



SWC also-rans may miss prestigious bowl offers

United Press International
All those people who like to fill up the bowl games will be zipping around the country Saturday, grabbing off the best clubs they can. There are quite a few teams in the Southwest Conference worthy of playing in bowls, but there is one little problem for the selection committees. All three of the conference's top clubs still have a shot at the Cotton Bowl.

So unless some sort of deals are struck, either Houston or Texas or Arkansas may not pick up as prestigious a bid offer as they might otherwise receive.

All three are in the running for the Jan. 1 game in Dallas, of course, because of the events in the chill at Fayetteville and the heat of the Astro dome last Saturday.

Texas' dramatic 21-13 victory over previously defeated Houston, combined with Arkansas whirlwind comeback 29-20 decision over Baylor, left the Cougars, Razorbacks and Longhorns all with one conference loss.

And if they continue to be tied through the end of the regular season, Arkansas would go to the Cotton Bowl because it has been longer since the Razorbacks were there

than it has Houston or Texas. But there is still a lot of football to be played.

Arkansas, for instance, has to go to Texas A&M next Saturday to meet the improving Aggies, who can at least partially offset their early season disappointments by being the spoilers in the race.

Texas hosts TCU this week, which is turning out to be no easy chore as evidenced by the Horned Frogs 3-3 tie with Texas Tech last Saturday. But, in addition, the Longhorns must also finish out their schedule at home with Baylor and on the road at A&M.

Houston appears to have the easiest schedule of the three, following an open date this week with games against Texas Tech and Rice. But for Houston to have a chance at the Cotton Bowl, Texas must lose somewhere along the line. And for Texas to have a chance, Arkansas must lose.

Only Arkansas controls its own destiny. Whatever happens, the last few weeks of the conference race won't be dull. A Houston win in the Astro dome last Saturday night would have almost clinched a Cotton Bowl trip for the Cougars.

"A loss hurts any time, but unless I'm mistaken we are still tied for first place," said Houston coach Bill Yeoman. "Arkansas still has A&M to play. Texas still has Baylor and A&M and TCU."

"So now maybe the fans will buy up all the tickets to the remaining games. Let's go ahead and play the rest of the season. There is some excitement left. That's why we did all this, so there would be excitement left."

Other than the TCU-Texas and Arkansas-A&M games next Saturday, Texas Tech will travel to SMU (which broke a five-game losing streak with a 34-0 decision over Wichita State last Saturday) and the Rice Owls will visit Baylor.

Baylor saw its championship hopes go down the drain when it let a 17-point lead slip away in Fayetteville. But if the Bears defeat Rice next Saturday they will have at least seven wins and, with its talented defense and heavyweight running back Walter Abercrombie, should be an attractive bowl team.

In addition, if one of the so-called minor bowls takes Baylor, it would have a chance to gain extra prestige if the Bears should upset Texas on Nov. 24.

Oilers pound Raiders, 31-

United Press International
HOUSTON — Quarterback Dan Pastorini threw touchdown passes of 55 and 35 yards to Ken Burrough and passed for 208 yards Sunday to carry the Houston Oilers to a 31-17 victory over the Oakland Raiders.

Safety Mike Reinfeldt's interception of a tipped pass — the first of two he had in the game — started the Oilers to a 14-point third quarter which allowed them to improve their record to 8-3.

Oakland, now 6-5, used Lester Hayes' punt block to get into position to tie the score at 14-14 before halftime on Ken Stabler's second scoring pass of the day, a three-yard throw to Dave Casper.

But the Raiders added only Jim Breech's 32-yard field goal in the second half as the Oilers sacked Stabler three times and came up with Reinfeldt's critical interception.

Reinfeldt, the NFL's leading interceptor with 11, returned the pick-off 33 yards to the Raiders' 18. On third-and-goal from the seven-yard line, fullback Tim Wilson scored behind the block of Ed Fisher to put the Oilers in front for good.

Seven minutes later, Burrough split Oakland's zone defense to catch a 35-yard pass and score untouched.

Houston took the lead in the first half on Earl Campbell's one-yard touchdown run and Pastorini's 55-yard scoring throw to Burrough.

Stabler passed 23 yards to Raymond Chester for his team's first touchdown, briefly tying the score at 7-7 late in the first quarter, but with time running out in the first half Chester, Oakland's leading pass receiver, suffered a leg injury. He did not return to the game.

Houston kicker Toni Fritsch finished the Houston scoring by booting a 51-yard field goal with 3:43

to play. It was his 16th field goal in 18 tries this year. Reinfeldt ended Oakland's final possession of the day with another interception at the Oilers' 23.

Last Monday night Pastorini had passed for only 25 yards as he completed six of 10 passes in Houston's 9-6 win over Miami. Sunday's effort was the second best of the season for Pastorini, whose top yardage performance of the year was 212 yards against the New York Jets.

Burrough caught three passes for 109 yards and split end Mike Renfro, who started his first game of the season due to an injury to Mike Barber, caught two throws for 83 yards.

A 47-yard pass from Pastorini to Renfro fueled the Oilers first touchdown drive on their opening possession of the game. Campbell scored from a yard out on third down after being hit and knocked back by Raiders cornerback Jack Tatum.

Eagles closing gap on Pokes

United Press International
IRVING — For the past three years the Philadelphia Eagles, under coach Dick Vermeil, have nibbled away at the Dallas Cowboys.

The results have not shown up on the scoreboard because Dallas has built a nine-game winning streak over the Eagles. But the gap has slowly closed.

And the Eagles hope to show just how much the deficit has been made up tonight at Texas Stadium.

Philadelphia, which broke quickly from the gate this year but which has lost its last three games, take on the Cowboys in what has become a critical game for the Eagles. A Dallas win tonight and the Cowboys will have opened a three-game lead over Philadelphia in the NFC East.

Vermeil, known for his spartan work habits, said during the week leading up to the game that the Cowboys "are still the class of the division."

only way we are going to close the gap on those guys. You are never going to out-coach Dallas. I don't think you can out-coach anybody these days, but especially Dallas.

"You just have to catch up with physical ability and try to get out of a player what he has to give."

Since Dallas already has a division lead and since Philadelphia is facing a must situation, Dallas coach Tom Landry feels justified in worrying about the mental aspect of tonight's game.

"Anytime you have a little padding, you don't work quite as hard as when you don't have any padding," Landry said. "That is just human nature. You don't ever escape that."

Despite Philadelphia's three-game losing streak, the Eagles played an intense game last week against Cleveland and Landry sees the opposition as being at its top level

this week.

"What we have got to try to do is to slow down (running back) Wilbert Montgomery and control (wide receiver) Harold Carmichael," Landry said. "Somebody else might star in the game, but when it is over you had better have controlled Montgomery a little bit and Carmichael to a reasonable degree."

Montgomery gained 200 yards last Sunday against Cleveland and Montgomery set an NFL record in that game by catching a pass in his 106th straight contest.

"Montgomery has great leg drive," said Landry. "I don't know of anyone other than Walter Payton who has ability in his legs like Montgomery does."

"When you play against him you had better be tackling. If you are not tackling, he is going to run for a lot of yardage."

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