

**SPORTS**

# Bills checking out Aggies' Teal

By ED CASSAVOY  
Sports Writer

Pressure. Every rookie player going through an NFL training camp lives with it from the first day he checks in. And it follows him through each dropped pass or nicely run route.

If he's lucky and good, maybe he won't read his name on the list of cuts.

Jimmy Teal, a standout wide receiver for Texas A&M the last four seasons, is betting he's good enough and lucky enough to beat the odds and make it with the Buffalo Bills.

Teal left his mark at A&M by placing fourth on the Aggies' all-time receiving list with 74 career catches. Teal was also fourth on the

list of all-time Aggie receivers with 1,258 career reception yards.

During the 1984-85 season, Teal led all Aggie receivers with 35 catches for 631 yards and 6 touchdowns, averaging 18 yards per catch.

Teal, taken in the fifth round of the 1985 National Football League draft, says he thinks he's a good shot at playing for the Bills.

"They are looking for a wide receiver," says Teal of Buffalo, "because they drafted four or five rookies at my position. They're looking hard at who can make it."

Teal says that it's difficult to get a handle on how the Bills' coaches feel about his performance so far.

"Hey, right now there are so many receivers here in camp," Teal says, "that the quarterbacks are just throwing to a spot. You're just another body going through the drills to (the coaches)."

Teal, who signed a three year contract with the Bills, says the team is looking for a consistent wide receiver, one that can run dependable pass routes.

"I was clocked at 4.5 seconds in the 40 (yard run)," Teal says, "and they're looking for the type of receiver that I am. I've got a shot."

This week, the Bills' rookies are subjected to a grueling session of team and individual drills to put each player under the microscope and the pressure cooker simultaneously.

"Man, they're making cuts every day," Teal says. "I think there have been a lot already. Maybe four or five players have been cut or quit that I know of."

Teal says the rookies are up by 6:45 a.m., on the practice field by 9:15 and practice until 11. The second set of drills begin at 2:45 p.m. and go until 4.

## USFL thinking of even more club mergers

Associated Press  
TAMPA, Fla. — About a dozen officials of United States Football League teams met for six hours at a Tampa airport hotel Wednesday to discuss, among other things, possible mergers between several clubs.

Commissioner Harry Usher said during a break in the meeting that some teams have expressed an interest to merge with Tampa Bay and keep the club in Tampa when the USFL shifts to a fall season in 1986.

Such a move would place the Bandits in direct competition with the National Football League's Tampa Bay Buccaneers for fan support, a situation which current ownership — which is trying to sell the club — has said it wants no part of.

Meanwhile, the Tampa Tribune reported that the Houston Gamblers may be purchased by interests in New York and later merge with the New Jersey Generals. Usher confirmed that a Gamblers-Generals merger is a possibility.

Ralph Campbell, Bandits general manager, denied a report that the San Antonio Gunslingers might merge with Tampa Bay.



Former Texas A&M split end Jimmy Teal, shown above in action against SMU last season, has just signed a three-year with the NFL's Buffalo Bills. Teal is one of several

rookie wide outs the Bills chose in the 1985 NFL draft to help surround newly acquired quarterback Vince Ferragamo with dependable, possession-type receivers.

and go until 4.

Teal laughs and says his day doesn't end there. He studies the pass routes in the playbook and watches practice films until 10 p.m. "A full day" as Teal describes it.

"We do mostly team drills," Teal says. "We do seven-on-seven passing drills and some one-on-one stuff. The two quarterbacks that throw to us are the back up and Vince Ferragamo."

Ferragamo was acquired by the Bills in an off-season trade with the Los Angeles Rams. Ferragamo led

the Rams against the Pittsburgh Steelers in the 1980 Super Bowl.

"Vince throws pretty well," Teal says, "but I'm not too sure yet whether he'll get the starting nod yet. It's still too early to say."

And for Teal too, he still has lots of time to make or break it with the Bills. Buffalo's rookies are scheduled to play the Cleveland Browns rookies this weekend.

"With so many rookies at my position," Teal says, "I figure I might get a quarter to show what I can do."

"I think that the first big cuts will be made sometime next week, after

the scrimmages."

Teal gives an emphatic "NO" when questioned if playing in the bitter cold of Buffalo would bother him. He says he can adjust to the cold Great Lake winds whipping through Rich Stadium.

"This is a new situation for me," Teal says, "so you just try and go in and get to know what's going on."

"I like the team of wide receivers they've got here, they're all pretty good."

But for Teal, he's hoping those other rookie receivers aren't that good.

## Baseball players' union says owners slowing down talks

Associated Press

NEW YORK — The baseball players' union on Thursday accused management of trying to stall negotiations by resubmitting a proposal to drastically alter procedures for salary arbitration in the owners' favor.

"I think their remarking of this proposal, if that's what it was, does not evidence a desire to reach an agreement," said Don Fehr, acting executive director of the Major League Players Association. "It seems to be provocative, if not deliberately so."

Lee MacPhail, the owners' chief negotiator, said management had made "no new proposals on salary arbitration. Our stand is the same as it has been since February. They have had our basic salary arbitration proposal in writing since June 12."

MacPhail did say the arbitration proposal was submitted Thursday in formal contract language.

Currently, any player with two full years of service may submit his salary dispute to an impartial arbitrator. The owners' proposal would increase the minimum eligibility period to three years.

In addition, an arbitrator wouldn't be allowed to consider for

comparison either the salaries of free agents or those of players who signed contracts in the current year. Another point in the owners' proposal would limit an arbitrator's award to double the player's current salary.

Fehr said the three-year proposal would affect 40 percent or more of his constituents and would drastically diminish a player's ability to increase his salary through any means but free agency. A player must have six years of service to become a free agent.

Thursday was the fourth consecutive day of meetings between the two sides in labor talks as they face an Aug. 6 strike deadline. More meetings were scheduled for Friday.

Fehr said that for the owners to make a proposal such as that for salary arbitration so near the strike deadline, "when we are trying to put provocative proposals behind us," could indicate that the owners want a confrontation.

"If they want to avoid a confrontation," Fehr said, "they had better do something about it. But so far, it looks like that's what they're trying to do."

Throughout negotiations, MacPhail has said the owners will not negotiate the union's primary demand,

a \$45 million annual increase in pension contributions, unless the union was willing at the same time to negotiate some form of curb on salaries, such as concessions on arbitration or a salary cap. Both proposals have been rejected out of hand by the union.

MacPhail was asked why, however, the owners would put a salary-retarding proposal on the table without making specific proposals on pensions.

"We have said that we are prepared to compromise on the major issues," MacPhail said. "We're willing to improve benefits, but we need some indication from them that there will be some quid pro quo, some give and take."

MacPhail said that, to this point, the union "has given us no indication they will negotiate on our payroll plan, salary arbitration or anything to hold down salaries. Nor have they indicated a willingness to negotiate their pension demands. All they keep saying is for us to make a proposal."

Fehr said the union would not negotiate any proposal which would curb a players' ability to increase his value in a free market.

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