

Wednesday, July 19, 1989

Mets top Astros, 9-0; end three-game slide

NEW YORK (AP) — Sid Fernandez combined with two relievers on a four-hitter and Howard Johnson and Kevin McReynolds homered Tuesday night as the New York Mets beat the Houston Astros 9-0 to stop a three-game losing streak.



The Mets said the injury is not serious.

New York, swept 6-0 and 12-3 by the Astros on Monday night, scored two runs in the first, five in the third, one in the fourth and one in the sixth.

Fernandez, 8-3, won for the fourth time in five decisions and has a 1.43 earned-run average over his last six starts. Jeff Innis allowed one hit in the eighth and Randy Myers pitched a hitless ninth. Bob Forsch, 2-3, gave up six runs, six hits, walked three and struck out one in 2 1/3 innings. Keith Hernandez, who came off the disabled list Thursday after missing 48 games with a fractured kneecap, left with a bruised knee after the fourth inning.

State judge rules in favor of DISD Carter keeps state football title after player eligibility dispute

AUSTIN (AP) — A state district judge ruled Tuesday that the state education commissioner cannot interfere in a local grading dispute in a case that involved the eligibility of a player on the 1988 5A championship football team.

Judge Paul Davis Jr., in a letter to attorneys in the case, said Texas Education Commissioner William Kirby acted improperly in finding that then-senior running back Gary Edwards had failed a class.

The finding would have made Carter's football team ineligible for the championship, because a student who fails is not eligible to play.

"This court finds that it was improper for the state commissioner of education to set the grade for an individual student in an individual class," Davis wrote. "The decision of the commissioner of education is reversed and rendered in favor of Dallas Independent School District."

The "proper inquiry" by the commissioner "should be whether the school abused its discretion in setting the grade," Davis said.

"As far as Carter High School youngsters and patrons, they will not have to forfeit their championship,"

said Bill Farney, University Interscholastic League athletic director.

"For the (Texas Education Agency), it means that the complications or implications still exist that each principal can determine his own grading methods. . . it weakens the education reform movements begun by House Bill 72."

Attorney Lucius D. Bunton, who represented the University Interscholastic League in the case, said he spoke to Kirby and that the commissioner planned to appeal the ruling.

If it stands, the ruling would gut the state's no-pass, no-play rule, Bunton said. The rule, which prohibits students who fail a class from participating in extracurricular activities, is a key part of massive education reforms approved by lawmakers in House Bill 72 in 1984.

Kirby said he believes the Dallas district did abuse its discretion in changing the failing grade.

"My ruling was that the Carter principal did abuse his discretion by altering the grades in the first place, without even seeing the assignments in dispute," Kirby said.

But Davis said, "There was no evidence presented to this court that

the principal had affixed the grades by fraud, by improper motive, or by considering any facts other than the appropriateness of the grades."

DISD attorney Margaret A. Cooper argued the ruling would have "no effect" on the no-pass, no-play rule.

"The court specifically found here that the principal did not change grades by the use of fraud, improper motive or abuse of discretion," Cooper said.

But Dallas billionaire Ross Perot, who chaired the Select Committee on Public Education that proposed the 1984 reforms, blasted Davis' ruling.

"Tremendous forces work to get the money for education in this state, yet there is not one single lobby to make sure a child learns and make sure he or she becomes competitive as an adult," Perot said.

DISD Superintendent Marvin Edwards said local administrators need control of the schools.

"Principals have to feel that they are in charge of their schools and have some authority to administer the schools in a reasonable fashion," said Edwards, who is not related to

the football player.

The ruling boosted spirits for backers of the south Dallas school, beset recently by the arrest of 10 current or former students, including Gary Edwards, on robbery charges.

The player's attorney, Royce West, said Davis' ruling wouldn't affect the criminal charges that his client and Derric Evans, Carter All-America defensive back, pleaded guilty to on Friday.

