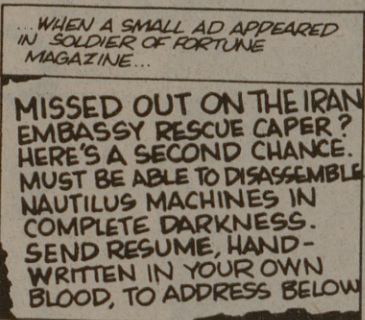


**TANK McNAMARA**

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds

**Harrell's 'gamble' pays off**



United Press International

OAKLAND, Calif. — Houston Gamblers running back Sam Harrell used to sit in his dormitory room at East Carolina University and dream of what life would be like as a professional football player.

In his senior year at ECU, Harrell rushed for 596 yards on 81 carries and scored seven touchdowns. He also caught nine passes for 61 yards.

It was this display of versatility and his size — 6-2 225 — that caught the eye of the management of the NFL's Minnesota Vikings. The club drafted Harrell in the 11th round of the 1980 NFL draft, the young running back so impressed the Vikings coaching staff with his hard-running style and desire that they kept him on the roster when the team broke camp. No small accomplishment for someone drafted so late.

But then Harrell's dream was turned into the nightmare that haunts all fringe players in the professional ranks.

Instead of the dreamed of press clippings and fans asking

for his autograph, Harrell was confronted with the stark reality of being a seldom-used substitute back. His biggest opponent no longer was bulky linebackers but the frustration of being so close, yet so far away.

In three seasons with the Vikings, Harrell had only one rushing attempt and caught a mere two passes. The club released him from their training camp in 1983.

It appeared that Harrell's dream was over. But then the fledgling Houston Gamblers of the USFL called. Harrell jumped at the chance to play again. And both he and the Gamblers could not have anticipated the results.

Harrell leads the Gamblers into Monday night's showdown with the winless Oakland Invaders as the Western Conference's leading rusher with 488 yards on 87 carries. He also has rushed for 200 yards in a game this season.

Those are impressive numbers but not as impressive as Harrell's ability to score once he

gets the ball near the goal line. Going into this weekend's action, he led the USFL with 13 touchdowns, eight more than the entire Oakland team.

With those numbers you would think that Harrell was a one-man band for coach Jack Pardee's 4-3 Gamblers. But unfortunately for the Invaders, he is not.

Houston also has quarterback Jim Kelley, an outstanding rookie, who has directed the Gamblers' offense to a league-leading 1,961 yards in offense through the airways.

So far this year, Kelley has thrown for more touchdowns — 14 — than any other quarterback in the league.

Kelley will face a defense that has been tough on opposing passers. The Invaders — led by strong safety Marcus Quinn — are the seventh-ranked pass defense in the league.

Last week, Quinn — one of the team's few bright spots this year — intercepted his fourth pass of the season.

"Marcus is a prime example of a player who doesn't give up

when things start to look gloomy," Oakland coach Chuck Hutchison said. "He gets better each week, and we come up with the big plays on a regular basis."

Hutchison also has good about his quarterback situation heading into Monday night's contest. The Invader mentor should have the use of quarterback Tom Ramsey for Monday night's contest in case starter Fred Blythe should falter. Ramsey over to the Invaders in a trade with the Los Angeles Express.

Ramsey's availability may be a key factor if the Invaders come away with their victory because the Houston defense has not been that good this season. The Gamblers ranked 18th in the league that category.

"Their defense has had weak moments this season," Hutchison said. "Hopefully that's something we can capitalize on Monday night."

**USFL looking toward future**

United Press International

NEW YORK — Despite a committee looking into moving its season to the fall, the USFL's major priority is solidifying its spring standing, a league spokesman says.

"The major emphasis is establishing ourselves firmly in the spring and establishing ourselves as a television product," a USFL spokesman said.

USFL Director of Communications Jim Byrne added that progress is being made in the league's negotiations with ABC and ESPN. The two networks currently televise USFL games and have the right of first refusal to renew contracts which expire after the 1984 season.

"Everybody expects something to be finalized in a couple of weeks," Byrne said of a new television deal.

A five-man committee headed by New Orleans Breakers owner Joseph Canizaro has been studying a move to the fall since January. Also on the committee are New Jersey Generals owner Donald Trump, Tampa

Bay Bandits owner John Bassett, Pittsburgh Maulers President Paul Martha and Los Angeles Express general manager Don Klosterman.

While Bassett has publicly opposed a move to the fall, Trump has been a major booster of the shift since he bought the Generals last November. Trump predicted the move would take place in the fall of 1987 last Sunday after the Generals' victory over Memphis.

Trump said he was optimistic because of high television ratings by the league this season. Trump used the 1987 target date because the NFL's current television contract expires after the 1986 season, while the USFL would be free to negotiate a new contract with ABC that season if it moved to the fall.

