

Houston goes back to the basics in draft

Nick Georgandis

Sportswriter



Before bounding energetically off to my classes on Tuesday morning, I decided to grab a quick glance at the sports page of my hometown paper to see what crop of no-names the Houston Oilers had rounded up in this year's edition of the NFL draft.

Being a lifelong Oiler fan, I admit I was far less than optimistic as I staggered to my door to retrieve that morning edition.

Who had the Oilers dredged up this time? Had they drafted the next Oliver Luck? Another Alonzo Highsmith perhaps?

With Warren Moon off to the great frozen tundra of Minnesota, and a mass exodus of free agents departing from the Bayou City, I have been apprehensive about the future of the inhabitants of the fabled "House of Pain".

Sunday afternoon, I thought new general manager Floyd Reese had surpassed the bumbling of his predecessor, the 200-year-old Mike Holovak when Paul Tagliabue announced the Oilers had used their first-round draft pick to select former automotive guru Henry Ford.

I was stunned. Not even the great party animal/draft genius Ladd Herzog had ever drafted a guy who's been dead for 47 years.

Great, I thought, we have gotten desperate enough to draft guys of name

See Draft Daze/Page 8

One last pitch for Aggies

A&M baseball to play final homestand against No.1 TCU

By Nick Georgandis
The Battalion

The Texas A&M baseball team will close out a less than satisfactory Southwest Conference campaign beginning tonight when they host Texas Christian University at 7 at Olsen Field.

Although the Aggies no longer have a shot at making the SWC Tournament, they can play a key role in deciding who will win the conference championship, as TCU currently leads the race, pursued closely by Rice and Texas Tech.

Head baseball coach Mark Johnson said the Aggies will play no favorites when it comes down to who will win the title.

"We're still committed to the Southwest Conference to do the best we can, and there are some other teams that want us to give it our best effort, because it's going to make a difference for them," Johnson said.

The Aggies are coming off a 8-7 non-conference loss to Sam Houston State, a game that saw the Aggies jump out to a 7-0 lead, only to have the Bearcats score eight runs to win the contest.

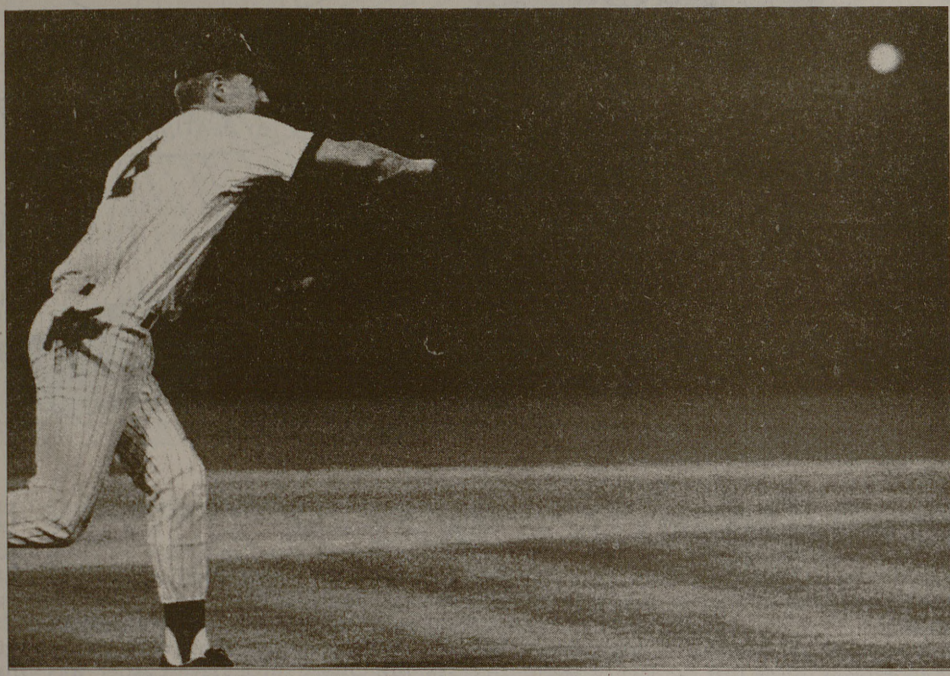
Although six different Aggie pitchers saw action in the game, Johnson said the coaches are not using the rest of the season as a "pre-view" of next year's team.

"I told the guys we are not going to do that, we are going to try to win the ball games."

This weekend we'll set our rotation to win."

Johnson cited the Horned Frogs ability to hit the ball well, especially with men on base, and their pitchers' consistent ability to throw strikes as the biggest challenges for the Aggies this weekend.

