

Sports

Payton may head north for money

United Press International
CHICAGO — Walter Payton's attorney said the Chicago Bears' star running back would sign with the Montreal Alouettes of the Canadian Football league only if the salary offer was "overwhelming."

A Bears spokesman said the NFL club expects to sign Payton, whose 5-year contract expired at the end of last season.

"Walter's feelings are now — and always have been — that the people in Chicago, the fans and the team, have always been first class to him," Payton's attorney, Bud Holmes, said by telephone from Hattiesburg, Miss.

"And if for any reason something worked out and he went to Canada it would not be because of any ill feelings for the club or the town, because all he has is love for both."

"It would have to be that the amount of money would be so overwhelming that good business judgment would dictate that as a

professional person he would owe his duty to himself to accept," Holmes said.

Payton is the Bears' all-time leading rusher and the NFC top runner the last five seasons. His contract expired at the end of the 1980 season when he was the highest paid player in football at \$475,000.

Alouettes owner Nelson Skalbania, who this week signed Bears wide receiver James Scott and Los Angeles Rams' quarterback Vince Ferragamo, told the Edmonton Journal he planned to go after Payton.

"I need one good running back," Skalbania said. "And to give me twice as good a chance of getting one, I'm going after Herschel Walker and Walter Payton."

"I've offered Payton a contract. I shouldn't be saying this because when you print it, the Chicago Bears are going to realize the situation and the price will go up."

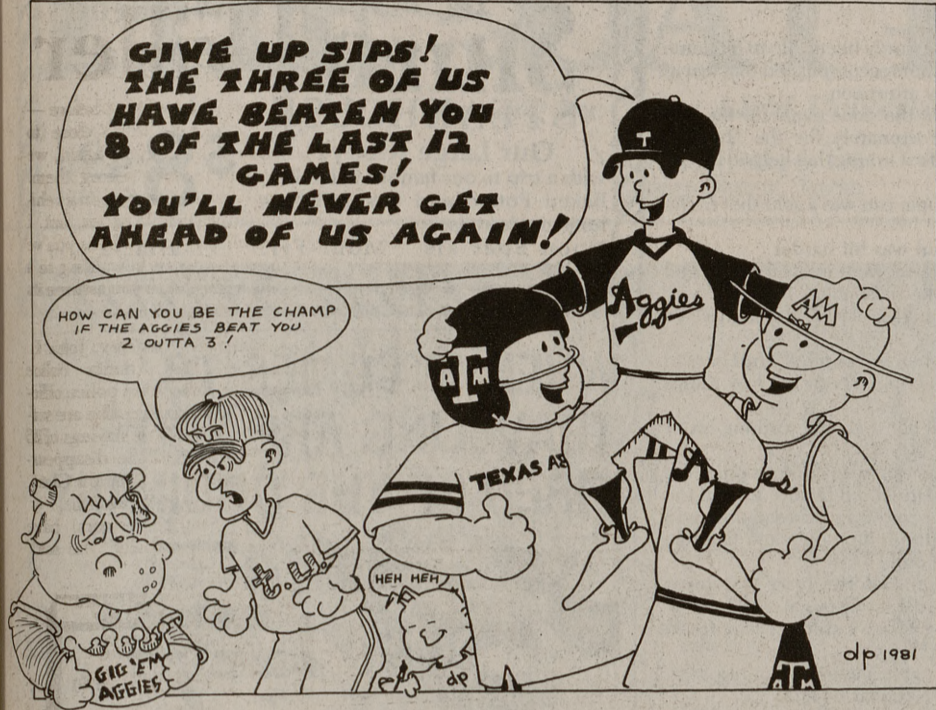
"What are the odds of signing him? About the same as Herschel

Walker. It depends on what I want to pay him. I think the odds are good."

Walker, the University of Georgia's freshman sensation, has

announced he plans to remain in college.

Payton was in Jackson, Miss., working out with his brother and other teammates.



Rockets assume familiar role as underdogs in finals

United Press International
HOUSTON — The Houston Rockets, making their first appearance in the NBA championship series, had been expecting to play the Philadelphia 76ers, but they will have no trouble getting up for the Boston Celtics instead.

"I'd rather play Boston," Coach Del Harris said. "If we had gone up there and beaten Philadelphia to win the NBA title, half of the people would still be saying that we can't beat Boston. To be NBA champion, you have to beat Boston."

