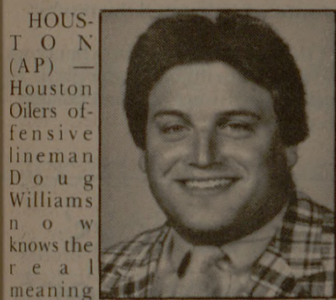


Sports

Former Ag standout tackles new position at guard with Oilers



Doug Williams

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston Oilers offensive lineman Doug Williams has taken a new position at guard with the Oilers.

The 6-6, 290-pound former Texas A&M standout was drafted in the second round by the New York Jets, cut last week and picked up by the Oilers.

When guard Mike Munchak suffered an ankle injury in the Oilers' preseason finale against Dallas on Saturday, Williams suddenly found himself playing guard.

"I guess it was a little bit panic-ville at first," Williams said. "You go up to the line and the first thing you see is (Cowboys defensive tackle) Randy White. But (center Jim) Romano and I were talking the whole time."

"We were talking from the huddle to the line of scrimmage and almost until the ball was snapped. You don't just walk in and play the offensive line on talent alone."

It was another unnerving turn in Williams' brief, chaotic pro career.

After helping the Aggies win the Southwest Conference championship and a Cotton Bowl victory last season, the Jets made Williams a second-round selection.

The Jets hoped Williams would be a cog in the rebuilding of their offense line, although Williams

had already made it known he didn't want to play in New York.

"I didn't want to go there in the first place and I said so before they drafted me," Williams said. "Even if they hadn't cut me, I would have asked to be traded after the season was over."

Williams missed the Jets' mini-camp and the first five days of training camp in a contract dispute. He ended his holdout July 25, signing a four-year, \$925,000 contract.

The Oilers were quick to grab up Williams when his name appeared on the waiver wire.

Now he may figure in Houston's offensive line, also in turmoil with the holdout of starting tackle Harvey Salem, which forced a preseason shuffle of assignments.

Line coach Bill Walsh sees potential in Williams if he can learn the Oilers system quickly.

"He's got a lot of catching up to do but he was almost a first-round draft pick," Walsh said. "He's very willing and has good strength, especially arm strength for pass blocking. He's just got to learn the system."

Williams, who finished his A&M career in the first year of Aggie offensive coordinator Lynn Amedee's tenure, is trying to learn his third offensive scheme in one year.

Williams has worked at both guard positions and at tackle this week as the Oilers prepare to open the regular season Sunday at Green Bay.

"I've been switching a lot but don't think I'm complaining," Williams said. "I'm happy where I am and they're not pushing me. They're giving me time to learn the system. But I'm ready to go up to Green Bay and give it the best I can this week."

Ags look sharp in 1st outing

By Doug Hall
Sports Writer

Although it won't go down in this year's official record book, Tuesday night's Maroon and White intra-squad game left a positive mark on Women's Volleyball Coach Al Givens' personal scorecard.

"We were very pleased with what we saw tonight," Givens said, following the Maroon team's three-games-to-two victory. "We've got some girls who are not hesitating to take a swing at the ball. We've been telling them not to worry about making mistakes and to learn to use those mistakes as a positive influence."

Givens, in his first season at A&M after leaving Mississippi last spring, decided to forgo the customary A&M-versus-the-local-media opener and go with the intrasquad format in order to give his players game experience.

"The big thing about tonight's game is to give us the opportunity to show off our new squad before we go to our first tournament this weekend," Givens said prior to the game.

The Aggies will travel to Illinois State this weekend for their first four-team tourney against Utah, Miami of Ohio and host team Illinois State — three teams that Givens said will give the Aggies their first real test of the season.

But this weekend's tourney will be more than just a regular season opener for Givens who filled a vacancy left by Terry Condon.

Condon, who led the Aggies to a 33-4 record in '84, left A&M to become assistant athletic director at her alma mater, UCLA, last January, following the Aggies' 26-8 season.

Givens has increased the versatility of his team by improving passing, using attack serves and receiving the serve with three people in hopes of wresting the Southwest Conference championship from Texas, which has refused to relinquish its title for the past 10 years.

