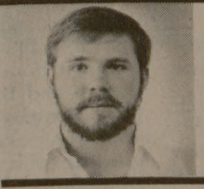


the sports



Mark Patterson

## Fry jumps the fence to greener pastures

The resignation of Hayden Fry as head football coach and athletic director at North Texas State University this weekend was met with both regret and sadness.

Also with joy for Coach Hayden Fry.

People close to the NTSU say they're sorry to see a man like Fry leave the school. They agree that Fry is a good coach, one who will be missed. At least they know quality.

But I can not feel any sorrow for the people who let Fry hop the fence and run to a greener pasture. In his six-year stay at NTSU, Fry rebuilt a crumbling athletic program into a reputable one, a class outfit. Yet he did it almost single-handedly.

The officials at North Texas promised Fry the world, yet gave him Cleveland. They continuously promised to help Fry upgrade the program but lent little support to the cause. So he ended the marriage and eloped to Iowa.

IN A BRIEF TRIP to its campus this past weekend, Fry took a look at the facilities that the University of Iowa had to offer, listened to the proposal presented to him by the school's officials and accepted the job as head football coach at the school.

Fry has opted for a school where he'll be able to satisfy a dream he's held since his coaching days at SMU. He's going to a school with a strong alumni backing, an unlimited football budget and a membership in one of the nation's most prestigious conferences, the Big 10.

But the school also has the reputation for being a loser. Iowa has had two winning football seasons since 1961. Yet Fry looks forward to the challenge of turning their program around, as he did with the SMU and NTSU programs.

WHEN I HEARD THE NEWS that Fry had taken the job at Iowa I made some phone calls to a few North Texas people I know, past and present students close to the athletic program of the Mean Green, to get their reactions to Fry's acceptance of the Iowa job.

"I think it's a good move for him," a former NTSU football manager told me. "North Texas won't give him the program he deserves to work with. Iowa will give him the program he wanted North Texas to have."

"Fry has been trying to get into the Southwest Conference to give his players a shot at a major championship. Now he'll have the chance to go for one of the most prestigious titles in the country, that of the Big 10."

I put in another call to a pretty North Texas coed who has known the Fry family for years, having gone through junior high and high school with the coach's sons, to get her reaction to Fry's move to Iowa.

"OF COURSE I'M UPSET he's moving," she told me. "He made our team. He turned our football program around."

"But I can't blame him for wanting to better himself. Since he's come here it's been nothing but frustration for him. Everyone has rejected us. We haven't gotten a bowl bid, we haven't been on TV. I can't blame him for leaving."

"But I'll miss him. He's a great coach and a great man."

Fry will be missed by the people who have followed his career from his assistant coaching days at Arkansas through his SMU stint and on to North Texas.

But he'll have a lot of people in this state supporting his venture at Iowa. Every Sunday people across Texas will open the sports pages to see if Hayden and Iowa won their game Saturday.

And who can blame them. Everyone loves to support a winner.

## Job security lacking for baseball managers

United Press International  
ORLANDO, Fla. — Earl Weaver was laughing. He couldn't help it because of the subject under discussion. Job security for a major league manager.

Over the past two years 21 managers have either been fired or quit their own (14 in the American League and seven in the National League) and the way they keep being kept out, job security for them sometimes works out to less than 48 hours.

"By July 15 four or five more of us, including myself, may hit the street," said Weaver, still smiling. "So Sparky Anderson has to do just what I did, wait a little while and pick up the job he wants."

Each year at the winter baseball meetings, Sy Berger and the Topps chewing gum people host a special private party for all the managers. Earl Weaver, who never has, was on hand for this year's get-together.

"We even had three undefeated managers this time," pointed out Weaver, calling out the names of Tom Kessinger, Les Moss and Pat Burrell, all getting ready to start their first season as big league managers.

"But Ralph Houk and Billy Martin weren't there and those two usually are the life of the party," added Weaver, who has had his run-ins with Martin but wants to see him come back.

"Billy Martin adds something to baseball," said the Orioles' manager. "Wherever he's gone he has gotten the team up and created pennant fever. He has added excitement even if he didn't win every year."

Since taking over the Orioles in July of 1968, Weaver has strung together a record of 999 victories against 686 losses.

# Oilers edge Saints, clinch playoff spot

United Press International  
NEW ORLEANS — For Houston quarterback Dan Pastorini eight shots of Novocain and the Oilers' first playoff berth since 1969 eased the pain of three cracked ribs.

"Now that we're in the playoffs I don't feel any pain," Pastorini said after the Oilers defeated the New Orleans Saints 17-12 Sunday to advance to the AFC playoffs with a wildcard spot.

Pastorini, who completed 12 passes for 137 yards and one touchdown, abandoned any idea of testing his pass protection with long throws. Instead, he tossed short flips to his backs and wide receivers in the flat.

