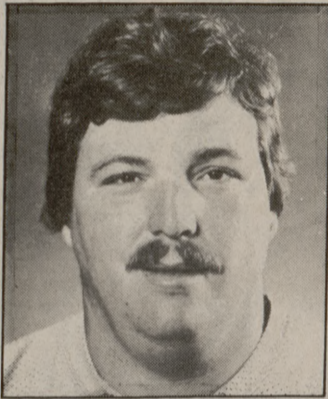


TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



# Oilers opt to accept owners' recent offer



David Carter says Houston waiting for union feedback

United Press International HOUSTON — The Houston Oilers' vote to reject union recommendations and informally endorse a National Football League management contract offer gave union officers a "strong message" of sentiment on the team, a team member said Tuesday.

No announcement was made in Houston, but the action was confirmed by a player who attended the team meeting Tuesday and asked to remain unidentified.

Members of the New Orleans Saints late Monday announced they had voted to endorse the management contract offer, becoming the first NFL team to endorse the team owners' contract.

The Houston player said Tuesday's vote was not unanimous, but the numbers gave the players' union officers a "strong message" of sentiment on the team.

Association Council, was dispatched to call union Executive Director Ed Garvey in New York with the ballot results.

David Carter, assistant Oiler player representative, said the players had decided not to disclose the results until they had "received a positive reaction from the union." He refused to be more specific.

"To do so would tell you how we voted," he said.

A Houston radio station, however, reported Tuesday night that the Oilers would withhold their approval of the offer pending four key changes in the owners' proposal.

KTRH reported the Oilers wanted a 49-player roster instead of 45, pay for a full 1982 contract no matter how many games are played, clarified severance pay of the owner's "money now" proposal and to approve the NFL draft as it stands until 1986, not 1992.

"We voted to accept it with minor changes," he said.

Sources said the vote was 28-5 for acceptance.

Elvin Bethea, an Oiler and member of the NFL Players

## Garvey, McRae top list

# Free agent draft today

United Press International NEW YORK — The talent in the American League while the National League provides the intrigue today in baseball's seventh annual free-agent re-entry draft.

Steve Garvey, the glamor name in a weak crop of NL free agents, will take the first step toward discarding Dodger blue as the grab bag begins at noon CST at a midtown hotel.

A lifetime .302 hitter who hasn't missed a major-league game since 1975, Garvey has effectively severed his longtime relationship with Los Angeles. The 33-year-old first baseman is the most-prized NL free agent after his failure to reach terms with the Dodgers by the Saturday deadline.

Garvey, however, said Tuesday that he's still holding out for the possibility that the Dodgers will draft him.

"I really do like it here," he said. "We have done everything possible ... but I could not accept that last offer," the terms of which he did not reveal.

Hard-throwing Floyd Bannister, 27, heads an impressive list of AL free agents available. Although he sports a paltry lifetime record of 51-68 in the major leagues, Bannister led the league last season with 209 strikeouts while posting a 12-13 mark with Seattle.

The Dodgers and California Angels both failed last week to land the 6-foot-1 southpaw, and both clubs are prevented from signing Bannister as a free agent because they are prohibited from the compensation pool for

Type A players.

Joining Bannister as Class A free agents are a pair of AL outfielders, Steve Kemp of the Chicago White Sox and Baltimore's John Lowenstein.

A pair of powerful designated hitters augment the strong AL free-agent roster. Neither Kansas City's Hal McRae, nor California's Don Baylor will require compensation.

Among other NL players available are fleet Pittsburgh outfielder Omar Moreno, Houston catcher Alan Ashby and veteran Montreal reliever Woodie Fryman, who posted a 9-4 record and added 12 saves last season at the age of 42.

One of the teams known to be interested in Bannister is the New York Yankees.

"The Yankees are certainly

one of the teams that will be considered," said Tom Reich, Bannister's agent. "I get along fine with George (principal owner Steinbrenner)."

Five teams — Boston, California, Los Angeles, Minnesota and Seattle — elected last year not to participate in the selection of Type "A" ranking players and are excluded from the 1982 re-entry draft.

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# Spurs roll past Utah, 118-104

United Press International SAN ANTONIO — The San Antonio Spurs are going through a transition this season, but no one can tell by the way they've been winning.

The Spurs added two new starters this year — center Artis Gilmore and second-year forward Gene Banks. The first three substitutes did not play last year. Bob Griffin was injured and Bill Willoughby and Mike Dunleavy were picked up from the Houston Rockets just before the start of the season.

"With all these changes, the Spurs should be struggling to get it all together. Instead, they're sporting a 6-1 record.

"We still have a lot of periods where we're very rough. People aren't aware of what's going on," coach Stan Albeck said Tuesday night after the Spurs took a 118-104 victory over the Utah Jazz.

"Once we get the wrinkles out, I think we can play really solid and be a great basketball team. You can't make changes overnight. You haven't seen the real Artis Gilmore surface.

"He's feeling his way. Artis has been playing good basket-

ball for us. He's always been there when we needed him."

Gilmore scored 22 points and pulled in 15 rebounds for the Spurs. He grabbed six rebounds and scored 12 points in the third quarter, including five straight San Antonio field goals, to give the Spurs an 85-72 margin.

"Artis is playing tremendous basketball for us. He is a great rebounder," said teammate George Gervin, who added 12 points.

Mike Mitchell poured in 25 points for the Spurs and Banks added another 12. Mitchell scored 18 points in the second quarter to offset 10 points from Darrell Griffith and stake the Spurs to a 60-55 halftime lead.

The Jazz took advantage of poor San Antonio shooting to grab an early 24-14 edge but went scoreless the final 3:20 of the first period as the Spurs ran off 15 straight points.

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