

Sports

NFL has priorities in pension-plan line

By Doug Hall
Assistant Sports Editor

So what if the NFL players association decides to strike for the second time in the past five years?

After all, it does have just reason, doesn't it?

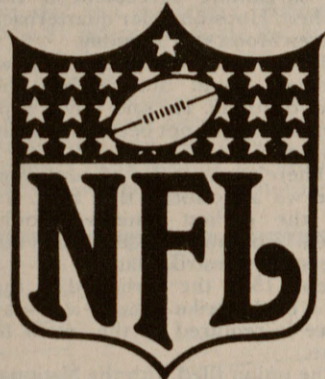
The owners want compensation for free agents who jump ship for more lucrative waters.

Viewpoint

The players say no. The owners want a wage scale implemented for incoming rookies. That way, they can avoid the player's attitude of, "Well, Vinny got \$8 million and Brian got \$11 million and I won't sign for less than 95 percent of what they signed for."

Naturally, the players say that's a definite no go, or in the words of Cris Carter's lawyer, a restraint of trade.

So the only way the player's can convince the owners to give in, is to strike, just like any self-respecting



tered, the players will return out of shape and the season will be shot. But don't think the players are being selfish about all of this.

The current rumor, supposedly spread by the owners' representatives, has it that the players will walk the chalk after the third week of the season, at which time they will be qualified for another year's pension.

That means at worst, the players will have played three games out of a minimum 16-game schedule — and qualify for full pension benefits. Everyone should negotiate such a contract. Nothing like an annual thirteen-week vacation to stimulate the ol' American economy.

As important as football is to this country, you'd think Congress might pass a law forbidding such a strike. After all, the President does call the Superbowl winners each year.

Or maybe Reagan will call the players like he did the air traffic controllers.

But don't hold your breath. It's not like both sides didn't know the contract was running out and that there were major differences to be resolved. But instead of getting something done, the player's union fiddles around until they can put some real pressure on the owners.

Naturally, both sides, which last met Aug. 15, say the other is at fault for the lack of progress.

Jack Donlan, chief negotiator for the owners says, "We're ready negotiate any time, any place."

On the players behalf, NFLPA executive director Gene Upshaw says, "Eventually we'll get down to bargaining. We intend to bargain with the other side, we intend to reach an agreement with the other side."

Thanks for the reassurance Gene, just make sure your boys don't hit the high roads until after both the Oilers and Cowboys are 0-3. We'd hate to see them lose all those pension benefits.

Oilers and Cowboys: Who's worse?

By Loyd Brumfield
Sports Editor

Football is definitely king in Texas.

It is a state that annually produces more professional football prospects than any other.

Texas A&M was the state's leading producer of NFL draft picks in 1987, and the Aggies finished third nationally behind Washington and Penn State.

So with such abundant talent around, shouldn't Texas be blessed with top quality pro teams of its own?

Let's use the "Indiana Rule" to illustrate Texas' current plight. Indiana is considered the nation's number one basketball state bar none, but look at what NBA team it's stuck with: the Pacers.

Now back to Texas. Over the years, the Houston Oilers and the

Dallas Cowboys have been riding a fast train to football oblivion, and so far all signs indicate improvement will be hard to come by in 1987.

Texas football fanatics will get a special treat when these two behemoths face off Saturday at 8 p.m. in Texas Stadium in a game that has all the earmarks of being one of the most boring sporting events ever. Even worse than celebrity golf.

Take the Cowboys, for instance. Dallas has scored a whopping two touchdowns in three preseason games. The Cowboys have also been outscored by a combined score of 66-23. The Oilers have had a little bit more offensive success. They move the ball fine until they get into what A&M Coach Jackie Sherrill calls the "red zone" — anything inside the 20-yard line. Houston has been averaging 1.3 touchdowns per game along with 14 points to go with that.

The signs aren't all bad for the Oilers, however. Black-clad Jerry Glanville, the NFL's answer to Zorro, has substituted freely in the preseason, possibly costing the team a win or two.

The Cowboys are showing signs of taking over Houston's 1986 role as penalty-prone, bumbling amateurs. Aging quarterback Danny White, who is having more than a little trouble recovering from last season's wrist surgery, suffered three interceptions in two quarters in Dallas' 34-10 defeat at the hands of the Los Angeles Raiders last Sunday.

Backup Steve Pelluer had two interceptions of his own in completing only one of his first eight passes.

The Cowboys have an excuse for their woes — they're getting old. The Oilers, however, have no such luck. By now, Houston should be able to line up toe-to-toe against the

best of the NFL and win. The talent has been there for three years now. Glanville keeps rehashing that tired old line about the Oilers needing time, though.

Maybe Glanville wants owner Bud Adams and General Manager Ladd Herzog, the NFL's answer to Laurel and Hardy, to lose more quality draft picks like Jim Everett and Bernie Kosar. Those guys are now going great guns for the Los Angeles Rams and the Cleveland Browns. Obviously, Herzog and Adams are only taunting top draft pick Alonzo Highsmith. They'll ship him off to Tampa Bay or Indianapolis and he'll score 29 touchdowns for them.

Come Saturday, Oiler punter Lee Johnson will mishandle a snap and will be tackled in the end zone for a safety after being knocked around for a 30-yard loss.

Ho-hum. Cowboys win 9-7 on three Rolf Benirschke field goals.

Volleyballers open with Lamar tonight

By Tammy Hedgpeth
Sports Writer

The Texas A&M women's volleyball team is hungry for matches.

