

Tennessee pledges \$67 million to lure Oilers

□ The city of Nashville has about \$100 million to move the Houston team.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Tennessee will contribute \$67 million to the package that Nashville will use to try and lure the Oilers from Houston, Gov. Don Sundquist said today.

The state's contribution moves the Music City closer to meeting the \$250 million that a new stadium is expected to cost.

Nashville has about \$100 million available to spend, and Sundquist announced today that Tennessee will contribute \$55 million from general bonds for construction with an additional \$12 million for road improvements around the complex.

"I believe we're a giant step closer to welcome NFL football to Tennessee. We've made a commitment to be a partner in this venture and ... I'm pleased we've done just that," Sundquist said.

Nashville has until Oct. 20 before its exclusive negotiating rights with the Oilers ends.

"The end zone is in sight," said Mike McClure, Oilers' vice president and chief negotiator with Nashville.

The stadium also would serve as a home field for Tennessee State if school officials agree,

Sundquist said. No bonds would be issued if the Oilers do not relocate. If an agreement is reached, the Oilers would remain in Houston through the 1997 season.

Nashville mayor Phil Bredesen said the package is being finalized and that the Metro City Council should see those details Oct. 5. He plans on that date to file a resolution for \$2 million for architectural work to begin on a stadium, to begin selling personal seat licenses and to form a sports authority that would act as the owner of the new stadium.

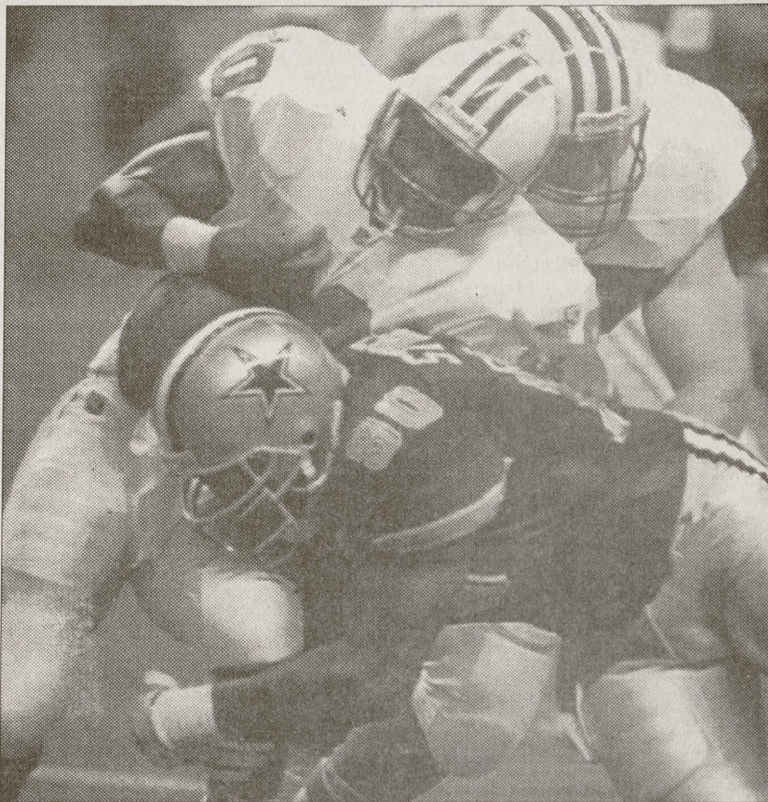
He said he would not predict how close Nashville is to attracting the Oilers.

"But I would say that as of this morning, I think we have a first-and-10 on the visitor's 30-yard line," Bredesen said.

The Tennessean newspaper reported today that a source close to the negotiations said the Oilers "were happy campers," when they left a Tuesday negotiating session at which the state's involvement was outlined.

Last week, the governor told negotiators for both sides the state was prepared to offer \$10 million worth of aid — mostly related to infrastructure surrounding a new stadium.

Bredesen said he had hoped the state's role would be closer to \$50 million.



Oilers running back Rodney Thomas struggles to break a tackle during the preseason. Thomas will make his first NFL start Sunday against Jacksonville.

Prairie View will attempt to dodge record Saturday

□ The team has lost 50 straight games, one short of the NCAA record.

