

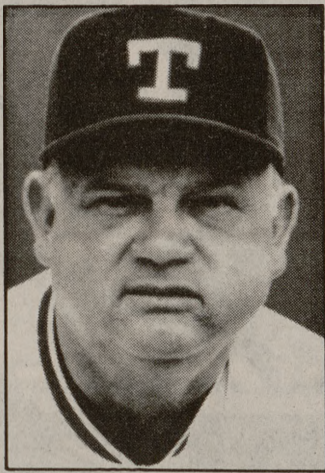
Texas A&M

# The Battalion Sports

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## Texas' Zimmer receives Chiles' notice of firing

By Milton Richman  
UPI Sports Editor



Don Zimmer

With the Texas Rangers bogged down in sixth place, having won only three of their last 16 contests and 15½ games behind first, Don Zimmer has been informed by owner Eddie Chiles that he will be replaced as manager before the end of the week. Chiles told Zimmer of the change that is to be made and gave him a choice of resigning, an option which Zimmer declined.

"I will not resign, that is out of the question," Zimmer said Tuesday night following the Rangers' loss to the Milwaukee Brewers. "As far as I know I'm still the manager."

Zimmer had been on borrowed time ever since May 24, when Chiles held a long meeting with him and former general manager Eddie Robinson regarding the Rangers' disappointing showing to that point. Since then, the Rangers' fortunes have failed to improve despite the firing of Robinson. Chiles even solicited Zimmer's advice as to who his replacement should be after the Rangers' owner notified him that a new manager was going to

Zimmer will be paid the balance of his contract, which runs through 1983.

He will be the fourth major league manager fired this year. The others were Bob Lemon of the New York Yankees, Bob Rodgers of the Milwaukee Brewers and the John McNamara of the Cincinnati Reds.

Zimmer began his major league managerial career with the San Diego Padres in 1972. He replaced Johnson July 19, 1976 as manager of Boston and

began a 5-year stint. He was named Texas manager Nov. 12, 1980 and led the Rangers to a 57-48 record in last year's strike-shortened season.

Known as a disciplinarian, Zimmer was unable to get the same results from his club as he did the previous year. The Rangers, a young team that lacks quality pitching, went on a 12-

game losing streak at the end of April and quickly fell off the pace in the American League West. Texas had an 11-25 record under Zimmer on May 24 when Chiles locked the Arling-

ton Stadium doors to meet with his manager and Robinson.

Zimmer started his professional career as a shortstop in the Brooklyn Dodgers system in 1949. He played every position during his 19-year career but spent most of his time at third base. Zimmer played for the Brooklyn and Los Angeles Dodgers, Chicago Cubs, New York Mets, Cincinnati Reds and Washington Senators. He spent one season playing in Japan.

A pugnacious, gritty player, Zimmer suffered serious injuries during his career. He was hit in the head by a pitch while

playing for St. Paul in 1953. He was also struck in the face by pitcher Hal Jeffcoat of the Reds while playing for Brooklyn in 1956.

Zimmer, who now has a plate in his head, was batting .300 both seasons before the injuries.

He began his minor league managerial career at Knoxville (Tenn.) of the Southern League in 1967. He went on to manage Buffalo, Indianapolis and Key West before landing a third-base coaching job with Montreal.



photo by Ritchie Priddy

### Taking a break

Aggie all-America soccer player Carol Smith gives herself a time out from a preseason workout to tie her shoe. Smith, a junior journalism major from Dallas, was named all-America last year for her play at the AIAW nationals.

Organized team practice starts Aug. 23 for the upcoming season. The Aggies, who finished eighth in the nation last year under coach Jim Butts, will utilize several talented recruits this year in efforts to finish higher at nationals.

### Eight more players cut from roster

## Oilers trade tackle Fields

United Press International  
SAN ANGELO — The Houston Oilers have traded third-year offensive tackle Angelo Fields to the Green Bay Packers for a third-round draft choice in 1983.

Oilers Coach Ed Biles said the development of second year pro Ralph Williams and Nick Eyre caused Fields, primarily a special teamer in two years with the Oilers, to lose his backup position in the offensive line.

"One of the factors involved was that Ralph Williams has come along very well," Biles said. "This was a good deal for both parties concerned. Nick Eyre also has come along and has a good attitude and is playing well at the present time."

Fields was among eight players cut from the Oilers Tuesday. Former Ottawa Rough Riders lineman Wes Phillips, former Rice University quarterback Randy Hertel and wide receiver Walter Daniels of Southeast Oklahoma were also struck from the Oiler roster.

Tight end Robert Davis of Angelo State, running back Ken Jackson of Grambling State, linebackers Carl McGee of Duke, linebacker Kurt Phoenix of Lamar and linebacker Todd Volkart of Northern Colorado were released.

At 6-6 and 320 pounds, Fields was the largest player on the Oilers roster since being drafted out of Michigan State in the second round three years ago.

A torn achilles tendon by left tackle Leon Gray forced Fields into a starting role late in his rookie season. He started two games in 1980 and played extensively in the AFC wild card game, and then in 1981 did not start a game.

The trade indicated the Oilers believe that Gray, the only unsigned Oiler, will play this season. Gray has not indicated

otherwise, but the veterans have not reported to training camp yet.

Williams, a free agent acquisition last season, was mentioned by Biles as the player who would replace Fields. Biles also indicated Williams would be moved to left tackle to play behind Gray. Eyre is currently playing behind right tackle Morris Towns.

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