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Roommate wanted, male or female, 3 bdrm/2 bath house, really snazzy, \$300/mo + 1/3 utilities. 822-5653
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Responsible roommate needed to share 2 bedroom duplex in Bryan area. \$240/mo. + 1/2 utilities. Call Patrick at 776-8124
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Roommate wanted, male or female, 3 bdrm/2 bath house, really snazzy, \$300/mo + 1/3 utilities. 822-5653
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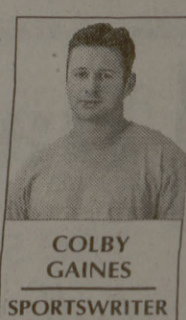
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Talent, leadership keys to Oilers' success

On the verge of a probable franchise move, the Houston Oilers may be on the verge of striking gold on the playing field. This may be hard to believe for diehard Oilers fans who've anguished over the team's constant absence from the Super Bowl in recent years. However, this year things are looking up for a couple of reasons.



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SPORTSWRITER

produced a hit football season that mattered. With Fisher comes respect from players, other NFL coaches and the fans — and that's a welcome change.

The Dynamic Trio

A few years back, an anonymous coach by the name of Jim Johnson acquired three chip players with the hope of building a solid football team. The trio — Michael Irvin, Timmy Smith and Troy Aikman, worked well enough to win a Super Bowl for America's team.

Meanwhile, the Oilers have recently assembled their own fruitful foundation of standouts. With the final piece added a couple of weeks ago, Houston's dynamic trio consists of receiver Chris Sanders, running back Eddie George and quarterback Steve McNair.

The Fisher Factor

Finally, the Oilers have a bona fide leader on the sideline. In 1994, Houston coach Jeff Fisher was handed the reins of a careless and virtually talent-stripped NFL team just six games before the end of the season.

In his short stint as head coach, he has taken the team from a horrible 2-14 season to an uplifting 7-9 finish in 1995.

Fisher brings positive potential to the Oilers. He leads with a controlled aggression that players easily understand. He may pace the sideline in record-setting fashion, but he isn't afraid to unleash some anger on players who fail to live up to their potential.

He has also brought good, talented players to the franchise and has the knowledge to maximize their performance.

Contrary to past coaches, Fisher brings emotion without extra baggage. When former coach Jack Pardee was at the helm, the team operated with a 'Well, we'll get 'em next time' attitude after each loss. The sad part was that they never got 'em.

Many times Pardee remained calm when there was an obvious calling for the main man to light a fire under someone's kiester. Before Pardee, there was Mr. Superstitious — Jerry Glanville. Mr. Glanville's off-the-field antics, such as leaving tickets for Elvis at the ticket window, have always eclipsed the on-field production.

Ironically, the Oilers' "House of Pain" motto inflicted more emotional wounds on fans with their first-round playoff blunders than their physical hits on opponents. In the end, the King's greatest fan never really saw the third deck go up, and hopefully I'll be around to see the expansion of the north end zone in 1999.

Sanders could possibly develop into the best receiver Houston has ever had. Last season he could've been taken for a veteran in his prime instead of a rookie second-round draft pick.

The Ohio State alum made many athletic and athletic challenges seem as easy as taking candy from a baby.

The Oiler backfield should be amazing when considering it will showcase Heisman Trophy winner Eddie George. In his first season at Ohio State, George made defenders look like Bambi on ice, amassing nearly 2,000 rushing yards.

Although he'll begin the season as a backup to Chris Chandler, former Heisman candidate Steve McNair will probably get a chance at the quarterback position this year. With a brilliant college career and a year at the professional level under his belt, McNair should be ready to exhibit his multimillion-dollar worth.

In the near future, this trio could possibly follow in the footsteps of Dallas' great three. After his pursuit of a new stadium in Houston fell through, Oilers owner Bud Adams decided to move the team to Nashville. It could happen as early as next year — even if the Oilers make a good run in the playoffs.

It may be early to say, but with the right blend of leadership and a solid foundation of youth and talent, the Oilers may be the team of the future — even if that future may not lie in Houston.

Pickard

Continued from Page 3

adding facilities coordination to his duties in 1979. He worked under the title of assistant athletic director for training, equipment and facilities for seven years before being named to his current post in February 1994.

Cannon said Pickard possesses more energy and trust than most people. "He has more energy than I know of someone his age," Cannon said. "He's been around for many of the changes. The integrity he comes in with is fantastic."

COACHING LEGENDS

Pickard's experiences with the University extend over the careers of three of the most influential coaches in A&M Football history — Paul "Bear" Bryant, Gene Stallings and current coach R.C. Slocum.

"If there was one word I had to use to describe each of these three individuals, coach Bryant would be demanding, coach Stallings would be intense, and coach Slocum would be loyal," Pickard said. "All three possess an intense desire to improve football and athletics at Texas A&M."

KYLE'S MAKEOVERS

Pickard compared the excitement of present-day improvements to Kyle Field to those that have occurred in the past. "Kyle Field was an unbelievable place (in the '50s)," Pickard said. "It was relatively new and held about 48,000 people. In 1954, they added the new part of the second deck and talked about the possibilities of what was to come.

"In 1967, I saw them complete the second deck and add the new press box. In 1980, I

CHANGING TIMES

Pickard says the recent conversion of Kyle Field from Astroturf to a grass playing surface was a social change and a recruiting move for the future of A&M football.

"Players have a 'social attitude' toward artificial turf," Pickard said. "The social environment is placing an emphasis on having grass right now. It is very intense."

Pickard said A&M's rivalry with the University of Texas, the challenge of playing in the Big 12 Conference and the exposure the school will receive because of it made leaving the Southwest Conference a less painful task.

"The exposure the University will receive from the move will be great," Pickard said. "It gives a nostalgic feeling of what we had in the Southwest Conference.

"To tell you the truth, I don't think there was too much of a feeling of breakup because we still have the rivalry with Texas. If we had lost that, then maybe the loss of the conference would have been felt even harder."

SENSE OF DIRECTION

Pickard connects the success of A&M athletics with the accomplishments of the University.

He praises those individuals — such as former A&M president James Earl Rudder — that were brave enough to change the face of the University to insure success in the future.

"I just loved General Rudder," Pickard said. "He was a fabulous guy with a great vision for this school. We were respectful of his war heroism. (We've been) fortunate to have people (like Rudder) that were visionaries of the University."

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