

# Say goodbye to Duane Thomas

By PAUL ARNETT  
Battalion Sports Editor

Echoes of the Houston victory swept swiftly past a man searching desperately for a new beginning. Dallas' come from behind victory over the Oilers was only a fleeting memory of yesterday to Duane Thomas. Number 33 is gone, placed on waivers by Landry and Company.

As Thomas pulled off his jersey Saturday night he must have known the Cowboys were about to place him in the cold. He had not had an impressive pre-season. Thomas rushed for only 97 yards on 40 carries.

Thomas, on occasion, had shown

some of his old graceful ability. He reminded one of a gliding ballerina out of step with time. His gliding style of running had been passed by, replaced with the big strong back making his own hole.

Five years ago Thomas led the Cowboys to their Super Bowl victory. While being a star on the field, Thomas was found to be a silent and angry man off the field. His conversation with reporters was limited, while his rapport with his teammates was strained.

Despite the fact of his physical ability, his mental attitude carried a negative stigma with him where ever he went. When traded by the

Cowboys to the Chargers, Thomas seemed out of step with the system, and was soon sent to Washington. Thomas was used sparingly by the Redskins' scoring only one touchdown in his one to two year visit.

Off to the World Football League was Duane's next move. He played with Hawaii one year, then landed on Dallas' back door step looking for a job. His attitude had changed, and the Cowboys gave him the chance for that new beginning.

Thomas no sooner arrived in camp when an injury befell him. He was out for four weeks, with only six more to make the team. None of his games were impressive. When he seemed just about ready

to hit the hole...it closed.

It appeared that Thomas had no blocking when he ran. Everytime he touched the ball the blockers either fell or were run over by the defensive line. Often the same line opened gaping holes for the other backs, while Thomas was lucky to ever see a patch of tartan-turf.

Now the bells toll for Duane Thomas. Their message is a simple one, but the meaning is devastating. One of the greatest backs in football has been tossed off the merry-go-round. His jersey has been removed, his locker replaced.

Landry has been a fair man to Thomas. He extended him his second chance, and kept him with the team as long as he could. Everyone

knew that the cut was coming, yet everyone hoped that it wouldn't. This is not the first great player to be passed by, but it is a more tragic one than most. When Thomas' time was right he blew it, when fate sent him his second train he missed it.

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## Hanratty is cut

Associated Press

Veteran quarterback Terry Hanratty was cut by the Pittsburgh Steelers and signal caller Bill Munson sent from the Detroit Lions to the Seattle Seahawks Monday as National Football League teams continued to shape their rosters for the upcoming season.

Hanratty, a member of the two-time Super Bowl champions since 1969, had been relegated to standby service in the past few seasons. He played only one game in 1975 and only briefly in three of the Steelers' seven preseason games this year.

He was one of five Pittsburgh players cut. Also trimmed were wide receiver Freddie Douglas, linebackers Charles Hunt and Jim Rosecrans, and defensive end Ed McAleney.

Munson was shipped to the Seahawks in exchange for an undisclosed future draft choice in a deal that surprised Seattle Coach Jack Patera. "I didn't think someone of his caliber would be made available to us," he said.

It was a day in which big names joined small in the ranks of the traded or cut. The comeback careers of running backs Duane Thomas and Ron Johnson apparently ended when they were waived by the Dallas Cowboys; receiver Jack Snow,

who gained 6,012 yards in 11 years, was waived by the Los Angeles Rams; the Chicago Bears dropped wide receiver Bob Grim; the San Diego Chargers picked up placekicker Toni Fritsch then cut wide receiver Dwight McDonald and safety Maurice Tyler.

Among the Minnesota Vikings cut was veteran running back Dave Osborn, who had gained more than 4,000 yards in 11 years with the team.

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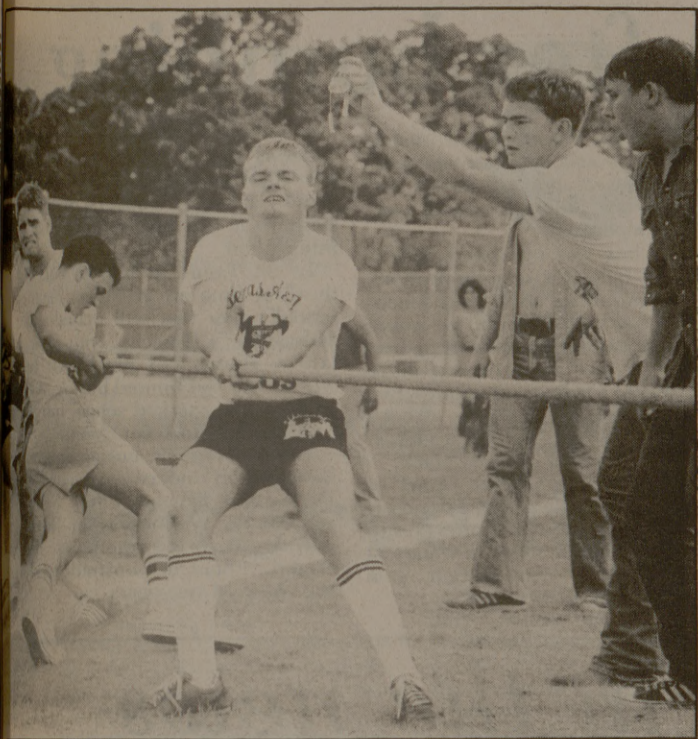
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Battalion photo by Carl Key

Unity was stressed Saturday by Texas A&M cadet officers as they began to coordinate the activities of their freshman corps members (fish). This company unifies its efforts during the annual Fish Day events. The band's B-Company won the day's events.

## Fish Day brings unity

From the moment a freshman enters the ranks of the Corps of Cadets at Texas A&M, he learns to live for his class. For this year's freshmen, 80 is a magic number, a symbol of their class unity behind A&M.

Company L-1, said Fish Day takes a freshman's mind away from studying and the Corps for a while and gets him involved in outside activities.

"It's a good way to get them started on the unity idea," he added. Fish Day was different last year, he said, because last year's addition of track and field made the event hard to organize. He said that the day was highlighted by a company beer bust in the evening.

Cary Lloyd, a freshman in Davis' outfit, said the day was worthwhile. "I had a good time," he said, "but the main part was unity."

Although his company scored victories in basketball and volleyball, Lloyd admitted, "We got outscored on football, but we didn't lose — Aggies never lose."

—Cari Thurston

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