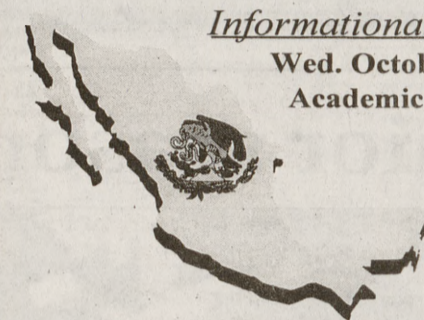


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**Cowboys cut former A&M star Roper**

The Associated Press

IRVING, Texas — Linebacker John Roper discovered Monday that taking a nap during film sessions can be hazardous to your employment with the Dallas Cowboys.

Coach Jimmy Johnson cut the fifth-year linebacker from Texas A&M, who was obtained from Chicago earlier in the season in a trade for veteran linebacker Vinson Smith.

"John didn't fit in," said Johnson. "He's a good football player and has the ability to make plays but we expect certain things from our players. The chemistry on this team is very important."

Johnson said he tried to trade Roper but wasn't able to do so.

"Roper came to us late and maybe he didn't know what to expect. He was at a disadvantage," Johnson said.

"I guess Chicago got the best of the trade. Vinson Smith is starting and Dave Wannstedt is happy. We get a minus on this one."

Linebacker Godfrey Myles will be activated from the injured reserve to replace Roper.

**NCAA**

Continued from Page 1

scheme from proper A&M authorities.

In the report, Cassidy was stated to have been contacted by Weldon Jaynes, a representative of the university's athletics interests and employer of student-athletes at the Priester Supply Company in Arlington, Texas.

Jaynes reportedly told Cassidy that Gilbert was employing two A&M football players at the same time Jaynes was employing them.

Jaynes was stated to have informed Cassidy in the spring of 1992 before the Gilbert scandal erupted in December from a story published by The Dallas Morning News.

Cassidy reportedly did not inform then-athletic director John David Crow or intercollegiate athletic compliance director Tedi Za-

lesky, the proper authorities overseeing possible infractions.

The report stated that Cassidy may be subject to penalties and requested that Cassidy be present at the November meeting along with Zalesky, athletic director Wally Groff, Vice President for Finance and Administration Robert Smith, and head football coach R. C. Slocum.

Groff said A&M has been assisting the NCAA on a daily basis to cooperate with the investigation and said that A&M had expected the allegations.

"I don't think we were surprised — maybe a little disappointed, but it was pretty much what we had expected," Groff said.

Groff said getting the situation resolved was a high priority for the University because of the damage sustained to A&M's image and its recruiting program.

"We know of a couple of kids that we felt like we lost pending the investigation," Groff said. "We know it didn't help."

**Williams fined, criticized by Oilers for missing game to see son's birth**

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — It cost David Williams at least \$125,000 to witness the birth of his first child, but the Houston Oilers' starting offensive lineman wouldn't have missed it for the world.

Instead, Williams missed the Oilers' 28-14 victory over New England Sunday to be with his wife, Debi, as she gave birth to 9-pound, 15-ounce Scot Cooper in Houston Saturday evening.

The event caused Williams to miss the team charter, and he said he was unable to catch a later flight because the Boston airport was fogged in.

Oilers general manager Mike Holovak, offensive coordinator Kevin Gilbride and offensive line coach Bob Young all said they were upset by Williams' choice of family over football.

Holovak said Williams would lose a week's pay (\$125,000), face a fine and a possible suspension.

"He doesn't make \$125,000 a week to stay home and watch television," Young said. "They ought to suspend him for a week, maybe two."

But Leigh Steinberg, Williams' attorney, said the Oilers have never actually notified Williams that he is being fined \$125,000, or another amount.

"We fully assume that Dave will be paid for Sunday's game; he wasn't paid, we would file an immediate grievance to have him paid," Steinberg said.

Steinberg continued to say that Williams' wife has had a history of miscarriage and difficulties with pregnancy — one in August 1992.

Williams said the decision was easy for him.

"I don't regret what I've done. I wanted to be there for my child to be born and I was going to stay there until he was," Williams said. "I'm sorry they can't accept that. Whatever the fine, it's more well spent."

The Oilers denied the claim made any attempt to keep Williams from being present during Scot's birth.

"There is a misconception that the club expected David to miss the birth of his child," Oilers spokesman Chip Namias said. "We did hope that as soon as everything was fine, he would join the team in Boston."

**Chelkowski**

Continued from Page 5

new son, but a game.

Hello? Excuse me, but football? Granted, football may put food on the Williams' table, but will it be there for richer and poorer, through sickness and health, 'til death do them part? This may be just a little presumptuous, but probably not. What will football be to Williams in twenty years but some trophies, newspaper clippings and an old jersey.

This was a one-time thing. He can always play another game but will never see his son being born again.

Although family values may be a subject that has been beaten to death in this country, it does have a time and place and for Williams, this was it.

Williams stayed with his wife because, as he said, his "family comes first."

There was reason to be especially concerned with the birth since his wife, Debi, lost their first baby to a miscarriage — increasing his need to be with her. If anything would have happened to the baby or his wife, the Oilers would have found themselves in a public relations hell-on-earth.

Actually, it wouldn't be surprising if the Oilers were already on their way to one right now with some of the comments that were made on Sunday.

Oilers general manager Mike Holovak, the offensive coordinator Kevin Gilbride and the offensive line coach Bob Young all expressed their disapproval with Williams' decision. Young was the most vocal.

"Shoot, I had a baby when I was playing," he said.

That would have been a sight to see.

"My wife told me she was having a baby, and I said, 'Honey, I've got to go play a football game.'"

Now that's a noble statement, coach. When it comes time for the hardest part, he's gone to play a game. His wife should have said, "Honey, I hope the couch is comfortable."

Then, Young tried to compare apples with oranges.

"Everybody wants to be with his wife, but that's like if World War II was going on and you said, 'I can't go fly. My wife's having a baby.'"

A world war and football.....Ah, sure, they're on the same level.

The two are not comparable. Fighting in a war means defending our country and our freedom. A football game is entertainment, hence the name-game.

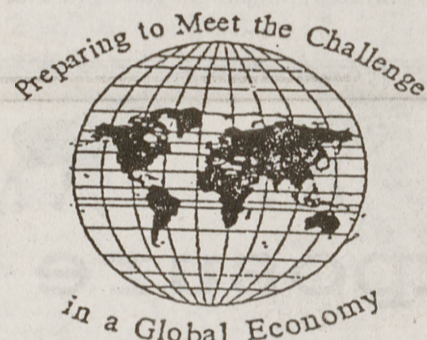
It is simply amazing how insensitive people have become taking things that put meaning into life and ripping it out in place of something superficial and trivial. And it's not just the Oilers' coaching staff. It's everywhere.

Regardless, what's done is done and Williams will have to suffer the consequences the Oilers decide to hand down.

Don't feel sorry for the Williams family, though. They may walk away with less cash, but they gain something a little more special — their first child.

Save your pity for the coaching staff who see life as a play sheet and beauty as a debilitating tackle. A piece of pigskin and two metal posts is hardly what life is all about.

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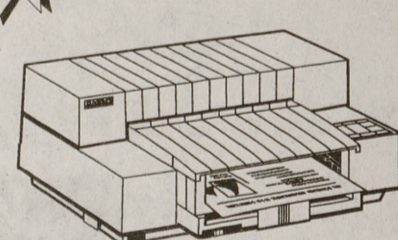
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