

### 4 Frogs leave Cavs' camp

**From Staff and Wire Reports**  
Four members of last year's Southwest Conference champion Texas Christian basketball team were released from the Cleveland Cavalier camp Thursday.

Carven Holcombe, the 1986-87 SWC Player of the Year, was cut from the National Basketball Association team, along with guards Carl Lott and Harold Jenson and forward Larry Anderson were all cut from the training roster.

In other conference news, Arkansas cut two players from the team, including split end Donnie Centers. Centers and offensive lineman Matt Kingfield were released for undisclosed reasons.

## Stabler drops unshorn look for suit-and-tie job

HOUSTON (AP) — A snake, by instinct, will shed its skin for a new one.

After 15 years as a quarterback in the National Football League, Ken "Snake" Stabler in 1984 shed his scraggly beard and game jerseys for the clean-shaven look, complete with suit and tie.

"I stayed 18 years old for 20 years," Stabler told members of the Touchdown Club of Houston during a recent meeting.

Stabler, known primarily as the quarterback who led the Oakland Raiders to a Super Bowl victory, also played for the Houston Oilers and New Orleans Saints.

Once known for his love of critiquing country music played in bars,

today's Stabler is a family man with a 10-month-old daughter. And he is now a CBS-TV sports analyst, covering NFL games with Jim Lampley.

Stabler seems to have one of those "soft" kind of personalities. Will Rogers and Stabler would have been best friends. Stabler can tell a joke — and take one. This Snake's bite has no venom.

In a Foley, Ala., drawl, he cracked, "I auditioned with CBS and, lo and behold, they must have been hard up for people, so they hired me."

Of the NFL strike, Stabler said, "I finally get a job and then they quit."

Stabler looked snappy, wearing a gray suit and black tie, but the small

Band-Aid on the corner of his left eyebrow and a cut under his left eye made one think of his days of old.

"I came to Houston about three days early for this speaking engagement, and I got hooked up with Gifford Nielsen (ex-Oilers teammate and now the sports director of a Houston television station). We went to Spencer Highway in Pasadena (home of Gilley's nightclub) . . . you can't go anywhere with this guy."

Stabler said he enjoyed his stay in Houston with the Oilers (1980-81).

"I've got a ton of fond memories here. I wish we had had better teams. I wish we would have won for Houston at that point of time. That's what we tried to do."

Stabler liked playing under then-Oilers head coach Bum Phillips.

"The Houston organization made the biggest mistake they ever made in their life — they fired Bum," he said.

"The other guy (Ed Biles) took over, and I couldn't play for him. So I retired. I later came out of retirement and went down to New Orleans and played for Bum.

"Looking back on my career, there was always one thing that stood out — I always played with a great supporting cast. We always found a way to win.

"All the coaches I played for always found a way to win, and it carried over to the players."

After retiring, Stabler felt the

need to remain, somehow, the sport he loved.

"I missed the crowd, the locker room, the players, the scene." He didn't want to spend time that coaching requires, but the other way was to talk the game.

"The thing that got me into the scene again was writing a book (titled "Snake"). I circulated a book tour, and it got me sports writers, other media players that I had played with."

Stabler recalled some memories.

"Earl Campbell was a wonderful football player, a better person than he was a player."



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