Unfortunately for the Saints one of Pastorini's 8-yard specials to

rookie wide-receiver Robert Woods turned into an 80-yard touchdown that wilted a 12-point New Orleans second-half rally.

"On our passing game we ran mostly quick screens and quick cuts," Pastorini said. "The play to Woods was a quick out to pick up 8 yards. But he's a world class sprinter and once he got behind the cornerback I said 'He's gone.'"

Woods, who joined the Oilers only two weeks ago after working at a Little Rock, Ark. children's center was just as surprised as Pastorini.

"The coaches told me it was about time for me to score a touchdown," he said, "but I thought it would be a punt return. I do good in domes."

Woods scored just one minute after Saints' kicker Steve Mike-

Mayer blew a 23-yard field goal that would have tied the score at 10-10 with eight minutes remaining.

The Oilers clinched an AFC wild card playoff berth on the strength of the win because Oakland, the New York Jets and Seattle all lost. Houston is 10-5 with San Diego as its final opponent next week.

The Oilers steamroller running game dominated the first half, grinding out 16- and 12-play drives for a touchdown and a field goal.

Playing with three cracked ribs, Pastorini kept the ball on the ground with running backs Tim Wilson and Earl Campbell. He threw sparingly mostly on safe tosses into the flat.

Campbell, also playing with bruised ribs, capped a 76-yard

fourth and two from the six the Saints attempted a field goal to tie the score.

Mike-Mayer, perhaps hurried on his kick, pulled it to his left. It was the second time he missed a field goal of such short yardage in two games.

The Saints later picked up a safety when Pastorini fumbled a snap and the ball rolled out of the end zone.

New Orleans quarterback Archie Manning finally brought the team to life late in the third period completing four of five pass attempts for 61 yards in an 80-yard touchdown drive. Manning hit Tinker Owens on a 6-yard slant pass narrowing Houston's lead to 10-7.

The Oilers punted and Manning again drove the Saints from their own 20 to the Houston six with passes of 20, 19 and 12 yards. But on

42-yard pass play to the Cowboys' 5. Mike Hogan scored on a 1-yard run to make it 14-7.

But after a scoreless second quarter Dallas drove 79 yards on its opening second half possession for its third touchdown. Staubach set it up with a 54-yard pass to Tony Hill to the Eagles' 23 and Dorsett ended the march with a 23-yard dash around his left end.

Rafael Septien kicked an 18-yard field goal later in the third quarter and Laidlaw finished the Dallas scoring on the first play of the fourth quarter when he caught a screen pass from Staubach and ran for a touchdown to complete a 44-yard pass play.

A 42-yard pass from Jaworski to Carmichael set up the Eagles' final touchdown, a 4-yard run by Lawrence Barnes.

## Cowboys clip Eagles 31-13

United Press International  
PHILADELPHIA — The Philadelphia Eagles discovered Sunday what a lot of NFL teams already know — you can't spot the Dallas Cowboys two touchdowns and expect to win.

With running backs Tony Dorsett and Scott Laidlaw each scoring touchdowns on a run and a Roger Staubach pass, the NFC East champion Cowboys continued to warm up for the playoffs with a 31-13 trouncing of the Eagles.

The Cowboys, who clinched the home field advantage for the playoffs' first round with the victory, jumped out to a 14-0 lead only 6:01 into the game with the help of two turnovers, and that pretty much was the end of the road for Philadelphia.

"I can say Dallas is a better team and they proved it," Eagles coach Dick Vermeil said. "We had to come back from 14-0 and you can't do that. If you get behind Dallas you're in trouble."

"We got some early breaks," Dallas coach Tom Landry said. "Philadelphia really wanted to win badly but two touchdowns are hard to overcome. The breaks are very important. We didn't get too many early in the season but we're getting them now."

Laidlaw scored on a 1-yard run and a 44-yard pass from Staubach. Dorsett caught a 16-yard pass from Staubach and raced 23 yards for his touchdowns while breaking Calvin Hill's single season rushing record set in 1973.

The Eagles (8-7), who lost to the Cowboys for the ninth straight time dating back to 1974, were plagued by five turnovers and eight sacks while seeing their hopes for their first playoff berth in 18 years diminished.

The first Dallas score was set up when Harold Carmichael fumbled on the Eagles' first play from scrimmage and Cowboys' free safety Cliff Harris recovered and ran to the Philadelphia 5. Laidlaw scored from the 1 three plays later.

On Philadelphia's third play of its next series Ron Jaworski's pass was intercepted by Benny Barnes and returned to the Eagles' 16. Staubach tossed a screen pass to Dorsett on the first lay and Dorsett followed a fine block by guard Herbert Scott into the end zone.

The Eagles mustered a 73-yard, seven-play drive for their first touchdown late in the quarter. Jaworski scrambled for 16 yards on a fouled up flea flicker and then hooked up with Carmichael on a

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