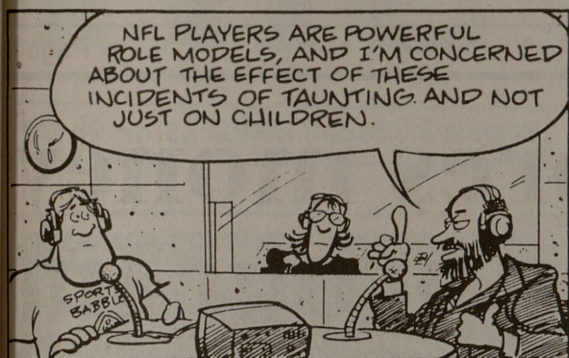


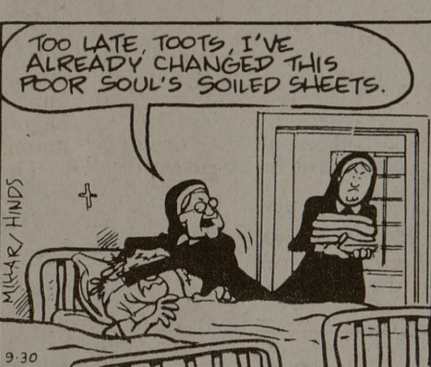
TANK McNAMARA®

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



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Game

(Continued from page 9)

watched linemen Mike Arthur, Richmond Webb and Mike Pappas spend three days after each game away from practice due to injuries.

They would sit out, get taped up and practice on Thursday, play Saturday and spend the next week hurt again.

Along with a healthy offensive line, Slocum will be able to field the defensive backfield that was touted at the beginning of the season as A&M's strongest in years.

The week off gave starting strong safety Gary Jones, who had been plagued with a pulled groin injury, time to recover for Saturday's game.

With a healthy line and a strong passing game from junior quarterback Lance Pavlas, the Aggies finally should be able to open up a little running room for Darren Lewis.

But don't count on the Eagles to just roll over and play dead because they are 1-3.

Southern Mississippi is armed with Brett Favre, a 19-year-old ju-

nior and Heisman Trophy candidate, at quarterback.

Favre is known for his ability to throw on the run and can be deadly accurate.

Slocum expects the Eagles to run a similar type of offense that Washington used so well in their 19-6 victory over A&M three weeks ago.

"They will run an I-formation offense," Slocum said. "Favre will throw quick, short route passes and take away our defense's blitzing ability — they will look a lot like Washington."

Southern Mississippi will also be hindered by a grueling travel schedule.

The Eagles will leave Hattiesburg, Miss. Friday morning by bus, and arrive in New Orleans two hours later. From New Orleans, they will fly into Houston and leave by bus for Huntsville, where they'll spend the night.

The Eagles finally will arrive in College Station on Saturday for the game.

Hallman, a Texas A&M graduate and former player, will return to Kyle Field for the first time since he left in 1987. Hallman left A&M in 1987 to take over the head coaching job in Southern Mississippi.

The Aggies will look to extend their dominance over the Golden

Eagles this Saturday. A&M has won all three career games against Southern Mississippi. The Eagles are 0-5 versus Southwest Conference teams.

The last time A&M and Southern Mississippi met was in Hattiesburg during the 1987 season. Hallman faced his alma mater for the first time as the Eagles' head coach.

In what was later to be known as "The Curse of the Big Play" game, the Aggies beat the Eagles 27-14. The Aggies scored three touchdowns on big plays by three freshmen.

The first big play score came on a 69-yard screen pass from Lance Pavlas to freshman fullback Matt Gurler.

Next, freshman running back Darren Lewis exploded for a 77-yard touchdown in the third quarter. The last of the big plays came from quarterback Bucky Richardson. Richardson scored on an 82-yard third-and-13 play with just eight minutes to go in the game.

Slocum announced on Tuesday that Richardson had been redshirted for the 1989 season. Richardson injured his knee last November against Texas and hasn't fully recovered from off-season surgery. He'll return next year as a fourth-year junior.

