## Oilers, Saints clash tonight in Dome preseason opener

United Press International HOUSTON — Personal feel-ings aside, the Houston Oilers and New Orleans Saints tonight get down to the dull business of looking at newcomers in a preseason opener.

It wasn't always that bland. Last year Saints coach Bum Phillips had just been fired as the Oilers boss for reasons unre-lated to his team's play, and was hired by the Saints

Leading up to tonight's meeting in the Astrodome, the talk is of who will start, which formations will work and how good is that new kicker.

Both Phillips and second-year Oilers Coach Ed Biles have a lot of looking to do. They are working with lots of younger players, trying to fill some gaps

and turn teams that were losers last year into winners this time around.

The Oilers, who were 7-9, will be without the services of veteran quarterback Ken Stabler. think they're better off with less experienced but more mobile Gifford Nielsen. The Saints, 4-12, will be trying to build around running

back George Rogers.

Houston expects to look at Nielsen during the first half and rookie signal caller Oliver Luck from West Virginia in the second. The Oilers will show off their first draft choice, guard Mike Munchak, who is playing behind John Schumacher in the

Contract holdout Leon Gray will miss the game.

Burrough and Mike Renfro, Harold Bailey will start at wide receiver opposite Michael Hol-ston. One Oiler objective is to ease the burden on running back Earl Campbell by diversifying the offense

"They just felt like they were too predictable the last few years," spokesman Gregg Stengel said.

New Orleans will start veteran Archie Manning at quarterback but will also give second-year backup quarterback Dave Wilson a long look.

They also are optimistic about 27-24 during the regular season.

Because of injuries to Ken a couple of new wide receivers, No. 1 draft choice Lindsay Scott of Georgia and Kenny Duckett

> of Wake Forest, whom they hope will help make running back George Rogers a bigger threat.

"We're confident we'll be better this year. I think we wonder how much better we will be," Saints spokesman Rusty Kas-

With emotions at a peak last season, the Saints won both meetings between the two teams last year, 27-7 in preseason and

## Griffin wants Bengals to play him full-time

All in all, Archie Griffin would rather be in

Philadelphia — or anywhere but Cincinnati.

Not as a backup, anyway.

Griffin, the only two-time Heisman Trophywinner, is unhappy in his role as fill-in halfback for the AFC champion Cincinnati Bengals. He wants to play full-time, he says, and if he can't do it in Cincinnati, he'd like to do it somewhere else.

"I asked to be traded (several years ago) because I just wanted to give it my best shot somewhere else and see if it would work out any differently," he says. "But right now, while I'm with the Cincinnati Bengals, I'm going to do the best I can for them."

While such a work ethic is admirable, it probably is standing in the way of a trade. Sure, the Bengals would like to make him happy, but Grif-

fin is too valuable to the team as a "Archie is a competitor and he has a great

desire to play and start," Bengals' Coach for

Gregg says.

"But what you have to do first is out what's good for the team. You'd like to have even everybody happy, you'd like to have every pleased with their roles, but at the same

team goals come first." In other training camp news Wednest

— The Miami Dolphins picked up in
Georgia kicker Rex Robinson on waiter

the Denver Broncos. The Dolphins have been happy with the formance of Uwe von Schamann over the three years, but the former Oklahomastar down with an attack of colitis before to

camp started in July.

— The NFL Management Council in two procedures governing team rosten in 1982 season and blamed the Players Associated for having to institute the "emergency"

## Canadian Open seeds breezing past competition

United Press International
TORONTO — John McEnroe has spent the first two days of the Canadian Open Tennis tournament analyzing his personality, his

goals and his playing style. The weak opponents offered to the top three seeds in the \$300,000 event have left plenty of time for such amusement.

The top-seeded McEnroe, No. 2 seeded Jimmy Connors and

No. 3 Ivan Lendl have yet to lose a set after the first two rounds of While Connors has breezed along in an upbeat tempo both on

and off the court, McEnroe has talked about the need to behave himself and re-vitalize his serve. Lendl, meanwhile, is stoic, careful of his words and quick to

"I am playing well," said the Czechoslovakian star after he demolished Andrew Pattison, 6-0, 6-4, Wednesday to move into the third round.

Lendl doesn't like to elaborate.

Connors is happy to elaborate but wants it known there is really no need to, and that the bottom line is: "I am playing fine tennis right now. If I keep it up I will be No. 1 in the world."

But the current No. 1 sizes up his prospects and his game

"I have found I bring a lot of things on myself. I have to accept what has happened to me," said McEnroe, who has, for the past two days, eclipsed Bjorn Borg as the nicest guy to occupy the throne of tennis in recent years.

"When I get involved with things outside of the game, with officials and with fans it takes away from my enjoyment" the

officials and with fans it takes away from my enjoyment," the 23-year-old New Yorker said after he dispatched Juan Avenado of

McEnroe meets two-time Canadian champion Glenn Michibata

## Holtz sees potential in Hogs' freshmen

United Press International FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — Arkansas coach Lou Holtz, reviewing the performance of 68 freshmen who went through their first pair of workouts Wednesday, hesitated at citing individuals but said the Razorbacks had recruited some quality athletes.

It's almost impossible to point out individuals after just one day of work, but it's obvious we have some fine athletes who will give good effort," Holtz said. "It's hard to tell how many freshmen will be ready to help us this year."

Of the players on the field Wednesday, 29 were scholarship

freshmen and 39 were walk-ons. "Our freshmen gave tremendous effort, but not the kind of

effort they will give when our upperclassmen arrive," Holtz said. "We're counting on our upperclassmen to show our freshmen what it takes for us to get to the Cotton Bowl."

Arkansas' freshmen will have two more days of twice-daily work-

outs before breaking for the weekend. They then will join the varsity players who report for workouts Monday.



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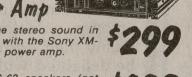


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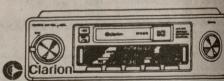
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