

Sports

Murray still has desire to play pro football

HOUSTON (AP) — Former Texas A&M University quarterback Kevin Murray, who holds most of the Southwest Conference passing records, still wants to play in the National Football League even though one of the pro teams picked him in this week's draft of college talent. "I feel good about my ability," Murray told the Dallas Morning News Wednesday. "You've got to take the hand dealt you and play it. It seems like overcoming adversity is just part of my life." Murray said he might try out as a free agent. "I really believe Kevin is in a good spot, maybe a better spot than if he had been drafted," Mike Holovak, Houston Oilers director of personnel, said. "He now has a chance to shop himself around and decide where he wants to go. He's got a chance to show us what we don't have here." A&M offensive coordinator Lynn Amedee says he is puzzled that Murray wasn't drafted. "I can't understand it," Amedee said. "I'm shocked. All of the scouts had come in here and everything we had heard had him projected pretty

high. Not to take anything away from any of the quarterbacks drafted, but I know Kevin is better than some of them." Amedee denied rumors Murray is difficult to work with. "I can't believe anyone would say that without checking with his coaches. Kevin has been fabulous to work with here and no one from any

"He has some talent but is a . . . royal pain in the rear."

— An NFL general manager

NFL team has asked me about his attitude," Amedee said. But one NFL general manager told *The Houston Post* Thursday that Murray's attitude kept the NFL away. "He has some talent but is a pain in the rear, a royal pain in the rear," the general manager said. "I was very surprised no one took him," Holovak said.

A&M to end regular season with 3-game series with UH

The Texas A&M baseball team will wind up the regular season fighting for third place in the Southwest Conference against the University of Houston in a three-game series this weekend in Houston. A&M last saw action last weekend when it split a three-game series with Texas Christian University. A&M third baseman Scott Livingstone was named Co-National Player of the Week by Collegiate Baseball following the series. The 12th-ranked Aggies bring a 39-17-1 record and a 12-6 SWC slate into the series, which includes a game today at 2 p.m. and

a double-header Saturday at noon. A&M has a chance to break its regular-season record for wins set in 1985 when the Aggies won 39 games, as well as clinch third place with just one victory over the 35-8 Cougars, who also have a 10-8 SWC record. A third-place finish means A&M would face the second-place finisher, either Texas or Arkansas, in the opening round of the SWC Post-Season Baseball Tournament to be held May 15-17 at Disch-Falk Field in Austin. A&M senior Gary Geiger will pitch in today's opener. Geiger has a 10-2 record, including a 5-0 conference mark.

Rockets advance in NBA playoffs

HOUSTON (AP) — Akeem Olajuwon scored 27 points and fueled a third-quarter surge that led the Houston Rockets to a 113-101 victory over Portland Thursday night, clinching their first-round NBA playoff series 3-1. The Trail Blazers, trailing 61-51 at the half, outscored Houston 13-8 to start the third quarter. But it was their last charge at the team that has beaten them eight straight times at The Summit. But after a time out, Olajuwon hit two straight baskets and the Rockets outscored the Blazers 20-4 over the rest of the quarter to lead 89-68 going into the fourth period. It was the first time that the Rockets had ever clinched a play-

off in The Summit. Portland's Clyde Drexler had to leave the game with five fouls with 3:53 left in the third quarter. He had 8 points at the time and finished with 13 points. Houston's Robert Reid picked up the scoring charge in the fourth quarter. He had 10 points in the quarter and 22 for the game. After a sluggish first quarter, the Rockets moved into the lead for good early in the second quarter on a 3-point play by Allen Leavell. Houston raced to a 61-51 halftime lead. The Blazers managed a 21-20 lead at the end of the first quarter but Ralph Sampson led the Rockets' second-quarter spurt with 10 points in the period.