DALLAS (AP) — A look at the woeful ways of Prairie View A&M during its 50-game losing streak, which likely will become 51 Saturday, breaking the all-time NCAA record for any division:

— 0: wins since Oct. 28, 1989, when the Panthers beat Mississippi Valley State 21-12 on homecoming.

— 0: scholarship players on the team.

— 0: wins in high school and college career of junior running back Michael Porter. He was part of 30 losses for Houston Davis, which lost a national-record 80 straight.

— 1: yard-line Prairie View was stopped at against Texas Southern last year when the clock expired, giving TSU a 20-13 victory.

— 1: number of times this season the Panthers have led. Prairie View was ahead of Tarleton State 6-0 last Saturday before allowing 44 straight points to tie the consecutive-loss record.

— III: Division of Macalester (Minn.), which previously owned the futility mark by losing 50 straight games between 1974-79.

— 4: head coaches at Prairie View during the streak. Haney Catchings was indicted, Luther Booker retired before coaching a game, Ron Beard was fired after going 0-44 and first-year coach Hensley Sapenter is 0-4.

— 5-10, 160: size of sophomore wide receiver Christo-

pher Allen. — 5-10, 325: size of sophomore offensive lineman Marcus Sanders. He's outbeaten fellow lineman Christopher Reed, who tips the scales at 350.

— 11: head coaches at Billy Nicks, who won a black college national title in 16 seasons. Every coach since Nicks has left with a losing record.

— 26: straight losses to Tampa Bay in 1976-77, an NFL record.

— 31: years since Prairie View won the Southwest Athletic Conference.

— 34: straight losses to Northwestern from 1973-86, the Division I-A record.

— 39: straight losses by Paul's from 1948-53, the Division II record.

— 44: previous Division I-AA record for consecutive losses, held until last year by Columbia.

— 96: jersey number of kicker Nsikan Udoye, freshman from Lagos, Nigeria who was recruited onto the team out of a swimming club.

He came to Prairie View to play club-level soccer and contributed last Saturday with an extra point attempt that kept the offensive lineman in the end zone popped in the air and was turned 91 yards for a point conversion.

— 200: number of points Alabama State offensive coordinator John McKenzie said his team could've scored against Prairie View in its 92-0 victory in October 1991. It was 72-0 at halftime.

— 255-10: aggregate score of the last four games between Prairie View and Grambling State, Saturday's opponent.

When will it all end?

A look at the woeful ways of Prairie View A&M during its 50-game losing streak. Saturday, the streak could hit 51, breaking the all-time NCAA record for any division:

0: wins since Oct. 28, 1989, when the Panthers beat Mississippi Valley State 21-12 on homecoming.

0: scholarship players on the team.

0: wins in high school and college career of junior running back Michael Porter. He was part of 30 losses for Houston Davis, which lost a national-record 80 straight.

1: yard-line Prairie View was stopped again at Texas Southern last year when the game expired, giving TSU a 20-13 victory.

1: time this season the Panthers have led. Prairie View was ahead of Tarleton State 6-0 last Saturday before allowing 44 unanswered points.

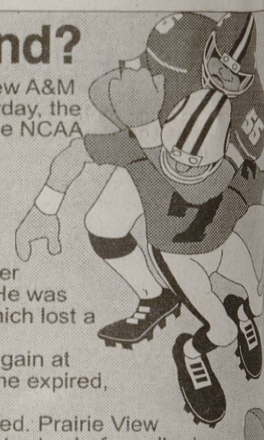
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Longest losing streaks in football

DIVISION I-A			DIVISION I-AA		
Losses	Team	Years	Losses	Team	Years
34	Northwestern	1979-82	50	Prairie View	1989-95
28	Virginia	1958-61	44	Columbia	1983-86
28	Kansas St.	1944-48	19	Idaho St.	1976-79
27	New Mexico St.	1988-90	17	Davidson	1985-87
27	Eastern Mich.	1980-82	16	Middle Tenn. St.	1976-77

DIVISION II			NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE		
Losses	Team	Years	Losses	Team	Years
39	St. Paul's	1948-53	26	Tampa Bay	1976-77
19	Chi. Cardinals	1942-43	19	Oakland	1961-62
19	Oakland	1961-62	18	Houston	1972-73



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