

**SPORTS**

**Guns' future entering new danger zone**

*USFL begins review of franchise's status*

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — The United States Football League is reviewing the San Antonio Gunslingers' franchise, USFL Commissioner Harry Usher said Tuesday, a day after the team waived all 46 of its players.

The Gunslingers released all of their players about 4 p.m. Monday, an hour before a union-imposed deadline for making good on two overdue paychecks.

The players would have gone on the USFL waiver list at 5 p.m. Monday because they were not paid.

"I regret that the players are unpaid," Usher said. "I hope that they are paid in the near future. The San Antonio franchise situation is currently under review, but we have no further comment at this time."

League spokesman Bob Rose said the players would remain on the waiver list until late Wednesday, allowing any USFL team to pick up the contracts of the released players.

Rose said he could not release the names of any players picked up until late Wednesday.

Any team who picks up a player before the Wednesday deadline would have to make good on the two past-due paychecks for the acquired player.

Rose said he could not elaborate on Usher's comments.

"I don't think there's much more that could be said," Rose said. "There has been a past history of problems. This is just the worst yet."

But he did confirm that any move to pull the San Antonio franchise from owner Clinton Manges would require a vote by other team owners.

Rose said he expects the owners to have a meeting sometime before the end of the summer.

Reports indicated Usher had written Manges a letter threatening to pull the franchise if the rancher-oilman did not alleviate his problems.

**A&M Rugby Team lives, wins 'on edge'**

By ED CASSAVOY  
Sports Writer

The Texas A&M Rugby Team has always had a reputation of partying, carousing and living on the edge. Over the weekend, the difference between being winners and losers was exactly 8/10 of one percent.

You can't cut it closer than that, said Kelley Hester, player-coach of the A&M rugby squad, whose team captured the Texas A&M Summer Sevens Rugby Tournament Saturday on the A&M Polo Fields.

"We were a wild card team in the tournament," Hester said. "We got in by 8/10 of one percent because we had the best record of the second squads in all brackets."

"We knew we needed a couple of things to go our way, like getting into the tournament by 8/10 of a percent. That's as close as you can come to not making the tournament."

Hester said once A&M got a toe nail in the tournament door, it was just a matter of proving what the Aggies were made of.

Granite might be a good guess, because A&M stoned the Houston Rugby Club and the New Orleans Rugby Club before crushing the Anti-Assassins, a combination of LSU and Baton Rouge players, in the tourney final.

"Well we knew we had a chance to do it (win the tournament)," Hester said. "We had a lot of speed and maybe our weakness was inexperience in a couple of positions."

Hester said he didn't play on the winning A&M squad but did play on the Aggies' Old Maroon Team, made up of former A&M rugby players.

With 43 men's and five women's teams, the '85 A&M Summer Sevens Tourney was the largest tournament of its kind in Texas.

"Seven man rugby (thus the name Sevens) is basically just for fun," Hester said. "There are no playoffs just tournaments to play in."

"The A&M team was made up of students taking classes during the summer, or here to work. We have three or four players on this team that will probably make the All-Western team (one of four rugby All-Star teams drawn from different regions of the United States.)."

Jim "Rooster" Cheshire, a member of the 10-man Aggie squad, said the word "finally" sums up his feelings on the tournament quite nicely.

"This was the first time in nine years that A&M won here," Cheshire said. "We got third place last year, but this was finally our year."

Cheshire said the Aggies were well prepared for the one-day tournament, played in temperatures in the upper 90s.

"You get pumped up for it," Cheshire said, "but (the heat) can take a lot out of you. It was cloudy for most of the morning, but by (1 p.m.), man, it had turned into a real steamer."

He said the A&M squad has its share of unrecognized talent and a large number of quality players.

"A lot of the guys are, or have been, select side (All-Star) players," Cheshire said. "We took (our opponents) by surprise and then tore them apart."

"Once we opened it up, it was all right. A lot of teams like to slow it down and wait for the other team to make a mistake. But not us, we generally go and blow, just go at them at 90 miles an hour."

Cheshire, who claims he's still in the "ozone" after the Aggie win, said other than practicing and doing individual work outs during the hot

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— Jim Cheshire, A&M Rugby Team player*



Photo by GREG BAILEY

A Texas A&M Rugby player (far right with ball) tries to avoid two tacklers during the A&M Summer Sevens Rugby Tournament over the weekend. The Aggies won the tourney.

summer days, the team did one thing better than it ever has before—played as a team.

"Everyone was pulling for A&M (during the tournament)," Cheshire said, "except for (the) Galveston (club). I don't know what their problem is."

He said the adrenalin espe-

cially must have been pumping for a number of A&M players playing for the last time.

"Bill Baker, is doing grad work during the fall," Cheshire said, "so he's playing his final game."

"Four of the guys starting are not

going to be here after this tournament."

But in true A&M rugby tradition, Cheshire had the biggest beef for the deejay that was told to show at the A&M Rugby Team party after the tourney.

"We got stood up, but we still had a good time," Cheshire said.

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