

# NFL adds wildcard teams

NEW YORK (AP) — The NFL cided on Thursday to add two nore wild-card teams to its playoffs, move designed to bring in more vision money and streamline the mewhat Byzantine tiebreaking sys-

The dramatic change in the playfsystem, to begin next season, was mounced at the same time the FL reached agreement with ABC new contract that will net it ose to \$1 billion over four years. It ill mean that 12 of the 28 teams will

ow make it to the post-season. Network sources said the two new off teams were added as part of he ABC package after the network manded something extra in addion to Monday night games and one uper Bowl for the price, estimated tslightly over \$900 million.

The NFL already has reached greement on cable contracts with SPN at TBS for \$450 million each, heaning it already has nearly \$2 bil-

qualifies Lutz

The Texas A&M men's swim-

ming team qualified its first per-son for the NCAA Swimming and Diving Championships Thursday at the SWC tourney in Austin.

Freshman Steve Lutz recorded

a school record 1:48.64 in the 200

Individual Medley. He beat the

existing record by more than two seconds, and beat the NCAA

qualifying time by more than a

A&M is in fourth place after the first day of competition.

in 200 IM

lion worth of contracts while nego-tiations with NBC and CBS con-

"Additional television revenue was an obvious factor," NFL spokesman Joe Browne said.

"But many clubs had also expressed interest in adding teams. Some suggested we break all ties with games on wild-card weekend. This accomplishes the goal of adding new teams without diminishing the importance of regular-season

And commissioner Paul Tagliabue said of the new format:

"We expect the two new firstround playoff games to create added competition and excitement around the league.'

The move comes a week after another groundbreaking revenue-producing step, the expansion of the season to 17 weeks in 1990 and 18 weeks after that.

Under that change, each team will Tagliabue said.

weeks off in the following years with the extra week between the championship games and Super Bowl eliminated for 1990.

But while each team will continue to play 16 regular-season games, the networks will get additional weeks of NFL football, meaning more advertising revenue for television and more money for the NFL.

The new agreement with ABC nearly doubles the network's payments — from \$120 million a year under the old agreement to \$225 million under the new one. It also nearly ensures that the basic overthe-air format will remain the same -with CBS and NBC carrying Sun-

This expanded agreement with ABC sports indicates our satisfaction with their award winning presenta-tion to viewers for two decades,"

### Love Raffle Ag swim team

people to come out to the game.
"I was sitting at breakfast one morning when he came up to me and said, 'Hey Joe, what about if we have a 'Win a Date with Joe Deegan Raffle?'

Deegan just stared at his coach, wondering if Thornton was under too much strain.

'What are you talking about coach?" Deegan asked.

Thornton then relayed his wife's idea, and Deegan fell in love with the

That is until things got rolling. Fliers were distributed around campus, and the contest was announced at A&M home games. "I said 'sure', but I didn't expect all the fliers and stuff," Deegan said. Still, Deegan was willing to do his realized with the amount of playing time he was getting, it was the only

This is going to be a blind, blind date," Deegan said. "The way I look at it, my playing time's been a little

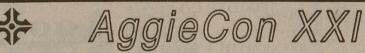
Fliers litter the campus and newspapers carry the story of the sophomore guard who is being raffled off to love-hungry women. Joe's got the publicity he asked for.

(Continued from page 9)

part for the team and he also way he was going to get a little

publicity. limited, but if I can't get any, I might as well get a little publicity."

The question is, can he handle it?



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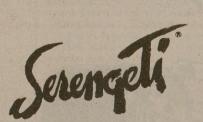
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