

TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



Dallas area tilt highlights playoffs

United Press International
The Texas High School Coaches Association is celebrating its 50th anniversary and during that half-century there have been many outstanding schoolboy football games. What promises to be one of the more memorable occurs Saturday in Texas Stadium as fourth-rated Plano beats No. 7 Dallas Highland Park in Class AAAAA quarterfinal.

The game has all the makings for a great one — two natural rivals located close together who have met before both on the district level and in the playoffs.

And, more the 40,000 fans — probably the largest crowd to ever watch a Texas high school football game — are expected for the 2 p.m. kickoff. Many will be looking for a rematch of the 1977 quarterfinal in which Highland Park built up a 28-point, fourth-quarter lead only to see Plano come-from-behind 29-28 to win.

"I just don't know what to expect other than it should be one of the great games that usually unfolds when these two teams meet," said

Highland Park Coach Frank Bevers. "Both teams have changed since 1977, and we have different personnel which means we play different football."

"But, the excitement should be there, and both teams may be a little better this year than they were then," he said. "It's just a great feeling to be involved in a game like this one."

As for Plano, Bevers says the Wildcats are well coached, have great poise, and will stick together when things get tough.

"Plano doesn't beat itself," he said. "When you finish a game with them, you know you've been in a game. This one will be no different."

Bevers called the 1977 matchup "one of the greatest games I've ever been associated with."

"It was a fans' game — one where you were afraid to go out to the hot-dog stand because you would miss so much. And for us, unfortunately, those who left early missed a whole lot. Plano just hung in, played good and finally won. That's a compliment

to them, after having been down by 28 points."

The Plano-Highland Park is one of four great Class AAAAA quarterfinal meetings. Others find second-rated Port Arthur Jefferson meeting Houston Stratford, 1978 state champion, for an 8 p.m. Saturday Astrodome date; Amarillo and No. 6 Odessa Permian playing at 2 p.m. Saturday in Lubbock's Jones Stadium; and fifth-rated San Antonio Holmes facing Alice in a 7:30 p.m. Friday meeting at Austin's Memorial Stadium.

Classes AAAAA and A will both play semifinals this week, six-man has its state championship game, and Classes AAA and AA are also down to quarterfinals.

Top-rated Bay City and sixth-ranked Huntsville meet in one Class AAAAA semifinal at 8 p.m. Friday in Houston's Rice Stadium, while Lubbock Estacado and ninth-ranked Paris play the other semifinal at 3 p.m. Saturday in Wichita Falls.

In Class A, top-ranked Falls City faces fourth-ranked Valley View at 8 p.m. Friday in Belton and second-ranked Valley plays third-rated

Rankin at 7:30 p.m. Friday in Snyder.

Defending champion Milford plays Highland at 7 p.m. Friday in Comanche for the six-man state title.

Quarterfinal matchups in Class AAA pair Littlefield and third-rated Stamford at 7:30 p.m. Friday in Lubbock, eighth-ranked Decatur and top-rated Pittsburg at 7:30 p.m. Friday in Rockwall, West and Waller at 8 p.m. Friday at Kyle Field in College Station, and Van Vleck and 10th-rated Port Isabel at 8 p.m. Friday in Robstown.

Alborn pleased with Hertel, named Coach of the Week

United Press International
HOUSTON — Rice's upset win over the Houston Cougars marked a significant power change in the Southwest Conference and a personal victory for Ray Alborn, the Rice Owls head coach who made a difficult decision before this season.

In that 35-7 win, senior quarterback Randy Hertel passed for three touchdowns when he had several reasons to give not one hoot about the outcome. Alborn had changed the offense before the season, devaluing Hertel's passing talents, and during the season he had benched Hertel.

He added he wanted to share the honor with his 23 seniors, many of whom he recruited while he worked as a Rice assistant coach four years ago. He became head coach in April 1978.

"This is a great way for our seniors to go out," he said. "They went through what I would call some slaughters, some real disasters. But they had some fairly glorious football games, too."

Rice's win culminated a massive shift of power in the SWC, which has been dominated by the state-supported schools for years. Rice's win was the 12th of the season for the private schools over a state-supported school. The state schools won eight.

Alborn credits the 95-scholarship limit for colleges with causing the parity among teams.

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Cleveland's Charboneau named AL Rookie of Year

United Press International
NEW YORK — Joe Charboneau, the heir apparent to Rocky Colavito, Cleveland's next baseball hero, was named American League Rookie of the Year Wednesday by the Baseball Writers Association of America.

Charboneau received 15 first place votes from the 28-member committee to easily outdistance Boston's Dave Stapleton, who picked up three first-place votes. Minnesota reliever Doug Corbett also received three first-place mentions and finished third in the balloting.

The 28 writers were asked to list their three choices for the award with a first-place vote counting for the points. Second place was worth three points and one point was earned for a third-place mention.

"I'm really so happy," said Charboneau, who was out dining with his wife when informed of the honor. "I wasn't expecting this at all. There were so many super rookies in the league and it's a real honor to win over guys like Stapleton and Burns."

Toronto's Damaso Garcia finished fourth, also picking up three first-place votes, and pitcher Britt Burns of the Chicago White Sox finished fifth despite four first-place mentions. Rick Peters of Detroit finished sixth and Dick Dotson of the White Sox was seventh.

"I'm going nuts not being able to

play," said Charboneau. "... You know, I once told my wife if I made the big leagues, I'd make Rookie of the Year for her. For a while, I thought I put my foot in my mouth. What an honor. With news like this, you can pull me away from the dinner table any time."

Although he gained most of his acclaim with a potent bat that drilled 23 homers and knocked in 87 runs for the Indians, Charboneau drew almost as much attention for his reputation as a flake.

The 6-foot-2, 200-pound slugger astounds teammates with such feats as opening beer bottles with the socket of his eye, eating six lighted cigarettes at once, drinking beer through his nose and swallowing an entire raw egg — shell and all.

And, as a handyman, nobody can match the skills Charboneau has shown with a pair of pliers. He once used the tool to reset his nose — which has been broken three times — and also extracted a bothersome tooth. His ability to consume fluids through his nose came about when doctors were forced to surgically remove all the damaged cartilage.

But Charboneau was no joke on the playing field this season and he captivated a city that is starved for a winning baseball team. "Go Joe Charboneau," a song performed by a group called Section 36 that occupies

that section in Municipal Stadium, reached No. 3 on the singles chart in Cleveland. A Super Joe poster, featuring Charboneau in a Western hat and a cape, has been selling out all over town.

Leading the Indians to a respectable 79-81 record in 1980, Charboneau, who played left field and designated hitter, batted .289 and brought some dignity to a team that has been ridiculed for years. Along with Miguel Dilone, who batted .341, the Indians finally boasted some offensive punch and the people of Cleveland rediscovered the Indians.

Coaches have raved about his patience at the plate and a willingness to work, but are most impressed by his lack of fear when facing some of the league's finest pitchers.

"I've never been knocked down by a pitch," said Charboneau. "And I never will be ... I've been hit all over, but ... I won't go down in the dirt."

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