

## Pearson receives attention

United Press International  
EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Although their extensive scouting system has opposing organizations drooling, the Dallas Cowboys blew one in the 1973 NFL draft.

But so did 25 other teams. Dallas wide receiver Drew Pearson, who has been voted to the Pro Bowl the past three seasons, drew negative responses from 26 pro teams in the 1973 draft, after switching from quarterback to flanker his senior year at Tulsa.

Some of those late Cowboy draft choices in '73 form a trivia buff's Hall of Fame: linebacker Walt Baisy, tight end John Conley and wide receiver John Smith. Dallas even drafted one of Pearson's teammates, defensive back Drane Scrivener, in the fourth round, but passed on the 6-foot, 180-pound Pearson.

Pearson signed with the Cowboys as a free agent in 1973 and he has led the team in receiving every season but his rookie year. His uniqueness, however, lies not in the quantity of his receptions, but the quality.

"I'm proud of the fact that I'm not

afraid to go across the middle and get hit," said Pearson after Sunday's victory over the New York Giants. "The slant-in is my bread and butter play and it requires total concentration because you know you're going to get popped."

Strangely, the biggest catch of Pearson's career involved little contact — but much controversy.

In the 1975 NFC playoffs, the wild card Cowboys stunned the Minnesota Vikings 17-14 on Roger Staubach's 50-yard TD heave to Pearson, who ran down the right sideline and outfought cornerback Nate Wright for the ball with 24 seconds left.

It was only the most spectacular in an impressive string of clutch receptions by the 27-year-old Pearson.

In his rookie year, he grabbed an 83-yard TD pass to help beat Los Angeles in the playoffs, and he beat Washington in the final seconds of a key 1974 game with a long touchdown reception from reserve quarterback Clint Longley.

One of his catches against the Giants was quintessential Pearson: Flanked out to the right against

rookie cornerback Terry Jackson, Pearson went down 15 yards, gave Jackson a sideline fake and turned in over the middle. Staubach's pass was high and Pearson went straight up and hung on to the ball with a fingertip grab as he was belted by two defenders.

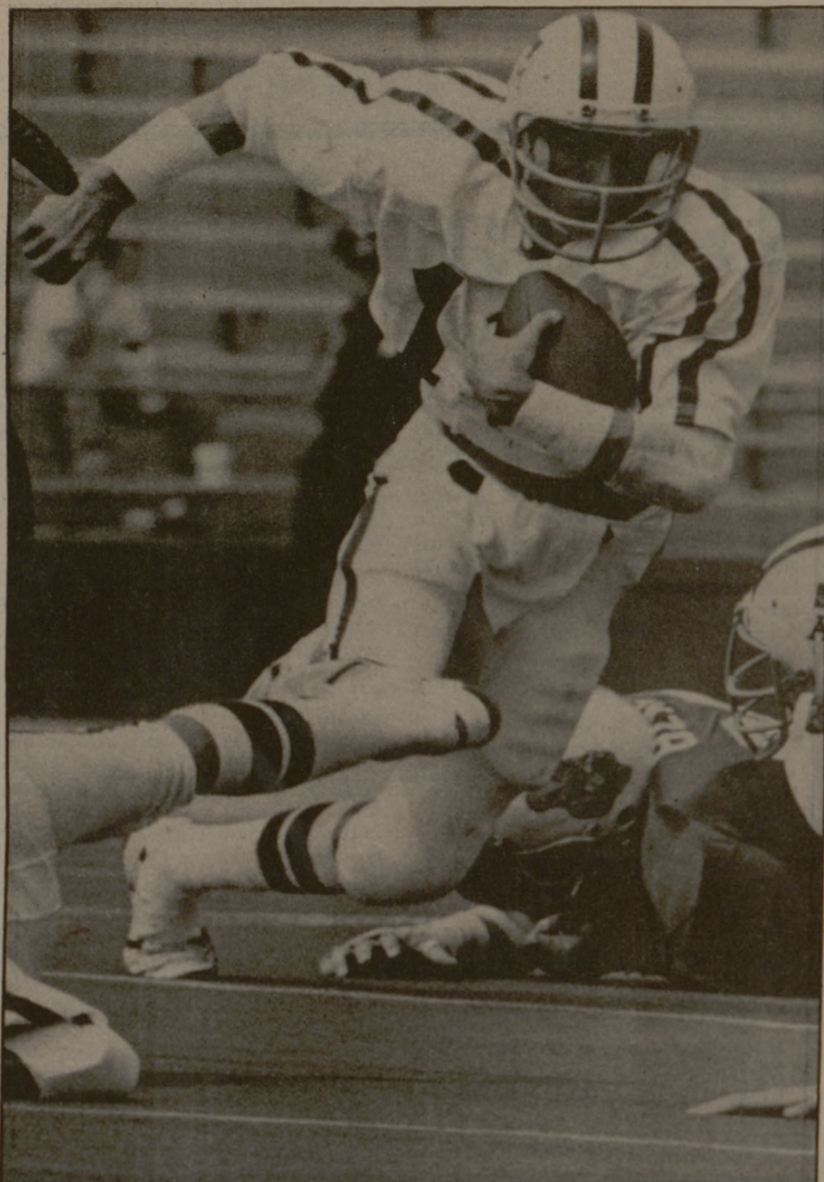
"I had to use my basketball skills to get up and grab that one," said Pearson, who has earned the praise of his veteran quarterback.