Following the weekend, A&M 30-20 (5-10 in the SWC) will be off for three weeks before closing out the season at Pepperdine May 20-21.



Lee Fedora, one of A&M's best batters with a .304 average, heads into the Aggies last home series against the league-leading TCU Horned Frogs. A&M is currently 30-20, overall.

A&M golfers named to All-Southwest Conference team

From staff and wire reports

Texas A&M head coach Bob Ellis was named a Southwest Conference co-coach of the year, as Aggie golfers Marco Gortana and Anthony Rodriguez were placed on the All-SWC men's team.

Gortana, a senior from Johannesburg, South Africa, is a three-time all-conference player. Gortana was a second-team All-American last year as a junior and was a pre-season first-team All-American.

He finished in the top 10 in seven tournaments, including second-place finishes

Ellis, Gortana and Rodriguez lead Aggies into last regular season tournament with SWC honors

at the Louisiana Classics and All-American Intercollegiate.

Rodriguez, a junior from San Antonio, is a two-time All-SWC selection and was a pre-season choice for second-team All-American honors. After qualifying for the U.S. Amateur Championship played in Houston last year, Rodriguez finished third at this year's SWC Championships,

which concluded Tuesday.

He leads the men's with a 74.03 stroke average. He has finished in the top five in five tournaments, placing second at the Jack Nicklaus Invitational and the Stanford Shootout.

In his 20th year at A&M, Ellis is the dean of SWC coaches and share this year's honor with Baylor coach Gene Shields.

Ellis led the Aggies to a second-place finish at the SWC Championships, their best finish since they won the title in 1987. Ellis also won the award in 1977, 1982 and 1987.

The Aggies return to action May 14-15 for the Perry Maxwell Intercollegiate in Ardmore, Okla., the final tournament of the regular season.

A&M is expected to receive a bid to the NCAA Central Regional on May 19 through 21 in Oklahoma City. The NCAA championships are in McKinney, Texas, beginning on June 1.

Wholesale Loose Diamonds

Prices are based on the New York "Rapaport Sheet", a wholesale price guide.

Pear Shape				Emerald			
Weight	Color	Clarity	Price	Weight	Color	Clarity	Price
1.05	I/J/K	I1	\$2,300 ⁰⁰	2.12	K/L	VS2	\$5,200 ⁰⁰
1.02	J	SI1	3,250 ⁰⁰	1.08	I/J	SI2	\$3,350 ⁰⁰
.73	J	SI2/I1	1,850 ⁰⁰				
.61	I	VS1	1,220 ⁰⁰	Round Diamond			
.50	F	SI2	1,100 ⁰⁰	Weight	Color	Clarity	Price
.49	H	S1	1,253 ⁰⁰	9.51	L	I1/I2	\$29,500 ⁰⁰
.47	F	S1	1,300 ⁰⁰	1.76	H	SI3	6,900 ⁰⁰
				1.80	H	SI3	7,300 ⁰⁰
				1.64	J	SI1	6,600 ⁰⁰
				1.16	J	SI1	3,950 ⁰⁰
				1.12	D	SI2	4,500 ⁰⁰
				1.06	K	I1	2,050 ⁰⁰
				1.03	G	VS/VVS2	5,300 ⁰⁰
				1.01	E	SI1	4,695 ⁰⁰
				1.01	I	SI2	3,675 ⁰⁰
				.95	I	I1	2,275 ⁰⁰
				.92	I	SI2	3,350 ⁰⁰
				.82	K	I1	1,490 ⁰⁰
				.72	G	SI2/SI1	2,300 ⁰⁰
				.70	E	SI2	2,350 ⁰⁰
				.70	G	SI1	1,975 ⁰⁰
				.70	H	SI2	2,115 ⁰⁰
				.70	E	SI1	2,480 ⁰⁰
				.52	I	VS2	1,280 ⁰⁰
				.50	G	VS2	1,490 ⁰⁰
				.46	I	VS2	892 ⁰⁰
				.43	I	SI2/I1	700 ⁰⁰
				.52	I	SI2	2,500 ⁰⁰
				Princess			
				Weight	Color	Clarity	Price
				.65	I	VVS2	\$1,350 ⁰⁰
				.49	K	SI1	875 ⁰⁰
				.53	K	VS1	975 ⁰⁰

Pear Shape

Weight: 1.39, Color: H, Clarity: SI2, Price: \$4,955⁰⁰

Oval

Weight: 1.53, Color: I/J, Clarity: SI1, Price: 5,800⁰⁰

Marquise Cut

Weight: 1.39, Color: H, Clarity: SI2, Price: \$4,955⁰⁰

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