

Sports

NFL draft has senior Aggs eager



Battalion File Photo

A&M's Anthony Toney (above) looks ahead to his career in the NFL. Toney is expected to go in the first round of today's draft.

By Charean Williams
Assistant Sports Editor

What a year for Texas A&M senior football players Doug Williams and Anthony Toney.

They capped off their collegiate career by winning the Cotton Bowl and helped the Aggies climb to No. 6 in the nation. Now, Williams and Toney are being touted as two of the 27 best players eligible for today's NFL draft which got underway at 7 a.m.

Football

Most expect the 6-foot-6, 290-pound Williams to be the first player selected from the Southwest Conference.

Gil Brandt, the Dallas Cowboys vice president for player personnel, says the A&M offensive lineman is a "can't miss" NFL player.

"Williams is big, fast and smart and probably can play at 300 pounds with no problem," Brandt said. "He is huge. He is everything you want in a football player."

However, although the Cowboys are interested in Williams, the second-team All-America selection probably won't be around when they exercise their 20th pick in the first round.

"Pittsburgh and a couple of West Coast teams have shown some interest," Williams said. "I have gotten calls from Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and Tampa Bay today."

In its April 28 issue, *Sports Illustrated* had Williams going to Buffalo as the 16th pick in the draft.

"Oh, yeah?" Williams said. "I guess I better get my snow boots ready then."

"Hey, a \$100 bill is the same in Buffalo as it is in Texas. They'd have to pay me enough money to buy a heater though."

The 23-year-old Cincinnati native said he was getting anxious.

"I'm still broke today," Williams said. "I'm just ready to find out. I really wish I knew."

"But teams are still making trades. I heard Dallas just traded (quarterback Gary) Hogeboom. Things are still happening. I don't think anyone knows anything."

Tuesday morning, Williams will watch ESPN's coverage of the draft

at his home in College Station and wait by the phone for the call from his new team. Then at 10:30 a.m., he will catch a plane from Easterwood Airport to New York where he will appear on ESPN before flying to the NFL city that selected him.

Meanwhile, Toney appeared calm and relaxed less than 24 hours before the draft.

"I'll just wait and see," the 6-0, 230-pound running back said. "People keep bringing it up so I guess I've thought about it a lot more lately."

In the year of the collegiate running back, Toney is expected to be one of the many ball carriers taken in the first round behind No. 1 pick Bo Jackson of Auburn.

In fact, *Sports Illustrated* had Toney going to the Philadelphia Eagles as the No. 11 pick, ahead of teammate Williams. The magazine said Toney was new Eagle Coach Buddy Ryan's personal choice.

"Everybody's telling me Philadelphia, but you never know," said Toney, who led the Aggies in rushing with 917 yards. "Of course since I'm from (Salinas) California, I'd like to go back to California. But I just want to get picked. I'm not going to complain about going anywhere. I'm just happy to get an opportunity to play somewhere."

If Toney does go to the Eagles, he would join former Aggie football players Earnest Jackson, Mark Denard and Ken Reeves.

"I guess that could kind of help," Toney said. "It could make things easier. But we'll all be fighting for jobs."

If he doesn't end up in Philadelphia, look for Toney in Washington, Dallas, New Orleans, Cincinnati or Seattle.

"I'll just watch a little TV and wait," Toney said. "The guys down the hall said they've got some champagne ready. I sure hope there's a need for it."

Other Aggies expected to be drafted or signed as free agents are defensive back Domingo Bryant, who could go as high as the second round, wide receiver Jeff Nelson, defensive back Wayne Asberry, defensive back Lance Jackson, offensive lineman Randy Wylie and offensive lineman Randy Dausin.

Texas clubs out to nab quarterbacks

Oilers eyeing Purdue's Everett

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Oilers, despite a need for improvement in the defensive line and linebacking corps, probably will make Purdue quarterback Jim Everett the No. 3 choice in the first round of Tuesday's NFL draft, team officials said.

There has been speculation that the Oilers would trade for a lower first-round pick or select Alabama defensive end Jon Hand in the first round.

But Oilers went into the final hours before the draft pointing to Everett.

"We're not bluffing," General Manager Ladd Herzog said. "We want the quarterback."

Team personnel director Mike Holovak rates Everett highly although Oilers already have Warren Moon and his \$5.5 million contract and backup Oliver Luck. "Did you ever know a team that had too many quarterbacks?" Holovak said. "You just never find yourself in that position."

The Indianapolis Colts reportedly were interested in drafting Everett. But the Colts acquired quarterback Gary Hogeboom from the Dallas Cowboys Monday.

Everett completed his career with the pass-oriented Boiler-

makers last season by throwing for 23 touchdowns and 3,651 yards on 285 of 450 attempts.

Everett, an Associated Press All American honorable mention, will continue a tradition of pass-oriented quarterbacks moving into the NFL. He ranks third in career total offense at Purdue behind former Boilermaker quarterbacks Mark Hermann, now with the San Diego Chargers, and Scott Campbell of the Pittsburgh Steelers.

"Jim Everett has the strongest arm I've ever been around," Purdue Coach Leon Burtnett said. "His intelligence allows him to throw the ball where he's supposed to. He doesn't throw into coverage anymore."

Houston ranked last in the NFL against the run and 27th in overall defense last season. The defense recorded 41 quarterback sacks but only 17 were by linemen.

The Oilers were particularly vulnerable last season when they faced power teams that took advantage of their undersized inside linebackers.

"It's hard to find those big inside guys who can handle an offensive tackle and still have the speed to play that position," Holovak said.

Cowboys need to fill third spot

IRVING (AP) — The departure of reserve quarterback Gary Hogeboom puts some pressure on the Dallas Cowboys to find a third-team quarterback in Tuesday's NFL draft.

"Now we've got to get another quarterback," said Dallas Coach Tom Landry after Hogeboom was traded Monday to the Indianapolis Colts for a switch in second-round picks and future considerations. "We were reluctant to give up Gary but I think it is best for him under the circumstances."

Hogeboom lost his starting job to Danny White last year and the Cowboys went on to win the NFC East.

"I'm not sure we are satisfied with the trade but we should get a really good player by moving up so high in the second round," said Landry.

The Cowboys moved up from 20th to sixth in the second round and will get a 1987 draft pick based on Hogeboom's playing time at Indianapolis.

The Cowboys draft 20th in the first round unless they pull off a trade similar to one in the 1970s when they nabbed running back Tony Dorsett from Seattle.

The Cowboys' needs are many,

including wide receiver, running back, cornerback and linebacker.

"We've looked at over 2,000 computer printouts," said Gil Brandt, the longtime personnel director of the Cowboys.

Brandt said if he had to make a guess, the team will "probably go for an offensive lineman in the first round because so many good ones are available."

The Cowboys changed their drafting philosophy last year, going for more aggressive players who may not have perfect physical attributes.

"We want more aggressive players," said Brandt. "We're still looking for the best athlete we can but we want someone who can compete, too."

Dallas has the 18th selection in the second round, the 19th choice in the third round, and the 20th choice in the fourth round.

The NFC Eastern Division champions then get the 21st choice in the fifth round. They have three picks in the sixth round, including Buffalo's second choice obtained in a trade for Rod Hill.

"It's an important draft," Brandt said. "A lot of teams have done their homework but maybe some sleepers will be available when our time comes."

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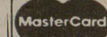
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