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Newton establishes name with All-American abilities

FORT WORTH (AP) — Texas Christian University safety Falanda Newton no longer wants to change his name. He considered it as a youngster because he didn't know what "Falanda" meant, and almost everyone mispronounced it.

Newton is expected to become TCU's first defensive All-American since Bob Lilly in 1960. That's a distinction Newton can identify with.

Never mind that Newton spent years questioning his mother, Lilly, why she named him after a college in Arkansas — Philander Smith.

"I was born in Louisiana," Newton said, laughing. "I've always questioned her about it. I told her I'd change it as soon as I could."

Newton once contemplated using his middle name, but realized he might have even more problems with Anastasia.

"That's even worse," Newton said.

Newton, who played quarterback in high school, finally began accepting his name about the time he switched to defense. He went from option quarterback to defensive back.

It was a much smoother transition than a name change.

Newton was All-Southwest Conference while accumulating 110 tackles and seven interceptions last season and was named a second-team All-American by The Sporting News. He leads a TCU secondary that Coach Jim Wacker calls the most improved aspect of a team that returns seven defensive starters.

"He's our best football player," Wacker said. "I don't have any doubts. He should be an All-American. He's the best we've coached. We've got a bunch in the NFL, and none of them are Falanda Newtons."

Newton doesn't know much about

Lilly, a former All-Pro defensive lineman who was the Dallas Cowboys' first pick of the 1961 NFL draft. Newton said he was surprised to be in the same company as Lilly, a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

"I've met him a couple of times," Newton said. "He's a pretty nice guy. My mom loved him. She was a big fan."

Despite his successful 1987 season, Newton said he needs to improve before the 1989 NFL draft. He said he and former TCU defensive coordinator Rick Johnson talked about his future.

"He put it down on paper," Newton said of Johnson, who was replaced by Marc Dove after the season. "He said, 'From here on, your next 11 games will be the key things to put money in your pocket.' That put it in perspective."

64-year-old hurler still rules softball

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Eddie "The King" Feigner brings a regal nature to softball, a beer-and-shot kind of sport where royalty isn't exactly revered.

Feigner's throne is a bumpy, pebble-strewn mound, many times on a dimly lit Little League field.

But what he does with a softball is purely majestic. At an age when many his age are contemplating retirement options, the 64-year-old Feigner keeps on firing daily.

The paunchy frame and tight crew cut might make him look like a combination of Whitey Herzog and Fred Flintstone, but Feigner can still hurl a softball at speeds of up to 85

mph, making players a third of his age look foolish.

"I'm playing a lot of players who I have played against their fathers and grandfathers," Feigner said during a recent stop in San Antonio.

For the 43rd straight season, "The King and his Court" will trek across the nation, serving as one of the last barnstorming outfits. Their gimmick is simple but appealing.

Feigner's team of four players — a pitcher, catcher, shortstop and first baseman — will play a full squad of opponents and usually end up the victor.

Feigner's team has ventured more

than 4 million miles in search of softball games.

During a recent stop at Lackland AFB, something rare happened to the King's team. They lost.

"Just remember that I could lose 4,700 straight games and still won't have a losing record," he said dryly.

Feigner has won nearly 7,000 decisions during his career. Feigner has struck out 118,000 batters and thrown nearly 1,000 no-hitters. His right arm has thrown millions of pitches.

His career in softball got started after a game in which Feigner's team gave a sound thrashing to a neigh-

Knickerbocker named best rookie

NEW YORK (AP) — Jackson, who set an NBA assist record and helped the New York Knicks to the playoff appearance since was named the league's Rookie of the Year on Tuesday.

The 6-3 guard received 80 votes from a national panel of sports writers and broadcasters.

Jackson, the only unanimous selection to the NBA Team, said winning the award was "a dream come true."

Jackson had 868 assists in the regular season, breaking a record of 690 set by Oscar Robertson in 1961. He ranked in the league with 10.6 assists a game and was sixth in the league with 2.5 steals a game.

The former St. John's player was the Knicks' No. 1 pick in the NBA draft, but the 18th selected overall.

Feigner's fastball still rules softball

boring village. When an ensue, Feigner told his could beat him with three — enough to hit with the load — and proceeded to boast with a no-hitter.

