

Up and over

staff photo by Peter Rocha

UT's Denise Armstrong competes in the high jump portion of the heptathlon event in the TAIAW state meet here over the weekend. Armstrong won the

seven-event heptathlon by compiling 4,888 points. Texas A&M, which finished second to the Longhorns in the meet, did not have an entry in the heptathlon.

Houston signs 12 free agents for next season

United Press International
HOUSTON — Team officials said Tuesday the Houston Oilers will enter this weekend's free-agent tryout camp with 12 free-agent players already signed to contracts for the coming season.

The team also reported former starter George Reihner, taken in the second round of the 1977 draft, had signed to end his brief retirement. Reihner returns after attending law school for one year.

Another offensive lineman, Wes Phillips, also has returned to the club. Phillips has spent two seasons with the Ottawa Roughriders of the CFL. He was with the team during the 1979-80 seasons.

The free-agent tryouts begin Friday for linebackers and will end Saturday.

General Manager Ladd Her-

zeg said two of the free-agents signed have local ties. Running back Norris Banks attended Memorial High in Houston and had tried out previously with the Oilers and defensive back Eric Davis attended the University of Houston on a basketball scholar-

ship. Houston also signed SMU center Lance Pederson.

The Oilers also announced they had bought a computer system called a Quantel Sports Pac to develop pro player profiles and set up a collegiate scouting system.

One more victory

Perry a step away from No. 300

United Press International
Gaylord Perry, that old fox, is winging back in the weeds.

He's trying to decoy everybody by playing it cool, hoping to create the impression that his next start Thursday night in the Seattle Kingdome against the New York Yankees won't be much different than any of his previous 633 others.

But, the Mariners' 43-year-old righthander and the majors' oldest active player already has begun fighting the butterflies. That isn't so hard to understand considering his next victory will be the 300th one of his career and virtually will ensure his eventual election into the Hall of Fame.

Should Perry beat the Yankees for the second time in a week, he'll become only the 15th pitcher in major-league history to win 300 games. All 14 other 300-game winners are in the Hall of Fame.

"I'm looking forward to it," he admits. "What do 300 victories mean to me? It would mean I've had a successful career."

In his time, he has been accused of throwing spitters and doctoring the ball with outside agents like vaseline and slippery elm. He has even admitted to having resorted to some of those illegalities in a book he collaborated on with Bob Sudyk, columnist for the Hartford Courant.

But nobody could ever accuse Perry of not working hard. He has missed only two starts in the past 16 years due to his own incapacity and the only complaint you ever heard about him during all the time he pitched for the Giants, Indians, Rangers, Padres, Yankees and Braves before this was that he'd occasionally "intimidate" some of his teammates with his criticism of the way they played behind him.

He doesn't do that too much anymore with the Mariners, although he'll never be able to abide by anything less than maximum effort. He gives it and expects everyone else to.

"I see certain talent not getting everything they should out of their ability and the way I feel

about it is they're hurting themselves and they're hurting me," he says. "Basically, I don't see anything wrong in bringing something like that to the attention of your teammates."

"Tom Haller was a good example of what I'm talking about when he caught me with the Giants. He'd come out and chew me out whenever he thought it was necessary. He did that because he wanted to win and he wanted you to win. That was the same reason I did it to others later on."

But Perry, the only pitcher ever to win the Cy Young Award in both leagues, always pushed himself harder than he did anyone else.

"If I hadn't, I guarantee you I wouldn't have had 299 victories," he says.

That 299th victory Friday had some nostalgia for him because his wife, Blanche, came up to New York from their home in Williamston, N.C., to see him pitch against the Yankees.

"It reminded me of the times she'd come to New York years ago for voice lessons and she'd skip the lessons so she could watch me pitch," Perry says. "She loves baseball but she couldn't stay more than that one day this time because she had to get back to see our son, Jack, play for his high school team the following day, and one of our daughters, Allison, play in a softball game."

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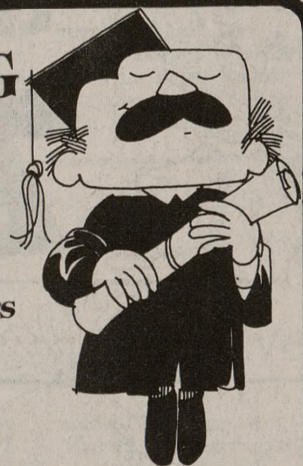
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