



LARRY AND DONNA CRUMBLEY, above, won one of Home Box Office's 17 grand prizes, and thus a trip to the Super Bowl last month in Miami.

Super Bowl trip was 'first-class', fun — and free

By Rhonda Watters
Battalion Reporter

As the weeks pass and Dallas Cowboy fans everywhere try to erase the painful memory of Super Bowl XIII, one can find two fans in College Station who, though disappointed at the game's outcome, are not in such a hurry to forget it all. Instead of watching the game on TV like almost everyone else, this local couple got to take a short vacation in Miami and watch the Super Bowl in person.

And the trip was free.

Larry Crumbley, a professor of accounting at Texas A&M University, was one of 17 grand prize trip-for-two winners to the Super Bowl in a contest sponsored by Home Box Office, the nation's largest pay cable network.

"It was fantastic, a first-class operation all the way," Crumbley said. He and his wife, Donna, spent four days in Miami almost expense-free, having to pay only for some of their meals.

The contest, called HBO Hero Sweepstakes, was held in conjunction with an HBO series called "Inside the NFL." The series, co-hosted by Len Dawson and Merle Harmon, is an hour-long weekly show that discusses and shows highlights of the NFL football games of the previous week throughout the football season.

To be eligible for prizes, Crumbley said he had to send in a postcard correctly picking the winning teams of the six pro football games scheduled for the coming week. Each week a grand prize winner was chosen at random from those who guessed correctly.

Crumbley, who began entering the contest last season, made his lucky pick in the 14th week of this year's contest, his 25th try overall.

"I used their (Dawson and Harmon) opinions and their two point-spreads and that's how I made my two picks," he said.

The Crumbleys, who were the only winners from

Texas, left on the Thursday before the Super Bowl and returned the following Monday.

Miami "was like four days of New Year's Eve," said Mrs. Crumbley. She said they attended several parties, and one night HBO gave them tickets to attend a "Hollywood-type show." During the day the winners were allowed to plan their own activities, such as sight-seeing or shopping.

In addition to the plane tickets, lodging, transportation and game tickets, Crumbley said the prize also included three HBO-sponsored dinners and two brunches.

At the game, "we had pretty good seats," Crumbley said. He added that the winners did not all sit together, but were scattered throughout the stadium. His two seats were located between the goal line and the 10-yard line at the end of the field where, unfortunately for the Cowboys, "most of the action took place."

Crumbley said there seemed to be far more Pittsburgh fans at the game than Dallas fans. Mrs. Crumbley added that the Pittsburgh fans had a lot of spirit and that she thought "the fans played a big part" in the Steeler victory.

According to Jeb Seder, public relations representative for HBO at the home office in New York City, HBO executives have not yet decided whether the contest will become a yearly event. He said the main purpose of the contest was to find out how many people had access to programs on HBO in the last two seasons.

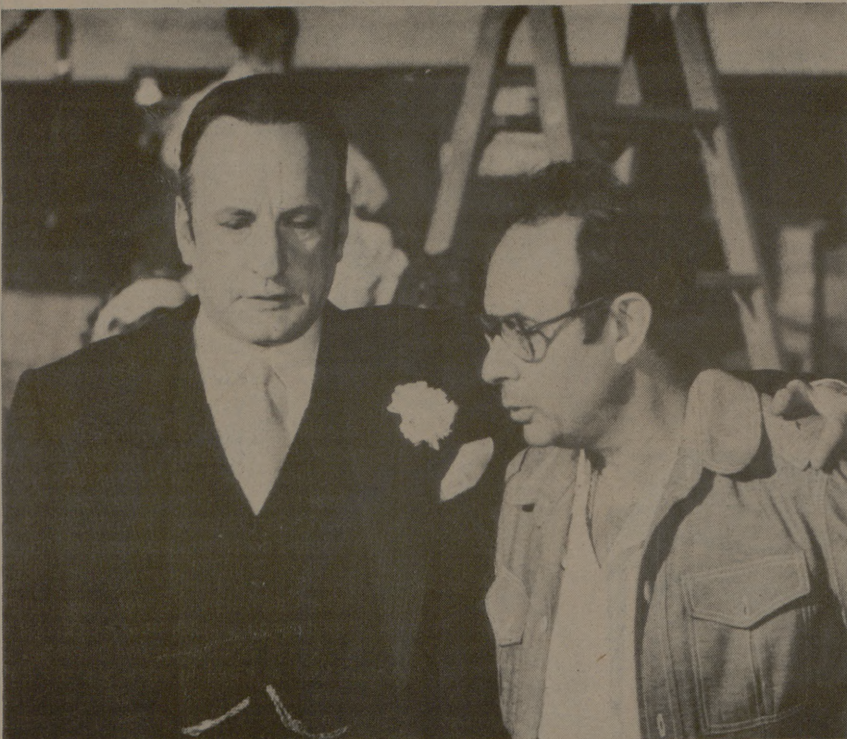
He added that the contestants did not have to be a subscriber to HBO, and some of the winners were from areas that HBO did not operate directly in.

In addition to the 17 grand prize trips given away, Seder said each week 20 glass bowls, call "Super Bowls," were given away as second prizes.

If they continue the contest, Crumbley said he is not sure whether he will enter again. "I have a feeling they won't let me win again," he said.

But according to Seder, that is not necessarily so. He said Crumbley "could conceivably win again because the first part of the contest (picking the winning teams) is skill."

MOVIES



"Movie, Movie"

The scene above is from "Movie, Movie," a Warner Bros. film which takes a 1970s look at the film fare that was so popular with audiences of the 1930s. Heading the cast of this unique film, which is constructed in the form of a classic double feature, is George C. Scott, who plays different roles in each of the "features" as well as appearing in the previews of coming attractions "advertised" between the two movies. The two features are "Dynamite Hands," a boxing story, and "Baxter's Beauties," a backstage musical. The movie is produced and directed by Stanley Donen, and also stars Trish Van Devere, Barbara Harris, Red Buttons, Barry Bostwick, Ann Reinking, Art Carney and Eli Wallach, most of whom play roles in both movies within the movie. Donen said, in describing the film: "As with much of the movie fare of the 1930s, our film is meant to entertain and touch you at the same time."



"Agatha"

Dustin Hoffman and Vanessa Redgrave, pictured above, star in the new Warner Bros. film "Agatha." Redgrave plays Agatha Christie, who after the success of her new mystery is the toast of London literary society. But her personal life is crumbling: her husband is leaving her to marry his secretary. Suddenly Agatha Christie disappears. As police search for her, she takes up residence at an elegant health spa, under an assumed name. Hoffman portrays newspaper columnist Wally Stanton, who sets out to find Christie before the police do. After much investigation, he shows up at the spa masquerading as a businessman, and observes Christie's interest in electrical therapy. He also falls in love with her. During the next few days, she studies electrical wiring, makes a series of strange telephone calls, and resists Stanton's offers of help. Then she sets in motion a plot as bizarre as any she has ever written.