

Oilers halt talks with USFL star

United Press International

HOUSTON — Houston Oilers General Manager Ladd Herzog said Wednesday evening negotiations to bring U.S. Football League running back Mike Rozier to the NFL had been suspended until the end of the season.

Herzog said Rozier's agent, Art Wilkinson, had been unable to resolve a \$1.9 million settlement with the Pittsburgh Maulers in time to meet Houston's Wednesday deadline for negotiations.

"We have informed Art that any further negotiations with him and our attempts to get Mike under contract will be for the 1985 season and beyond," Herzog said.

"I don't anticipate any more negotiations until the conclusion of the 1984 season."

Rozier, selected by Houston in a supplemental draft this summer, won the Heisman Trophy at Nebraska before signing a three-year, \$3.1 million personal services contract with Maulers owner Edward DeBartolo Sr.

The deal included a \$1 million loan and a \$900,000 signing bonus, which DeBartolo wanted to recoup before agreeing to release Rozier from the team.

Herzog had offered Rozier a four-year, \$3 million contract.

The Oilers have only 48 players on their roster, keeping the last spot open in the event Rozier was signed.

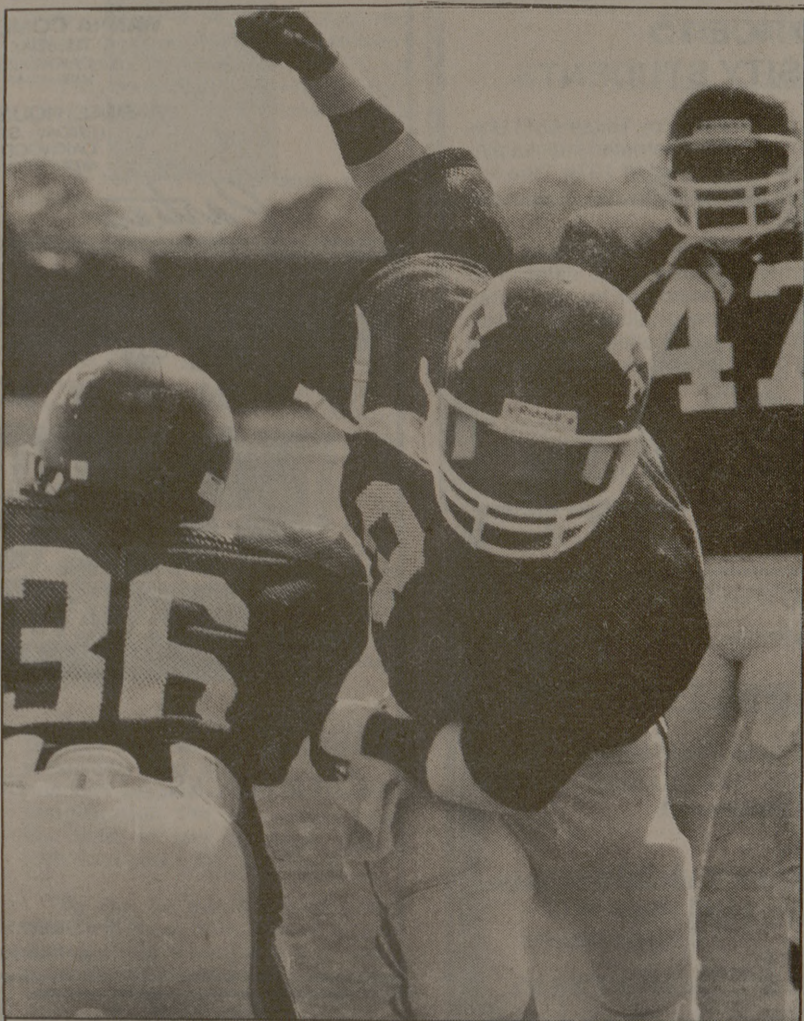


Photo by DEAN SAITO

Evasive Moves

Texas A&M wide receiver Jeff Nelson (#8) tries to get by freshman defensive back Chris Ford (#36) during workouts Tuesday at Kyle Field, while Jeff Holley (#47), converted from the secondary to wide receiver in '84, looks on.

Veterans are the key to Hickey's first year

By JAN PERRY
Sports Writer

According to Texas A&M's new Women's Basketball Coach and Assistant Athletic Director for Women Lynn Ann Hickey, possessing a winning attitude is the most important skill her players could have.

"I'm really impressed with their attitudes," Hickey said. "They're already out on the floor scrimmaging with each other on their own. They're very enthusiastic."

Currently, Hickey said the NCAA requires the men's basketball team to practice without its coaches until Sept. 15. This rule, however, doesn't apply to women's athletics until 1985. So the women's team has a little longer to work together.

"We need to start thinking like winners," she said. "We have to have a super positive attitude and think about how many games we're going to win."

