

sports

# The Cowboys are dull

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Well, Dallas Cowboy fans, I don't know about you but I'm bored. Oh sure, it's nice to have an undefeated team at mid-season, but I think the Cowboys have gone a little overboard. If I have a choice between watching another game like the Dallas-Detroit contest or studying psychology I might actually opt for the latter.

I can just imagine what a thriller the Cowboy-Giant game is going to be on Sunday. The Cowboy cheerleaders won't even be there to break up the monotony.

Let's face it, the Cowboys are just very strong, highly talented team. That is a fact we must live with. But if they want to entertain their fans they must give their opponents a chance and add a flare of excitement to their game plan.

One Dallas sports writer has already suggested that Cowboy coach Tom Landry actually get out on the field and quarterback a couple of

downs. This would be great. At least it would give sportscasters something new to say—"The only coach-quarterback Dallas has ever had."

Another thing the Cowboys might try in order to maintain fan interest

## Sports Analysis

until the play-offs is spotting their opponents a couple of touchdowns before the game. Then the Cowboys could try to outscore the other team in as few plays as possible and spot them more points. Too obvious?

How about declaring open season on Tony Dorsett? Obviously every linebacker in the league wants a piece of the Heisman Trophy winner. This would not only add a new dimension of excitement to Cowboy games, it would also legitimize all of those "what-do-you-mean-that-wasn't-a-late-hit hits on Dorsett that defenses have been getting away

with this season. Who was it that said, "Old NFL officials never die, they just referee Southwest Conference basketball?"

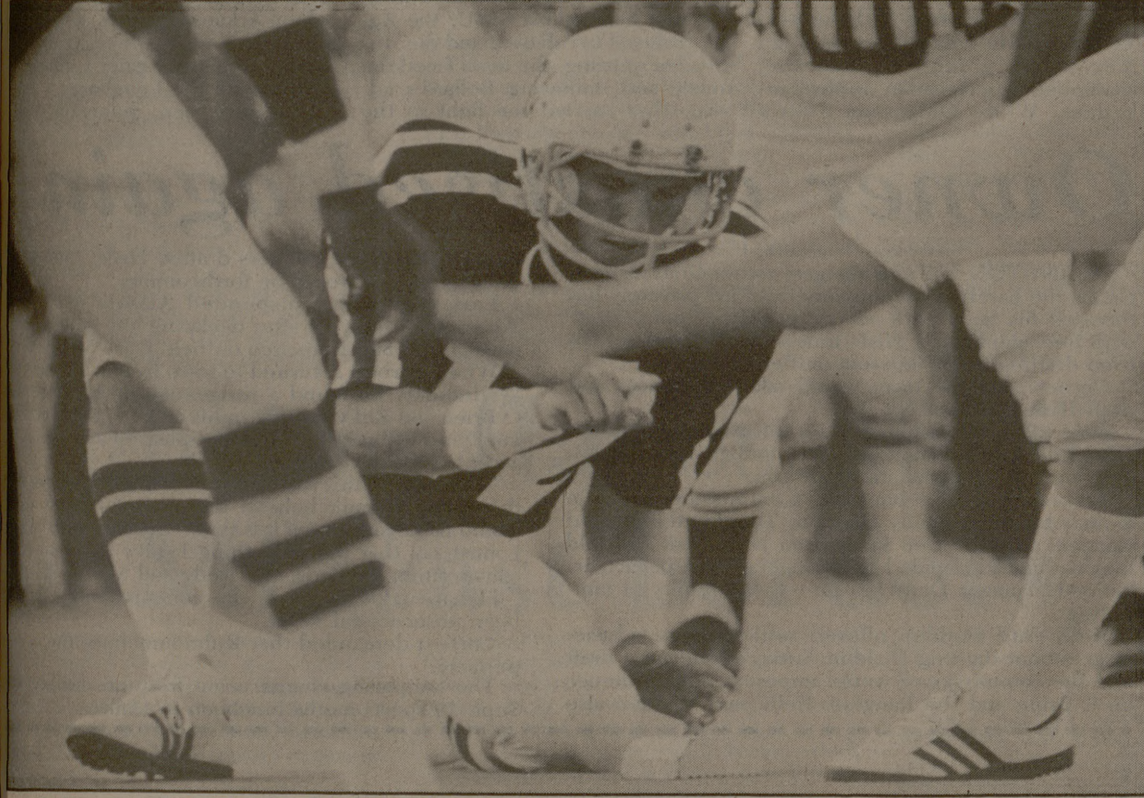
Everybody knows that the most exciting part of the approaching Monday night contest between Dallas and St. Louis will be the verbal battle between Don Merideth and Howard Cosell. Great! Suit up old number 17 and get him out there throwing passes into Cosell's mouth.

Other tactics that Landry might use in order to keep the scores a little closer and the fans a little more excited include blindfolding the secondary, handcuffing Harvey Martin and sending Ralph Neely into motion more often. (Oh, that's called illegal procedure?)

