

# Virtual Ags handily defeat Owls, 45-13

**□ A&M claims the No. 2 ranking after dominating the Rice Owls.**

Paper or plastic? The Virtual Texas A&M Football Team's "Wrecking Crew" defense introduced its sackers to the Rice Owls Wednesday, recording a school-record 22 sacks in its 46-13 rout.

Sophomore linebacker Trent Driver led the way for A&M, recording seven sacks, followed by Zerrick Rollins and Larry Walker II, each with four and Brandon Mitchell and Reggie Brown with three each.

Once again, the Aggie offense was overshadowed, yet did a marvelous job of running up over 500

yards of offense against the Owls' paltry defense.

Junior tailback Leeland McElroy scored four touchdowns, three on runs and one on a pass reception from quarterback Corey Pullig. In all, McElroy carried the ball

10 times and gained 130 yards.



**Texas A&M 45  
Rice 13**

for an armored tank by game's end.

When Nelson was able to hurl the ball before being crumpled by an Aggie player, he was hardly

successful. He completed just 12 of 42 passes, and the Owls were successful on only 2-of-17 third-down conversions.

The Aggies got off to a quick start in the game when McElroy exploded around left end en route to a 48-yard touchdown. The Aggies were up 21-0 with seven sacks by the end of the first quarter.

One of the most impressive defensive performances was turned in by Walker, whose four tackles included two safeties as the Aggies repeatedly drove the Owls backwards into their own end zone.

Now ranked No. 2 in the virtual Associated Press Bowl following Florida State's stunning loss to Virginia, the Aggies are on a collision course with No. 1 Nebraska in the National Championship game.

# Closing arguments begin in King trial

**□ Promoter Don King has been charged with faking a \$350,000 boxing contract.**

NEW YORK (AP) — A prosecutor's charge that Don King's testimony in his insurance fraud trial was "absurd" and full of lies so upset the boxing promoter's lawyer that he told jurors in closing arguments Wednesday he might cry.

It was a lively climax to a six-week trial that had produced snores and yawns from spectators who watched prosecutors try to prove King faked a boxing contract to collect \$350,000 in insurance money for a 1991 cancelled fight.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Craig Stewart launched his closing argument with an attack on King's credibility and urged jurors to use his own words to find him guilty of nine counts of wire fraud.

"It's not fair and square to

take a solemn oath to tell the truth ... and then tell you a story that has no relationship with the truth," Stewart told the federal jury in Manhattan.

As boxer Mike Tyson watched with other spectators, Stewart said King's testimony over three days actually clarified the prosecution's case.

King admitted it would have been wrong and deceptive to add a clause to a contract for the canceled bout after the fight was scrapped, Stewart said.

"The question then becomes, ladies and gentlemen, was he a part of it ... and you know he was because the only person who stood to benefit was Don King," he said.

Stewart said King lied any time he needed to cover up the fact that he participated at every turn in the attempt to fool Lloyd's of London into paying \$350,000 in training expenses that were never incurred for the bout between Julio Cesar Chavez and Harold Brazier. Stewart described as "patently

absurd" testimony in which King said he was never told that his employees were asking for \$350,000 in training expenses.

For two hours, Stewart bashed King's handling of the claim and then warned jurors to remember the promoter's misdeeds if defense lawyer Peter Fleming "sheds a tear for Don King" during his closing argument.

Minutes later and late in the day, an angry Fleming followed the prosecutor and did not hide his emotions.

"I may shed a tear," he told the jury as he began with a 45-minute summation that will continue Thursday morning. He wiped his nose several times and his voice seemed to crack as he spoke.

Then he took aim at Stewart for accusing King of faking a contract, backdating checks and lying about conversations and then telling the jury, "Where I come from, they call that fraud."

"There's nothing that happens in this case, no piece of evidence, that they don't choose to look at as sinister. That is the mark of prosecutors, who you might find have a higher obligation, trying to make a case," he said.

The trial is the second federal case for King, 64, who in 1985 won an acquittal in a tax evasion case.

King in the past quarter century has risen to the top of the boxing world, promoting Buster Douglas' stunning upset of Tyson in Tokyo in 1990, the "Rumble in the Jungle" between Muhammad Ali and George Foreman in 1974 and the "Thrilla in Manila" between Ali and Joe Frazier in 1975.

If convicted of the new charges, he could face up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine on each count.



Tyson

# Twin Cordova named AL Rookie of the Year

**□ This year's race was the closest in 15 years.**

NEW YORK (AP) — Marty Cordova, the Minnesota Twins outfielder who had 24 homers and 84 RBIs, was voted AL Rookie of the Year on Wednesday, edging California's Garret Anderson in the closest race in 15 years.

Cordova and Anderson each received 13 first-place votes in balloting by the Baseball Writers Association of America. Cordova had 13 seconds and one third for 105 points, while An-

derson had 10 seconds and four thirds for 99 points.

Andy Pettitte of the New York Yankees and Troy Percival of the Angels each received one first-place vote.

It was the closest race in the AL since 1979, when Twins third baseman John Castino and Toronto shortstop Alfredo Griffin tied with seven votes each. The following year, the BBWAA switched to the system where each writer makes three picks, with 5 points for a first-place vote, 3 for a second and 1 for a third.

The last rookie race decided by such a narrow margin was

the NL award in 1982, when Steve Sax of Los Angeles edged Pittsburgh's Johnny Ray by six points.

Cordova, 26, finished the season hitting .277. He made his major league debut on April 26 and started in a 2-for-16 slump, but rebounded to hit .301 in May with eight homers and 21 RBIs. He slumped to .247 in June, then hit .293 in July. He closed strongly, hitting .304 from Sept. 1 to the end of the season with four homers and 23 RBIs.

He homered in five consecutive games from May 16-20, tying the major league record set

by Rudy York in 1937 and matched by George Alusik in 1962 and Ron Kittle in 1983. It also matched the Twins record accomplished twice by Harmon Killebrew in 1970.

Anderson hit .324 with 16 homers and 69 RBIs. He started the season with the Angels and was just 0-for-8 when he was sent back to the minors on May 15, when rosters were reduced from 28 active players to 25. He returned to California on June 7 and in July was picked as the AL player of the month after hitting .410 with seven homers and 31 RBIs in 25 games.

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