

Minnesota defeats Dallas

United Press International
IRVING — How many times through the years have the Minnesota Vikings fed on enemy errors to set up easy touchdowns while playing flawless football themselves?

How many times has Fran Tarkenton nibbled and chipped away at the opposition's defense until total frustration set in?

How many times has the Vikings defense, even in years when it was considered suspect, blotted out a foe?

Well, how ever many times it has been up to now, add one more to it, and label it Minnesota 21, Dallas 10.

All of these things happened one more time on a clear, crisp Thursday evening at Texas Stadium — a night on which the Dallas Cowboys would much rather have been home watching television instead of being on it.

The only thing different about the Vikings Thursday night was that they chose to spread out their formation, often using just one running back, thus surprising the Cowboys and giving Tarkenton better targets.

That plan worked nicely enough, but the Cowboys helped the Vikings

along by turning the ball over four times. The win boosted Minnesota's record to 5-4 and kept them in close pursuit of NFC Central leader Green Bay. Dallas slumped to 6-3 and fell out of a tie for its division lead.

"This was the first time we have used this offense and our offensive coaches deserve a lot of credit," Minnesota Coach Bud Grant said. "We only had two days to work out and the guys worked hard."

"It's a lot like the Cowboys use except they put (Roger) Staubach back in the shotgun. With Fran we don't have to because he can get back fast enough."

Tarkenton threw 32 times, completed 18 and tossed two touchdown passes, leaving the Cowboys secondary reeling.

"Dallas gives so many different looks," said Tarkenton, the 18-year veteran who has thrown for more than 45,000 yards worth of passes. "I thought it would be to our advantage to give them a different look. Our offense was running hard tonight and for the first time this year the whole team played a real good game."

Dallas' Larry Brinson fumbled the opening kickoff and Tony Dorsett fumbled the next time the Cowboys had the ball and Tarkenton converted both those mistakes into first quarter touchdowns.

He marched the Vikings 28 yards after the first fumble, throwing a 4-yard touchdown pass to Chuck Foreman, who also rushed for 101 yards on 23 carries. Minnesota drove 37 yards after the second turnover, Ricky Young getting the score on a 4-yard run.

Then, with time running out in the first half, the Vikings moved 60 yards for a third touchdown — Tarkenton hitting Sammy White for the last 12 yards with 34 seconds to go.

"Even a good team has a hard time coming back from a two touchdown deficit," Grant said.

Dallas tried to come back. Rafael Septien kicked a 25-yard field goal in the second period and Robert Newhouse ended a 63-yard drive with a 1-yard touchdown leap in the third quarter.

But just when it looked as if the Cowboys might have a chance to get back in the game the Vikings stopped them on a third-and-1 situation

at the Dallas 29 and then, when the Cowboys regained possession midway through the fourth quarter, Staubach threw the first of his two interceptions.

The pickoff by Minnesota strong safety Phil Wise with 7:40 to play decided the issue.

Dorsett not only fumbled but he gained just 38 yards in 11 carries (he has now gained 86 yards in his last three games) and Staubach had a poor night throwing the ball as well. The Vikings were rated 13th in NFC rushing defense coming into the game, but the Cowboys gained only 94 ground yards.

