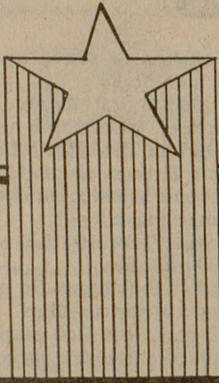


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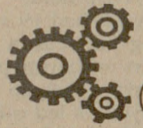
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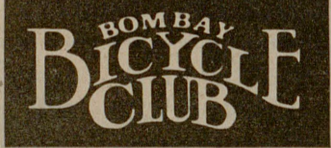
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Kings trade brings Thorpe to Rockets

HOUSTON (AP) - The Houston Rockets, fulfilling new Coach Don Chaney's plea for a power forward, traded Jim Petersen and Rodney McCray to the Sacramento Kings Tuesday in exchange for forward Otis Thorpe.

"When I arrived, I felt the team needed a shooting guard and a power forward," Chaney said. "Otis Thorpe fills the forward spot. He has the potential to become an All-Star."

The Rockets will become more of a running team this season and Thorpe will help with the new style of play, Chaney said.

"We wanted a player that would fit in with our philosophy of the running game and can also be a post-up player," Chaney said. "He and Akeem (Olajuwon) will make us very competitive."

The Rockets had sought a second-round draft pick from the Kings but settled for the straight two-for-one swap.

"I'm not disappointed today," Rockets General Manager Ray Patterson said. "We've been looking for a power forward and there are four or five out there."

Bill Russell, executive vice president of the Kings, said, "We are extremely pleased to have been able to acquire two very good basketball players. Obviously, that has meant that we have had to give up a talented player. Otis is a great

player and most likely will be better with Houston.

"Our two new acquisitions, Rodney and Jim, will help us play the style of basketball that we want to play. They are both experienced pros and having been contributors on the 1986 Western Conference championship team, yet they both have many of their finest years ahead," Russell said.

"They will both be valuable players with this club. We'll be able to establish their positions in about a week," said Kings coach Jerry Reynolds of McCray and Petersen.

Patterson said obtaining Thorpe would give the Rockets more help than the NBA draft.

"I can't see anyone on the horizon as far as the draft is concerned or with other trades," Patterson said.

"You're talking about players like (Roy) Tarpley (Dallas) and Karl Malone (Utah)," Patterson said in comparing Thorpe. "These are players who come along once in a lifetime."

Thorpe, 6-11, 236, is starting his fifth NBA season. He averaged 20.8 points per game last season and 10.2 rebounds and was runner-up the previous year as the league's most improved player.

Thorpe was among five players to average 20 points and 10 rebounds last season. He was 16th in the league in scoring and ninth in rebounding.

Financial problems ax '88 Bluebonnet Bowl

HOUSTON (AP) - The board of directors of the financially strapped Bluebonnet Bowl voted Tuesday to discontinue the 1988 New Year's Eve game and try to restart the game in 1989.

"The feeling of the board is that it would not be practical to play the game this year," Bowl President Al Warrington said after a board meeting. "If a title sponsor appeared and insisted we go on this year, we'd try to do it."

Warrington said, however, it would be difficult to do a good job of organizing the bowl this New Year's Eve.

He said the bowl still had not heard from the NCAA, which is considering decertifying the bowl because it still owes \$400,000 to participating teams from the past two bowl games.

Warrington said there were no negative feedback from the board of directors.

"There was not one negative vote to hang it up," he said. "I think the people went away with the determination to make this thing work. The NCAA is working with us to try to help."

Warrington said the bowl is seeking \$500,000 from perspective sponsors to pay off its debts and to revive the game, which was played in the Astrodome last year.

The bowl also has considered taking on several corporate sponsors. The bowl has a firm commitment for a \$100,000 sponsorship, Warrington said.

"If they were going to have something, they would have it by now," said Bob Minnix, spokesman for the National Collegiate Athletic Association post-season bowl committee, which met in Kansas City Monday and Tuesday. "Waiting until the last minute is the worst thing they could have done."

"You don't walk in at the last minute and get it done. At this point, the Bluebonnet Bowl is whistling in the wind," Minnix said Monday.

The Houston Sports Association, operators of the Astrodome, bailed out the bowl last season when the Texas Longhorns beat Pittsburgh 32-27.

But the game drew only 23,282.

Oakland leaders hope Series boosts city pride

OAKLAND (AP) - When Jose Canseco comes up to bat during the World Series, the hopes of more than Oakland baseball fans will be riding on his performance.

Civic leaders, investors and residents are hoping baseball will do for Oakland what years of community effort and millions of redevelopment dollars have so far failed to do: Make the "other" City by the Bay a bona fide major league town.

Plagued by drug problems, high crime and a local economy that stalled after World War II, Oakland has hovered in the shadow of San Francisco, waiting for years for its moment of glory.

It may finally have arrived.

"It's exciting, everybody's talking about it," said Elva Manuel, a resident of the Acorn Housing Project, a complex plagued by drug-related crime. Like the mayor and other leaders, she hopes the Series will improve the city's image.

"It can't get any worse," she said.

As the national spotlight turns its back on cable cars, the Oakland Chamber of Commerce is hanging banners, wrapping hospitality baskets in green and gold and painting billboards touting the city.

"We've had our problems with drugs and crime, there's no question," acting Chamber president Connie Shapiro said. "But there's been a turnaround."

Mayor Lionel Wilson hopes the World Series will be a "morale builder" for residents, who he said have taken some bashing by the press in the past.

"There's an excitement created by the Oakland A's that's picked up by many people - of all ages ... and all economic levels of the city," he said. "It wasn't there until the last couple of years. You can see it. You can feel it."

Officials expect the World Series to generate at least \$5 million for the city each of the three days that games are played in Oakland, in addition to an estimated \$7 million for the Oakland Coliseum.

But Ed Church, director of program development for the Urban Strategies Council, a community-based advocacy and planning organization, hopes the Series will provide a "psychological boost" for the impoverished residents of the city.

"When people come here from around the country, they're amazed. They find it's a beautiful place, he said."

Richardson

(Continued from page 7)

defense. A&M needed to gain a couple of first downs to run out the clock and preserve the win.

After two running plays had gained four yards, A&M faced a third down, needing six yards to go at the A&M 20.

Richardson sealed the Cougars fate by hitting running back Larry Horton for 8 yards and a first down.

In the Aggies' biggest test of the early conference schedule, Richardson set a personal high for his A&M career for pass completions and attempts and yards. He connected on seven of 12 attempts for 58 yards and added 14 rushes for 63 yards.

Richardson was criticized for his passing performance in the season opener against Nebraska. He threw two interceptions in the 23-14 loss. Richardson said he wants to be-

come an improved passer and isn't sure why he hasn't been more effective over his college career.

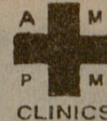
"It's (passing) something I work on everyday," he said. "I really don't know why I haven't done better at it. But I have confidence in my ability, and I'm not counting myself out."

The results of the Houston game may be a sign that his work is starting to pay off.

Even though the running game has been successful lately, Sherrill reiterated at his Tuesday press conference that the Aggies must improve the passing attack in order to win.

As usual, Richardson is looking to play a part in the improvement of that phase of the game.

"It's something that I haven't done much," he said. "But, I haven't given up on myself as a passer."



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