

the sports

Cowboys hope for emotional spark

United Press International
DALLAS — The Dallas Cowboys have been looking for a spark all season and until last Sunday's overtime win over the St. Louis Cardinals they had not stumbled onto one.
There is general hope on the club that the emotional 24-21 decision — brought about by a 47-yard field goal from Rafael Septien — might give the team some encouragement for the second half of the season.
"I hope that win helps," coach Tom Landry said Tuesday. "I think we enjoyed winning the game the way we did. The locker room was emotional which is unusual for us.

The players tend to take winning for granted. So maybe that was a good sign.
But no matter how many good signs show up for the Cowboys, the one Landry would like to see most is a sign that the club's running attack is making progress.
The Cardinals shut down Dallas' running attack last Sunday to the extent that wide receiver Drew Pearson was the team's leading ground gainer.
"To have a solid football team," Landry said, "you have to have a solid running attack. We have a lot of weapons, but to be sure you are

going to win week after week you have to have a good running attack."
Thus far the chief culprit in Dallas' lack of running success appears to have been the offensive line.
"Last week the offensive line did not have as good a performance as they have in the past," Landry said. "Tony Dorsett didn't have any holes to run through. Basically the trouble was the offensive line and the Cardinals. They played as tough a game against us as any team has all year. They came out wanting to win and they played like it."
On the injury front Landry said center John Fitzgerald, who is suffering from back trouble and missed the St. Louis game, was still questionable.

"He is having radiations — that is he is feeling pain in his leg radiating from his back," Landry said. "It probably has to do with a disc. You never know how long it will take for a back to get well."
"I had the same problem last January so I know what he is going through. But he may come back quicker than I did because he is a little younger than I am."
Meanwhile, a question has been raised as to whether or not Cowboy fullback Robert Newhouse's mouth protector partially responsible for the Cowboys' loss to the Washington Redskins three weeks ago.
The Cowboys aren't sure. But one thing is certain, Newhouse won't be wearing the mouthpiece anytime in the future.

While watching Dallas' 9-5 loss to Washington on Monday night football, Richard Woldow, a sports producer for WBBM in Chicago, noticed that the Cowboys' fullback seemed to let his white mouthpiece dangle on passing plays. On running plays, he inserted it into his mouth.
He wondered if Washington, who was in the process of shutting down Dallas' strong rushing game to only 109 yards in 33 carries, was also aware of the idiosyncrasy.
The next Tuesday he and station sportscaster John Morris watched replays to confirm their suspicions. Morris, who once played on the Chicago Bears with Cowboys receiver coach Mike Ditka, telephoned the Cowboys and warned them of the habit.
"When I got the call, I just told Robert about it and he agreed to stop wearing a mouthpiece," Ditka said. "John Morris is a good friend of mine and I appreciate it very much that he called me."
Newhouse has not worn the mouthpiece for the past two games. He said he doesn't plan to wear one in the future.

"Maybe I was doing that, but I really don't know," Newhouse said. "When you are out on the football field, you don't think about things like your mouthpiece. It's an unconscious thing."
Woldow was a former investigative reporter for the CBS affiliate specializing in crime and fraud.
"I guess that's the reason that I watch things that closely," he said.



Sean Petty

It's not the pupils it's the professor

Why?
Why does the Aggie fan have to be so humiliated when the football team gets so severely beaten? How much longer will Aggie fan be subjected to lopsided losses of "big games?"
When will the Aggies ever go into a big game where almost anything is on the line and win it?
The Aggies' big game history is pitifully in favor of the loss column. Not only do the losses outnumber the wins, the point spreads in big games show that the Aggies were not even in some of them.
The answers to all these questions do not lie with the football players. The Aggies have had a great recruiting program over the years and have corralled some of the best athletes around.
This year is no different. The Ags have the fastest player in the country in halfback Curtis Dickey. They have probably the best quarterback in the nation in Mike Mosley, who can run the option with perfection. They have a big experienced offensive line led by G. Risten, Doug Holmes and Ed Pustejovsky. They have a quick set of linebackers and solid defensive line anchored by Eugene Sanders and Jacob Green.
In short, the Aggies have the goods to be a potential champion.
The answers to all of the questions must be answered by the coach who is supposed to motivate and prepare these Aggie athletes for the big games.
It's true that in his six seasons at Texas A&M, head coach Em Bellard has brought the University's athletic program into the national limelight. He has guided the Aggies to a share of the Southern Conference title and three bowl appearances while compiling a 44-22 record. He also has the best five-year record of any coach in the conference.
That is all fine and very admirable. But during his six-year tenure in Aggieland, Bellard has lost some very big games by very big spreads.
Saturday typified the situation the Aggies have been in before. The Aggies rolled into Houston ranked sixth in the country. They played the 16th ranked Houston and had the perfect opportunity to move to the polls with a win. Earlier in the day, fourth ranked Michigan lost to Michigan State and second ranked USC would lose to Arizona State out on the West coast before the night was over. If Texas won, the team would probably be at least fourth nationally.
It was not to be.
In fact, the loss catapulted the hapless Ags all the way down to 11th and moved the Cougars up to 11th.
More important than the rankings, the Ags had lost their conference game of the season with a long, long road ahead of the A road which includes surprising SMU, Arkansas, Texas and almost-winner, Baylor.
The Aggies had their first big test Saturday and failed it miserably. I'm sure it wasn't a case of not knowing what was going to be the test because the coaches and players both knew that Houston was the win.
It was more a case of the teacher not preparing his students for a tally for a team that would certainly come into its own blowing smoke.
The worst part of some of the Aggies' big game losses is the point spread. It would be understandable and bearable if the Aggies lost to Houston by three points or even a touchdown. But 33 points? That total was only topped by last year's 41-3 loss to Michigan which at the time was the No. 1 team in the nation. The Aggies' No. 4 and had the perfect chance to move to the top of the poll. Once again, the Ags were humiliated. The only difference that the whole nation watched Bellard take his biggest defeat in his career has been at A&M.
The Ags traveled to Arkansas three years ago to wrap up their conference championship but hobbled back home with a 31-10 loss.
The Aggies have come so close, so very close in other big games. The athletes are there. They need only to be taught what it is to play and win under pressure.
The Ags have had and will have great records and will probably come close again. But then, close only counts in horseshoes, grenades and atomic bombs.

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