

Royal praises Walkon Cordaro

Associated Press

AUSTIN, Tex. — Mike Cordaro was just an unfamiliar face in the crowd when assistant coach Darrell Royal told Texas Coach Darrell Royal, "Watch that kid throw the ball."

The "kid" wasn't on scholarship, and he was playing catch with a bunch of "walkons" when secondary coach Timmy Doerr directed Royal's attention to him.

A year later, on Wednesday, Cordaro, 6-2 and 180, sat between two All-American prospects — fullback Earl Campbell and defensive back Raymond Clayborn — as sports writers questioned the trio about Texas' 1976 football squad.

Cordaro, a defensive back at San Antonio Highlands, has been pegged by Royal as Texas' No. 1 quarterback in an "extremely close" contest with another San Antonio sophomore, Ted Constanzo.

The Cordaro-Constanzo ranking, Royal stressed, "is not necessarily permanent."

Cordaro would be the first "walkon" to start at quarterback for Royal.

After his first glimpse at Cordaro, Royal recalled, defensive chief Mike Campbell had Royal watch a film of Cordaro passing against Campbell's No. 1 defensive unit. "That kid is putting on a throwing exhibition down there," Campbell said.

It wasn't long before Cordaro got a scholarship, and after only a week's work at quarterback in spring practice, he hit eight of 11 passes for 155 yards.

"I was amazed at his poise," Royal remembered.

He said Cordaro and Constanzo are "highly motivated," intelligent, popular with their teammates — "top-notch people, a pleasure to be around."

Cordaro said his only college scholarship offers were to play football-baseball at Angelo State University and Bee County and Ranger junior colleges, "but I would have come to Texas no matter what."

He said his allegiance resulted from his parents and brother attending the University of Texas.

Royal said both quarterbacks lacked the speed and strength of Marty Akins, and he was surprised sports writers had picked the Longhorns to win the Southwest Conference since an untested quarterback would lead them.

"Quite obviously," Royal told touring writers, "you're not as concerned at the inexperience at quarterback as I am."

Texas plays Boston College in its opener this year, and Royal noted that Boston College has eight of 11 starters returning from a team that ranked among the top 10 in defense in 1975.

Royal said Texas' kicking game is "improved and solid" and the veteran defense — which returns 10 starters — should be improved this year.

"Thank goodness they're improved," Royal said, "because it looks like they're going to be out there a lot."

LUNKERS 'N LIES

By JIMMY GUILLOT

A splashing school of white bass can make even the most serious black bass fisherman drop his worm rod and change his mind about what kind of fish he wants for supper.

This is especially true during the summer months when the largemouth fishing gets slow. Schools of white bass often appear on certain lakes just in time to save a fisherman from going home empty-handed.

This has happened to me several times on Lake Somerville. Heading back to the boat ramp after a non-productive day of searching for blacks around the lake, suddenly two or three schools break the surface. Within an hour, an ice chest can be filled to the brim with these small, hard-fighting fish.

Although whites usually run about a pound or under, the fishing is fast enough to keep you excited for hours. And the action can be doubled by switching to light tackle and tying on a speck rig with two quarter-ounce jigs on it. When you are casting directly into a school, you can consistently take two fish at a time.

White bass are not found in all Texas lakes, but Lake Somerville is full of them. They begin schooling activities in the spring and it continues throughout the warm weather. Usually heavy schooling occurs early and late each day, but during cool, cloudy weather, whites will sometimes school all day.

When not schooling, whites suspend over deep water structure and are much harder to find.

As mentioned earlier, about the best lure for taking white bass is the speck rig. This rig consists of a heavy monofilament leader with two jigs about three feet apart. The jigs are usually white or yellow, and some rigs come with a jig of each

color. Of course, many other lures will take white bass. A Little George or other bass lure with a jig tied behind it will work about as well. Many white bass fishermen swear by their own inventions, and about anything will work when the bass are chasing shad.

One of the best things about white bass fishing is that you don't necessarily have to own a boat to catch them. A friend and I once caught 45 whites in about two hours while wade fishing on Somerville. However, it's sometimes heart-breaking to see a huge school moving away from shore knowing you can't follow them.

