

the sports

Texas pro football this weekend

Dallas Cowboys Houston Oilers

United Press International
THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. — The Dallas Cowboys wanted their exhibition season opener against the San Francisco 49ers at Texas Stadium Saturday to be a contest between four former Heisman trophy winners.

The Cowboys' Roger Staubach and Tony Dorsett are to be paired against the 49ers' Jim Plunkett and Joe Simpson but reports from the San Francisco training camp indicate Simpson may not play.

"We'll make a decision (on Simpson) when we get to Dallas," Cowboys Coach Pete McCulley said Tuesday.

"We're not going to make any decision at this point," Simpson said. "Considering the amount of work I've done, if I played I don't think there is much I could do at all. And I honestly can't recall the last time I played in the first pre-season game."

The 49ers say there is nothing wrong physically with Simpson, but that they just hope to work him slowly into the lineup. During contact drills, Paul Hofer usually steps in for Simpson in the first-string lineup.

Dorsett, the NFC rookie of the year and a 1,000-yard gainer last season, suffered a knee bruise Monday but worked out Tuesday and was listed as probable for the game.

Cowboys linebacker Mike Hegman and running back Larry Brinson were sidelined Tuesday. Hegman has had back problems and his status for the game was uncertain. Brinson is doubtful with a groin strain.

Second-year tackle Jim Eidson was taken to the hospital Tuesday when he injured his neck.

Pastorini penalized

United Press International
SAN ANGELO — Sinking the cue ball during a recent early-night billiards game has cost Houston Oilers quarterback Dan Pastorini more than just a little sleep. Oilers head coach Bum Phillips confirmed Wednesday.

Two Houston sportswriters were having a 12:45 a.m. game of 8-ball in a local disco last week when he walked Pastorini. Curfew for the Oilers is 11:30 p.m.

"OK, I'll tell you what I'll do," Pastorini told them. "If either one of you can beat me, you can write the story that I'm here. But if I win, you guys got to promise to keep it to yourselves."

Methodically, the quarterback ran the table on the first sportswriter and then the second. On the last shot of the second game, however, as he sank the winning 8-ball, the cue ball fell in a pocket, causing him to lose.

"It's no big deal," Phillips said. "But I do have to fine him."

Houston Oilers

United Press International
SAN ANGELO — The absence of Billy "White Shoes" Johnson and his 1977 backup, Eddie Foster, from practice sessions has moved former TCU wide receiver Mike Renfro into the Houston Oilers' starting lineup for Saturday night's exhibition game against Denver.

Renfro said he was not expecting quite so quick an introduction to pro football.

"I came to camp thinking about just making the team and then I was going to worry about beating the other guys out," said the 6-0, 185 Southwest Conference pass receiving record holder. "As it has turned out, I'm getting a lot of extra work and I have a chance to prove myself right away."

He'll start (before an expected sellout crowd in the Astrodome) on the other end of the offensive line from all-pro Ken Burrough.

"I couldn't have asked for much more," Renfro said.

The favorable situation for Renfro and a group of other talented young receivers was caused when Johnson boycotted training camp in a contract dispute and when Foster stepped in a gopher hole while jogging

and hurt his knee. Neither player has suited up for one day of practice.

Johnson, a two-time all-pro who led the NFL in punt return averages last season, this week reaffirmed he will not report to camp until he has renegotiated and signed a new contract. He is in the final option year of his contract, which reportedly would pay him about \$50,000.

Phillips said he felt before he saw him practice that Renfro, the son of former all-pro receiver Ray Renfro, was a good pro prospect.

"He's like a thoroughbred. He's got a helluva blood line," Phillips said.

Receivers coach King Hill said the Oilers feel lucky to have been able to draft Renfro in the fourth round.

"We play 16 games and to survive you have to be durable. Mike hurt his back in our first scrimmage and he got his foot stepped on the other day, but he keeps taking his regular turn," said Hill.

Swimmer sets record

United Press International
WOODLAND — Steve Lundquist, 17, of Jonesboro, Ga., set a world record in the 200-meter individual medley Wednesday in preliminary competition on the first day of the AAU long course swimming championships.

Texas well represented in race

This is the last in a series of articles on the top contenders expected to compete in Sunday's Texas Grand Prix at Texas World Speedway.

The best way to describe A.J. Foyt is probably to call him the greatest American race car driver of all time. One look at the record books will reveal him as the all-time leader in nearly every category.

Winner of a record fourth Indianapolis 500 in 1977, Foyt owns only one Championship Car victory at Texas World Speedway in six years, but his August Texas Twin 500 win in 1976 followed a Stock Car 500-mile win, giving him the only doubleheader sweep in USAC Championship Stock Car history.

He won the 1976 Texas 500 USAC Stock Car race and repeated that win in the March 12 Aggieldand 250 at Texas World Speedway this year.

Probably the most versatile driver of all time, Foyt owns victories in the Le Mans 24-Hour Endurance race, the Daytona 500, Sprint Cars, Midgets, and every other type of machine. He's the all-time Championship point leader, has more USAC victories (59 in Championship Cars alone) than anyone by far, and is the leading money winner

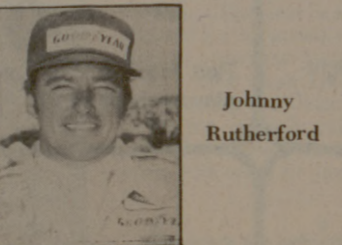
in USAC history — well over the \$2 million mark. In addition to his six USAC National titles, Foyt also holds championships in the Sprint, Championship Dirt, and Stock Car divisions of USAC. He is currently leading in 1978 Stock Car Division points for the national title with 10 wins at California, Mosport, and Texas.

For 1978, Foyt, a Houston native, is teaming up with First National City Travelers Checks, and his familiar orange No. 14 will be known as the Gilmore-Citicoorp Special.

Johnny Rutherford is the all-time leader in USAC Championship racing at Texas World Speedway. He won both the World Series of Auto Racing 200-miler in late 1976 at TWS and the American Parts 200 last July. He crashed in the April 1978 Coors 200 and finished 19th but previously had never finished lower than fourth in six races.

Two-time winner of the Indianapolis 500, Rutherford is the fourth ranking money winner in USAC history and ranks sixth in the all-time Championship point standings. He also won the 1974 Pocono 500 and was USAC's 1965 Sprint Car champion.

He has a total of 15 career Championship race victories to his credit and has 15 starts at Indianapolis.



Johnny Rutherford

In 1970, Rutherford, a Fort Worth native, narrowly missed winning the pole position at Indy.

and, in 1976, he did win the pole at the then record speed of over 199 mph and went on to win the race.

Never a USAC National Champion, Rutherford is determined to capture that elusive prize in 1978. He has been second in the final standings two of the last three years and wants the Citicoorp Cup this time around.

Getting off to a slow start this season, he has come on strong in the last two races with two second place finishes at Milwaukee and Pocono.

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