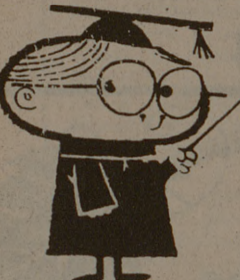


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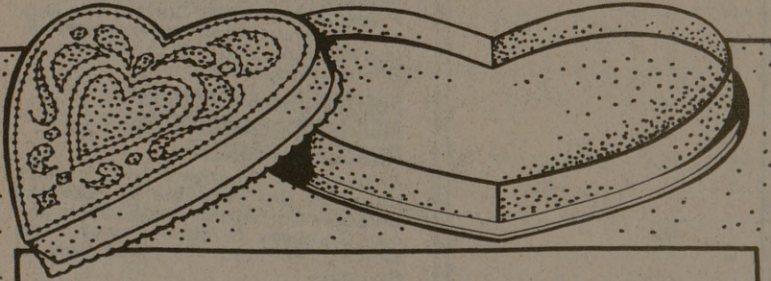
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A&M still waiting on word from top back

From Staff and Wire Reports
 Cotton Bowl champion Texas A&M, with a blue chip quarterback and receiver already committed, will try to add Hempstead running back Harvey Williams to its list of signees Wednesday, the first day colleges can sign players to national letters of intent.

Colleges that have obtained verbal commitments in recent months now must retrace their steps and get each athlete to sign a binding scholarship agreement.

Williams, who surpassed former Texas schoolboy Eric Dickerson in Class 3A career rushing, narrowed his choices to the Aggies and Louisiana State on Monday and said he'd make the final decision Wednesday.

Signing Williams would give the Aggies at least four of the 15 players on The Dallas Times Herald Blue Chip list, determined from voting by Southwest Conference head coaches.

The Aggies already had obtained verbal commitments from Tomball quarterback Lance Pavlas; Columbus receiver Percy Waddle, who established four state records and one Class 3A record in his high school career; and Spring Woods center Mike Authur.

Several other members of the Times Herald list were still considering A&M.

Hempstead Coach Robert Kinney thought the lengthy ordeal was going to end Monday at a news conference after long discussions with Williams. Williams said the past two months had been the toughest of his life and has agonized over his final decision.

"It's hard to say no to a coach who recruited you for a whole year," Williams said. "You've grown attached to them."

Williams gained 5,883 career yards at Hempstead, and moved into sixth place among all-time Class 3A rushers. Dickerson, a former Sealy all-stater now with the Los Angeles Rams, is seventh with 5,877 career yards.

Pavlas, 6-2, 190, passed for 1,636 yards last season in leading Tomball to two state Class 4A championship runnerup finishes. He completed 46 touchdown passes and 3,410 yards in two seasons as Tomball posted a 28-2 record.

Pavlas, a native of Bryan, said he chose the Aggies because of Coach Jackie Sherrill's sincerity, the school's academic programs and the Aggie offense. He also sees the presence of quarterback Kevin Murray as a positive.

"I only feel that situation can help me to improve my skills," Pavlas said.

Murray has two years remaining at A&M.

There's an additional plus for A&M, Pavlas and Williams became friends after meeting at an All-America function last year. It has been speculated that Williams was waiting for Pavlas, who was also considering LSU, to make his decision.

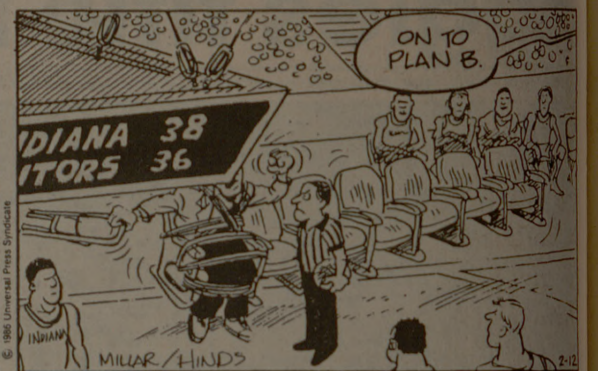
"He's a good friend," Pavlas said, "and I hope he becomes an Aggie."

Waddle set state records for 3,224 career yards and 56 career touchdown catches and single season records of 1,471 yards and 26 touchdowns. His 158 career catches is a Class 3A record.

Meanwhile around the rest of the state, linebacker Melvin Foster of Class 5A state champion Houston Yates — the top vote-getter in the Times Herald poll — was considering Oklahoma State, Oklahoma, Iowa and Texas going into the signing date.

UCLA plucked two blue chippers in Willowridge tight end Charles Arbuckle and Lubbock Dunbar linebacker Brian Jones.

TANK McNAMARA®



Wolfpack joins three ACC teams in Top 20

Associated Press
 RALEIGH, N.C. — North Carolina State has finally joined three other Atlantic Coast Conference teams in the Top 20 but it's not the ranking that gratifies Coach Jim Valvano, it's the way his team has been playing.

The Wolfpack, now 17-6, is ranked 17th in the latest poll after a shaky start. They made it back after nationally televised non-conference wins against Kentucky and Louisville, the latter a 76-64 decision Saturday.

N.C. State, which must still face the top ACC teams and eighth-ranked Oklahoma, didn't expect much after a loss to Florida State which left the team at 3-3.