The best area for white bass fishing on Lake Somerville is the open water in front of the dam and the Welch Park area, although I have seen whites all over the lake at certain times. They do seem to concentrate, however, in the above-mentioned areas. It's a common sight on calm days to see 10 or 12 boats in a circle fishing one school.

If you've never fished for whites, it would be worth it to drive to Somerville some morning or evening and give it a whirl. If you don't have a boat, I suggest simply driving back and forth between the dam and Welch Park until you spot a school within wading distance. Watch the dropoffs, though, because you tend to get a little excited when the splashing of a school is in sight. If you can't quite reach the school, casting toward it will pick up a few fish, though not as many as when the school is actually reached.

White bass make excellent eating. If a lot of fish are caught, it's usually easiest to fillet them with an electric knife or some other means. But, as usual with any fish, at least three-fourths of the fun is in catching them.

A must for Thomas

Backs face final cut

Associated Press

DALLAS — The Dallas Cowboys' final cut will fall like a guillotine on one of the seven remaining running backs on the team next week.

Coach Tom Landry said Tuesday that Saturday night's final preseason game against the Houston Oilers will be vital in determining some kicking and running back jobs with the Cowboys.

At running back, Landry said Preston Pearson, Charles Young and Robert Newhouse have clinched spots on the team. But the Cowboys must cut or trade one man from the list of Duane Thomas, Doug Dennison, Ron Johnson and Scott Laidlaw.

The Thomas situation had drawn the most interest because he is a former Super Bowl hero for the

Cowboys who left the team in a massive personality conflict four years ago but has returned with a reformed outlook.

"Duane has to come on this week," said Landry. "He knows his situation, where he stands. He has to show up pretty strong against Houston because he hasn't had a real good game yet."

"The lower echelon of backs are competing and my final decision will be based on performances this summer," not on what I think a player might do in the future."

Two veteran kickers also will be having their final chances to impress Landry. He said Toni Fritsch and

Efren Herrera are going to the Oilers game about even.

Fritsch has led the Cowboys scoring three of the last four games. He was injured in 1974 and led the team in scoring that year.

Landry also said at his press luncheon that rookie wide receiver Duke Ferguson may be a right hand against Pittsburgh in a day and underwent surgery for a

Landry said he did not expect safety Cliff Harris to play against the Oilers, but one or both may be in action in the first regular game against Philadelphia.

Kashmere duo register for fall

Karl Godine and Jarvis Williams have made the headlines again just by registering for fall classes. And class they have if that is news.

Rumor has it that Godine and Williams are registering because the NCAA may overrule the S.W.C.'s decision of probation for alleged recruiting violations. Do not become too elated, this would be a first, and not many firsts occur at Aggieland.

Assistant coach Bob Gobin said, "The NCAA has never reversed a conference decision on recruiting violations. We were investigated this summer, but no word has been given on the verdict."

Last spring Godine and Williams were placed on one year probation for alleged violations. The S.W.C. did not place the basketball team on probation, but it remains a possibility of the NCAA taking stricter measures.

Meanwhile Godine and Williams can practice with the team, but not be allowed to play.

Headcoach Shelby Metcalf said, "Both players are in a state of limbo while the NCAA decides what to do."

This will not be the first ruling this year by the NCAA on the S.W.C. Last week six Texas University athletes were cleared on charges of accepting extra pay while working for the state. The NCAA said that it was a clerical error, and that the athletes had no knowledge of the violations.

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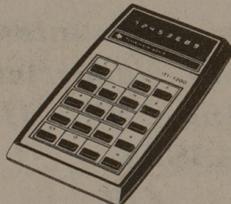
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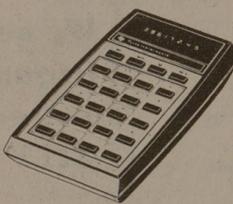
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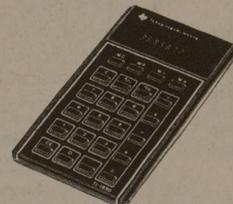
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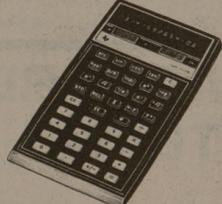
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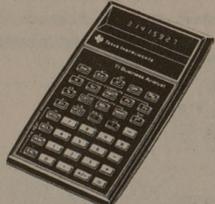
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