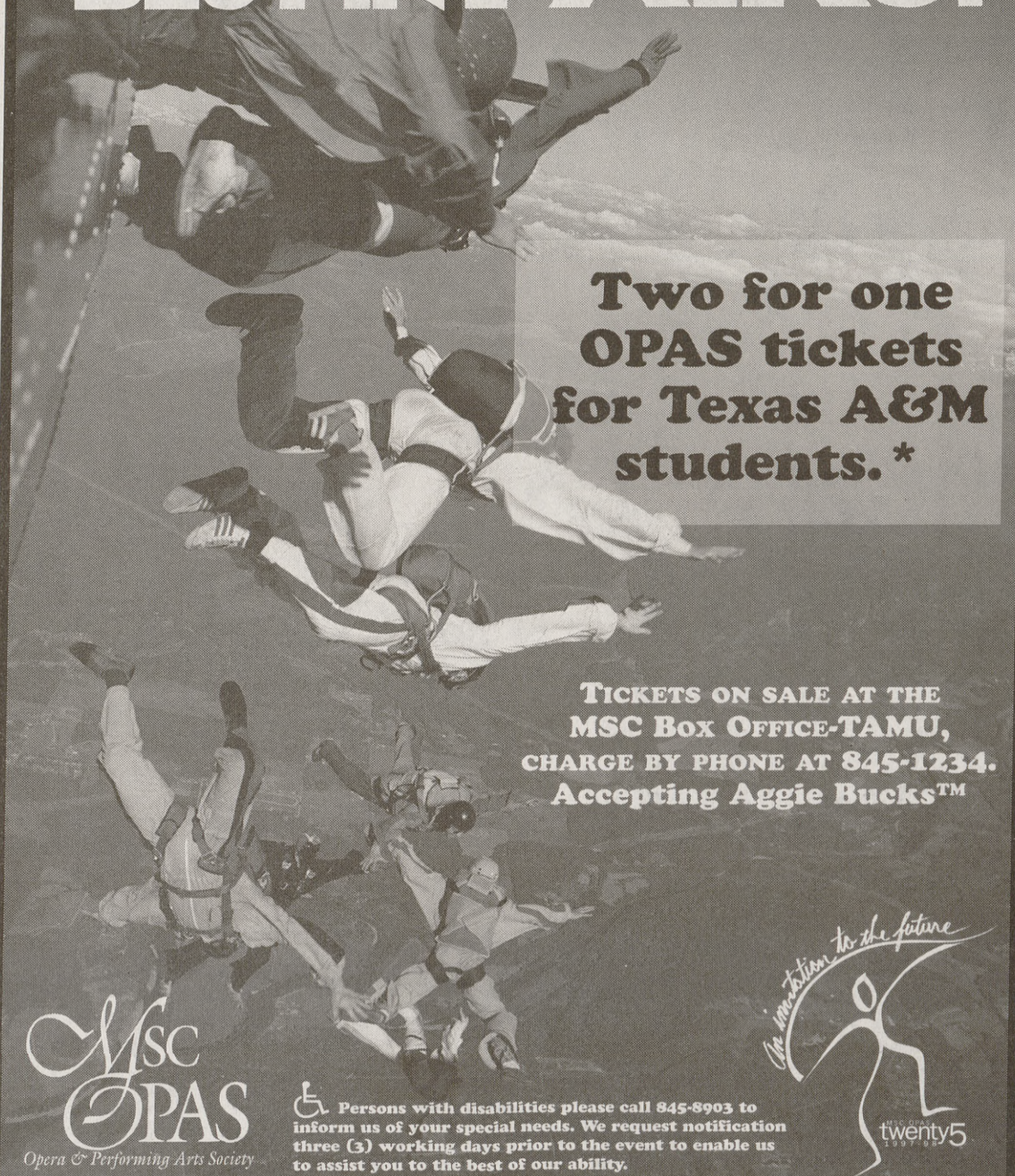


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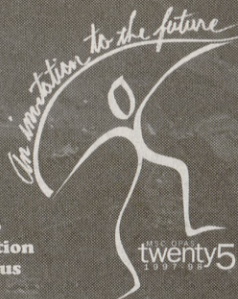


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Prime Time becomes fulltime

Reds allow Sanders to join Cowboys on permanent basis

CINCINNATI (AP) — The Cincinnati Reds have given Deion Sanders permission to end his baseball season after Friday night's game to join the Dallas Cowboys fulltime.



Sanders

The deal takes effect after the final out is made in the Reds-Pittsburgh Pirates game at Cinergy Field Friday night, The Cincinnati Post and the Dayton Daily News reported today.

