

Sports



Fancy footwork!

Staff photo by Brian Tate

Running back Thomas Sanders side-steps Red Raider safety Tate Randle enroute to a 12-yard touchdown in Saturday night's game against Texas Tech. Johnny Hector (arms

raised) seems to know what is going to happen as quarterback Gary Kubiak (9) looks on. The Aggies went on to defeat the Red Raiders 24-23.

Oilers satisfied with win

United Press International
HOUSTON — Five games into the season, the Houston Oilers are back in business and sharing first place with the Cincinnati Bengals and Pittsburgh Steelers.

Heretofore in 1981, the Houston Oilers had had their offense called a couple of other names — mostly derogatory ones — as a new coaching staff labored to diversify the attack and get the team over the hump in playoff competition. But they shelved all that work Sunday and gave the football to Earl Campbell.

With help from his offensive line, the special teams and some Cincinnati receivers who could have used some stick-up on their fingers, Campbell carried the Oilers to a 17-10 win over the Bengals.

Campbell bruised his way to 182 yards on 37 carries, and he scored a touchdown on a two-yard run. It was by far his busiest day of the season.

Carl Roaches ran 96 yards with a Bengals kickoff for another touchdown and Toni Fritsch kicked a 48-yard field goal.

Other than that, you had to wonder how Houston won and joined the Bengals and Steelers with 3-2 records in the American Football Conference Central Division.

"Who's to say," Bengals Head Coach Forrest Gregg said, "they can't win by giving the ball to Earl Campbell 30 times? He's a heckuva player."

Oilers head coach Ed Biles said he hoped he didn't have to do that but his team's slim lead Sunday caused him to have Ken Stabler keep the ball on the ground.

"I realize you can't win too many pro games throwing six passes. But results are what counts," he said.

Quarterback Stabler's six passes, one completion and minus four yards passing were Oilers' record lows.

"We were successful with it (Campbell) so we stayed with it," Stabler said.

On the other hand, Bengals quarterback Ken Anderson passed for 290 yards by completing 30 passes on 52 attempts. Receiver Steve Kreider dropped a pass thrown by receiver Cris Collinsworth in the end zone, and Bengals placekicker Jim Breech missed two field goals.

On the Oilers offense's only touchdown drive in the second quarter, Campbell carried on eight of nine plays. Earlier, he shouldered the offense on a drive to the Bengals' 25-yard line, but the drive stalled without a point when running back Wilson got only one yard on first down. Stabler threw incomplete on second down and Stabler was penalized for intentional grounding on third down.

The Bengals took a brief lead in the third quarter on Anderson's 13-yard scoring toss to tight end Dan Ross, but on the ensuing kickoff Roaches sped 96 yards for his second long kickoff return this season. In the Oilers second game he returned a Cleveland Browns kickoff 88 yards.

Bengals middle guard Wilson Whitley said the Oilers kick return teams — not Campbell — was the difference in the game.

"Earl's 182 yards didn't hurt us near as much as the kickoff return and all the punt returns," he said.

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Women win third in Dallas

Still hurting with injuries, the Texas A&M University women's cross country team finished third at Saturday's University of Texas at Arlington 5,000 meter meet.

Marilee Matheny finished fifth to lead the Ags with a time of 18:04. Kim Cloud remained in Dallas for medical tests and coach Bill Nix said he will know later this week when and if she will return. Lisa McCorstin is still recovering from a severe ankle sprain she suffered three weeks ago.

"Injuries really hurt a small team like ours," Nix said. "Each of the girls should be in the top 15 in any race they run when healthy."

He said the team will cancel the Arizona meet it was to run Saturday and will instead try to regain its health for the 5,000 meter United States Association of Track and Field meet that will be held at North Texas State University.

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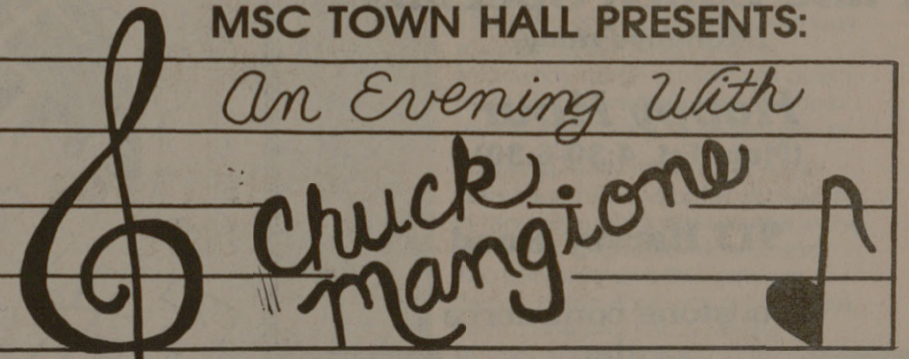
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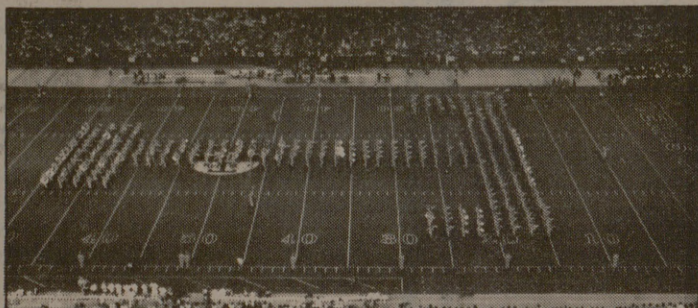
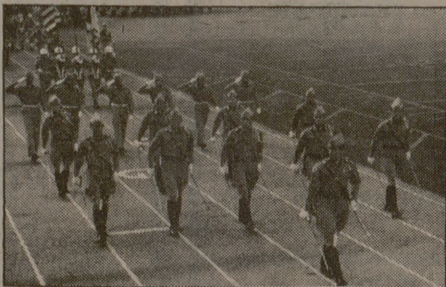
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