

SPORTS

# After Childress, Aggs fall in draft like 'dominoes'

# Spotless record earns Connell SWC Player of the Year honors

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS  
Assistant Sports Editor

For Texas A&M's senior football players, Tuesday was a day unlike any other. It was National Football League draft day. At 7 a.m., most woke to ESPN's coverage of the draft. The first round lasted 3 hours, 36 minutes — the longest draft since 1974. The length only added to the anxiety for all but one of the Aggie seniors.

To no one's surprise, Ray Childress was the No. 3 player drafted, when the Houston Oilers used their first pick on the 6-foot-6, 267-pound defensive tackle.

"I'm really not up-to-date on the Oiler defense, all I can do is come in and work hard and hope I can play," said Childress at a Houston press conference.

The Oilers are hoping Childress can beef up their defense which was ranked 27th out of 28 teams last season and was outscored 427-240.

While Childress was in Houston, the other Aggies were in their rooms waiting for the phone call.

Ken Ford and Ken Reeves played dominoes, while Matt Darwin worked on an English paper.

At 3:40 p.m., Bobby Gill, a Kansas City Chief scout, called to tell linebacker Scott Polk, if they didn't draft him, they wanted him to sign as a free agent.

"That would be fun," said the 6-3, 288-pound Polk. "I would enjoy rooming with (former A&M linebacker) Jeff (Paine). I went up there for a game last season."

Polk even had on some yellow and red (the colors of the Chiefs) socks.

"I know," Polk smiled. "I thought about that this morning."

The draft calls to Darwin and Polk were to come on teammate Jay Muller's phone. By 3 p.m., the anxiety was beginning to mount.

The "Tom and Jerry Show" was the first sign of impatience. When that became too much to stand, people started moving about. Then, a long line of false alarms began. Each false call added more tension.

"I'm learning to know the strength of the rope, if you know what I mean," Darwin said.

With each passing hour, the room became fuller.

"Every minute that passes increases the odds that the phone call will come," said a Darwin supporter.

Finally, at 5:15 p.m., the long

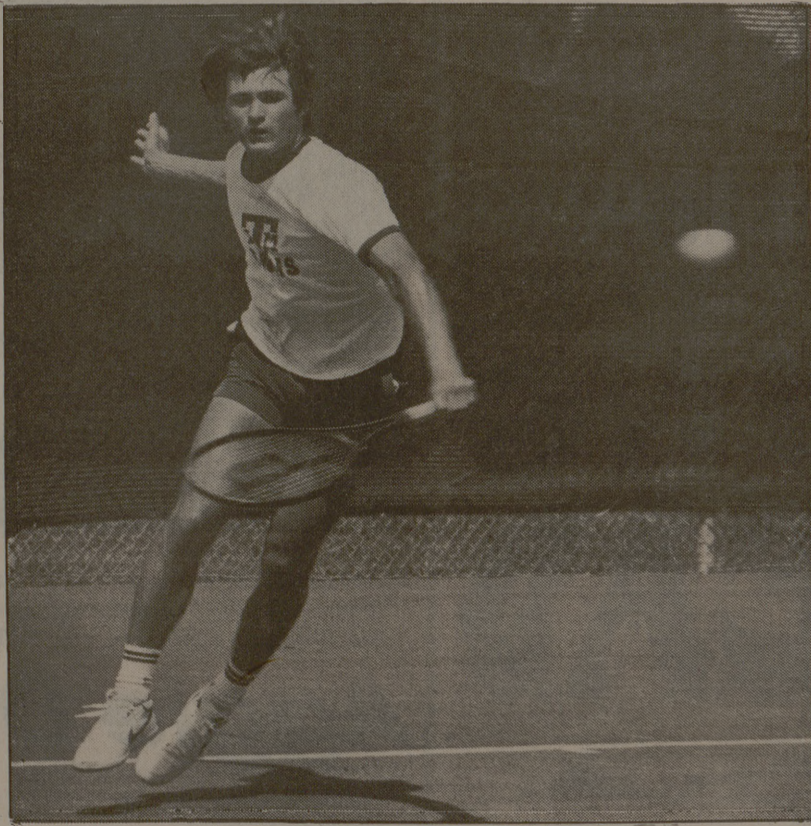


Photo by PAIGE PARKER

Texas A&M's No. 1 singles player Grant Connell (above) was rewarded for his undefeated (8-0) record during regular season Southwest Conference singles play. Connell was voted by the coaches as the conference's Player of the Year for 1985.

