

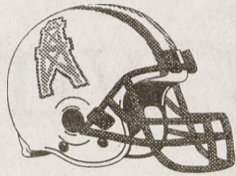
Paper reports Adams to sign deal next week Ags hope to avoid Rice's ESPN magic

The deal would involve moving the Oilers by 1998.

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Houston Oilers owner Bud Adams will sign an agreement to relocate his NFL team to Nashville by Monday, the Tennessee newspaper reported Tuesday.

urday with Nashville Mayor Phil Bredeben and Tennessee Gov. Don Sundquist to sign the stadium-relocation deal, the newspaper said. The deal involves moving the team by 1998.

The document will be specific and legally binding, outlining construction of a stadium and dates for sales of luxury suites

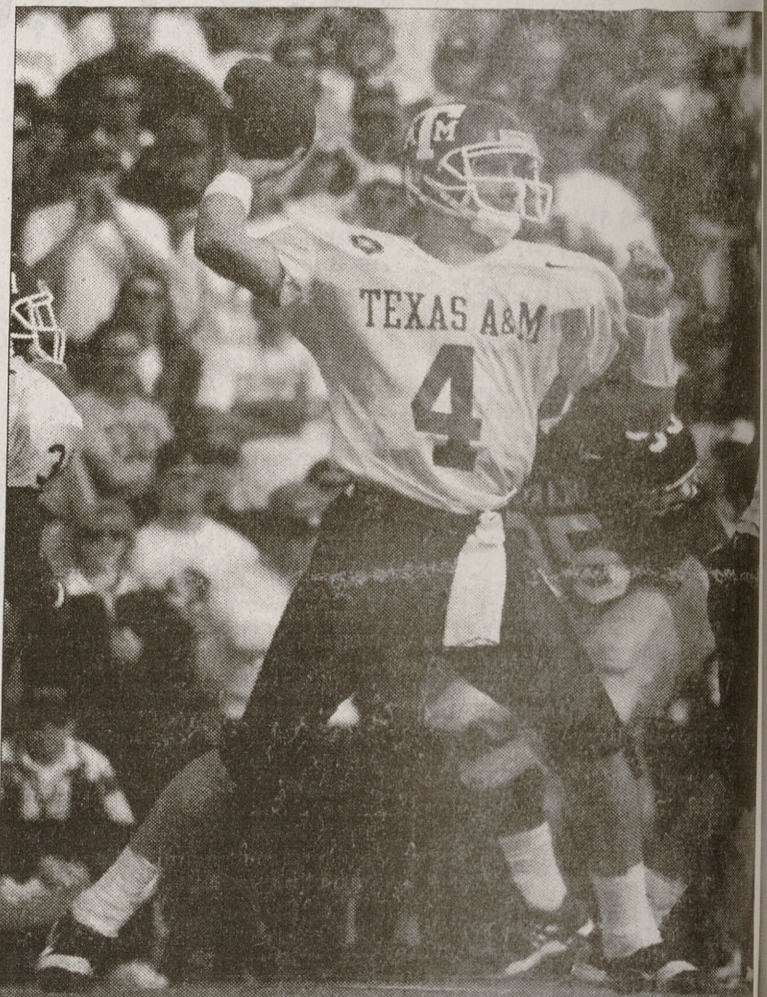


and personal seat licenses. "We are still aiming to get it done by the end of the week," Oilers executive vice president Mike McClure said. "We certainly would have it signed before Tuesday so it can be given to the (Metro) Council."

The Oilers' plan to move was on the agenda of NFL

owners meeting in Grapevine on Tuesday. But Cleveland Browns' owner Art Modell has overshadowed most business with his deal to move to Baltimore.

Nashville wants to build an open-air stadium for the Oilers on the east bank of the Cumberland River, across from downtown. City officials expect to pick a construction manager and architect within two weeks.



Stew Milne THE BATTALION

Texas A&M quarterback Corey Pullig will attempt to keep the Aggies streak going Thursday night against Rice University in Houston.

Last year on ESPN, Rice upset Texas for the first time in 20 years.

By Philip Leone THE BATTALION

The last time the Rice University football team played a game on ESPN, the Owls upset the University of Texas for their first win over the Longhorns in 20 years.

Is Texas A&M Head Football Coach R.C. Slocum concerned that the Owls will bring last season's upset magic into ESPN's Thursday night telecast of the Rice-A&M rumble in Houston?

Nope. "We've had a lot of fun around here ourselves on ESPN games," Slocum said.

What Slocum is concerned about is the unique challenge that Rice's "spread option" offense will present to his defensive unit.

Slocum said Rice's rushing prowess will force A&M's usually pursuit-minded "Wrecking Crew" defense into more of a traditional defense focused on individual responsibilities.

Their offense makes you be so conscious of individual assignments," Slocum said.

Even though Rice Head Coach Ken Hatfield lost his starting quarterback in senior Josh LaRocca to a foot injury two weeks ago against Texas Tech University, Slocum feels that freshman backup Chad Nelson is even better suited to cap

tain the Owls' option attack. "Nelson has demonstrated that he can throw the ball, but he is just a real threat as a runner," Slocum said.

Slocum is also concerned with his kicking game going into the Rice game. With sophomore placekicker Kyle Bryant only 3-of-9 on field goal attempts this season.

Slocum has decided to take two other kickers, sophomore Manoli Venetoulis and freshman Ryan Pillans, down to Houston.

One thing Slocum will not have to worry about is whether or not his junior tailback Leeland McElroy will be up or the contest.

Rice Stadium is arguably the conference's worst backdrop for football, the old, dilapidated arena has a special place in McElroy's heart.

"The last time I was there, I returned two kickoffs for touchdowns," McElroy said.

"That's something that rarely happens and it was a very special moment for me."

A repeat performance of that 1993 showing and McElroy would tie the NCAA career kickoff return for touchdowns at six held by Anthony Davis of the University of Southern California.

His ankle close to being fully recovered from early season injury, McElroy hopes step up his play and help the Aggies shine in the national spotlight against what he said will be a fired up Rice squad.

"We're very aware of Rice; we know they're very capable of beating us," McElroy said.

"But we're going to go out there and play to our level of play and not theirs."

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