Boston fought from a 3-1 deficit after four games and beat the 76ers 91-90 in the seventh to take the Eastern Conference championship Sunday. The first game of the best-of-seven Houston-Boston championship series is today in Boston.

The Rockets, who have not beaten the Celtics in 13 games including four straight losses to the 13-time NBA champions in last year's Eastern Conference semi-

finals, are clear underdogs.

But a team that finished 40-42 in the regular season — while Boston finished 62-20 — is used to the underdog role.

"We're back on old familiar grounds, playing against a team that nobody thinks we can beat. That's okay. We understand that," Murphy said.

Forward Robert Reid said the Rockets should not be intimidated and the Celtics should not be overconfident.

"We are in the final series, you know, and there has to be a reason for us to get this far," Reid said. "The Celtics are going for a 14th title and we are going to try to be a thorn in their side."

"They're talking like they're the champions already, but all they are is the best team in the East. We're the best team in the West. If they beat us four times, then I'll say they are the best team in basketball."

Center Moses Malone said: "We've got to stop Boston's penet-

ration and we've got to keep Bird off the offensive backboards. I'm convinced we can play with them."

Murphy said the Celtics would be in trouble "if they pack in around the basket against us like they did against Philly. We've got the outside shooters to kill them. They're going to have to find another way to beat us."

Reserve Major Jones said Houston nevertheless faces a big challenge.

"We've got to hit the boards real hard on both ends of the court," Jones said. "If we can rebound, we'll be in good shape. We've got to stop their running game, and the way to do that is to not let them bury us on the backboards."

"Also, we guys on the bench will have to outplay their bench. They've got a great bench. If our bench can play as well as their bench, we've got a good chance, because our starting five is equal to their starting five."

Women tracksters aim for big meet

By RITCHIE PRIDDY
Sports Editor
The Texas A&M women's track team competed in the TIAAW state track meet in Houston over the weekend returning with seventh place finish.

Despite the poor finish the Aggies did set several personal, season and team records in the meet.

The 800-meter medley relay, made up of Sandra Cooper, Ellen Smith, Jana Graves and Evelyn Smith, set a school record with a time of 1:44.3. Dena Spier, competing in the heptathlon, set another school record with a score of 4,399 in the heptathlon's seven events.

Ellen Smith came back from the 800-meter relay and set another school record in the 400-meter hurdles with a mark of 60.00 and returned once again for the 1600-meter relay, along with Cooper, Smith and Graves, to establish yet another school record with a time of 3:44.46.

Head coach Bill Nix said the Aggies are in the midst of gearing up for the SWC track meet next week in Fayetteville, Ark. where they will attempt to qualify the 1600-meter relay team for the national meet May 27-30. Nix said that although the team needs to cut off about 1½ seconds off their current time to make the qualifying time of 3:43.14 he feels they have a good chance of making the time.

"Our goal is to qualify our 1600-meter relay team for the nationals. We don't really expect to win the

meet — Texas will take it hands down — but we will battle Arkansas for second place. Of course, a lot of it has to do with your lineup," Nix said.

Nix said that he plans to adjust his sprinters where they won't have to be running so often, and, therefore, can rest for the 1600.

Ellen Smith qualified two weeks ago for the national meet, held in Austin, in the 400-meter hurdles in a blazing 60.0.

"I don't know where that stands as far as a record goes, but I do know that that is probably one of the top 40 times in the country — ever," Nix said.

Nix said that distance runner Suzanne Sheffield and Vickilee Cobern, discus, also had good chances of qualifying for the national meet.

Sheffield, a freshman, is a strong runner, having run on the junior national champion 4x800 team for the Metroplex Striders in Dallas.

Nix said Cobern, a junior, has qualified for the national meet the last two years and is expected to do so again.

Although the women haven't been successful as far as winning goes, they have set 12 personal bests and 15 school records this year. Coming from a team that has no seniors that isn't so bad.

"We haven't won any meets this year, but our lack of experience has hurt us more than any team did all year long. In track and field you judge on the improvements your runners have made."

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MSC CREATION CONTEST

The MSC is seeking a new logo. If you feel creative, go by The Student Programs Office, Room 216 MSC for more information and entry form.

All designs must be submitted by Friday, May 8.

In honor of graduation, we'll be open this Friday at 4 p.m. Celebrate this special occasion with us. Choose from an exciting cargo list of entrees. Delicacies like Hawaiian Chicken, Alaskan King Crab, Teriyaki Beef Kabobs, Mahi Mahi, Australian Lobster, & Prime Rib. All including a visit to our generous salad bar.

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