Demons Begone favored in Saturday's Kentucky Derby

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Phil Hauswald, who failed to win the 1986 Kentucky Derby with a 60-1 shot, will go after the 113th Derby Saturday with favored Demons Begone. "He thinks he's king of the world right now," the 28-year-old trainer said of the colt, who is unbeaten in three starts this year, including the Arkansas Derby. "He thinks he can beat anybody." Demons Begone was the 5-2 early favorite to beat 16 other 3-year-olds and give Hauswald, a native of nearby New Albany, Ind., a Derby victory in his second try. Last year, he saddled Bachelor Beau to finish 14th in a 16-horse field. The last favorite to win the 1 1/4-mile Derby at Churchill Downs was Spectacular Bid, who went off at 3-5. The wide-open aspect of this year's Derby is reflected in the morning line. The entry of Gulch and Leo Castelli, trained by LeRoy Jolley, was

made 4-1, while Cryptoclearance was listed at 5-1, and Alysheba, Masterful Advocate and Bet Twice each were rated 6-1. Trainer D. Wayne Lukas' entry of Capote, War, and On The Line was made 8-1. Demons Begone, owned by John Ed Anthony, can earn a \$1 million bonus offered by Oaklawn Park to any horse who sweeps the Rebel and Arkansas Derby at Oaklawn and the Kentucky Derby. Saturday's winner also will take a first step toward one of two bonuses. Triple Crown Productions, Inc., is guaranteeing \$5 million, including winners' purses in the three races, to any 3-year-old who sweeps the Derby, Preakness and Belmont Stakes. Any 3-year-old competing in all three races also can earn a \$1 million bonus by amassing the most points, which will be awarded on a basis of 5 for a win, 3 for second, and 1 for third.

Gooden regrets drug use, vows to start over

NEW YORK (AP) — Dwight Gooden, warned by Commissioner Peter Ueberroth that he faces at least a one-year suspension if he goes back to drugs, admitted Thursday he made a mistake by using cocaine and said he hoped he could put his problem behind him. Gooden, who rejoined his New York Mets teammates 24 hours after ending a 28-day stay at a drug treatment center, will face frequent drug testing. "I know I made a mistake and I regret it, but I must turn the page once again because life goes on and I want to put all this behind me," Gooden said, reading from a prepared statement. "I want to get back to doing the things that I like, and that's playing baseball and having fun again." The 1985 Cy Young award winner appeared nervous and uncomfortable as he rushed through his remarks in less than a minute at a briefing at Shea Stadium. The Mets

had said he would not answer questions. Earlier, the 22-year-old pitcher was presented with his 1986 World Series ring and then spent a short time throwing from the mound and running in the outfield. He did not get any exercise other than climbing steps during his stay at the Smithers Alcoholism and Drug Treatment Center. The Mets hope Gooden can resume pitching in the major leagues by the first week of June, but General Manager Frank Cashen emphasized the team would not hurry him. About the time Gooden arrived at the stadium, Ueberroth's office released a statement that said, "Any return to drug use will result in his suspension from baseball for a minimum period of one year." The statement also said that Gooden will not be subject to disciplinary action if he continues with the after-care program, which includes drug testing.

"We wish Dwight Gooden well in his ongoing rehabilitation. We will continue to consult regularly with his doctors and the Mets regarding his progress," the commissioner's statement said. Cashen said Greg Pavlick, the Mets' traveling minor-pitching coach, would accompany Gooden on the road once he comes back. But Cashen admitted it would be impossible to monitor the right-hander's off-the-field activities. Dr. Alan Lans, associate director of Smithers Center, declined to discuss the specifics of Gooden's case and said the pitcher's recovery depends on his after-care program. "Of people who do follow the program, we can look for success in 75 percent," Lans said. The Mets, who have tried to shield Gooden from the media since his arrival in the majors in 1984 at age 19, plan to be especially protective now. The team's clubhouse was closed to the media after the briefing until

after Thursday night's game against Montreal. Cashen said no one-on-one interviews with Gooden would be allowed in the near future. Mets Manager Davey Johnson said Gooden would begin 15 minutes of light throwing on Friday and would soon start throwing 10 minutes from the mound every other day. In about three weeks, the Mets hope Gooden can pitch three innings in a minor-league game. Cashen speculated that Gooden could possibly make his 1987 major league debut after the Mets conclude a West Coast trip in the first week of June. Cashen said it would be important for Gooden to "rebuild his confidence to handle the stress" of major league life. But Lans said there was no evidence that Gooden's cocaine problem was caused by such stress, and he did not believe the cocaine use had caused any physical impairment.

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