It is none too soon for Sanders, 30, who said he has become fatigued by playing two sports and is struggling for time to see his two children.

"This is going to be easier for me. I'm not a spring chicken anymore. It used to be cute in Atlanta, leaving in a helicopter and everything, but it's not cute any more," Sanders said, referring to his previous two-sport days with the Atlanta Braves and Atlanta Falcons.

Sanders agreed with Reds' general manager Jim Bowden on Wednesday that he will stay with the team through Friday, fly to Dallas on Cowboys owner Jerry Jones' private jet after the game and then devote all of his attention to the Cowboys starting Saturday.

"I basically told him to forget what the contract says," Bowden said. "We respect that he's one of the best football players in the country and we made it clear that we don't want him to stay here out of loyalty toward myself or the organization. He has to do what's right for both sports."

Sanders had an agreement with Bowden that would continue to play as long as the Reds remain in contention for a playoff spot. Even though the club hasn't been eliminated, it has long since abandoned hope of reaching the postseason. Sanders remained with the Reds out of loyalty to Bowden.

Sanders, who is being paid \$1.2 million by the Reds this season, has a mutual option year on his contract that will pay him \$2.5 million in 1998. Both Sanders and the Reds must agree on the option.

He leads the National League with 56 stolen bases. Sanders said he is undecided about returning next season.

He started for the first time since Aug. 16 on Wednesday night and went 1-for-5 with a run-scoring single in a 6-3 victory over the Kansas City Royals.

Sanders, who played in the Cowboys season-opening win over the Pittsburgh Steelers last Sunday, said he was relieved that Bowden informed him of the decision during batting practice.

He said that the travel has led to physical and emotional strain. Sanders' divorce proceedings have cut down on the time he has been able to spend with his children, Deion Jr., 7, and Deion Sr., 3 1/2.

"I've got to be there for the kids," Sanders said. "It should be in a stable place for them. This has been a strain on them, too, flying from Houston to here spending a little time together and then flying back to Houston."

The children were scheduled to fly to Cincinnati Friday, join their father on a flight back to Texas that night and then accompany him Saturday to Phoenix where the Cowboys are to play the Arizona Cardinals on Sunday night.

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"Sometimes when I am catc them and then goal," Wilson sa

The Aggies sa dance of confic record against pummeling of t cer Complex.

"The team is Our freshmen

The Texas A&M Athletic Department and to the football program," Associate Athletic Director for Facilities Billy Pickard said in a press release. "He will truly be missed."

Miller, who was born in 1921, had suffered from numerous illnesses over the past year, forcing him to no longer be a part of day-to-day operations.

Funeral services are scheduled for Sunday at 2:30 p.m. at A&M United Methodist Church in College Station.

Track & Field adds new assistant coach to mix

The Texas A&M Track and Field Team announced that Martha Brennan has been added as an assistant coach for next season.

Brennan, formerly of the University of Iowa, will assist multi-event athletes and throwers.

She is training for the 2000 and possibly the 2004 Olympic Games in the heptathlon.

Sports Briefs

Longtime football aide, Miller passes away at 76

Texas A&M Football Team practice timer Ralph Miller died of heart failure Tuesday night. He was 76.

Miller had been associated with the football program since 1950, serving in several capacities. Miller also assisted the equipment staff in practice and gameday preparation. He had served as a member of or organized the chain crew for home games for the past 46 years.

Six Texas A&M football players, Kyle Bryant, Daniel Campbell, Brad Crowley, Thadd Hargett, Steve McKinney and Chris Ruhman, will serve as pall bearers.

"He made a significant, positive contribution to the

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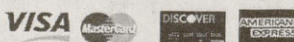
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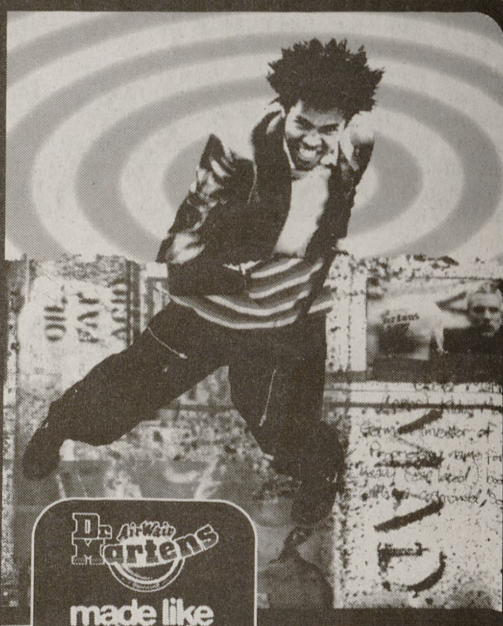
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