

much a throwaway," Reese said. "But in two years I would hope he'll be starting. Physically, he is as mature as anyone coming out. He has a strong arm and he is a legitimate threat to run."

Reese said the Oilers never wavered between McNair and Penn State's Kerry Collins, another top quarterback prospect in this year's draft.

Reese said if McNair had played at Penn State with a solid line to block for him and top receivers to catch his passes, there would be no doubt about his ability to compete with top talent. "What would Collins have been like at Alcorn State?" Reese asked. "Let me tell you, he wouldn't have been very good."

Reese said the Oilers will rebuild their offense under new coordinator Jerry Rhome into a mix of "power running and quick-release passing, where you catch the ball and run with it."

He said he was glad to be eliminating the run-and-shoot. "We are trying to breed toughness," Reese said. "In the run-and-shoot, your big guys, your 300-pound guys, are backing up and your 150-pound guys are running into enemy territory. Tell me what's tough about that."

Reese said the release Monday of Ernest Givins, the club's leading career receiver, would help free up some money to try to get help at positions such as tight end, running back, defensive end and "bigger receivers."

"We are top-heavy financially and talent-wise at receiver," Reese said.

By Langston Wertz

M McNAIR'S *Flair*

