

# Texas A&M The Battalion Sports

November 17, 1982 Page 15

## It's first-and-10

### Tentative settlement ends 57 days of strike talks, bickering

United Press International  
NEW YORK — It's first-and-10 for the National Football League.

With only formal ratification by both sides yet to come, the 57-day strike, the longest and most expensive in sports history, ended Tuesday night with the 28 NFL player representatives agreeing to a five-year contract worth nearly \$1.6 billion.

Although some player reps said next Tuesday's vote among the 1,500 players may be a close one, both the NFL Players Association and the NFL Management Council's executive committees put their seal of approval on the new contract.

"The long battle has finally come to a tentative conclusion," said Ed Garvey, executive director for the union. "We demonstrated solidarity and the players demonstrated, once and for all, they are the most important element of the game. Dan Rooney (president of the Pittsburgh Steelers) said it best when he said, 'Now we're in a partnership.'"

The strike forced the NFL to call off eight weekends of games with the loss of approximately \$275 million in revenues.

Training camps will reopen today and the 28 club owners also are scheduled to meet to approve the contract.

"It's pretty much a formality," said Jim Miller, director of information of the NFL

Management Council. "As long as the executive committee recommends it, the owners usually go along."

The season, which was interrupted Sept. 21, will resume under a new format. The new schedule, unlike any other proposed during the negotiations, calls for a nine-game regular season, including a makeup game Jan. 2. The Super Bowl will be played, as scheduled, Jan. 30 at Pasadena, Calif.

There will be no divisional titles and the 14 teams in each conference will vie for eight spots in a new playoff format. The post-season will begin Jan. 9 and consist of three rounds leading to the Super Bowl.

According to Dave Sheridan, a spokesman for the NFLPA, the following guarantees were agreed upon: management will pay the players a total of \$1.17 billion over the five years, with the remaining portion of the \$1.6 billion total going to players' contracts that expire at the end of the 1982 season.

Also, a \$60 million bonus pool will be paid out. In 1983, the agreement calls for \$240 million, with \$260 million in 1984, \$290 million in 1985 and \$320 in 1986.

A minimum wage scale was established, calling for \$30,000 for a rookie in 1982, \$40,000 in 1983-84 and \$50,000 in 1985-86.

A maximum salary also was established at \$200,000 for any player.

In addition, a second-year player will earn \$5,000 severance pay, a third-year player \$20,000, a fourth-year player \$60,000 with increments of \$10,000 for each additional year.

As for next Tuesday's player vote, Stan White, a member of the NFLPA Executive Committee, said: "There's a very real possibility they'll reject it."

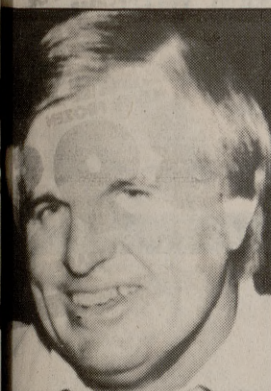
Kansas City player rep Tom Condon said: "It may be a close vote. If the players vote against it, we will have to decide if we will negotiate while in camp or walk out again."

Union president Gene Upshaw announced the settlement at 10:30 p.m. CST at the Summit Hotel, where on-and-off negotiations had been taking place since Oct. 30.

"We have a tentative agreement that must be ratified by the players," Upshaw said in ending the first walkout in the league's 63-year history. "We'll return to work. If we can get everything done, we'll have football on Sunday. We had a will to win and hopefully this will start a new relationship with the NFL."

One of the key people in working out a settlement was former NFL player Paul Martha, who served as an intermediary between the parties.

## Biles excited about Steelers



United Press International  
HOUSTON — Houston Oilers coach Ed Biles says he's excited about the prospect of playing Pittsburgh Sunday following the announcement of a tentative settlement in the 57-day players strike.

"It's going to be fun," Biles said late Tuesday. "There'll be mistakes and missed assignments and probably more touchdowns scored, but it'll be exciting."

"There won't be any physical work (today). We'll just run some pass patterns and plays. I imagine Thursday will be more like a regular practice day."

Oilers spokesman Bob Hyde said those team members in town would be on the practice field today for conditioning work and to review films in preparation for Sunday's game in the Astrodome.

