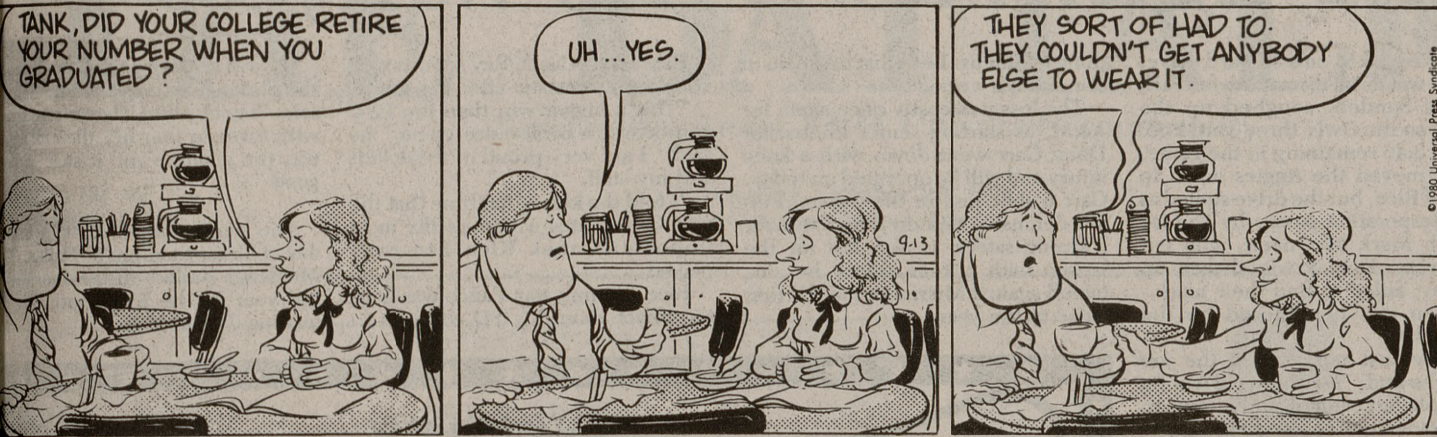


TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



Dallas knocks off San Diego

United Press International
IRVING — The National Football League showcased two of its best teams for national television Sunday night in hopes it would produce a memorable drama. Instead, the Dallas Cowboys and San Diego Chargers turned out a feature-length cartoon.

"It was wild and wooly," assessed Dallas coach Tom Landry. "There were a lot of big plays."

And it was Dallas that turned in most of those big plays, coming back from a halftime deficit to pour on 21 points in the third period and whip the San Diego Chargers, 42-31.

"I knew it would be a high scoring game and I was just hoping we could keep up with them. As it turned out, we did. It was an important game for

us. We felt like we had to win this one."

"And we thought we had a good chance to win even though we were behind at the half because San Diego had scored most of its points on strange plays."

The most critical of the bizarre and spectacular plays came while Dallas was scoring its three touchdowns in the third quarter — two of them produced on 1-yard runs by third-string fullback Timmy Newsome.

In a game that took 3½ hours to finish and was filled with one freakish play after another, the Cowboys boosted their record to 6-2 at the midway point of the NFL season and kept them a game back of Philadelphia in the NFC East. San Diego, meanwhile, slipped to 5-3 and fell back into a first-place tie with Oakland in the tight AFC West chase.

San Diego had jumped in front at the half, 24-14, thanks in part to a pass from Dan Fouts that ricocheted off the helmet of Dallas cornerback Steve Wilson and into the hands of John Jefferson, who turned it into a 58-yard touchdown.

But the breaks began going Dallas' way in the second half and the Cowboys stormed back with three touchdowns in an 8:15 span.

Newsome scored on Dallas initial possession of the first half after Cowboys tight end Jay Saldi had picked up a fumble by quarterback Danny White and carried it eight yards to the Chargers' two.

The Cowboys scored five minutes later on another 1-yard run by Newsome after White had scrambled 12 yards for a first down on a fake punt

J.R. released, can play in '81

United Press International
SAN FRANCISCO — Houston Astros star pitcher J. R. Richard was released from the University of California's Moffitt Hospital late Saturday and was told by vascular surgeons he can look forward next spring to resuming an active baseball career.

Richard was operated on at the hospital on Oct. 14 to replace an obstructed artery in his right shoulder. A recuperation period followed and Saturday he was discharged and sent home.

"Mr. Richard is in good condition and it is expected he will resume an active baseball career," a hospital spokesman said in a prepared statement from the doctors who operated on the big right-hander.

Richard suffered a stroke July 30 during his first workout after being released from a hospital. He had undergone extensive testing which discovered impaired circulation in his right shoulder, but did not disclose a blood clot which reached his neck, causing the stroke.

Despite his loss, the Astros went on to win the National League West before losing to the eventual World Series champion Philadelphia Phillies in the N.L. playoffs.

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Campbell gains 202

United Press International
HOUSTON — Earl Campbell got his 200-plus yards rushing. So what else is new? The Houston Oilers' pass rush, that's what.

Brutalizing two Cincinnati quarterbacks for four sacks, three interceptions and untold number of backside views of the Astrodome roof, the Oilers defense led by Mike Stensrud and Robert Brazile helped rack up their most impressive win of the season, 23-3, Sunday.

Campbell, who credits the team's acquisition of tight end Dave Casper with improving his performances, bruised his way through the heart of an improved Bengals defense to gain 202 yards Sunday, one week after he had battered the Tampa Bay Buccaneers for 203 yards.

Only one other NFL pro has ever done that — put together consecutive 200-yard rushing games.

"Well," Campbell said, "O.J. Simpson is pretty classy company to be in. But what's really going to make me happy is how we end up the season."

Oilers head coach Bum Phillips admitted to being at a loss for words about Campbell, the University of Texas Heisman Trophy winner who led the NFL in rushing his first two pro seasons.

"Earl plays better than I can talk; I've run out of things to say about him," said Phillips, whose team is atop the AFC Central Division along with the Cleveland Browns.

In the two games prior to Sunday's game, Campbell had rushed for more than 380 yards. But Houston lost one of these games and barely won the other.

Phillips explained that "it was the best blocking we have done in many a year."

Bengals head coach Forrest Gregg said people looking for reasons for his team's poorest showing of the year need not dig too deep.

"What caused the breakdown for Cincinnati today? Earl Campbell," Gregg said.

Two Campbell touchdowns and three Toni Fritsch field goals of 33, 46 and 30 yards accounted for the Oilers' points. Fritsch has now kicked 13 of his 14 field goal tries this season.

Linebacker Reggie William's interception of a Kenny Stabler pass at the Oilers' 40-yard line late in the first quarter allowed the Bengals to score first on Ian Sunter's 22-yard field goal.

A fierce Oilers' pass rush, which sacked quarterback Ken Anderson four times, kept the Bengals from widening its 3-0 lead in the first half.

Anderson, who completed 23 of 33 passes for 185 yards, drove his team inside Houston's 40-yard line four times in the first half without producing any points. Two quarterback sacks by Oilers tackle Mike Stensrud and another by linebacker Robert Brazile forced the Bengals out of field goal range on three of those possessions.

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