

Bills trade Cribbs to 49ers

(AP) — Joe Cribbs, the controversial running back who became superfluous in Buffalo with the development of Greg Bell and the drafting of Ronnie Harmon, was traded Tuesday to the San Francisco 49ers.

The deal, for undisclosed draft choices, came as NFL teams scrambled to get down to the 60-player roster limit by 4 p.m. EDT. The limit does not include

former USFL players, who have a two-week exemption.

Meanwhile, two former A&M players were placed on injured reserve while another was cut from his team. Domingo Bryant, the 1986 Cotton Bowl Most Valuable Defensive Player, was placed on injured reserve by the Pittsburgh Steelers, as was tight end Rich Siler by the St. Louis Cardinals. Jimmie Hawkins, A&M's re-

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Judge: NCAA violation records open to public

AUSTIN (AP) — A federal judge ruled Tuesday that NCAA recruiting infraction records are public information, but an NCAA lawyer said reporters should be barred access to many of the records they are seeking.

U.S. District Judge James Nowlin of Austin said in his order that the NCAA and Southwest Conference are covered by the Texas Open Records Act. But he said he is continuing his review of the NCAA and SWC records to see if any of the documents are covered by exceptions in the Open Records Act.

The suit was filed by *The Dallas Morning News*, the *Dallas Times Herald* and Belo Broadcasting of Dallas. Nowlin agreed with the news organizations that SWC and NCAA records are

public because the two groups spend public money.

NCAA and SWC officials testified at hearings that the records should remain confidential.

Nowlin said, "The information sought in this action also concerns a legitimate public concern: athletic recruiting violations in Texas universities."

"In this court's view, there is no more vital or legitimate public concern than the education of this state's citizens," he said in overruling the NCAA's claim to a right of privacy.

Nowlin said he would issue a separate opinion after reviewing specific NCAA and SWC documents concerning recruiting investigations.

Austin attorney Robert Roller, representing the NCAA, said "a vast bulk" of the records are

not covered by the Texas Open Records Act because they are inter-office memos or involve students.

"There are exceptions to cover all the substantive documents that they seek," he said of the news organizations seeking the records.

Student-athletes who cooperated with NCAA investigators were promised the records would remain confidential, Roller said. NCAA officials testified that their ability to conduct future investigations of recruiting infractions could be weakened if the records are released.

"Much of the information in the files may or may not be verified," Roller said, adding that some unverified information in the records "would be very damaging to reputations if made public."

Texas baseball championship series not an impossibility

DALLAS (AP) — Dreams of a Texas Interstate 45 professional world championship collision haven't peppered these brainwaves since the 1978 NFL season.

As you recall, the brash Houston Oilers of Bum Phillips kicked and bullied their way into the AFC title game against the Pittsburgh Steelers. But on a cold, blustery Jan. 7, 1979, the Steelers held Earl Campbell to 62 yards on 22 carries and crushed the Oilers 34-5.

The Dallas Cowboys blanked the Los Angeles Rams 28-0 to win the NFC title and qualify for Super Bowl XII, losing to Pittsburgh 35-31.

Alas, no Oilers to complete the Texas doubleslam. The bigger-than-the-Alamo

happening of an All-Texas Super Bowl wasn't to be.

Seven years later, Texans have another fairy tale to chase.

Can the Houston Astros and Texas Rangers overcome the incalculable odds to please the Sesquicentennial Baseball Gods on the Lone Star State's 150th birthday with an I-45 World Series?

Before you fracture a rib laughing, consider the grit of the 1986 versions of the National League Astros and the American League Rangers.

Consider: in the second week of August, the Astros were leading the NL West with only two starters, Mike Scott and Bob Knepper, who have gone the full season without injury.

Ace Nolan Ryan has been on the disabled list not once, but twice, yet the relief corps

of Dave Smith, Charlie Kerfeld and Aurelio Lopez has kept the Astros in almost every game, despite a team batting average ranked in the lower half of the league.

Also, consider that something must be going the Astros' way if Glenn Davis can hit 13 of his 24 home runs in the Astrodome, the hardest place to crank a ball over the fence in the NL.

Consider: the Rangers have come from behind to win 30 games after the seventh inning. No Texas team in history has shown such an ability to handle adversity in the late innings.

Texas' starting pitching has been atrocious yet, in the second week of August, the Rangers were trailing the AL West-leading California Angels by only two games.

The Astros and the Rangers have excellent schedules in the last two months of the

season.

Houston doesn't play any more of the power teams in the East, and has 16 games remaining with Pittsburgh, St. Louis and Chicago, the bottom three teams in the East.

While Houston has a 50-50 balance in road and home game victories, the Astros are the best of the contending teams on the road. Their excellent pitching and strong defense makes them a tough team to handle even away from the Astrodome, where they are 10 games over .500.

The Rangers have been amazingly resilient on the road, but are deadly in Arlington Stadium, where they don't believe they can lose.

Texas closes the season with seven straight games at home, with the final four against the California Angels. The Rangers

figure if they can just stay close until their final homestand, they can handle the Angels, who have been living off the stingiest starting pitching in the AL.

For the Rangers to win their first division title in history, something must be done about a starting pitching staff that went 13 straight games without finishing a game.

Of course, winning the division is only the start.

The Astros would likely have to beat the New York Mets, baseball's best team, in the NL championship series.

The Rangers probably would be pitted against the Boston Red Sox in the AL title match.

Granted an I-45 Series sounds a little daffy — but not much more loony than an All-Missouri World Series, which took place last year.

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