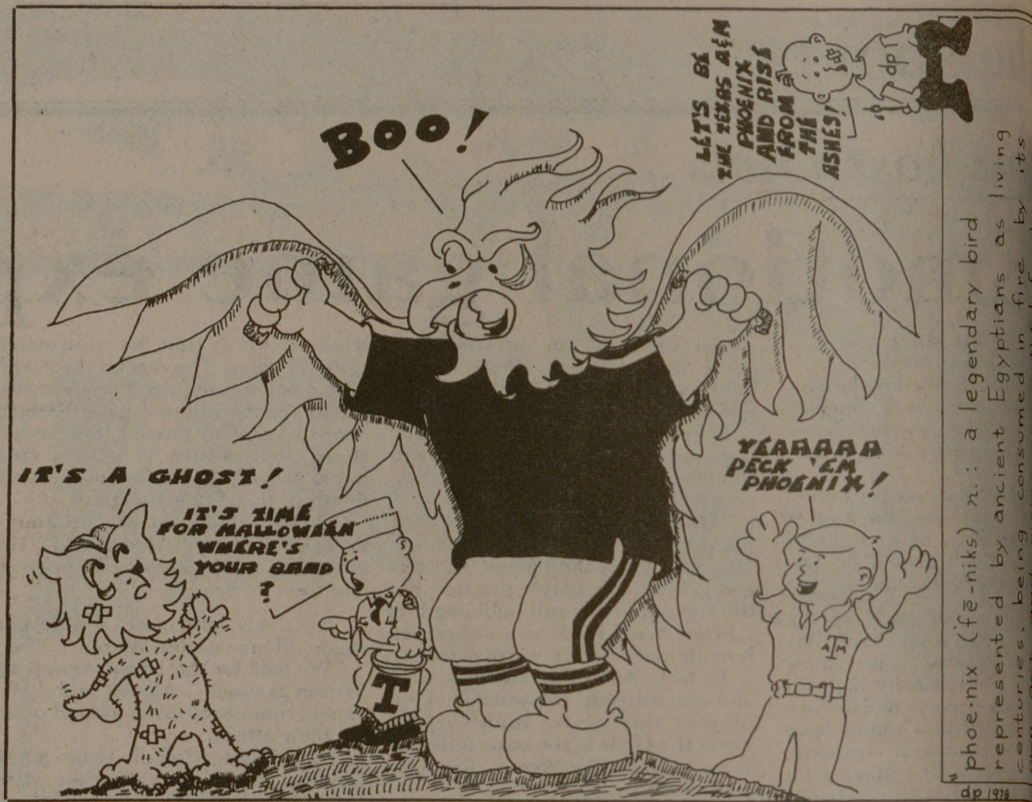
"Dallas is a big-play team and we didn't let them have one big play," Grant said.

Cowboys Coach Tom Landry sounded a little gloomy afterwards.

"We didn't stop them on defense," he said, "and it was a hit and miss situation with our offense. It was just one of those nights when we didn't play well anywhere."

"Everybody is shooting at us and we haven't put it together."

But the pieces looked like they are starting to fit in place pretty well for the Minnesota Vikings.



phoenix (Fe-niks) is a legendary bird represented by ancient Egyptians as living creatures being consumed in fire by the

Horns, Coogs highlight action

United Press International
The Texas Longhorns and Houston Cougars will be trying to protect their share of the Southwest Conference lead Saturday in the high-light attractions, but for emotional impact the game in College Station will be hard to beat.

Texas A&M, playing its first game in more than six years without Emory Bellard on the sidelines, will host the lowly Rice Owls. And just how the Aggies will react will be one

of the most watched facets of this weekend's SWC activity.

While Rice and A&M are going at it in College Station, the seventh-ranked Texas Longhorns, undefeated in three SWC games, will be hosting the pass-minded SMU Mustangs.

And a little later in the evening the 11th rated Arkansas Razorbacks must invade the Astrodome to do battle with the high flying No. 10

Houston Cougars — tied for the conference lead.

The other league game is between Texas Tech and TCU — both winners but with only three wins each — meeting in Waco, Texas.

Wins by SMU and Arkansas Saturday — certainly not a question — would leave the conference race in one of its most scrambles in years.

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Batt Pix

Week 8

GAME

Rice-Texas A&M	Texas A&M by 16	Texas A&M by 35	Texas A&M by 16
SMU-Texas	Texas by 6	Texas by 9	Texas by 9
Baylor-TCU	Baylor by 22	Baylor by 24	Baylor by 24
Arkansas-Houston	Houston by 4	Arkansas by 7	Houston by 7
Pittsburgh-Navy	Pitt by 13	Navy by 8	Pittsburgh by 8
Arizona St.-Washington	Arizona St. by 6	Arizona St. by 6	Arizona St. by 6
New York Jets-New England	New England by 10	New England by 14	New England by 14
Houston-Cincinnati	Houston by 12	Houston by 13	Houston by 13
Miami-Baltimore	Miami by 7	Miami by 6	Miami by 6
Denver-Seattle	Seattle by 9	Seattle by 9	Seattle by 9
Last week's record	4-6	8-2	8-2
Season's percentage	.714	.700	.700



David Boggan



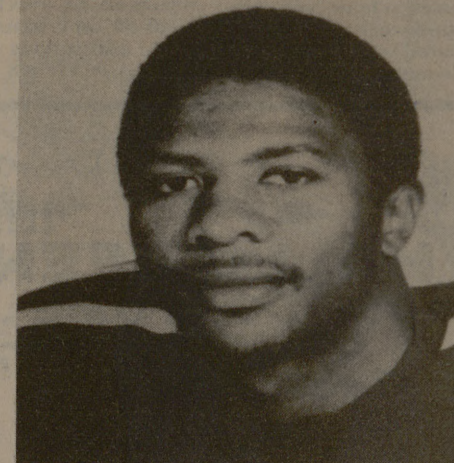
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