

Tripped up at the pass

sophomore running back Thomas Sanders of the Texas A&M football team finds the rough as he plows through the heart of the Maroon defensive unit during Saturday's intrasquad scrimmage. Sanders, who led the first-team offensive unit with 83 yards rushing and two touchdowns, is pursued by senior defensive end Dennis (90).

Staff photo by Brian Tate



Aggie open workouts end

The Texas A&M University football team today holds its last open-to-the public workouts, but will continue working for the next 10 days toward the team's Sept. 5 opening date at

Cal-Berkeley. Today's drills mark the final day of two-a-day workouts for the Aggies, who held an impressive controlled scrimmage Saturday on the grass practice field next to the

tennis courts. The Aggies will feature an intrasquad scrimmage Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at Kyle Field, and this final step toward the season opener will be open to the public.

QB Reaves ready for challenge

United Press International Barring a miracle by a honky angel, the Houston Oilers will open the NFL regular season 11 days with a quarterback currently sharing a locker with a rookie and trying to overcome identification problems with teammates.

Although he has performed well in two preseason losses, quarterback John Reaves, 31, has not been given the assurance he's on the team. Nevertheless, he is preparing to direct the Oilers offense in Saturday's final preseason game against the Dallas Cowboys, and probably will make the preparations before the Sept. 6 opener against the Los Angeles Rams.

There were indications Tuesday that the Oilers were making a rich contract offer to try to lure quarterback Ken Stabler out of a one-month retirement, but even if he joins the team he will be hard-pressed to be ready for the Rams game.

The medical report on No. 1 quarterback Clifford Nielsen Tuesday is that a torn shoulder muscle sideline him for three weeks, putting Reaves into the lead.

It's a different situation to start when you're used to subbing into others," Reaves said. "But I'm here and looking forward to it. I want to have fun out there. It's a switch for me. In the past I could have been a nervous wreck."

After playing for the Philadelphia Eagles and Cincinnati Ben-

gals, drug and alcohol addictions forced Reaves from the game and into a rehabilitation program recommended by the Minnesota Vikings last summer. He sat out the 1980 season and became a born-again Christian.

Now he finds himself as the Oilers No. 1 signal-caller despite being acquired only four weeks ago after Stabler retired unexpectedly.

"Some of the guys still call me Dan," Reaves said Tuesday.

"When coach told the team I was the No. 1 quarterback today, he introduced me as 'John Reaves.' I guess 'John' wasn't enough."

However, Reaves is aware the Oilers must obtain another quarterback before the start of the season.

"Coach (Ed) Biles said in the team meeting today that going after Stabler was the team's top priority. I've got all of that to contend with, but I'm not listening to those kinds of voices," he said.

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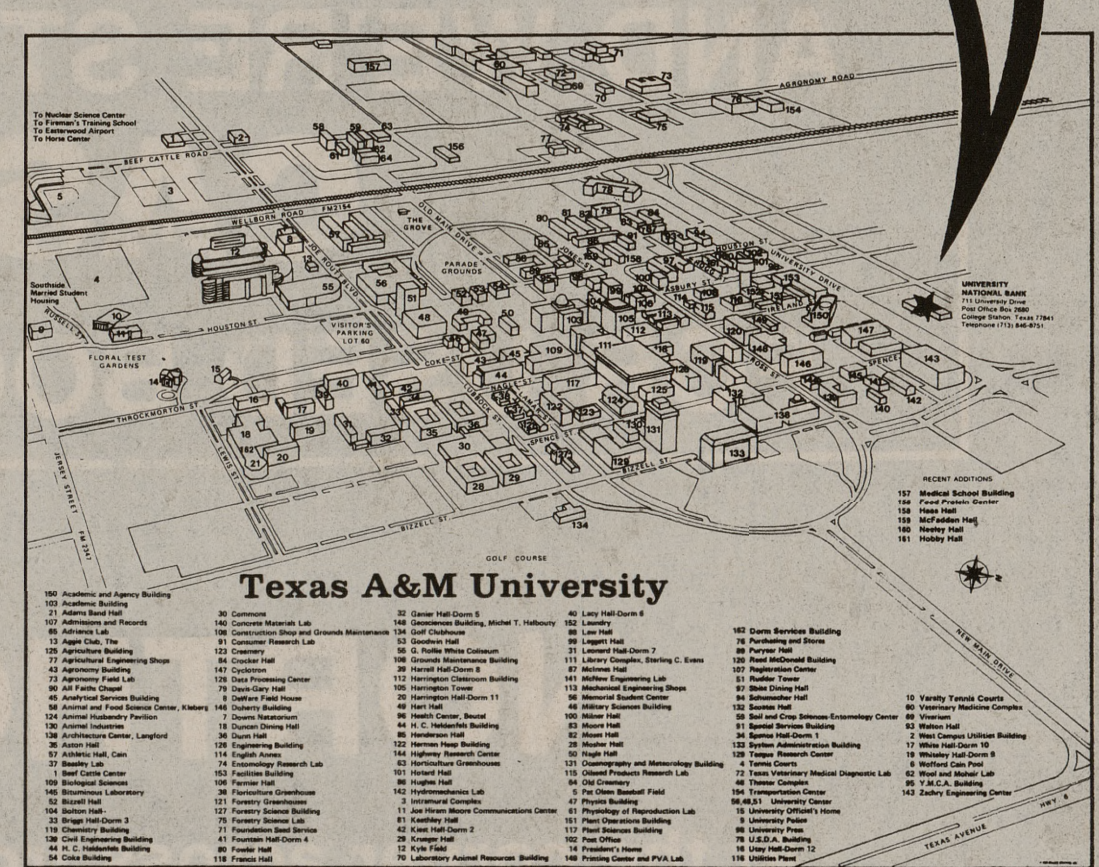
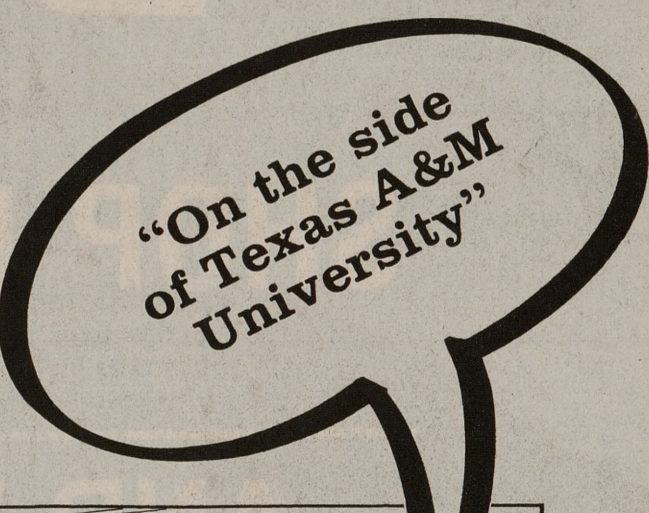
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