I'm also bored with all the sportscasters who make comments like, "Well we must be in Texas Stadium; look at all the weird shadows." Will the powers that be kindly put a top on that damned place.

There's another thing that might cause the fans to sit up and take notice. If trumpeter Tommy Loy would just once get half way through the national anthem and then forget what came next there might be some regenerated excitement in the stands.

If the Cowboys fail to adopt any of these suggestions all we can do is sit back and wait for the Super Bowl. In the mean time, Cowboy fans, all I can suggest to cure your boredom is change channels and take bets on what color boots Bum Phillips will be wearing.



Forgotten man

David Beal (No. 12) often goes unnoticed on field goal attempts. The holder from Arkansas is also a freshman quarterback. The Aggies defeated the Mustangs last weekend 38-21.

# Overconfidence is only concern for Dallas

United Press International  
EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — The Dallas Cowboys, overconfidence being its only apparent concern, roll into the land of the Giants Sunday with full expectations of opening the second half of the NFL season in the same manner they opened the first half.

Dallas is a two touchdown favorite over the New York Giants, a team they mauled, 41-21, in the heat at Texas Stadium back in September.

The Cowboys are coming off a 37-0 triumph over Detroit in a game that could have produced an even more one-sided score and the Giants failed to scratch against St. Louis last Monday night.

So how can Dallas be mentally prepared to face this week's foe? "Naturally," said Dallas Coach Tom Landry, "that is the main concern. We have to gear up to meet the challenge."

"I know that any team that beats Washington twice in one year (which New York has done this season) can beat anybody. We have not done that in a long time."

"When New York played St. Louis they missed (running back) Doug Kotar a lot. But they are still a very impressive team to me. Kotar will help them if he's back."

But no matter who the Giants put on the field they will be the heavy

underdog to a team that has everything going its way. The undefeated Cowboys open the second half of the year with a three-game bulge over Washington and St. Louis and that margin could increase this weekend.

The Cardinals will have to face Minnesota and Washington has a Monday night date with Baltimore. Both St. Louis and Washington

are underdogs and losses by those two clubs combined with a win by Dallas would bring the Cowboys within two victories of clinching at least a tie for the division title.

The Cowboys own the best offense and best defense in the league. The defense is allowing only 35 percent completions in the passing department, a full 10 percent below their preseason goal.

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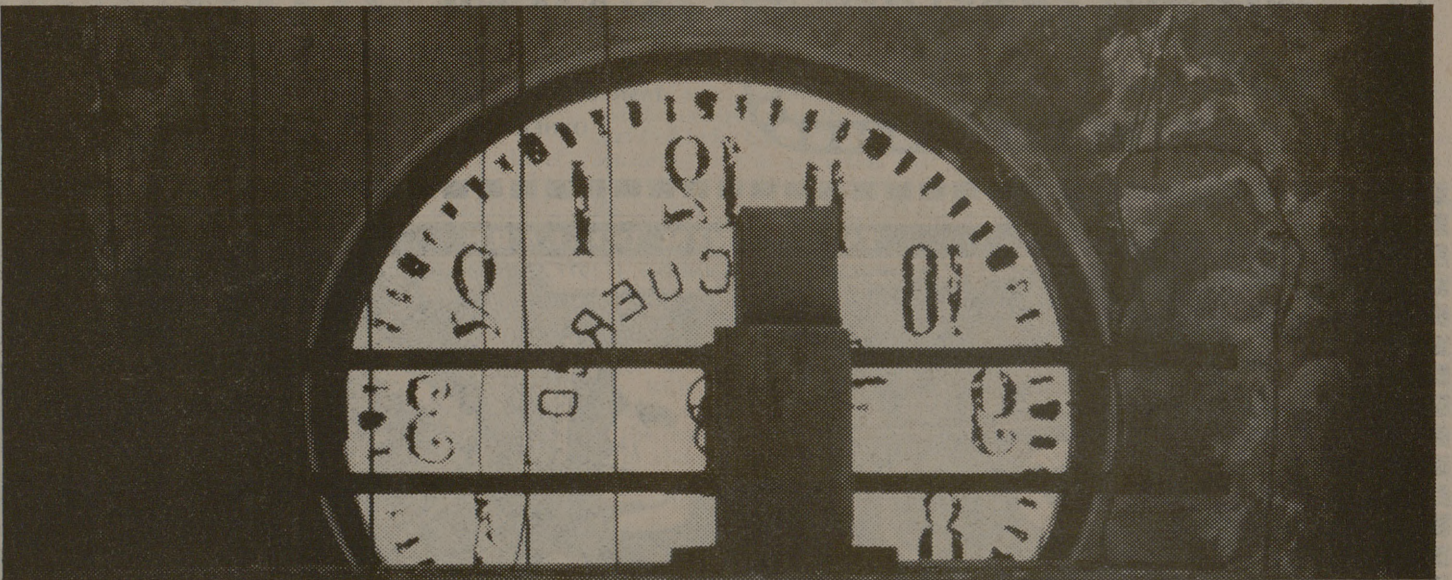
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