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## A&I's Bailey breaks Dorsett's career mark

EDMOND, Okla. (AP) — The pursuit of his boyhood idol's NCAA career rushing record is over. Now Texas A&I tailback Johnny Bailey just wants a return to normalcy.

"This record is something great to me, it means a lot," Bailey said Saturday night. "But as I leave this room, I want everything to end about this record. I want more people coming to me talking about the team, not just Johnny Bailey."

Trouble is, people are likely to keep talking about him as he continues through his senior season. His 172 rushing yards Saturday night against Central State gave him 6,085 for his career, eclipsing the record of 6,082 Tony Dorsett set at Pittsburgh from 1973-76.

Bailey also caught two passes for 60 yards in the Javelinas' 41-0 victory, giving him 232 yards of total offense. He has 7,506 all-purpose yards in his career, 117 shy of the record held by Kenny Gamble of Colgate.

Whether Bailey can move closer to that mark this week is uncertain. He sprained his right knee on the carry prior to his record-breaker and met the media afterward wearing a brace.

Neither Bailey nor Coach Ron Harms thought the injury was severe.

"A lot of it's up to Johnny," Harms said. "I'd say he might be out a week. I'd be surprised if it was more than that."

Bailey carried 16 times for 88 yards and two touchdowns in the first half as A&I, ranked second in NCAA Division II, took a 14-0 halftime lead. Then he went 49 yards for a touchdown on the Javelinas' first possession of the second half, leaving him 33 yards short of Dorsett's mark.

"That got him so close, it was something that was within our realm

of possibility," Harms. "It would be senseless to drag that thing out for another week."

"He needed to get it done, and we could go on to other things."

Bailey carried five times for 18 yards on the next possession, capping the drive with his fourth touchdown, a 3-yarder.

"I knew I was getting closer and closer by the way the coaches were calling the plays," Bailey said. "Every other play they were calling my play, and I felt it was getting closer and closer."

On the Javelinas' next possession, Bailey carried for 5 and 8 yards. He banged his right knee on the 8-yarder.

"When I came out, the coach wanted to keep me out," he said. "But it was just 2 yards (to break the record), and I said 'No coach, I want to go on in there right now.'"

So he returned, and quarterback Rod Brown called the play — I Left 48 Sweep. Bailey took the pitch around the right side and gained 4 yards before being pushed out of bounds 3:05 left in the third quarter.

The public address announcer told the crowd of 3,300 what Bailey had done. His teammates swarmed Bailey, then lifted him to their shoulders.

Breaking the record against Division II competition does not diminish the accomplishment in Bailey's eyes.

"I don't care what anyone says," he said. "I think if you have the heart and the ability to do what you can do, you can accomplish these things anywhere."

And what would he say to Dorsett, the player he most admired while growing up in Houston?

"Just 'It's been great. Sorry I had to do it, but records are made to be broken,'" Bailey said.

## 'The Great Gretzky' eyes next NHL record

EDMONTON, Alberta (AP) — Wayne Gretzky holds 51 NHL records. There's at least one to go.

Gretzky, who became hockey's all-time leading scorer Sunday night, still trails three people on the all-time goals list. It's only a matter of until the Great One gets that record, too.

"He could get another one thousand points," Edmonton Oilers owner Peter Pocklington said after Gretzky broke Gordie Howe's record of 1,850 points, leading Los Angeles to a movie-script 5-4 overtime victory over Edmonton.

"If there is a hockey god," Pocklington said, "he was smiling on Wayne tonight."

Gretzky broke the record against his former team, in the building where he led them to four Stanley Cup titles in nine seasons.

The sellout crowd in the Northlands Coliseum chanted his name throughout the third period, wanting to see the historic point.

His goal tied the game with 53 seconds remaining in regulation and he scored the game-winner with 1:36 left in overtime.

"I said to tie it, get one point so the Edmonton fans can share it with the L.A. fans," said Gretzky's wife, the actress Janet Jones. "He said, 'Janet, if I got one point tonight, it means I didn't play that well.'"

Gretzky has played 780 games and gotten three points 58 times, four points 90 times and five points 58 times. He has 642 career goals and a all-time leading 1,210 assists.

The goals record is the only one that eludes him. He's in fourth place, trailing Howe (801), Marcel Dionne (731) and Phil Esposito (717). Howe doesn't mind losing his records to Gretzky.

"I think because of our friendship he felt bad breaking it," Howe said. "He had to do it to keep his job. He can't go the whole season without scoring any points."

"We came from an... expansion organization that went on to win four Stanley Cups," said Mark Messier, who succeeded Gretzky as the Edmonton captain. "He had a big part of it. No one here is ever going to forget it... or him."

## Cowboys' Irvin out for year; Burton cut

IRVING (AP) — Dallas wide receiver Michael Irvin, who was injured in the third quarter of Sunday's 31-14 loss to San Francisco will miss the rest of the season because of ligament damage, the Cowboys said Monday.

Irvin, who was the Cowboys first-round draft pick last year, will undergo surgery on his right knee later this week, officials said.

The former University of Miami standout finishes the season averaging 14.5 yards per catch. Irvin has 26

receptions for 378 yards and two touchdowns.

Last year, Irvin had 32 receptions and five touchdowns. He averaged 20.4 yards per catch.

Linebacker Ron Burton, who started three games this season, was released on Monday. Burton had 14 tackles and one interception this season.

He was obtained as a free agent in 1987.

## UIL looks into forming 'super' 5A classification

AUSTIN (AP) — The ruling body for Texas high schools on Monday declared a proposal to hold all state football championships at the same site "a dead issue," but kept alive the possibility of a new Class 5A playoff structure that would result in a new "super" 5A classification.

The possibility of splitting the largest 5A playoff qualifiers into a separate playoff of their own should be placed before high school superintendents on a referendum ballot, the Legislative Council of the University Interscholastic League decided Monday.

The 24-member Legislative Council of high school administrators declined to send the "Big Class

5A" plan straight to the State Board of Education.

The Big 5A plan, presented by the Northside School District of San Antonio, calls for the top three finishers in each of the state's 32 Class 5A districts to enter the playoffs.

But the school in each district with the highest enrollment would go into a 32-team Big 5A bracket, with the two others advancing in order of finish to the current 64-team playoff.

The UIL has encountered enrollment problems in Class 5A for some time, and there is a proposal under study to create a 6A classification. The 250 5A schools range in enrollment from 1,470 to over 4,000.



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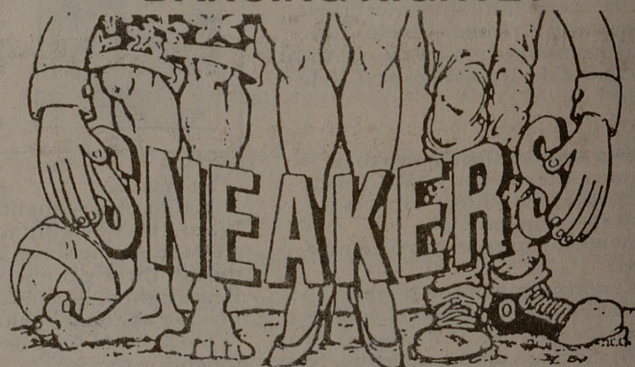
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