

Rozier becomes a Falcon

HOUSTON (AP) — Running back Mike Rozier, waived by the Houston Oilers on Tuesday, was reunited with his former coach on Wednesday when he was claimed by the Atlanta Falcons.



Mike Rozier

Rozier was claimed only hours after he said goodbye to his former team mates and joked that he wouldn't be out of work very long. "I'll probably be working by tomorrow," he said. Although Rozier said the Los Angeles Rams and Cleveland had expressed interest in signing him, he preferred to play for the Falcons,

now run by former Houston coach Jerry Glanville. "I'd like to go down with Jerry since I know the offense and I know Jerry," Rozier said before leaving. "It won't take too long to adjust to the offense. I can fit in and play this week if necessary." Rozier led the Oilers in rushing four straight years and made the Pro Bowl in 1987 and 1988. But he was the odd man out in the Oilers' new run-and-shoot offense that employs one running back. He gained a career-low 301 yards last season after missing training camp as a contract holdout and undergoing knee surgery. Oilers general manager Mike Holovak said he released Rozier when he couldn't make a trade for the former Heisman Trophy winner from

Nebraska. Rozier said he understood. "It wasn't any bad feelings, it's business," Rozier said. "You've got to be prepared to go anywhere in the NFL. That's life. It doesn't bother me." "It's a great organization and I have nothing to say bad about it. I came here in style and I'll leave in style." Rozier had 10 carries for 42 yards this season as the starting running back job went to Lorenzo White with Allen Pinkett as the backup. But Rozier said he had mixed feelings about leaving. "I couldn't leave without saying good bye to all my boys," Rozier said. "It was like a little family-type thing, so I had to come over and say good-bye to them."

Pirates, Reds start series familiar with each other

CINCINNATI (AP) — Forget about home-field advantage for the National League playoffs and throw out post-season experience. The Cincinnati Reds and Pittsburgh Pirates have little of that. Head-to-head results? Dead even. It's hard to find an advantage for either team as the NL playoffs begin Thursday at Riverfront Stadium, and they kind of like it that way. "It's not going to be a thing about matchups or this strength

against that weakness," Pittsburgh's Bobby Bonilla said. "It's just going to be two teams going after each other. It's going to be a lot of fun." They split their season series 6-6 up on each other. The Pirates came to Cincinnati in mid-August and put together their first-ever four-game series sweep at Riverfront. The next weekend, the Reds took three of four in Pittsburgh. They proved something to each other: neither team can feel dominant in its home park.

McGee wins NL batting title in absentia

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Willie McGee won his second National League batting title while Rickey Henderson failed to win the American League crown, as the AL West champion Oakland Athletics lost to the California Angels 11-6 Wednesday. John Orton and Max Venable drove in two runs apiece in a seven-run fourth inning. Henderson, who needed to go 3-for-3 or 4-for-5 to catch George Brett for the AL League batting title, had one hit in three at-bats before leaving the game after four innings. Brett edged Henderson .329 to .325. McGee didn't play but won his second batting title because his .335 NL average was frozen when St. Louis traded him on Aug. 28.

Fielder

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Fielder, who walked and lined out in his first two at-bats, sent a 2-1 pitch from New York Yankees rookie Steve Adkins off the facade of the upper-deck in left field. He took four steps out of the batter's box, watched to see if the ball would hook foul, and when it didn't, he began jumping up and down and pumping both fists in the air. The two-run homer put Detroit ahead 6-0 and gave Fielder 129 RBIs. He leads the majors in homers and runs batted in. Fielder had gone 2-for-21 since his last home run. His longest drought of the year without a homer was 45 at-bats. Fielder went 0-for-4 in each of the first two games of the season-ending series at Yankee Stadium. He struck out five times, increasing his major

league-leading total to 181, popped out twice and grounded to the mound. Of the last five players to hit 50 home runs, four were later named Most Valuable Player. The only one who missed out was Mantle, who hit 54 homers to Maris' record 61 in 1961 in the home run race between Yankee teammates. For the second straight game, Tigers manager Sparky Anderson moved Fielder from the third spot in the lineup to second, hoping to get him an extra at-bat. Fielder drew a walk in a four-run first, capped by Gary Ward's grand slam, and lined out to left in the second. The historic homer was the third given up by Adkins in 24 innings. Fielder, 27, finished far ahead in the race for the home-run title.

Wudel

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the sports section. The games are there every weekend. They are spread across a seven hour period of the day, and leave the viewers strung out with a mild case of indigestion from the garlic pizza and flat beer that was finished off earlier in the third quarter. Studying is out of the question at this point. Monday rolls around. You just finished a long day of classes, the ones you were supposed to have read a multitude of chapters for but just couldn't find the time. You eat a little supper and sit down just in time to watch Monday Night Football. Suddenly the good angel appears above you and gives you the "priorities" speech. Then the bad angel appears, and refutes that theory with the "you only live once" argument. This is one of life's more difficult decisions.


Lady Aggs

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The Lady Aggies made a habit out of killing balls into the bodies of the Owl defenders in the second game. Rice finally was able to get on the scoreboard when the Owls' Nicole Varber blocked an Aggie kill and made the score 7-1. But the Aggies continued to roll in the game, leaving the Rice defense off balance. Michalke again finished the game for the Aggies, this time with a booming kill. A&M continued to have problems finishing off its opponent in the third game. The Owls' Tricia Bowen, a 6-4 senior, finally started making her presence felt by blocking A&M shots and adding kills. Rice held serve for six points to grab an 11-4 lead before Hierholzer's kill gave the Aggies their seventh point. An Aggie kill went long and Rice pulled out the third game. Rice's Bowen continued to keep the Owls in the match. But Michalke

again came off the bench to fire off booming serves that threw the Owl defense off balance and gave the momentum back to the Lady Aggies. A&M ran off the last five points to end the fourth game and the match. Michalke's supporting role was a boost for the Lady Aggies in the match. She had four kills in seven attempts, but her serves kept the Rice defense in check when A&M needed it. "Sometimes it's on, sometimes it's not," Michalke said when explaining her serve. "Luckily tonight it was on." Michalke said the Lady Aggies' victory let the Southwest Conference know the A&M team is for real. "We scared Rice. They don't know what hit them," she said. Hermesmeier said the win is a boost for the team, as it continues conference play in Houston tomorrow against the Cougars. The match will begin at 7 p.m. at Hofheinz Pavilion. "It was a great start to conference play," Hermesmeier said. "I felt good, we all did ... and we're looking forward to playing Houston Friday."

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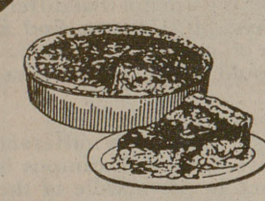
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