"Tony Hill (young Dallas receiver) may have the ability Drew has," said Staubach, "but Pearson is something special — he has a unique feel for the ball."

Despite his fearlessness in crossing the no man's land in the secondary, Pearson was deeply affected by the paralyzing neck injury suffered by New England receiver Darryl Stingley last month.

"Stingley's injury shocked me," he admitted. "We are essentially the same type of receivers — he also likes to go over the middle — and we came into the league at the same time."

"I have to block it out of my mind during the game but I'll tell you this: I say a prayer for him every time I step onto the field."



Battalion photo by Pat O'Malley

### Quarterback keeper

Texas A&M quarterback Mike Mosley, clad in the Aggies' new striped uniforms, advanced the ball Saturday as his team defeated the Kansas Jayhawks 37-10. Mosley ran for a total of 19 yards and completed seven of 11 passes for 97 yards and two touchdowns.

## Oiler defense praises offense

United Press International  
HOUSTON — In what might be the major upset of the Houston Oilers season, several Oilers defensive players have praised the team's offense.

Two fourth-quarter offensive drives of 53 and 65 yards Sunday pulled out Houston's 20-17 win over Kansas City and caused what appeared to be a turnaround in the attitude of some players.

"Two great drives," said linebacker Gregg Bingham. "A few years ago, our offense wouldn't have been able to come back like that. It would have been a case of telling yourself, 'There goes another one.'"

Said cornerback Willie Alexander, "As long as Earl (Campbell) is healthy, and we've got Rob Carpenter, Tim Wilson and Ronnie Coleman, our offense will be a problem for people."

"Right," said Bingham, "Earl should be praised. But we can't forget Wilson, Carpenter and Coleman."

In past seasons, Bingham has not hesitated to criticize Houston's inconsistent offense.

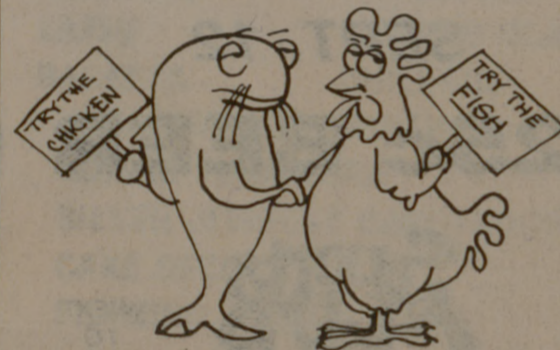
Head coach Bum Phillips Monday said the Oilers big three running backs of 1977 have not been forgotten. Wilson, Carpenter and Coleman, who totaled 1,655 rushing

yards last season, have been moved to backup roles because of rookie Campbell, whose 111 rushing yards against the Chiefs gave him 248 and a 6.7-yard average in two games.

"I'm not worried when these guys (besides Campbell) are in the game," Phillips said, "but you go with the best you've got."

Campbell ran for both of Houston's touchdowns Sunday, and after the second one came with 1:53 left to play he walked the sideline and led cheers for the defense. Although the Chiefs' "Wing T" offense had run over Houston for 261 running yards, Houston's defense threw it back on its final possession.

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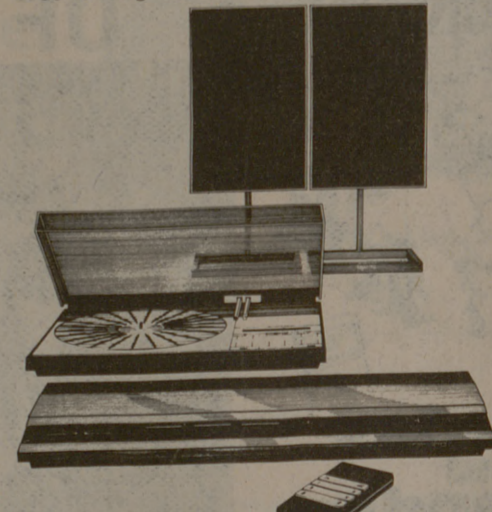
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