Givens rotated his players equally

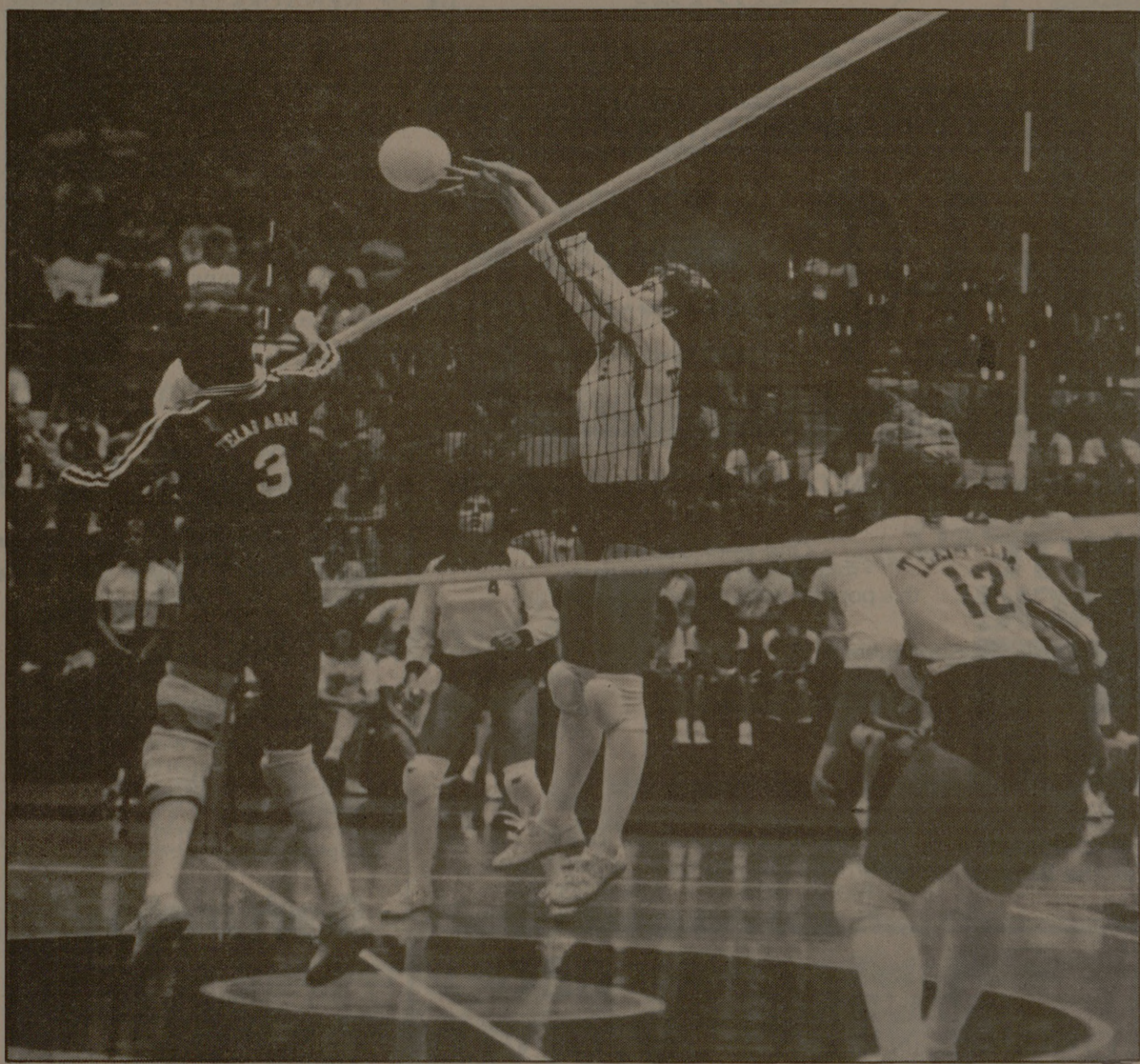


Photo by Greg Bailey

The '86 A&M volleyball team put on its first display of the season in a Maroon-White scrimmage in G. Rollie White Coliseum Wednesday night. The Maroon team won three of the five games.

throughout the first three games, all of which were won by the Maroon team. In the fourth and fifth games, however, Givens stocked the Maroon team with the girls he plans to start this weekend — setter Chris Zogota, middle blocker Stacy Smith, outside hitter Cheri Steensma, outside hitter Stacy Gildner, middle blocker Margaret Spence and outside hitter Michelle Whitwell.

Interestingly enough, the White team won the last two games by scores of 15-9 and 15-8 using a scrappy defense and a strong offense.

When asked if that odd turn of events bothered him, Givens replied, "Yes and no. The White team had a lot more to play for tonight, and I think the Maroon team got frustrated with the scrappy play of the

White team. I think they got a little bit concerned about the other side of the court and didn't pay enough attention to their own game."

Overall, Givens said he was happy with the team's performance.

"It's like I told the girls in the locker room," he said "this is as bad as we'll ever be — and that's pretty good."

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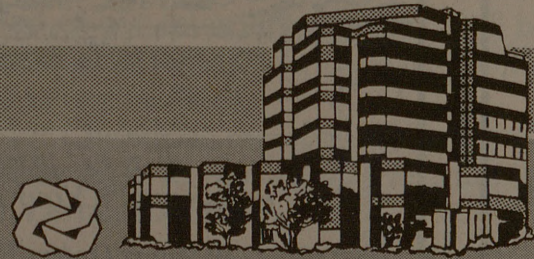
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