



Earnest Jackson (above) leaves San Diego for Philadelphia.

Ag rookies don't hear NFL knock

By CHAREAN WILLIAMS
Assistant Sports Editor

National Football League rookies have only one fear — hearing a knock on their door.

Most rookies never set foot on an NFL field once the exhibition season ends. Most hear the knock on the door that signals the end of their career.

However, none of the '85 Texas A&M draftees heard the knock on the door with the order to, "Bring your playbook to the coach's office."

The most celebrated and controversial first-year player is a former A&M defensive end, Ray Childress. Childress was the third player selected in the draft and the Houston Oilers' No. 1 pick.

Childress received a lot of criticism when he turned down a four-year, \$1.7 million contract. The Aggie All-American missed three Oiler

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preseason games before finally agreeing to \$1.95 million.

Childress played in his first NFL game last Saturday night against the Dallas Cowboys and appears to have won a starting role, since the Oilers cut Jerome Foster.

Center Matt Darwin was drafted in the fifth round by the Cowboys, but was the only Dallas rookie not to agree to contract terms.

The Cowboys offered Darwin a \$55,000 signing bonus and salaries of \$70,000, \$85,000 and \$100,000 with an option.

"As far as I'm concerned, he won't be here this year," said Gil Brandt, the Cowboys' director of player personnel, on July 18. "The money they

are talking about and what we're offering, I don't see how we can compromise."

Darwin can sign with a United States Football League team or he can put his name back into the 1986 draft.

Wide receiver Jimmy Teal was also drafted in the fifth round. Teal, who led the Aggies last season with 35 catches, signed a three-year deal with the Buffalo Bills.

Tight end Mark Lewis went to the Green Bay Packers in the sixth round. Lewis was injured after the second preseason game, but the Packers apparently liked what they saw, since Lewis was kept on and placed on the injured reserve list.

Offensive tackle Ken Reeves followed Lewis in the draft, going to the Philadelphia Eagles. The 6-foot-6, 270-pound lineman will be with the Eagles when they begin their '85 season Sunday.

The 246th player selected in the draft was A&M running back Thomas Sanders. A long shot to make the Chicago Bears, Sanders beat the odds with four solid preseason games.

In another development involving an former A&M standout, 1984 Pro Bowl running back Earnest Jackson was traded by the San Diego Chargers Tuesday. Jackson, who played with the Aggies from 1979-82, will join Reeves and center Mark Denard as fellow Aggies with the Eagles.

"Jackson won't start Sunday," an Eagles' official said Tuesday. "He still has to learn the offense."



Thomas Sanders (above) is officially a Chicago Bear.

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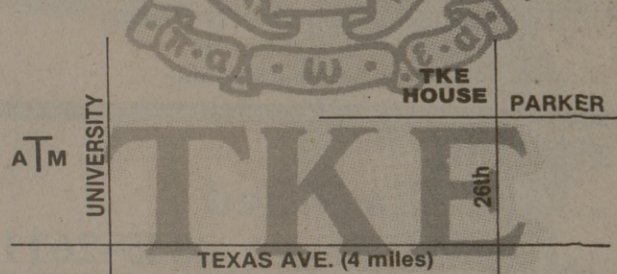
Texas A & M Soccer Club will hold its fall organization meeting Wednesday, Sept 4 at 7:00 p.m. in East Kyle.

For more information, contact Laif Afseth at 696-0139

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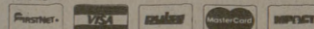


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