



bob  
caster

## Cannon's hired, Bum's inspired

The ground beneath Texas A&M University shook Tuesday. The tower swayed and from like a tall palm tree withstanding the gales of a tormenting hurricane. Aggie sports fanatics shook their heads in utter bewilderment at a happening more uncommon than a vacant hotel room on Parents' Day — the Dallas Cowboys drafted an Aggie.

Billy Cannon Jr., one of the Aggies' chief headhunters last year while operating from his position at linebacker, was not only the first Southwest Conference draft pick by the Cowboys since they nabbed Bob Lilly from TCU about one-and-a-half eons ago, but the first Aggie to ever be drafted at all by "America's Team."

Of course now, almost two days later, the speculation of it being an owner-over-management decision has about run its course. Everybody would love to believe that the Cowboys' newest and most influential general partner, A&M regent H. R. "Bum" White, played a major part in introducing Dallas to the Twelfth Avenue. But common sense puts a lid on that notion. An organization successful as the Cowboys can't allow 80-million-dollar investors to be distracted by such important things as play calling, cheerleader selection and draft picks — those are jobs for the computer.

But I got to thinking of what Bright could do if he took the job. Adams approach and became not only owner but acting general manager and coach as well. The mind could run wild.

The year is 1999. Bum Bright, standing on the sideline, head-banging around his neck, is still looking for his first conference title as a Cowboys owner. Tom Landry, has long since resigned from his duties with the team after being reassigned to ticket sales the close of the 1985 season.

Bright watches with intensity as the maroon-clad Cowboys volter kick-off team charges down the field while a full house of remaining fans, who have been standing for the past two hours (except for halftime), roar their approval. The Roger Staubach Memorial Bell Tower, located at the main entrance to Texas Stadium, begins to chime the news of another victory.

Possible? Sure. Probable? No way — but the notion has been entertained.

Bright was afforded the opportunity to latch on to a chunk of one of the most successful football franchises in NFL history. Can you blame him for making a sound business investment? If I had 10 million and no car payments, I might just be tempted to do the same thing.

The fact that Billy Cannon Jr. happened to be the Cowboys' first draft pick of the Bright administration can be chalked up as a coincidence — just ask Gil Brandt, head honcho in the scouting department.

More care is probably taken in selecting Dallas draft picks than selecting the Pope. Billy Cannon is the supply to the Cowboys' demand. Dallas, a team going through a bit of soul searching these days has finally looked to the Southwest Conference and Texas A&M for a bit of help — first Bum and then Billy C.

It's about time.

## USFL steals offensive talent in draft

United Press International

NEW YORK — There's much to be said in defense of Tuesday's NFL draft.

Much of the pre-draft talk centered around the diluted talent available at the offensive skill positions and it's true the United States Football League had a major impact on a first round largely devoid of glamour names.

But a lack of glamour doesn't translate into a lack of ability and the draft was very deep in quality defensive personnel. Some of the NFL's weak links have been strengthened considerably with the addition of exciting defensive prospects.

The Chicago Bears appear to have pulled off some of the major coups of the draft, grabbing a pair of standout linebackers in Wilber Marshall of Florida and California's Ron Rivera. Marshall's hard-driving agent, Richard Bennett, scared off the Oilers, who picked No. 2, but the Bears decided they couldn't

pass up a player ranked with Michigan State's Carl Banks as the premier linebacker in the draft.

"I wanted to play in the NFL all along," said Marshall, who flew to Chicago with Bennett to immediately start negotiations with the Bears. "Chicago is a great team and I think I can help them out."

Rivera, 6-foot-2, 230, could fit in nicely at inside linebacker next to All-Pro Mike Singletary and if Marshall fulfills his potential as a blitzer from the outside, the Bears will be tough to beat in the weak NFC Central.

Chicago also gambled on All-America guard Stefan Humphries of Michigan in the third

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round. Humphries has been debating between playing pro football and going to medical school.

Although the New York Giants are well set at outside linebacker, with superstar Lawrence Taylor and steady veteran Brad Van Pelt backed by promising Andy Headen, they named Banks with the No. 3 choice in the draft and they'll find a place for someone with his talent.

