



You Make the Call

Texas A&M Head Football Coach Jackie Sherrill discusses a call with a referee at Saturday's intrasquad scrimmage. Sherrill should

do some more discussing, only this time with sports writers, when the SWC Press Tour swings through College Station this afternoon.

Photo by ANTHONY S. CASPER

Comalander stars in Owls' aerial circus

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Rice quarterback Mark Comalander would like to be a 60-minute man for the Owls football team this season — all on offense.

"I'd like to be on the field 60 minutes throwing passes," the sophomore from San Antonio Churchill said, "but our defense is improving. They're going to win some games for us, too."

Winning more than one game is something that hasn't happened at Rice since 1981, but second-year coach Watson Brown figures the best way to achieve more than one victory is through the airways with Comalander at the controls.

"We have to keep throwing the ball here at Rice," Brown said. "We have to keep spreading people out and throwing the ball."

Brown has good reason to believe that Comalander can airmail the Owls back to Southwest Conference respectability.

Comalander came off the bench to rally Rice to its only victory last season, a 36-19 decision over Lamar. He hit 27 of 44 for 300 yards and three touchdowns against TCU and he passed for an SWC freshman record 357 yards against SWC co-champion Houston.

Now Comalander is ready for his sophomore season and hoped-for consistency.

"I feel we'll be a lot more potent



than last year," he said. "At times, season, we showed that we can ring up a lot of points. But this year will be consistency. I think the team in the conference can ring up a lot of points on a given day."

"But I feel this year we have a team to score consistently every week."

If the offense scores consistently, the defense still must at least keep the opposition slowed down.

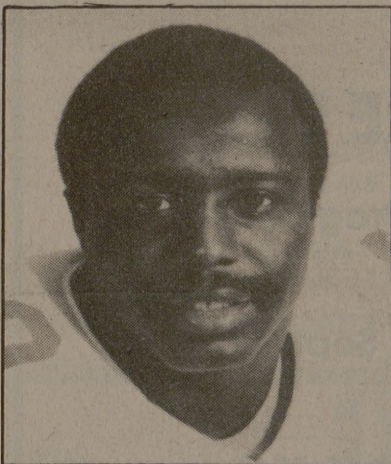
The Owls ranked last in the SWC in total defense and rushing defense and seventh in pass defense last season. Even Brown doesn't expect miracles, just improvement.

"I don't think we'll ever be a defense at Rice because the offense we run makes for a long game," Brown said. "I'm not looking for No. 1 defense, but I'm certainly looking for improvement."

Noseguard Duane Turner doesn't think the defense will disappear.

"I think we are just starting to come together on defense," Turner said. "We gained a lot of maturity in the Houston game (final game 1984)."

Springs doesn't make Cowboys' final roster cut



Ron Springs

Associated Press

DALLAS — Veteran running back Ron Springs was among five players released on waivers Monday as the Dallas Cowboys reduced their roster to 45 players for the opening of the regular NFL season.

Also released on waivers were veteran wide receiver Duriel Harris, rookie linebacker Scott Strasburger, free agent cornerback Carl Howard and free agent cornerback Ricky Eason.

Coach Tom Landry said the team opted to cut Springs after deciding to start Timmy Newsome at fullback.

"We felt that it was better to move somebody like Springs off the roster when that happens because it's not good to leave a veteran who has been a starter at backup," Landry said.

In 1983, Springs led NFL running

backs in receiving and set a club record of 73 catches. He finished fourth on the club in receptions last year with 46, including three long touchdown catches that contributed to three victories.

Landry said that Springs started to slide after he bruised a shoulder in 1984.

"Springs had a good 1983, but had a hard time performing in 1984 and that was when we moved Newsome in," Landry said. "We tried to trade (Springs) because we like to see that our veterans have a job."

Landry said that Springs took the news "just fine. He was very level-headed. He knows that he can still play for somebody else."

Springs was not available for comment. Landry said Springs' wife was

in a Dallas hospital suffering from labor pains.

Landry said that he had been impressed by John Williams, who played at the running back spot last season for the United States Football League's Oakland Invaders.

"Williams has a lot of potential and we will move James Jones into the backup fullback position until Williams learns our offense," he said.

Landry also has said he was pleased with the performance of running back Todd Fowler, who played for the USFL's Houston Gamblers.

Springs, who was entering his seventh season, faces a Sept. 9 trial date on an aggravated assault charge stemming from a January altercation at a topless bar in Dallas.

Springs had played in Tony Dorsett's spot during part of the preseason, while Dorsett staged a holdout in a successful effort to get his contract renegotiated.

During the early days of training camp, Landry had said that Springs' pending legal problem might affect his tenure with the club.

Harris was picked up on waivers from the Cleveland Browns on Nov. 14.

Strasburger, who played college football at Nebraska, was the club's ninth-round choice in the 1985 NFL draft.

Wide receiver Ron Jenkins, who had been on injured reserve, was activated Monday and then released, said Cowboys spokesman Doug Todd.



Tom Landry

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