

SWC also-rans may miss United Press International IRVING — For the past three years the Philadelphia Eagles, under coach Dick Vermeil, have nibbled 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 other-

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 Astrodome 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

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 for the Cougars.

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

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

Only Arkansas controls its own

Whatever happens, the last few weeks of the conference race won't be dull. A Houston win in the Astrodome last Saturday night would have almost clinched a Cotton Bowl trip

"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

"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 excite-

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 of the socalled minor bowls takes Baylor, it would have a chance to gain extra prestige if the Bears should upset

Oilers pound Raiders, 31-1

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 posi-tion 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 intercep-

away at the Dallas Cowboys.

slowly closed.

The results have not shown up on

And the Eagles hope to show just

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 cri-

tical 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 Cow-

boys "are still the class of the divi-

boys are the Eagles this year?

But how much closer to the Cow-

'We are closer by one draft," Ver-

meil said. "This last draft was the

first time we had any high draft picks

in I don't know how long.

"We have a young linebacker (first-round pick Jerry Robinson from UCLA) who is as good as any

other young linebacker. We got a

good offensive guard (second-round

pick Petey Perot of Northwest Louisiana) and we got a kicker (Texas A&M's Tony Franklin, a third-round

"We also have a punter from the draft (eighth pick Max Runager of

Working through the draft is the

South Carolina)

how much the deficit has been made

up tonight at Texas Stadium.

the scoreboard because Dallas has built a nine-game winning streak over the Eagles. But the gap has

Reinfeldt, the NFL's leading intercepter with 11, returned the pickoff 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 55yard 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

Eagles closing gap on Pokes

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 ab-

out the mental aspect of tonight's

ding, you don't work quite as hard as when you don't have any padding,"

Landry said. "That is just human na-

ture. You don't ever escape that." Despite Philadelphia's three-

game losing streak, the Eagles play-

ed an intense game last week against Cleveland and Landry sees the

opposition as being at its top level

THANKSGIVING

'Anytime you have a little pad-

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

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.

"What we have got to try to do is to slow down (running back) Wilbert

Montgomery and control (wide re-

ceiver) 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

Montgomery gained 200 yards last Sunday against Cleveland and Mont-

gomery set an NFL record in that

game by catching a pass in his 106th

"Montgomery has great leg drive," said Landry. "I don't know of anyone other than Walter Payton

who has ability in his legs like Mont-

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

a reasonable degree.

straight contest.

gomery does.

back Monte Jackson dee

his touchdown passes. Campbell picked up 10 32 carries and went overthal 73 No yard mark - becoming the player ever to gain 1,000 Pages each of his first two sea

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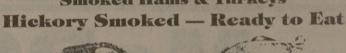
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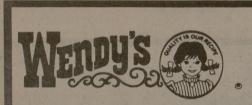


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