

# Sports

## Wilson spends day traveling

# A&M signs 20 to letters of intent

By RICHARD OLIVER  
Sports Editor

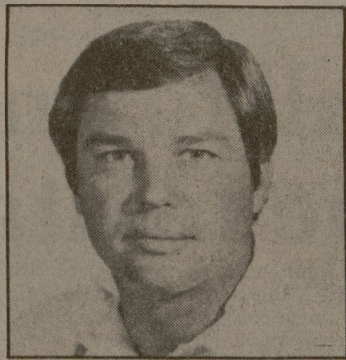
Phase One of the recruiting war is over for Tom Wilson, but the battle is not yet won.

Wilson, the head football coach at Texas A&M University, hit the road Wednesday to sign 20 high school players to letters of intent. Although the Aggies lost a few scraps for players with other SWC schools, the crop signed this year was a good one.

Feb. 18 is the national signing date, when schools may ink schoolboys from outside their state.

With blue chip linemen Ray Childress of Richardson (Pearce) and Greg Porter of Humble heading the list, Wilson and other A&M recruiters came away smiling this Wednesday.

One that got away from the Aggies, however, was Pat Frank-



Tom Wilson

lin of Bay City. Franklin, 6-0, 210, is considered the best running back prospect in the state, and had said he was interested in coming to Texas A&M all along, but on Tuesday changed his mind, and signed with Houston Wednesday.

Another was 6-2, 215-pound linebacker Alan Jamison of Spring Branch Westchester, who chose Baylor after a spirited recruiting battle that also involved the Aggies, Texas and Rice.

But no matter what successes were claimed by other schools, Texas made the biggest early splash.

Port Arthur Jefferson outscored their opponents last season, 513-157, before being upset in the state championship game by Odessa Permian, 28-19. And throughout the year there were four players that recruiters around the country coveted the most. Texas got them all.

Todd Dodge threw for 3,135 yards during the season, completing 221 of 357 passes for 30 touchdowns. He was the first high school player in Texas to throw for more than 3,000 yards in a single

season. Brent Duhon caught 89 passes for 1,380 yards and 16 touchdowns.

Texas came away with what many consider the cream of the crop, but that as all things remains to be seen. In addition to the two blue chippers, there were two from Texas Football Magazine's top 30 list and nine from the top 90.

Texas A&M signed six linemen, three receivers, seven backs and four linebackers. The Aggies got most of their talent from the Houston area gold mine, picking up players from Humble, South Houston High, Houston Memorial, Baytown Sterling, Spring Branch, Stratford, Houston Klein, Conroe and Pasadena Rayburn.

The signees included:

**LINEMEN** — Childress, 6-6, 250, Richardson (Pearce); Porter, 6-4, 240, Humble; Joe Valasquez, 6-2, 235, Houston (South Houston); Mark Clayton, 6-3, 240, Queen City; Glen Hendrickson, 6-4, 240, Houston (Memorial); Steve Jacobson, 6-4, 235, Baytown (Sterling).

**RECEIVERS** — Chris Larkin, 6-3, 210, Spring Branch (Stratford); Jimmy Teal, 6-1, 165, Diboll; Matt Darwin, 6-3, 220, Houston (Klein).

**BACKS** — Marvin Wesley, 6-1, 182, Navasota; Terry Scott, 6-1, 190, Jasper; Lance Jackson, 5-9, 180, Temple; Ronald Watkins, 5-9, 180, Marshall; Willis Iverson, 5-9, 175, Canton; Reed Killion, 6-2, 225,

Conroe; Darrell Austin, 5-10, 170, Fort Worth (Wyatt).

**LINEBACKERS** — Jimmy Jordan, 6-2, 220, El Paso (Burgess); Rusty Nettles, 6-1, 215, Houston (Klein); Cedric Ellis, 6-1, 195, Navasota; Darrell Smith, 6-3, 200, Pasadena (Rayburn).



## TREKING ACROSS THE WILDERNESS

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## White Sox hire SMU head

DALLAS — Southern Methodist University athletic director Russ Potts has been named vice president of marketing for the Chicago White Sox, White Sox officials announced Wednesday in Chicago.

SMU held a news conference this morning to make the announcement.

Potts, 41, a native of Winchester, Va., will begin his new job with the White Sox within the next two weeks, a team spokesman said.

During his three-year tenure at SMU, nine of the university's 12 sports have ranked in the top 20 in the

nation. In 1978, SMU set a new NCAA attendance increase record when the average per game attendance at football contests jumped from 24,000 to 52,000.

Potts will be in charge of marketing, advertising, promotions and communications for the White Sox. Speculation indicated the announcement of Pott's resignation was held back until after Southwest Conference football signing day, which was Wednesday.

It was feared announcement of his intention to go to Chicago would disrupt SMU's recruiting drive among high school students.

## Yantis fires a 230 to lead golfers

Susan Yantis, freshman from San Antonio, fired a 54-hole total 230 to pace the qualifying rounds for Texas A&M's five-woman team that will compete in the Houston Baptist Invitational Tournament.

That tournament starts a three-day run Sunday at Conroe's River Plantation Country Club.

Playing in somewhat adverse weather, Yantis shot a 73 last Friday at Briarcrest Country Club, a 76 Monday at the Texas A&M course and an 81 Tuesday at Briarcrest.

Monica Welsh, a junior from Austin, finished second with rounds of 77-78-81, 236, followed by Shirley Furlong, junior from San Antonio, 77-79-81, 237; Kim Bauer, senior from Conroe, 80-78-82, 240; and Jackie Bertram, sophomore from Austin, 81-77-82, 240. In the 54-hole tournament,

teams can enter five players with the low four rounds each day counting in the team total. Other teams in the event include Hous-

ton Baptist, Lamar, LSU, North Texas State, Oklahoma State, SMU, Texas, TCU, Texas Tech and Tulsa.

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