

Jordon Nabs Defensive Honor

Landry Says 10-4 Record Needed to Reach Playoffs

By The Associated Press

"There's one bright spot you may not have noticed," Tom Landry was saying. "Lee Roy Jordan played the greatest game a Dallas linebacker has ever had."

The funny thing is, the Cowboys' coach was talking about Jordan's work a week earlier,

when Dallas had been upset by Philadelphia.

Jordan had 21 tackles, 14 of them unassisted, in that loss. But he was so upset that he called a team meeting to vent his feelings.

"We talked about what hard work and hustle would do for this club and if anybody didn't want it this way, they could go somewhere else," he said.

The hard work and hustle paid off handsomely last Sunday against Cincinnati, particularly for Jordan. He intercepted three passes the first three times the Bengals had the ball, scoring one

touchdown and setting up one in the Cowboys' 38-10 rout.

The outstanding individual performance earned the 11-year veteran from Alabama the selection Tuesday as The Associated Press Defensive Player of the Week. "I was lucky . . . but luck follows hard work," he said.

Landry said it will take an 11-3 won-loss record to win the National Conference Eastern Division and added "10-3 will get you a wild card spot and 9-5 an early Christmas."

Landry said "naturally we're happy" with Washington's 21-16 defeat Monday which tied Dallas

and the Redskins with 5-3 records.

But Landry quickly added, "We're not really concerned with what Washington does. I'm more concerned with how we play. That will be the deciding factor . . . Whether we can play steady, consistent football week after week."

Landry said the Washington-Dallas stretch run should be quite a battle.

"An 8-6 record might win the way we've been playing," Landry joked.

Landry said, "Somebody has got

to smooth out." Dallas and Washington meet Dec. 9 in Texas Stadium in what could be the climactic battle.

Landry said he didn't believe the team would suffer a let-down this week against the hapless New York Giants in the Yale Bowl.

"Our guys realize we've got to win each week or we won't make it," Landry said. "It will be a tough game. The Giants will be bouncing back after being whipped so soundly 40-0 by Oakland. They are professionals and have a lot of pride."

Arnold Palmer to Retire?

PINEHURST N. C. (AP)—Pain, anger and frustration all were deeply etched into the lines and creases of the famed, expressive face.

For the first time, Arnold Palmer talked about quitting the game that he-perhaps more than any other player- raised to its present peak of popularity.

"Dammit, I'm gonna retire. I can't play this game any more. I'm gonna get out. Quit. Never play it again."

He muttered it only half aloud. It was obvious that the comment was only an expression of his deep, gnawing frustration; obvious that he had no real thought

of quitting the game he once ruled.

But the fact that he made the statement, in his last appearance at the Sahara Invitational two weeks ago, indicated the depth of feeling in this proud man who is fighting the burden of 44 years and almost two decades of intense competition.

"I just can't seem to get everything together at one time," Palmer said before a practice round for the new World Open Golf Tournament which begins a two-week, 144-hole run Thursday.

"I seem to be right on the verge of playing good-then something always happens."

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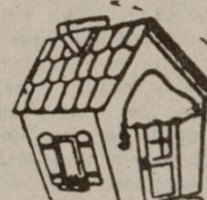
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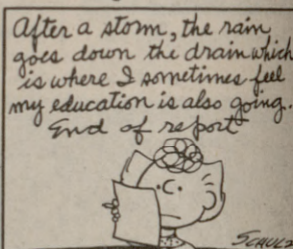
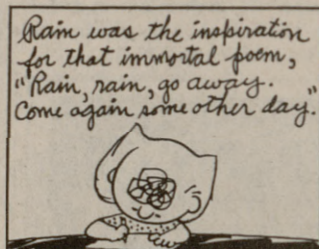
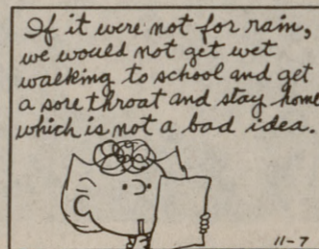
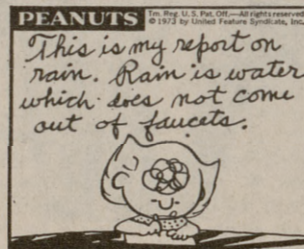
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By Charles M. Sch

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Kevin's Korner

By KEVIN COFFEY, Sports Editor

The old sports clock on the wall says football season is quickly winding down for all teams that won't get bowl invitations. The Aggies have but three games left and the entire conference schedule will be finished on Dec. 1.

All the coaches have been working about 80 hours a week looking at and grading films, preparing practices and scouting and they can settle down to take some well-deserved time off. Well, it just doesn't work that way.

Recruiting, the lifeblood of all good football programs, now begins in August and continues throughout the Southwest Conference signing date in February and on to the national date in April.

Coaches work longer hours and spend more time away from home when recruiting than during the regular season. After good back-to-back recruiting years coach Emory Bellard and his staff have a challenge to face. All 22 of the Aggies starters will return for next year.

"I don't think having all those players back will hurt us," Bellard said. "We have a great university and facilities second to none. We have been well received in our early recruiting."

Recruiters everywhere face the problem of the new 30 scholarship rule. It was not long ago that many schools gave 45 free rides and Johnny Majors brought 75 new football players to Pitt when he started its rebuilding program.

"The new rule would have hurt us worse than the other schools in the conference if it was enacted two years ago," Bellard said, "but now it will be the same for everybody."

Bellard sees no way the NCAA will withdraw the 30 limit before this season's signing date.

"Some conferences have signing dates before the NCAA winter meeting," said the Aggie grid boss, "it just wouldn't be fair to those schools."

The SWC signing date is in early February and the national letter date falls in April.

"I would prefer an earlier signing date for nationals but with our visitation rules it would be hard for an athlete to see all the schools before February."

Last season A&M lost one player, Joe MacReynolds, after the conference signing. The all-American quarterback changed his mind and signed his binding national letter with Oklahoma.

"This year there doesn't seem to be as many real top caliber players in the state," Bellard said as an overview of the high school crop. "But there are a few that everyone will go after."

The NCAA has already messed up this year's recruiting with the ridiculous 30 scholarship limit. But come time for the winter meeting something must be done. Thirty is just an unrealistic number and the rule has caused the death of freshman football at A&M. The faculty representatives have opted to let upperclass players join freshmen to form a junior varsity team but the season had started and A&M had already nixed all plans for a fish schedule.

Advocates of the rule say the smaller church schools can't afford to give more than 30 scholarships for football in a year. To this I can only quote the late Harry S. Truman, "If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen."

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