"This is part of an ongoing saga of (Edwards') life. . . and fortunately this part has ended on a happy note," West said.

The attorney said Edwards was "happy that he's finally been vindicated. . . regarding that he passed six weeks of algebra."

Later Tuesday, however, the University of Houston said Edwards' football scholarship had been canceled because of the criminal charges.

The grading case arose after state investigators, acting on an anonymous tip, found that Edwards received a zero in an algebra class for a six-week grading period ending in October.

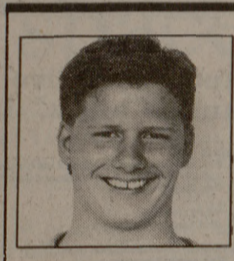
Don't be misled by SWC rankings; Aggs can win it all in '89

Have you picked up any of the college football preview magazines lately? If you have, then you probably noticed that the Aggies were not picked to win the Southwest Conference in most of them.

Actually, I'm elated that the Aggies were picked to finish in the middle of the pack this year. How can you blame these "experts?" The football program was rocked with scandals this past season. A&M has a new head coach. They lost some quality starters, including John Roper.

So why am I so happy? Mainly because I know that these "expert" predictions are based on the previous year. If you don't believe me, check out who's number one in most of them — those good 'ol leprechauns from Notre Dame. Then look at Arkansas, supposed to win the SWC. You could say it's absolute "hogwash."

So what makes me so sure? I'm no prophet. But I do have enough common sense to know that it takes a little more than a top ranking in a magazine to win in



Robbie Scichili
Sports Writer

The Aggies have a favorable schedule. Actually, you probably couldn't ask for a better one.

A&M plays most of their tough games at home — Arkansas, Houston and Texas. The road schedule has the Aggies playing at Baylor, Texas Tech and TCU.

Arkansas has a bumpy road ahead of them. They play at A&M, TCU and Texas Tech. The Razorbacks have a tendency to play badly away from home, and if it comes down to A&M vs. Arkansas for the title, the Hogs will have the impossible task of winning on Kyle Field.

Another key to winning an SWC championship is quality players and a hungry attitude. A&M has both this year.

Everyone is expecting Darren Lewis to carry the offense. He has been mentioned in many Heisman Trophy candidate discussions and has some pressure on him because of it. The one player who will make Lewis' season a good one is Lance Pavlas.

You remember him — the quarterback with the great reputation coming out of

high school. Pavlas hid in the shadows during the 1988 season and didn't get much playing time behind Bucky Richardson and Chris Osgood. The fact is that Pavlas is a better all-around quarterback than Richardson or Osgood.

Now that's no knock against either of these quarterbacks. They are both quality players. But with Richardson's status a question mark, Pavlas has the arm that A&M desperately needs.

If Pavlas performs to his ability, it will open up Lewis' running game to the point that A&M's offense will be almost unstoppable.

For the past two years, the Aggies depended on their running game to make their offense go.

This year, head coach R.C. Slocum has brought in Bob Toledo from Oregon as offensive coordinator. Toledo has the reputation of having a quality passing attack to compliment the running game.

As far as defense goes, don't expect any changes. After all, Slocum was defensive

coordinator before his promotion to head coach. Aaron Wallace is a first team All-American linebacker who should have another fine season. He is currently five and a half sacks away from breaking the A&M career record.

Slocum has stated that he will keep the 12th Man Kick-off Team alive. He has always shown a love for A&M and for the people that make it great. He will show that this year.

Slocum is not being paid more than the president of A&M. Slocum doesn't want to be bigger than the program. The players like him and will be willing to work hard for him. He wants to be part of the team — a motivator with a winning style.

This is the year that the Aggies bounce back. The Twelfth Man will be louder than ever. The black cloud of probation is no longer a concern. Expect the Aggies to be pickin' cotton in January. And for those of you who have lost count — it will be six in a row over Texas on December 2.

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