News of Feigner's feat gained the attention of a team in Pendleton, Ore. asked if he could repeat his feat in their town.

"It beats working for a living," Feigner said with a chuckle.

Feigner's fastball was clocked at 100 mph.

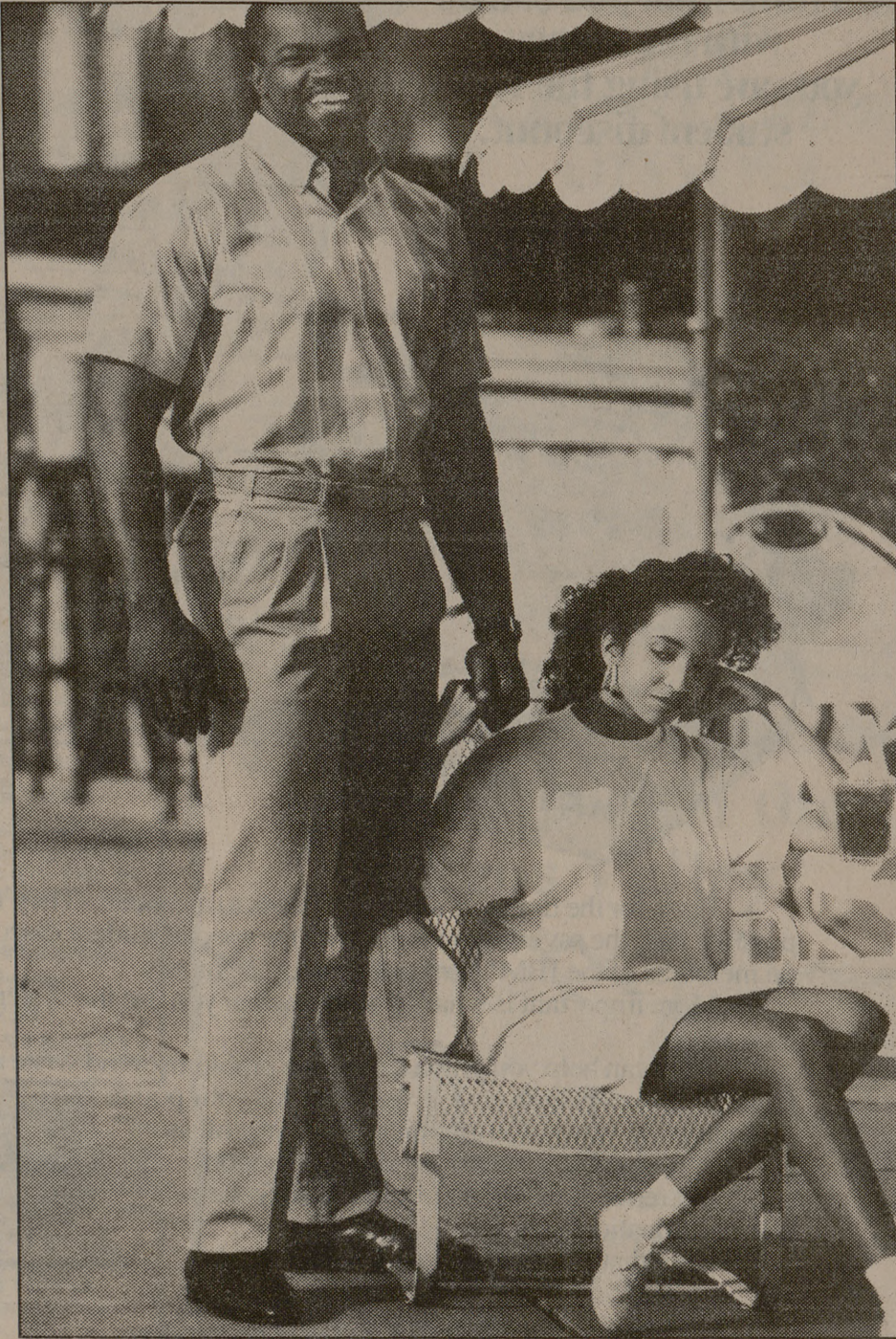
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