderson, DB Dave Brown, DB Don Dufek, G Tom Lynch, RB Lawrence McCutcheon, G Bob Newton, TE John Sawyer, T Jeff Sney, P Herman Weaver.

Tampa Bay (10) — LB Rick Bonness, DB Neal Colzie, RB Tony Davis, DB Curtis Jordan, DT Dave Logan, TE Jim Obradovich, RB George Ragsdale, DB Danny Reece, TE Tony Samuels, G Eugene Sanders.

Washington (8) — DE Coy Bacon, RB Ike Forte, RB Bobby Hammond, QB Kim Quilken, G Dan Nugent, C Dan Pfeiffer, DE Paul Smith, DT Diron Talbert.

# Jock Shorts



## Men's track

Two Texas A&M University trackmen — pole vaulter Randy Egan and high jumper James Howard — have been invited to compete in the Millrose Games Friday night in New York City's Madison Square Garden.

Hall is the reigning NCAA vault champion, having set a meet record last spring of 18-2 1/4 feet. His best indoor effort this season was 17-4 1/2 Saturday night when he won the event at the Dallas Times-Herald Indoor Invitational in Dallas' Reunion Arena.

Howard, who made the U.S. Olympic Team last summer with a third-place leap of 7-3/4 at the Olympic Trials in Eugene, Ore., had his best ever jump at 7-4 1/4 in the the Dallas Times-Herald meet. He finished third there.

Both of the Aggies will fly back to Oklahoma City Saturday in time to join the Texas A&M team in the Oklahoma Indoor Classic.

## Fencing

The Texas A&M fencing team sent several members up to Dallas Friday for two dual meets, and the results were surprising.

Aggie men Larry Tharp, Mark Percy, Mike Scott, and women Denise Ehrlich, Meg Gallatin, Pauletta Wrentz and Kelly Shea took on the tough University of Texas-Arlington fencing team, beating them easily 31-12.

The round-robin event enabled the nine fencers to fence nine athletes from the UTA squad. In the epee class, the Aggs won 9-4 on sabre, 5-4; foil, 8-1; and women's foil, 9-7. The surprising aspect was only one member of the young Aggie squad had ever fenced before.

At 11 p.m., the Aggies began a match with Southwest Texas State University that didn't end until well after 2 a.m. Saturday. SWTSU won that matchup, 13-12, taking the sabre class, 3-0, and the women's foil, 9-7. The Aggies won the epee, 3-0, and men's foil, 2-1. In all, the Aggies claimed six of the eight classes they fought in in the matches.

This Friday, the Texas A&M Fencing Club will host the American Fencer's League America Tournament in room 267 of the new Kyle addition.

## Women's softball

The state champion Texas A&M women's softball team released its spring schedule this week, and it will be a tough one.

During the 25-date schedule, the Aggie women will play six nationally ranked powerhouse schools as UCLA, Arizona State, California State-Fullerton, Kansas, Oklahoma University, Texas Woman's University and Oklahoma State.

The Aggies will have 16 home dates, all of them doubleheaders, and will host one tournament, the Aggie Invitational. At that event, almost all of the nation's top 10 teams will be represented.

The Aggies will play their home schedule at Bee Creek Park College Station.

Texas A&M finished the fall campaign with a 26-1 record, and was third in the national championships held last May. Pitcher Lori Sizemore was selected Texas Player of the Year by the state softball association.

## Men's lacrosse

The Aggie lacrosse team, which waded through the fall preseason schedule undefeated, has released its spring schedule:

- Feb. 14 — BAYLOR at Waco, 1 p.m.
- Feb. 15 — TEXAS TECH here, 10 a.m.
- Feb. 21 — SAN ANTONIO here, 1 p.m.
- Feb. 28 — TRINITY here, 1 p.m.
- Mar. 1 — HOUSTON (Club) at Houston, 1 p.m.
- Mar. 7 — LSU at Baton Rouge, 1 p.m.
- Mar. 8 — TULANE at New Orleans, 10 a.m.
- Mar. 28 — HOUSTON at Houston, tentative
- Mar. 29 — LONE STAR (Club), tentative
- Apr. 5 — TEXAS here, 1 p.m.
- Apr. 11 — SMU at Dallas, 1 p.m.
- Apr. 12 — DALLAS (Club) at Dallas, 11 a.m.
- Apr. 25 — HOUSTON here, 1 p.m.

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## Waters' knee operated on

**United Press International**  
**DALLAS** — Dallas Cowboys veteran strong safety Charlie Waters underwent surgery Wednesday on his right knee, a team spokesman said.

Team physician Dr. Marvin Knight performed the operation at a Muenster, Texas, hospital to remove some cartilage from the knee and strengthen a ligament.

Waters, who has completed 10 seasons with the Cowboys, will be hospitalized another week and cast for three to four weeks, spokesman said.

He missed the entire 1979 season following an injury to the same knee, but the spokesman said Wednesday's surgery was to correct a problem in a different ligament. The recent injury was probably sustained in the preseason game against Philadelphia on Aug. 16, the spokesman said.

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