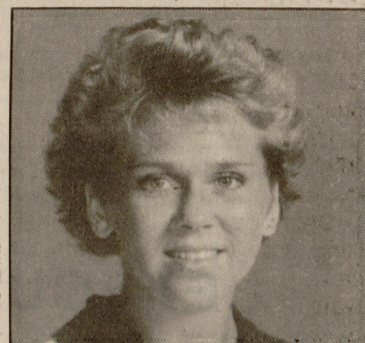
The Lamar University Lady Cardinals, however, will try to curb the Lady Aggies' appetite in a match tonight at 7:30 p.m. in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

"They're tired of playing themselves," A&M Coach Al Givens said. "We need feedback to see where we stand. Lamar is much like ourselves — young and aggressive. It will be a competitive, aggressive match."

Givens said although the Lady Aggies are a young team, they have great potential due to strong positive attitude.

"We have a very cohesive group," he said. "Their overall attitude is positive. They complement the University and each other so well."

The Aggies are not lacking experience. Junior Cheri Steensma and sophomore Kelli Kellen will



Michelle Whitwell

return to the court as starters. Senior Michelle Whitwell, who started only part time in 1986, has earned a starting position and sophomore Yvonne Van Brandt, a back court specialist last season, will start at center.

The Lady Aggies are hoping to improve their 1986 record of 23-14, which left them trailing perennial powerhouse Texas in the Southwest Conference race.

Essink chooses retirement; Cowboys' injury list grows

IRVING (AP) — Veteran offensive tackle Ron Essink, acquired by the Dallas Cowboys from Seattle last week, announced Tuesday he is retiring because an elbow injury makes it impossible for him to play.

The Cowboys lost an undisclosed 1988 draft pick because the trade with Seattle was not conditional on Essink making the team.

As part of their cuts to meet the 60-man roster, the Cowboys on Tuesday waived kickers Luis Zendejas of Arizona State and David Trout of Pittsburgh. Dallas acquired veteran kicker Rolf Benirschke from the San Diego Chargers on Monday for an undisclosed draft choice.

Also cut were linebackers Dale Jones of Tennessee and Russ Swan

of Virginia, running back Gerald White of Michigan, and center Mike Zentic of Oklahoma State.

Placed on the injured reserve list were wide receiver Ray Alexander of Florida A&M, with a wrist injury; defensive tackle Mike Makins of Tennessee-Chattanooga, with a neck injury; defensive end Ray Perkins of Virginia, with an ankle injury; guard Kurt Petersen of Missouri, with a knee injury; wide receiver Karl Powe of Alabama State, with a shoulder injury; linebacker Steve Savard of Northwest Missouri, with a neck injury; wide receiver Mike Sherrard of UCLA, who suffered a broken leg in training camp; and cornerback John Warren of Virginia, with a knee injury.



TAU KAPPA EPSILON FRATERNITY

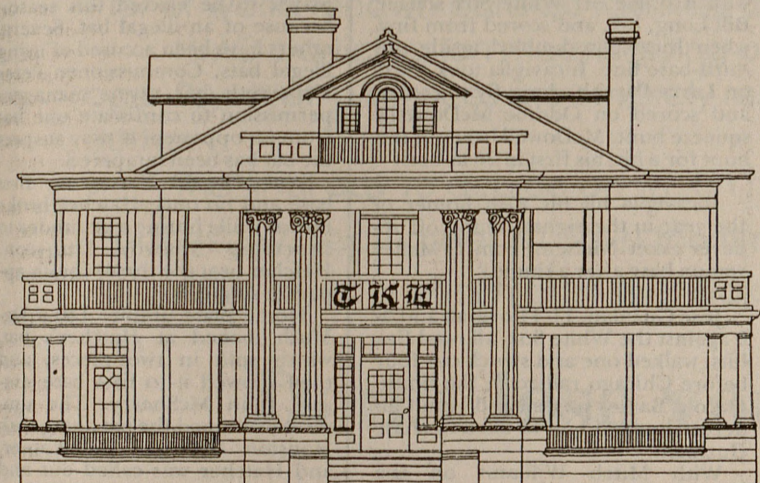
Fall '87 Rush Schedule

TONIGHT SEPTEMBER	2	6:30 P.M. — IFC SMOKER AT RUDDER TOWER
TONIGHT SEPTEMBER	2	9:31 P.M. — Hawaiian Luau with "Self Employed"
FRIDAY SEPTEMBER	4	8:31 P.M. — Black light with "Sneaky Pete and the Neon Madmen"
*MONDAY SEPTEMBER	7	7:31 P.M. — Smoker at Roccas
*WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER	9	8:31 P.M. — Smoker at TKE House
*THURSDAY SEPTEMBER	10	8:31 P.M. — Semi Formal

* Indicates invitation Only

For Information Call
Rush Chmn. Darren Smith
or
President Britt Terrell
at 822-7510

All Parties at TKE House Unless
Noted Otherwise



TKE Tumbler Nights at Roccas
Every Sunday and Monday Night All Semester

Aggie Players
Department of Speech Communication & Theatre Arts
Texas A&M University

A Hilarious Comedy by Sam Bobrick

Free
For TAMU Freshman and
Aggie Players Season Subscribers
SEPTEMBER 3 & 4 8 pm
RUDDER FORUM

Tickets available at Rudder box office
\$4.00 for Students and General Public

If it's
news
to tell... ←

or a
product
to sell... →

it's in
The Battalion