"The biggest story of this league is we've been getting the highest ratings in our time slot by far," Trump said last week. "That's the biggest story — not

how well Herschel Walker is playing or whether he will play this week."

The committee is studying logistic and financial problems of the proposed change in seasons. Since 12 USFL teams are located in NFL cities and 11 of them share NFL stadiums — including three which share major league baseball stadiums — stadium availability is a problem.

Trump suggests playing games on Thursday and Sunday nights to alleviate the scheduling problems.

Getting the networks to allot additional air time and generating fan interest with two leagues in the fall are other obvious problems.

The committee is also looking at the availability of advertising money and whether current advertisers would be interested in sponsoring the league in the fall.

**Toronto flies past Rangers**

United Press International

ARLINGTON — Willie Upshaw and Cliff Johnson hit back-to-back homers on successive pitches off Dave Stewart in the ninth inning Sunday to lift the Toronto Blue Jays to a 2-1 victory over the Texas Rangers.

With one out in the ninth, Upshaw connected on a 2-1 pitch from Stewart, 0-3, for his third homer of the season and Johnson hit the very next pitch for his third homer of the year to give Dennis Lamp, 2-2, the

victory. Until Upshaw homered, Stewart had retired 15 of 16 batters.

George Wright's two-out, RBI single in the eighth inning had given the Rangers a 1-0 lead.

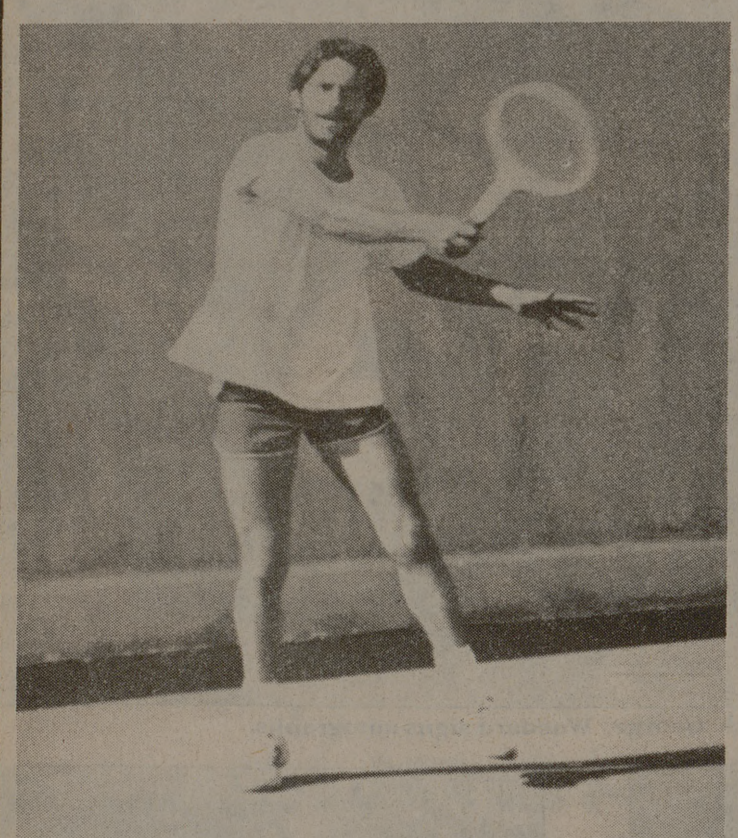
Wright's base hit up the middle off Luis Leal delivered Wayne Tolleson from third base. With one out, Tolleson ripped his second single, stole his second base of the day and advanced to third base on Gary Ward's groundout.

Before the eighth, neither team advanced a runner past second. The Blue Jays' best opportunity came in the fourth when Upshaw and Johnson ripped consecutive singles with one out. But right fielder Bobby Jones made a running catch of George Bell's long drive and Stewart struck out Ernie Whit to escape the jam.

Leal pitched 7 2-3 innings, allowing five hits, walking three and striking out three. He was replaced by Lamp after Wright's single.

**"Summer Skies"**  
 A multimedia presentation on  
 Yellowstone, Teton, and Glacier  
 National Parks  
 Tuesday, April 17 7 p.m. 401 Rudder  
 50¢ admission  
 sponsored by MSC Outdoor Recreation  
 and the Brazos Valley Sierra Club

**McDonald's**  
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**INTRAMURAL HIGHLIGHTS**  
 At University Drive Now at Manor East Mall  
 DRIVE-THRU WINDOW BREAKFAST EVERY MORNING



