

Houston Oilers' best bet is to let Bucky lead

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Asst. Sports Editor



Start Bucky. The Houston Oilers are a 15-point underdog to the Dallas Cowboys on Sunday, and that figure should be probably be doubled for all intents and purposes.

At this point, following a truly embarrassing, 45-21 loss to the Colts (THE COLTS!), it is time for the Oilers to start over; yes the dreaded "R" word. After seven years of making the playoffs and failing miserably, the Oilers must realize their current system just isn't getting it done. It's time to rebuild.

Cody Carlson is already in his thirties, and has a penchant for getting injured as soon as he gets into a game. Last year in New England, when Warren Moon was unceremoniously benched, Carlson started and managed to get a groin injury by the second quarter.

Sunday, the Oilers' porous offensive line allowed a Colt defensive lineman to get ahead a tremendous head of speed before running Carlson down like an eighteen wheeler plowing into a Volkswagen Beetle.

Gone to free agency are former Pro Bowlers Sean Jones, William Fuller, Wilber Marshall and Greg Montgomery. Gone to the sidelines is Mike Munchak, a certain Hall-of-Famer. Going into the downside of their careers are stand-outs Ray Childress and Bruce Mathews. If some of the veterans are a little past their prime, 1994 could be a very long season for the Oilers.

Honestly, what difference is it going to make? If all Bud Adams is interested in is making money, then starting the most popular player on the team in years is probably a smart business decision.

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Bronner to lead Lady Aggie Netters

By Tom Day THE BATTALION

With the 1994 season under way, the Lady Aggie volleyball team realizes the road back to the NCAA tournament will be a long and difficult one.

For an encore trip to become reality, the team will need veteran strength and leadership, and senior outside hitter Jennifer Bronner is being counted on to provide it.

With the departure of four starters, it is the veteran Bronner's time to shine. Although she is expected to have her best season, Bronner is primarily concerned about the team's success.

"I hope to improve throughout the season," she said. "That will help our team build on where we ended last year,

Senior veteran shows improvement, experience in weekend tournament

making it to the NCAA (tournament)." Bronner has made great strides in developing more shots and improving her blocking ability.

"I've set some personal goals for myself," she said. "I want to contribute more kills and blocks, and I hope to improve on the back row so I can play all the way around (the court)."

One of Bronner's key assets is her quick left-handed arm swing that often catches her opponent's off-guard for easy kills. One of Bronner's teammates, junior setter Suzy Wente stressed Bronner's importance.

"She's been a lot more aggressive, and she's been hitting harder," Wente said. "We'll look to her as a put-away hitter and to be a rally stopper."

Last weekend at the Virginia Tech tournament, Bronner gave a promising preview of her capabilities. When the

team looked to her to establish a dominating attack, she didn't disappoint. The big hitter blasted a career-high 23 kills against Maryland. Her solid play throughout the weekend earned her a spot on the all-tournament team.

"I feel I have to step up a level to help fill some of the spots the seniors left behind," she said.

The senior says she likes the team's chances of another successful season. "I feel good about our progress so far this season," she said. "Our freshmen coming in are excellent players, and they'll help push the team to a higher level."

Head coach Laurie Corbelli feels that Bronner is capable of great things. "Barring injury, I anticipate she'll start every match this season, given that she can maintain a high level of intensity," Corbelli said. "Jennifer is vital to our success this year."



Bronner

Raiders' 40 year tradition to continue

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) — Just three days after Texas Tech's mascot horse died when it became spooked at a football game and ran into a concrete wall, a school committee recommended that Tech continue the traditional rides of the horseback masked rider.

Tech's Masked Rider Advisory Committee unanimously agreed to recommend the continuation of the 40-year-old tradition — a masked rider on a jet-black quarterhorse galloping around the field following each Red Raider score.

The committee also recommended that another committee be formed to study ways to improve mascot safety.

Tech's most recent mascot, named Double T, died Saturday during the third quarter of Tech's 37-31 victory over New Mexico.

Rider Amy Smart fell off the horse as her ride began, and the horse apparently became frightened and raced up a stadium ramp. Double T died instantly when it ran straight into the Jones Stadium wall.

Members of the Masked Rider Advisory Committee and all of the Texas Tech community are saddened by this tragic loss. We, as well as Texas Tech supporters, all want to see the tradition to continue as fully as possible," said committee chairman Tom McGinnity.

The committee made plans for silent observance in memory of Double T at a pregame ceremony before Thursday's game against No. 1 Nebraska.

Also at the meeting, the committee decided that the Texas Tech flag would fly at half staff at the campus' Memorial Circle Thursday in honor of the horse.

The masked rider tradition began in 1954, when Tech played in the Gator Bowl. Double T was the 11th mascot.

AGGIE FACT

Fall, 1892: Football is played on the A&M campus for the first time by groups of students.

Racing Commission investigates horse owner

ALBUQUERQUE (AP) — The State Racing Commission is investigating whether a 2-year-old quarter horse that broke both front legs in the running of the \$1.6 million All American Futurity at Ruidoso Downs was already injured prior to the race.

"We are in the process of doing a full investigation," Commission Chairman Gil Moutray said Tuesday. "We will talk to the owner, trainer, jockey, groom, and anyone else we can try to determine if there was a pre-existing injury."

Doo Dominate, a colt owned by Osvaldo B. Rodriguez of Anthony, N.M., broke down about 100 yards from the finish line of the 440-yard race Monday in front of a grandstand packed with more than 10,000 stunned fans.

The colt was destroyed minutes after he went down and the commission ordered blood samples taken and an autopsy conducted. Moutray and fellow Commissioner Jim Nance witnessed the race Monday.

"This is routine anytime a horse breaks down," said Julian Luna, the director of the commission.

Luna said a blood sample was taken after the horse was destroyed. The sample was shipped to the Center of Toxicology Services in Phoenix, which will inform the commission of the results.

Moutray said state veterinarian Dr. Tom Carroll would examine the animal's two broken legs to try to determine if there was a pre-existing injury.

Doo Dominate was in the No. 9 gate, alongside the eventual winner of the race, Noblesse Six. Doo Dominate was

never in contention in the race and was trailing the rest of the horses when he went down near the outside rail of the straightaway.

Track personnel and trainers rushed to the scene. Jockey Billy Peterson, who tumbled over the horse's head, was shaken but not seriously injured.

Ruidoso Downs General Manager Scott Wells was among those who tried to help Doo Dominate after he went down. Wells, a former trainer who has conditioned horses at tracks from Kentucky to California, said Tuesday he had discussed the incident with members of the commission.

"The consensus is that we have to improve methods of checking these horses out. That's not pointing any blame, but I'm sure the Racing Commission is going to deal with this in the strongest possible way," Wells said.

Wells said he had visited the barns of all the horses entered in the All American last week. When he arrived at the barn where Doo Dominate was located, trainer Antonio Hernandez refused to take the horse out of his stall, Wells said.

"He told me the horse had a sore shoulder, that he had bumped it in the starting gate," Wells said. "The trainer was icing the horse, which is not unusual. He assured me he was a vet and that the horse had nothing wrong with him."

Wells added it is not unusual for trainers to be protective of their horses before a big race.

"I never saw the horse acting sore and the jockey did not indicate the horse was sore in the post parade," Wells said.

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Casual attire

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