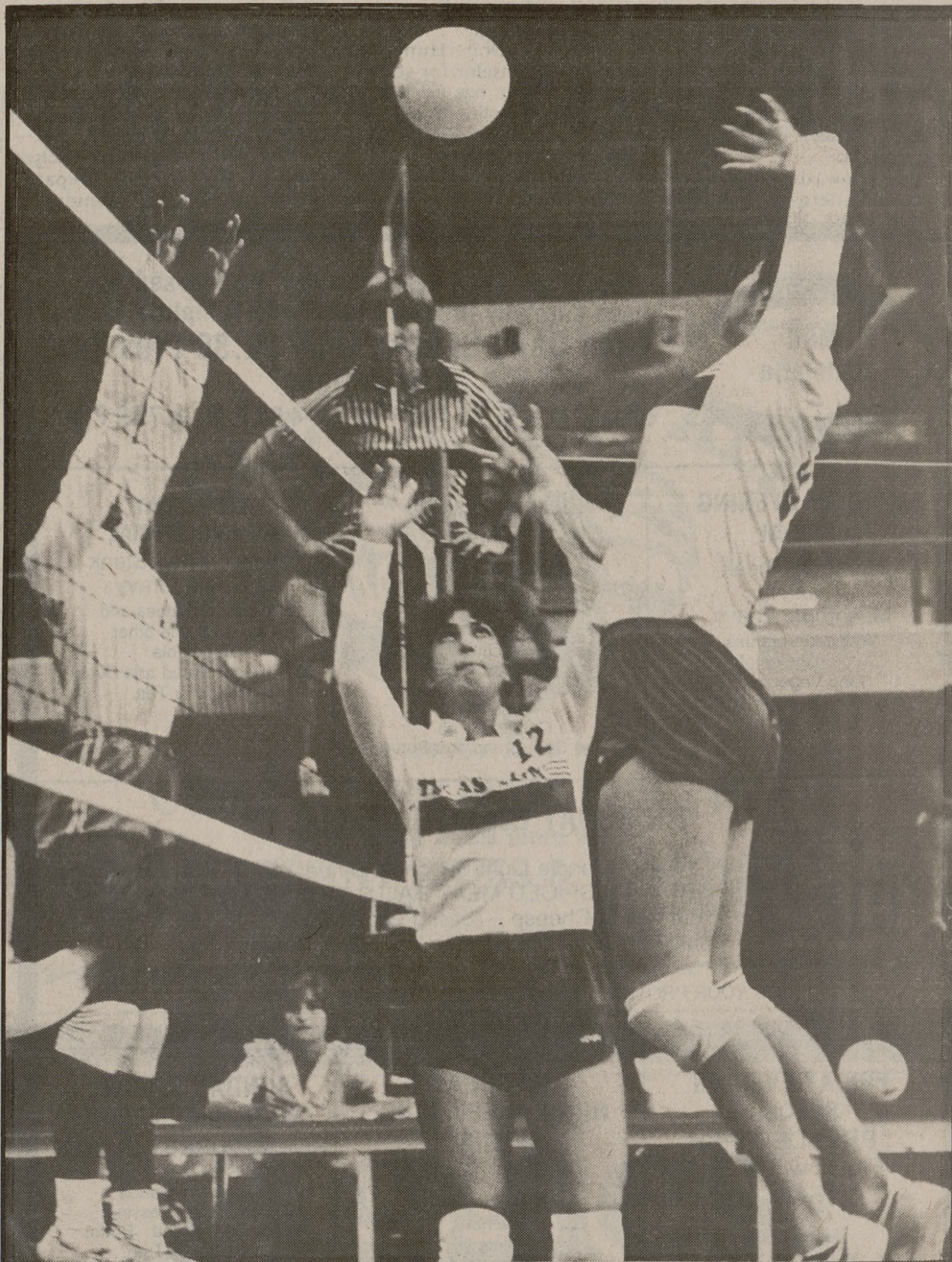
Hyde said Biles and his staff worked Tuesday preparing for Pittsburgh as they had worked throughout the strike.

The Oilers scheduled a news conference for today, anticipating players acceptance of the latest negotiated contract.

"We're optimistic," Hyde said. "We're already full-go for a game. It appears we are going

to play the Steelers at noon Sunday."

The Oilers split their two games before the strike.



Out for the season

photo by C. Michel Chang

Joey Vrazel (12), the Aggie Ladies' all-America transfer from Utah State, will be out for the remainder of the season after sustaining a severe knee sprain the past weekend in the Tennessee In-

vitational. Vrazel and Jennifer Giese (9) have led Texas A&M to a record of 32-10 and to a No. 13 ranking. The Aggie Ladies host Houston tonight at 7:30 in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

## Pizza Express

Says

# EAT MORE

## BEEF AGGIES

We've Got  
The Burning Desire  
Have You?

BEAT THE HELL OUTA t.u.

Bonfire: November 23, 1982

Game: November 25, 1982 1:00 p.m.

Aggies vs. the t-sips

696-7785

846-7785

FREE GROUND BEEF ON EVERY  
PIZZA ORDERED UNTIL GAME TIME

11/25/82 1:00 p.m.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_

(only one coupon per pizza)

# Charley's Aunt

By Brandon Thomas

8:00

Nov. 17-20

Rudder Theatre

Tickets on sale now at MSC  
Box Office.

A  
Theatre Arts  
Program  
Production

