

Oilers

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Adams said he and general manager Floyd Reese made the decision Sunday night after the Oilers loss to the Bengals, who came out of the game with a 2-8 record.

Said Pardee: "I'm sorry we didn't

have better results in the first part of the year. When you lose your livelihood, it's pretty traumatic."

Fisher came to Houston to replace Buddy Ryan, who took over as coach of the Arizona Cardinals. Ryan was so upset with Pardee and Gilbride's run-and-shoot offense last season — an offense he labeled the "chuck and duck" — that he took a punch at Gilbride on the sidelines during a nationally televised game.

Pardee and Gilbride this year became the focus of criticism for the team's woeful performance, which will snap a seven-year string of making the NFL playoffs.

Ironically, the changes came after the Oilers' best offensive and worst defensive games. Despite scoring 31 points, Houston's 147 total points is the worst in the AFC and ranks 26th overall.

The 58-year-old Pardee was in the last

of a five-year contract. While reaching the playoffs in his previous four seasons, the Oilers failed to get past the first round.

The most sensational failure came following the 1992 season when Houston blew a 32-point lead in a wild card game at Buffalo and lost to the Bills in overtime.

Team management blamed the new NFL salary cap for an offseason roster overhaul in which they lost a number of

key players.

Pardee and Gilbride were the architects of the team's run-and-shoot offense, which piled up huge offensive statistics in previous years but floundered since the departure of Moon.

Pardee, a former NFL player who came out of Texas A&M, arrived at the Oilers in Jan. of 1990, succeeding Jim Gilanville to become the team's 14th coach since the franchise began in 1960.

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