When Hickey came to A&M in July, it was already too late to actively recruit players for the 1984 season.

However, the veteran Aggie team doesn't have that many vacant slots to be filled. Eleven members from last year's team will be returning along with two new freshmen recruits.

To fill two or three additional slots left on the team, Hickey will be holding open tryouts Sept. 20 and 21, at 2 p.m. on the main floor of G. Rollie Wright Coliseum.

But, even with the additional walk-ons, the team will be predominantly a veteran team. Returning are Lisa Langston, Michell Tatum and



A&M's Lynn Ann Hickey

Jenni Edgar, all of whom are double figure scorers.

Hickey said the team has a minor problem that has nothing to do with the performance of the team or with the coaching.

The problem is team size. "We don't have any great size," she said. "We're going to have to decide on getting another tall player or going with a small team. Either way the key will be speed."

The team's height, or rather its lack of height, and its past performance (13-15 overall for the 1983-84 season) are the factors that are have Texas A&M ranked as an underdog this season.

"They don't expect much from us this year," Hickey said. "But, since we're an underdog, everything we do will look good."

Hickey said the team has a couple of good players, but no real superstars. Their forte is a strong group,

team effort.

To increase the team's strength, Hickey will try to add some variety to the team's defense this season by adding some different zone plays in addition to the player-to-player defense the team is accustomed to.

This season A&M is going to face some tough opponents, Hickey said.

"The conference has really improved," Hickey said. "It's going to be a tough round robin conference."

"We just need to think about how many games we're going to win," she said.

Again, attitude will play an important part in the team's performance.

Hickey, who's last coaching stint was at Kansas State University, said she has really enjoyed Texas A&M.

"I'm proud to be at A&M, and I hope the players think that way too," she said.

"A&M is not a regular university," Hickey said. "It's special."

She said she was amazed by the student support at Texas A&M for athletics. She did say, however, that the women's athletics could use more support.

"In Kansas, we had over 2,000 spectators a night, and we were in the middle of nowhere," Hickey said.

She said Aggie basketball players practice at least three hours a day for six days a week and deserve the same support Kansas had.

"We'd score 10 points better if we had the support," Hickey said.

McEnroe, Navratilova win opening matches easily

United Press International

NEW YORK — John McEnroe, washing away the lingering memory of a rare defeat, and Martina Navratilova, who barely remembers what it feels like to lose, won opening round matches Wednesday at the U.S. Open.

McEnroe, after dropping only his

second match of the year last week to Vijay Amritraj, was in devastating form as he crushed Britain's Colin Dowdeswell, 6-1, 6-1, 6-1, winning nine straight games.

McEnroe required only 62 minutes to dispose of Dowdeswell, who a year ago lost 17 matches in a row, but the top seed faces a stern test in

the second round against 18-year-old Swede Stefan Edberg.

Edberg, the Olympic champion and winner of all four Junior Grand Slam Championships in 1983, reached the second round with a 6-4, 6-3, 6-0 victory over Larry Stefanki.

"No one expects me to lose to any-

one at this point, especially when you play a guy like that," said McEnroe, who has a match record of 60-2 this year.

Navratilova stretched her winning streak to 49 matches although she was surprisingly extended more than an hour in beating Lea Antonopolis, 6-4, 6-2. The defending cham-

pion has been beaten only twice since January 1983 and now has won 232 of her last 237 matches.

"I had a hard time with my timing because of the wind," Navratilova said, "but I never felt threatened. I felt every time I concentrated and played a decent game I won it."

Second seed Ivan Lendl, claiming

he now takes a more relaxed attitude to both tennis and life, won his opening round match from Brian Teacher, 6-4, 6-4, 7-5.

Third seed Jimmy Connors, conqueror of Lendl in both the 1982 and 1983 finals, was to begin defense of his title against Matt Mitchell in the featured night match.



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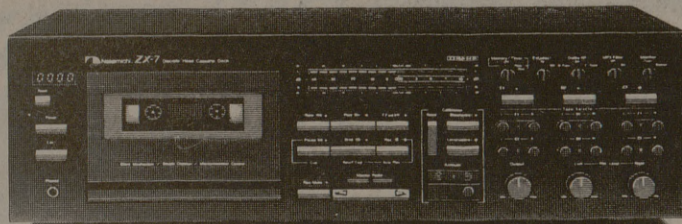
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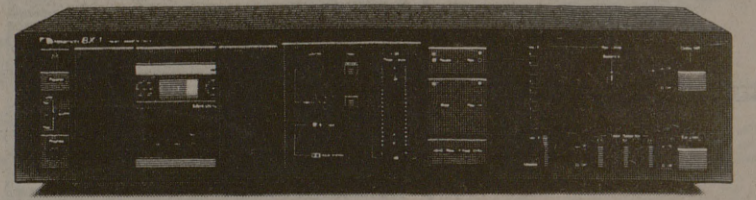


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