"He has a chance to be a dominating player in this league," says New York Coach Bill Parcells of the 6-3, 230-pound Banks, who could be shifted inside next to Harry Carson. His presence could also

accelerate plans to unload the disgruntled Van Pelt.

The Giants also grabbed off a pair of promising tackles, Bill Roberts of Ohio State and Conrad Goode of Missouri, and drafted West Virginia quarterback Jeff Hosteder in the third round.

The Cincinnati Bengals, whose concern about shelling out big bucks for players, was a factor in Brigham Young quarterback Steve Young's signing with the USFL, will need some deep pockets to pay the cash for their three opening-round picks.

Decimated by USFL defections at linebacker, the Bengals grabbed Arizona inside linebacker Ricky Hunley and then added two behemoths in defensive tackle Pete Koch of Maryland and North Carolina tackle Brian Blados. With the No. 38 pick, Cincinnati selected the only quarterback to go in the first two rounds, Maryland's Boomer Esiason.

Other clubs earning high marks are the New York Jets, who took two superior athletes in defensive back Russell Carter of Southern Methodist and Arkansas defensive end Ron Fautour, and Atlanta, which is pinning its draft hopes on the University of Oklahoma.

The defenseless Falcons picked off Oklahoma defensive tackle Rick Bryan, a standout against the rush, Sooners' safety Scott Case and linebacker Thomas Benson of Oklahoma. Atlanta's fourth pick, Clemson cornerback Rod McSwain, could well earn an immediate starting spot in a porous secondary.

The USFL took two big name stars out of the NFL draft with the signing of Young and Heisman Trophy winning running back Mike Rozier. Now the NFL is determined to sign the talent left over.

Now the Bengals are entering negotiations with their eyes wide open and their wallets only partially zipped.

## Rangers, Astros lose

United Press International  
Toronto 7, Texas 6

Rance Mulliniks walked twice with the bases loaded and Willie Upshaw collected three hits and an RBI Wednesday night to lead the Toronto Blue Jays to a 7-6 victory over the Texas Rangers.

It was the Rangers' eighth loss in their last nine games.

Toronto's Jim Clancy worked 6 1/3 innings and allowed just four runs on 10 hits. Clancy struck out four and did not allow a walk, evening his season record at 2-2.

With the score tied 1-1, Toronto scored three runs in the third inning, aided by two wild pitches and two passed balls.

Lloyd Moseby led off with a single, advanced to second on a wild pitch from Ranger loser Charlie Hough, 2-3, and took third on Texas catcher Ned Yost's passed ball.

Upshaw followed with a double to left to score Moseby and advanced to third when knuck-

leballer Hough uncorked another wild pitch. Upshaw scored when shortstop Curt Wilkerson misplayed Cliff Johnson's sharp-hit bouncer.

Johnson took second on another passed ball. With two out, Jesse Barfield's RBI single gave Toronto a 4-1 lead.

The Blue Jays added a run in the fourth when Mulliniks drew a bases-loaded walk off reliever Jim Bibby. Texas made it 5-2 in the fifth on Billy Sample's RBI single.

Toronto got a run back in their half of the fifth on Dave Collins' RBI single and the Blue Jays stretched their lead to 7-2 in the sixth on Buck Martinez's RBI double.

Texas pulled to 7-4 in the seventh on RBI singles by Billy Sample and Wayne Tolleason. The Rangers scored their fifth

run in the eighth when Marvis Foley grounded into a bases-loaded double play. Texas added a sixth run in the ninth on George Wright's RBI grounder.

Toronto opened the scoring in the first when Mulliniks drew a two-out bases-loaded walk. Texas evened the score 1-1 in the third on Sample's RBI single.

Cincinnati 3, Houston 2

Mario Soto struck out 13 and Dave Concepcion singled home the go-ahead run in the seventh inning to propel the Cincinnati Reds to a 3-2 victory over the Houston Astros Wednesday night.

It was the sixth straight win for Cincinnati.

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