"The kids have rallied from a low point in the season at Tallahassee to get where we are," Valvano said. "That means we have gone 14-3 since being 3-3 and to beat the teams we have along the way, I couldn't be happier."

North Carolina remained the unanimous No. 1 team in The Associated Press basketball poll with Duke No. 2. For neighboring North Carolina State, it was the first entry in the Top Twenty since the second week of the season.

The Tar Heels have been first in every poll since the season began.

"I told the kids at the beginning of the season that being in the Top 20 doesn't mean anything then," Valvano said of the preseason poll, which placed N.C. State 17th. "But at the end of the season to be playing Top 20 basketball has got to make you feel good."

"I think we have an outstanding basketball team at this point. But it is the quality of the opposition that we face that most concerns me."

All 63 sports writers and broadcasters voting in this week's poll tabbed 24-1 North Carolina as the top team. The Tar Heels collected 1,260 points in the balloting to 1,186 for runner-up Duke. The Blue Devils, 22-2, are second for the second time this season, moving up two spots this week.

There was considerable movement throughout the Top Twenty, thanks to a slew of upsets last weekend.


Kansas, 22-3, moved from sixth to third, while 22-3 Memphis State dropped one spot to fourth and Georgia Tech, the other ACC entry, fell from second to fifth. Memphis St. lost to Nevada-Las Vegas on Saturday, while Tech was beaten by Duke.

UNLV, 23-2, used its one-point win over Memphis State to surge from ninth to sixth. St. John's is seventh, up three spots, followed by Oklahoma, which dropped three places, No. 9 Georgetown and 10th-ranked Michigan.

Georgetown, which lost 60-58 to St. John's Monday night, improved two spots in the poll, while Michigan went from seventh to 10th.

The Second Ten also has Kentucky, Syracuse, Bradley, Notre Dame, Texas-El Paso, Indiana, Alabama, Louisville and Virginia Tech.

Western Kentucky was the only team to fall out of the rankings.




AP Top 20 Poll

1. North Carolina — 24-1
2. Duke — 22-2
3. Kansas — 22-3
4. Memphis St. — 22-2
5. Georgia Tech — 18-4
6. Nevada-Las Vegas — 24-2
7. St. John's — 23-3
8. Oklahoma — 21-2
9. Georgetown — 19-4
10. Michigan — 20-3
11. Kentucky — 20-3
12. Syracuse — 18-3
13. Bradley — 24-1
14. Notre Dame — 16-4
15. Texas-El Paso — 21-3
16. Indiana — 16-5
17. North Carolina St. — 17-6
18. Alabama — 17-4
19. Louisville — 16-7
20. Virginia Tech — 18-6

Others receiving votes: Illinois, Virginia, Western Kentucky, Navy, Old Dominion, Michigan St., Alabama-Birmingham, Richmond, St. Joseph's, Louisiana St., Miami (Ohio), Minnesota, Purdue, Xavier (Ohio), Iowa State, Pepperdine, Texas Christian, Auburn.

Blackman leads Mavericks to win over Spurs, 121-107



Other Tuesday NBA Scores
 (home team in capitals)

NEW JERSEY 130
 Detroit 122

CLEVELAND 119
 Indiana 97

L.A. Lakers at
 GOLDEN STATE (late)

Phoenix at
 L.A. CLIPPERS (late)

Boston at
 SACRAMENTO (late)

Washington at
 PORTLAND (late)

Utah at
 SEATTLE (late)

Associated Press
 SAN ANTONIO — Rolando Blackman scored 31 points, including 12 in the fourth period, to lead the Dallas Mavericks to a 121-107 victory over San Antonio Tuesday night in the National Basketball Association.

The Mavericks, winners of seven of their last eight games, are now 26-22. San Antonio fell to 27-26.

Blackman took control late in the game, scoring 10 straight points during a critical last-quarter run.

Blackman received scoring help from Mark Aguirre and Sam Perkins, who tallied 26 and 24 points respectively.

The Spurs, who led at the half 61-55, were led by Mike Mitchell's 27 points. Guard Wes Matthews finished with 18 points.

Blackman scored most of his points while guarded by newly acquired Ray Williams. Earlier in the game, Blackman was defended by fellow NBA All-Star Alvin Robertson, who left the game during the final period ill with the flu.

Rockets 113, Hawks 110

HOUSTON — Houston's Ralph Sampson scored 27 points, Akeem

Olajuwon added 25 and the Rockets took advantage of two Atlanta scoring droughts en route to a 113-100 National Basketball Association victory Tuesday night.

Sampson fueled a third quarter runaway with 11 points in the period when the Rockets put the game out of reach and improved to 34-16.

Dominique Wilkins, averaging 28.3 at the start of the game, Spud Webb and Cliff Levingston each scored 13 points to lead the Hawks, now 28-21.

After trailing at the end of the first quarter, the Rockets sped to an 18-point halftime lead, taking the lead for good at 7:07 of the second quarter on a layup by Allen Leavell.

The Rockets' go-ahead basket came during a spurt when the Rockets outscored the Hawks 16-0.

Houston surged again at the start of the third quarter, outscoring the Hawks 15-6 to start the period and leading 95-71 going into the final quarter.

Webb's three-point basket at the first quarter buzzer gave Atlanta a 37-34 first quarter lead as the Hawks outscored the Rockets 19-6 over the final 3:37.

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