Coaches blast rule changes Landry: Find better way to play defense'

United Press International

DALLAS — It used to be that to have a good defensive all team you simply needed some linemen who resemd a concrete wall and an overall attitude of nastiness. w it takes an anti-aircraft gun and a bomb shelter. Dr, as Dallas coach Tom Landry put it Tuesday:

Defense seems to be passe now.

It's not that he's necessarily complaining; he's just com-enting. And so are a lot of other coaches these days as they mpt to devise a way to slow down the sophisticated passing

The league is a lot different than it has been a long time, ndry said. "You see it every day. You saw it again last night Houston's 38-34 win over New England).

Teams are gaining much more confidence. Receivers are ch more confident because they are not getting knocked nd all the time. They are running freely in the secondary,

and when you have that kind of situation it becomes much

The culprit in all of this has been the rule change which forbids the bumping of a receiver more than five yards past the line of scrimmage. NFL officials hoped the change, along with a looser interpretation of holding, would open up the offense and bring about more points.

It has worked.

Now, does Landry think it has worked too well?

"There is going to be much more reluctance to go back the other way (toward defensive-oriented football)," Landry said. 'We're going to have to find better way to play defense. We've tried every way we know to slow it down, but it's hard if the quarterback has got time to throw the ball.

"I think the game should be an innovation thing. I don't

believe in changing rules.

'I'm not going to say we should go back to where we were because where we were, the defense was taking advantage of the offense. I think when a receiver has to drag three defenders downfield to catch the ball, which was happening before, then something had to be done

But whether this is the way it should be only time will tell. Maybe from a coaching standpoint we can change something defensively that will help us to stop the onslaught because it's the same every week.

Even though passing offense has mushroomed, Landry feels it still takes a decent running game to make the passing attack

"In the Houston game against New England Earl Campbell only averaged one yard per try in the first half," Landry said. "But the fact that he's hitting in there made it easier for them to complete the passes.

You have to run successfully to put the fear in them and make them gang up on you to keep you from trying to run the

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Bum: 'Make 'em pay..don't ya reckon?'

United Press International
OUSTON — Increased scoring in NFL games has Bum os down, and Tuesday the Houston Oilers head coach he wanted to return to the good old days when receivers a price for coming across the middle."

illers defensive players, Phillips added, are being prohi-d from playing football because NFL rule changes have ed offensive linemen pass block and receivers avoid con-

The whole rules committee has made every attempt to ke it a high-scoring game," he said. I sked whether he liked the developments, which generated

ord 732 points in 14 games last weekend, Phillips shot

drather a guy have a chance to defend himself on defense. i't like to see a guy run down the field 15 yards and come s the middle, and you can't touch him. That's not the way as raised. You always made 'em pay a price for coming oss the middle, don't you reckon?" New England Patriots receivers made Phillips yearn for yesteryear Monday night by grabbing 374 yards in passes, and despite the Oilers harrowing 38-34 victory Phillips was teed

"It's harder to get to the quarterback. It's harder to pass rush because of the liberalized rules on pass protection, and of course it's extremely hard to play defense when a guy gets five yards downfield and you can't touch him," he said

He added that a pass interference penalty called against Oilers cornerback Greg Stemrick Monday was an "incidental" trip as both men went for the ball. The flag never would have been thrown, he said, if there was no such rule as the one which prohibits defenders from touching receivers five yards past the line of scrimmage

The Oilers defensive plan was to keep the Patriots' wide receivers from catching the bomb.

'Our prevent defense almost prevented us from winning,"

couple of hours sleep because the Oilers must travel and play the Chicago Bears Sunday.

"Our defense didn't play that bad," he said. "Looking at films, it was a whole lot more New England than it was our

Oilers doctors said wide receiver Ken Burrough, who suffered a broken wrist Monday night, would be sidelined at least six weeks, and Phillips said he would make a decision later in the week on who would replace him on the roster.

The coach said tight end Dave Casper could have played in the second half Monday night with a "slight hamstring pull," but he was held out to keep the injury from becoming worse.

"Losing Dave was a good example of why we needed three tight ends," he said. "Had we not had three tight ends, we would have had to give up our offense."

In the second half Monday night, veteran Rich Caster re-

placed Casper in the team's two-tight-end alignment.

Bowl scouts look tkey matchups

president, John Scovell, in Tallahas-

see, Fla., in case the bowl opts for Florida State — a team that does not

Cotton Bowl committee member

Bill Crisler will be at the Auburn-Georgia game while Southwest Con-

ference commissioner Cliff Speegle

and bowl committe member Jim Ray

Smith will be at the Baylor-Rice

Smith, a former Baylor star, will issue the automatic Cotton Bowl in-

vitation to the Bears as Southwest

Conference champion if they defeat

The Texas Longhorns are expected to accept a Bluebonnet Bowl bid if they defeat TCU Saturday and

the SMU Mustangs apparently have

their choice of three bowls — Tangerine, Sun or Holiday — if they

The Houston Cougars also jumped

into the bowl picture this week.

There are reports that two or three of the smaller bowls are looking at the

Cougars even though they have lost

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United Press International
ALLAS — The Alabama-Notre and Georgia-Auburn games Saturday hold the key to the bowl picture and representafrom the Sugar, Orange and on bowls will all be present at

otton Bowl executive director Brock and former executive tor Field Scovell will both be at abama-Notre Dame game.

ne fact that both of those influenmbers of the Cotton Bowl archy will be present in Birmingappeared to indicate they plano make a hard rush for either rish or Crimson Tide.

Georgia defeats Auburn the dogs would earn an automatic ion to the Sugar Bowl. In that Alabama would likely go to the ge Bowl if it defeats Notre

otre Dame, however, is not cona certainty for the Sugar if it beats Alabama. ne Cotton Bowl will also have its

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A&M was led with goals by John Henserling and Roe Babers.

Two riders fell from their horses during the game, Steven Bell and Paul Harris of Texas. One required hospitalization for a cut lip.

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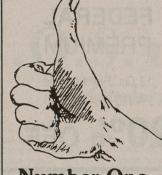
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