Associated Press

DALLAS — Texas A&M's top tennis player, Grant Connell, who announced yesterday he would leave the Aggies to play on the Canadian amateur circuit after this season, was named the Southwest Conference's Player of the Year Tuesday.

Connell, a sophomore from Vancouver, British Columbia, went undefeated in SWC regular season singles play.

SWC coaches voted for six singles players and three doubles teams in both men's and women's divisions.

Only three players were voted to the men's All-SWC team in both singles and doubles — Connell, SMU's John Ross and Texas' Royce Deppe. SMU's Dennis Ralston was named men's Coach of the Year.

The seven-member women's singles team includes three Longhorn players — Beverly Bowes, Diana Dopson and Michelle Carrier. Bowes and Rice's Wendy Wood were co-winners of Player of the Year honors. Texas' Jeff Moore was voted women's Coach of the Year.

**1985 men's All-SWC tennis team**

**Singles:**

Richey Reneberg, SMU; Tom Mercer, TCU; **Grant Connell, A&M**; Scott Melville, Rice; Charlton Eagle, Baylor; John Ross, SMU; and Royce Deppe, Texas.

**Doubles:**

Tim Siegel-Richard Schmidt, Arkansas; Deppe-Charles Beckman, Texas; John Ross-Monte Oppenheim, SMU; and **Connell-Kimmo Alkio, A&M**.

**1985 women's All-SWC tennis team**

**Singles:**

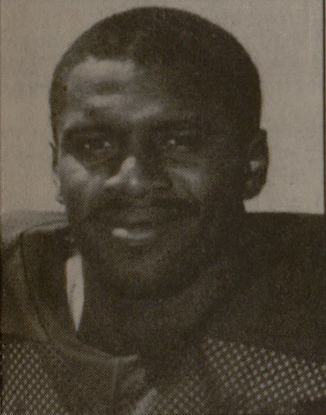
Beverly Bowes, Texas, and Wendy Wood, Rice; Margaret Redfearn, Houston; Hee Baek, Houston; Diana Dopson and Michelle Carrier, Texas, and Kellie Chase, Arkansas.

**Doubles:**

Bowes-Becky Callan, Texas; Redfearn-Kathy Foxworth, Houston; Dopson-Gen Greiwe, Texas.



New Cowboy Matt Darwin



New Bill Jimmy Teal

See Aggie Draft, page 10

# Cowboys gamble, pick Walker in draft

Associated Press

DALLAS - The Dallas Cowboys drafted running back Herschel Walker of the United States Football League New Jersey Generals in the fifth round of the National Football League draft on Tuesday as a long shot gamble.

"It's a gamble," said Dallas Cowboys' President Tex Schramm. "If things work out right (Walker's) ours."

"We had an extra draft pick in the round so we decided to go for it. We're just kind of gambling with another team's pick. You never know, it might work out."

Walker, who opted to leave the college ranks after his junior season, has a contract through 1988 with Generals' owner Donald Trump.

Schramm and Gil Brandt, the Cowboys' director of personnel, talked by telephone with Walker.

Brandt said Walker told him, "It's an honor to be drafted by the Cowboys."

Brandt added, "He was as excited as we are."

Brandt said the Cowboys weren't bothered by the fact that Walker might not be available until 1989.

"He'd just be in the prime of his career," said Brandt. "He's played great in the last five weeks."

Schramm said it wasn't unusual

for the Cowboys to take such a gamble.

"We took a chance on (All-Pro quarterback) Roger Staubach when he was a redshirt at the Naval Academy with a year left," Schramm said.

Brandt said, "I talked to Herschel quite a bit. He's been playing good now that his injured shoulder has healed."

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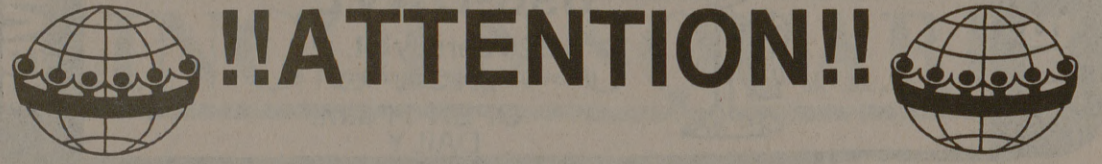
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# BEFORE FINALS

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