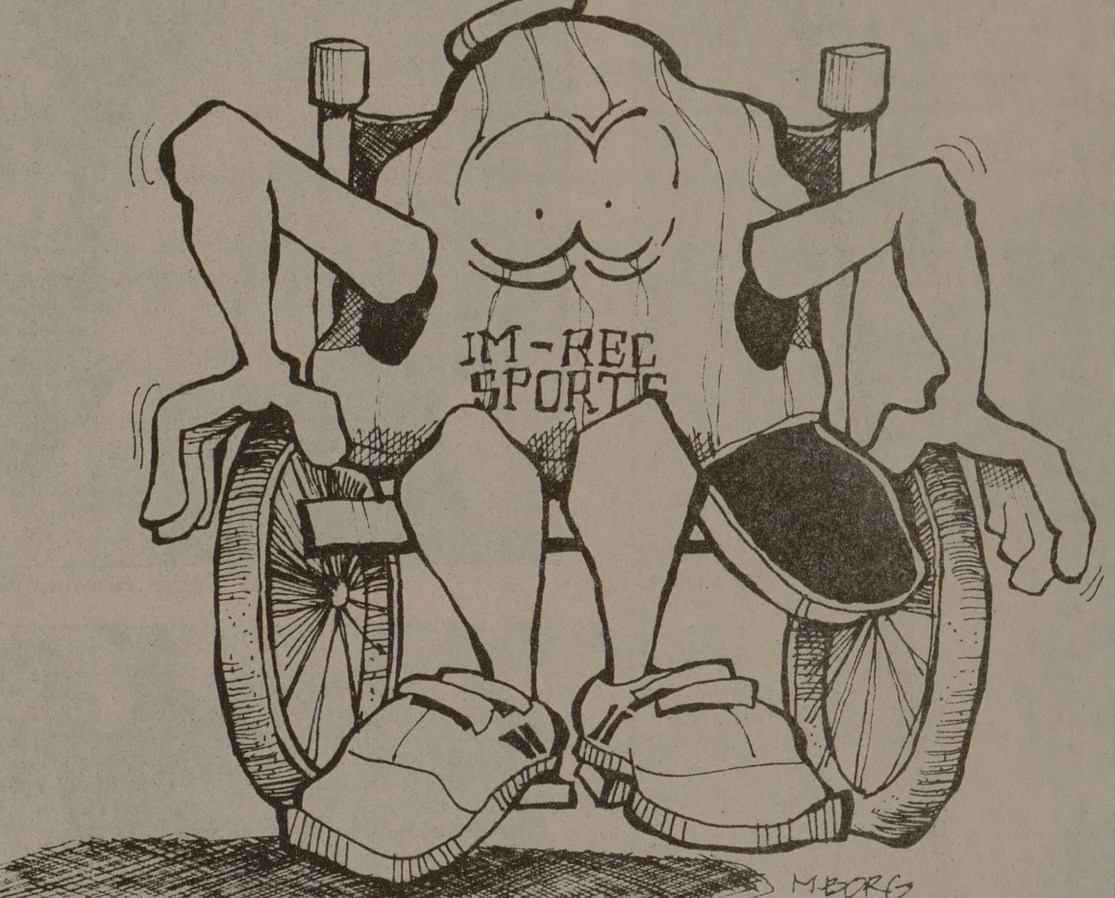
**WEIGHTROOM NEEDS POSTERS!!!**

IM-REC Sports is trying to upgrade the atmosphere in the recreational weightroom. A stereo system and a coatrack have been installed and we are now considering alternatives to alleviate the problem of the summer heat.

In addition, an attempt is underway to improve the aesthetic appearance of the weightroom walls, but we need YOUR help. We

are looking for posters that depict Fitness and Health. If you have any spare posters and would be willing to donate them to the weightroom, please bring them by the Intramural-Recreational Sports Office in 159 East Kyle. If your poster is accepted, stop by the weightroom to see how it looks—a card will be attached designating you as the donor.

**WHEELCHAIR TRACK MEET**  
 Wednesday, April 18, 7:00 pm, Kyle Field



**WHEELCHAIR TRACK MEET?**

Ever heard of a **WHEELCHAIR TRACK MEET?** Well, it's new to Texas A&M, and it's going to happen Wednesday, April 18 at 7:00 PM on Kyle Field. All able-bodied and disabled students, faculty, and staff are invited to come to this all new four event **WHEEL-**

**CHAIR TRACK MEET!** First place finishers will receive an Intramural Champion T-shirt, and it's FREE! All entries will be taken at the event site. Wheelchairs will be provided by the Intramural-Recreational Sports Department. So, how about coming out

on Wednesday, April 18 at 7:00 PM to Kyle Field during National Recreational Sports Week and joining in the fun? We'll look forward to seeing you there! For more information, contact Mary Wilson in 159 East Kyle, or call 845-7826.



**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

McDonald's® Intramural Highlights is sponsored each Monday in the Battalion by your local McDonald's® Restaurants at University Drive, Manor East Mall and on Texas Avenue. Stories are written by members of the Intramural Staff, graphics are by Mike Borg, and photos are by Tom McDonnell and Mark Riesz.

