

Texas A&M

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NFL rookies

Baldwin, Whitwell secure spots with Cleveland

by Frank L. Christlieb
Sports Editor



Former A&M receiver Mike Whitwell playing for Browns

When Keith Baldwin pulled a hamstring during the first day of the Cleveland Browns' training camp, he could have lost all confidence about his chances of making the squad.

But not Baldwin. Although the injury slowed him slightly, the former Texas A&M defensive end didn't break stride in his efforts to elude the most terrifying event in the life of an NFL rookie — the dreaded final cut.

The Browns, along with 27 other professional teams, released their last batch of players — rookies as well as veterans — Monday and Tuesday. But Baldwin's bid to escape being sliced from the Browns' roster was successful.

In addition, teammate Mike Whitwell, the Aggies' all-time leader in receiving yardage with 1,372 yards in four seasons, made the Cleveland squad. Although many people had

pounds has gained about 10 pounds since the 1981 Aggie season, has found college and professional football to be jerseys of a different color.

"It was a big jump and it was a little difficult at first," Baldwin said from Cleveland in a telephone interview Thursday. "You have to think a lot more about what you're doing, and you have to do a lot more studying. You get used to doing so many things in college, but when you come into professional football, it's really different."

For starters, the Browns play a 3-4 defense, with three men on the defensive front and four linebackers. In contrast, Baldwin spent four seasons under former Aggie coach Tom Wilson as part of a 4-3 alignment, in which he was one of four members of the defensive line.

"Now I'm starting to come around, and I'm getting comfortable with the team and the system," Baldwin said. "Going

in, I was pretty confident, but after a couple of days, it shook my confidence to see how tough it was. But then I started concentrating on doing my best at my position, and things got better."

Baldwin, who this week moved into a new apartment in central Cleveland, said Whitwell performed well during limited playing time. A member of the Browns' front office said Whitwell's entrance into professional football was enhanced by the retirement of Reggie Rucker, one of the top receivers in the history of the Cleveland franchise.

During the Browns' 4-0 pre-season schedule, Baldwin finished with six tackles, two assists and two fumble recoveries while playing behind starting right end Mike Robinson, a second-year man from Arizona. Whitwell, a 6-1, 175-pounder, caught the only pass thrown to him, a 22-yarder, but had five

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Keith Baldwin (80), a former Texas A&M defensive end, has survived the final cuts that all NFL rookies dread, solidly entrenching himself as the No. 2 right defensive end for the Cleveland Browns.

Former Aggie wide receiver Mike Whitwell, drafted a few rounds after Baldwin, also qualified for the squad after leading Texas A&M in pass receptions during the 1981 season.

NCAA title Brock's goal during 1982-83 season

by John Wagner
Battalion Staff

The Aggie softball team, winner of the AIAW national trophy early in the summer, will attempt to win another crown this season — this time under the NCAA banner. And at this point, it appears that inexperience in the infield might be the team's only weak point.

Coach Bob Brock lost five players from last year's squad, and the key to success this year will be the play of several fresh-

men. This year, however, the Aggies will compete as a member of the NCAA, due to the dissolution of the AIAW.

Cindy Cooper and Mary Schwind will get their first test as members of the Aggie infield when the host team takes the field Friday in the first game of the Aggie Invitational.

Cooper will start at third base, while Schwind replaces the graduated Shannon Murray as the starter at first base.

But the strengths of Brock's

team far outnumber the weaknesses. Brock will rely mainly on pitching this season — pitching that has always come through in the past.

His pitching staff, anchored by two-time all-America Lori Stoll and 1982 Texas A&M Player of the Year Shan McDonald, is easily one of the best in the nation.

Both Stoll and McDonald played on national teams this summer. Stoll, a left-hander, pitched for the U.S. women's na-

tional team and McDonald for the Canadian national team.

And if those two strengths aren't enough, freshman Darlene Lowery, from Largo, Fla., will be able to bolster a staff that rarely needs bolstering. Stoll and McDonald pitched in 82 of the Aggies' 93 games during both the fall and spring seasons.

Stoll finished the year 34-6 with an ERA of .296. McDonald was 35-3 with an ERA of 0.31.

The Aggies are led offensively by senior Carrie Austgen, junior Patti Holthaus, and sophomores Josie Carter and Gay McNutt. Austgen, Holthaus and McNutt were all-region players last year.

Carter led the Aggies with a

.331 average and 72 RBI.

Texas A&M has a full fall schedule this year, with games against Baylor, Louisiana Tech, Sam Houston, and the University of Texas at Arlington. They will also play in two tournaments this fall — the UTA Invitational and the All College Classic in Okla. City, Okla.

Last year the Aggies were 36-3 in the fall and 48-6 during the spring for a combined record of 84-9 — good for the championship in the AIAW Women's College World Series.

The Aggie Invitational is a four-team double round robin tournament with a single elimination playoff. Besides Texas

A&M, Baylor, Sam Houston State and Texas Tech will participate in the two-day event.

The tournament, as well as the Aggies' home games, will be played at Travis Park in Bryan. Texas A&M opened the tournament at 10 this morning against Texas Tech, while Sam Houston played Baylor.

Every team will play five games today, with the last game beginning at 8:30 p.m. Each team will play three games Saturday, with the championship and consolation games scheduled for 5:30 Saturday evening.

The Aggies' next competition will be a double-header against Baylor in Waco Monday.



Aggie softball pitcher Lori Stoll ready for '82 season

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