Aging boxers Foreman, Cooney come to terms on January fight

NEW YORK (AP) — George Foreman vs. Gerry Cooney: It's billed as "The Preacher vs. The Puncher," and the winner talks dreamily of a shot at Mike Tyson.

Would either have a prayer? "I want to win the world championship by the time I'm 42," said Foreman, the 40-year-old Texan who is 19-0 since leaving the pulpit for his improbable comeback. Then I'll retire and come back again at 52."

"I think there are a couple of fights out there for me," said Cooney, 33, who has not fought since 1987 and only eight times in the 1980s. "Evander Holyfield, Mike Tyson. All I know is I like being where I am right now."

Foreman and Cooney meet in a scheduled 10-round Jan. 15 at the Atlantic City Convention Center as part of a Top Rank Inc. and Caesars Atlantic City promotion. Each is expected to earn at least \$1.2 million.

"This is the fight that everybody is talking about," Top Rank president Bob Arum said.

It's a fight that probably should have been made a decade earlier, though. The talk would have been a little more brisk. Foreman had been retired for just two years then, and Cooney was 22-0 with 18 knockouts, a real comer.

Now, it's just a curiosity. "I'm not fighting Gerry Cooney," Foreman said at a news conference Thursday, looking a little round but planning to come in at around 250. "I'm fighting time. He's 33. He's just a kid to me. I'm going to be the oldest heavyweight champion of the world."

"If Gerry Cooney knocks me down, I'm going to grab him by the trunks and pull him down because I want to be heavyweight champion of the world."

Foreman won the world heavyweight championship on Jan. 22,

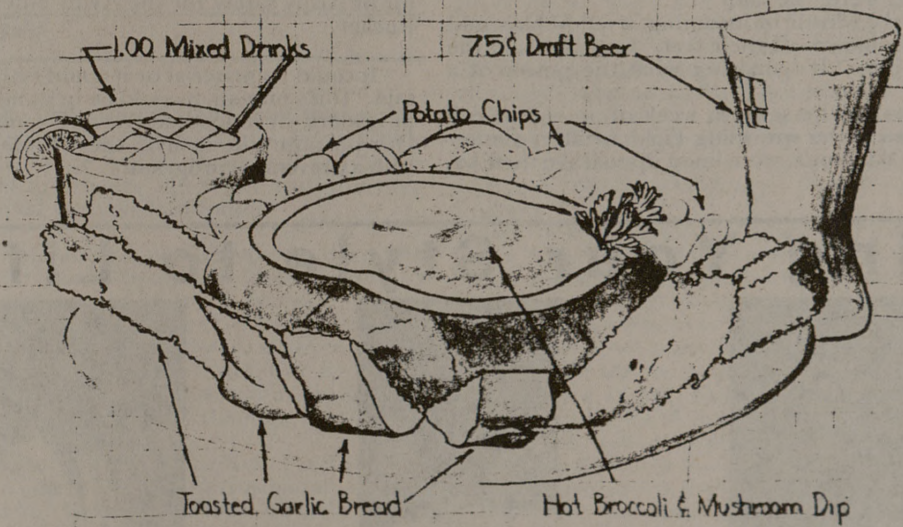
1973 by stopping Joe Frazier in the second round in Kingston, Jamaica, and held it until Oct. 30, 1974 when he was knocked out in eight rounds by Muhammad Ali in Kinshasa, Zaire. His record is 64-2 with 60 knockouts.

Cooney's last fight was a fifth-round knockout loss to Michael Spinks on June 15, 1987 in Atlantic City. He fought for the World Boxing Council title on June 11, 1982 when he was stopped in 13 rounds by Larry Holmes. Between the Holmes and Spinks fights, he boxed just three times while being totally inactive in 1983 and 1985.

In the meantime, fight people were beginning to question his desire, and there were drug and alcohol problems.

"I'm at peace with some of the things that happened in my turbulent life," Cooney said. "There was always a lot of confusion in what was happening to me."

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