

## Akers allows Simmons to practice

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas running back Edwin Simmons, suspended Sept. 28 for disciplinary reasons, will return to practice as the Longhorns prepare for Saturday's meeting with Arkansas, Coach Fred Akers said Tuesday. Akers would not say if Simmons would be allowed to play against the Razorbacks, only that he was cleared for practice.

"It is my decision," said Akers, "but I value the opinion of my players. This is their football team, and they felt it was best that he get back out here."

Akers had asked his team their opinion of whether Simmons should be reinstated, and the players asked that Simmons present his case to them. Following a meeting with Simmons, UT team leaders told Akers they were convinced that the senior deserved another chance.

Simmons' suspension came after he was apprehended naked outside an Austin house by police who responded to a prowling call. No charges were filed, but Simmons missed the Longhorns' games with Rice and Oklahoma.

"I made a mistake," Simmons said following the Tuesday practice. "I am just happy to be back out here. I realize that what I did caused embarrassment to my school and my team."

## Milestone almost unnoticed

LAKE FOREST, Ill. (AP) — When Walter Payton, the Chicago Bears' veteran running back, reached his latest NFL milestone, it went somewhat unnoticed.

As Payton, the league's all-time rushing leader, caught a 30-yard pass from Jim McMahon late in Sunday's 20-7 victory over Houston — the Bears' sixth triumph without a loss — he became the first player to reach 20,000 combined yards.

That includes rushing, receiving

and returning kicks. With his 76 yards rushing Sunday, Payton now has 15,442 yards rushing, 4,025 yards receiving and 539 yards on kick returns.

Play was not stopped when Payton reached the 20,000-yard mark. Payton was not given the ball and there was little fanfare over the milestone.

One reason might have been because of an error in the statistics. It was thought Payton needed 61 yards

to reach 20,000, but it turned out he needed 100 because of a clerical error in which he was credited with 39 yards on a punt return which, in reality, was a punt by the versatile Payton in his rookie year in 1975.

"It's not my fault," Payton said about the game not being held up. "I would have liked to have been given the ball since nobody else had done it (reached the 20,000 mark). It would have been nice."

## Bears acquire Flutie

CHICAGO (AP) — The Chicago Bears have acquired the rights to Heisman Trophy quarterback Doug Flutie from the Los Angeles Rams for an unannounced future draft choice, Bears' General Manager Jerry Vainisi announced Tuesday.

"We did not give a high draft choice so we thought why not take a chance," said Vainisi. "We want to sign him to a 1987-88 contract and that would make him available this season if something happened to our quarterbacks."

"We were in competition with three or four other clubs," Vainisi said during a break in the NFL's owners' meeting.

Flutie, who at 5-foot-9 has been considered too small to play in the National Football League, has said

he wants a chance to prove himself and was delighted when he learned the undefeated Bears were interested in his services.

"I'm an anxious kind of kid, I don't like to sit still," said Flutie, who was in Boston when he heard the news. "But I realize the situation. I know Jim McMahon is the No. 1 quarterback."

Flutie, the 1984 Heisman Trophy winner out of Boston College, played in the United States Football League with the New Jersey Generals last year.

McMahon has been hampered by injuries through most of his career and is currently nursing a mild shoulder separation. McMahon is backed by Steve Fuller and Mike Tomczak.

## Oilers trade Moriarty

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Oilers traded starting fullback Larry Moriarty to the Kansas City Chiefs Tuesday for an undisclosed draft choice and placed guard Mike Munchak on injured reserve.

Moriarty started 12 games for the Oilers last season and had just returned to the starting lineup last week after recovering from a shoulder injury suffered against the Chiefs in the third game this year.

Munchak suffered a knee injury in the first quarter of Sunday's 20-7 loss to Kansas City and will undergo arthroscopic surgery today.

## NL president clears Scott of scuffing

NEW YORK (AP) — Mike Scott, the Houston Astros' pitching star who has baffled the New York Mets twice in the National League playoffs, Tuesday was declared innocent of scuffing baseballs by NL president Chub Feeney.

Feeney met with Frank Cashen, the Mets' general manager, before the fifth game of the best-of-seven series.

"As far as we know, Mr. Scott is not guilty of this infraction," Feeney said in a statement. "A man is innocent until proven guilty."

"However, we will be watching closely the next time he pitches, and will take appropriate action if necessary."

Scott's next start is scheduled Thursday at Houston in the decisive seventh game, if the series goes that far.

The Houston right-hander, who

pitched for the Mets from 1979-82 before being traded to the Astros for outfielder Danny Heep in December 1982, won the first and fourth games of the series, allowing a total of eight hits, one run, one walk and striking out a playoff record 19 batters in 18 innings.

His dazzling performances have brought loud complaints from the bewildered Mets, who have claimed that Scott has been doctoring the ball — possibly with sandpaper — before delivering it.

Scott — and the Astros — have contended, however, that his split-fingered fastball, taught him by San Francisco Manager Roger Craig, has been mostly bothering the Mets' hitters.

"I think he could make a cue ball dance, but if he is defacing the ball, I'd like to see him stopped," Mets Manager Davey Johnson said.

Johnson claimed Scott keeps the sandpaper in his palm.

"He doesn't rotate the ball, he just makes a grinding motion," Johnson said. "It's blatant to me."

As attempted evidence against Scott's scuffing, the Mets collected 17 baseballs and put them in Johnson's desk.

However, Doug Harvey, chief of the umpiring crew for the NL playoffs, scoffed at the Mets' scuff-ball charges.

"(The Mets) have 17 balls, I'll show you 30 balls (the Astros) say are scuffed by the Mets' pitchers," Harvey said. "It's funny the Mets never once asked to see a ball while it was still in play."

Harvey also said that he had umpired behind home plate while Scott was pitching at least five times dur-

ing the season and in the opening playoff game, adding, "The man is just one hell of a pitcher."

"Are the Mets trying to get to his mind?" asked Harvey, who ejected pitcher Don Sutton in 1978 for allegedly scuffing baseballs during a game against St. Louis. "Possibly."

Houston Manager Hal Lanier made light of the Mets' dark assessment of Scott's pitches.

"Mike has never been convicted in a court of law," he said. "I heard the Mets were collecting Scott's baseballs. Who knows what could have happened once those balls got in the Mets' clubhouse?"

"If the Mets are (such) big fans of Scott's, then they should bring them (the baseballs) over to Mike and he can autograph them."

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