

# Sports

## Texas, SMU jump to head of SWC class with wins

United Press International  
If the oldest of Southwest Conference traditions is to hold true once more in 1981, the race for the league championship is down to two teams.

But if this is the year for tradition to be kicked in the teeth, then six teams are still in the running.

The SWC title has never been won by a club that has lost twice to a conference foe and going into the final month of the campaign there are just two schools remaining that can keep that streak alive.

SMU and Texas, which engaged in their personal shootout two Saturdays ago in Texas Stadium, are in a virtual deadlock heading into the stretch. The Mustangs actually have a half game lead by virtue of having played one more game to this point than has Texas.

SMU has three games remaining — home dates with Rice and Texas Tech followed by a season ending trip to Arkansas. Texas, meanwhile, faces a critical chal-

lenge next Saturday night in the Astrodome against Houston before taking on TCU, Baylor and Texas A&M.

Both of those clubs will have to stumble for the current supporting cast to jump back into the title picture — that being the group of teams that already have two league losses, Texas A&M, Baylor, Arkansas and Houston.

The conference race, as close as it is, received no further mixing last weekend since there were no upsets in the SWC. That, it seems, is something of an upset in itself.

The only mild upset might have come in the SMU-Texas A&M affair where there was the obvious question of the Mustangs' ability to come back from a tough loss the week before and perform well in the face of their bowl-banning probation.

That was answered in a hurry against the Aggies as Lance McIlhenny flawlessly directed SMU to a 27-7 decision.

Now, with games the next two weeks against teams in the lower half of the standings, and with Texas facing a toughie against Houston, the Mustangs could be in excellent shape.

Much revolves around the Texas-Houston outing. Not only the league crown, but various bowl opportunities now ride on each game. The winner of the Houston-Texas game could well wind up representing the SWC in the Cotton Bowl Jan. 1.

Texas will be coming into the Cougars' confrontation with a relatively solid 26-9 victory over Texas Tech in its satchel. Houston, meanwhile, had to claw its way to a 20-16 win over stubborn TCU, which lost quarterback Steve Stamp for the remainder of the season.

The Horned Frogs rallied in the fourth quarter during a monsoon-like rain, but the comeback effort fell short.

"We were fortunate to get out of their with our lives," said Houston coach Bill Yeoman. "We almost blew the lead we had. TCU has a fine football team and they and the weather never let us quit."

Rice will be trying to get things back in gear against SMU after two straight thumpings, including a 41-7 setback at the hands of Arkansas last Saturday.

Arkansas, meanwhile, will be in Little Rock next weekend against Baylor, a team that has had a week off to prepare and a club that is in hopes of attracting a decent bowl opportunity with a win over the Razorbacks.

Next weekend's other game sends TCU to Texas Tech in a matchup of the two most down-trodden teams in the conference.

### Desperation dive

Linebacker Mike Little dives for a tipped pass from SMU quarterback Lance McIlhenny to tight end Scott Ford in the endzone. Safety Billy Cannon popped Ford as the ball hit him, knocking it up in the air. The Aggies have a week off to prepare for the Arkansas Razorbacks on Nov. 14.

Staff photo by Dave Einsel



## Cowboys shake off errors to take win over Eagles

United Press International  
PHILADELPHIA — Something seems to happen to Tony Dorsett whenever he enters his personal chamber of horrors, known to everyone else as Veterans Stadium.

In two games against the Philadelphia Eagles at the Vet last year, the Dallas Cowboys' flashy running back suffered a cracked rib after gaining only 17 yards, and later coughed up a key fumble in the Cowboys' 20-7 loss in the NFC title game.

The bugaboo continued to follow Dorsett Sunday. He lost a fumble inside the Philadelphia 5 late in the first half. Then, with Dallas driving at the Eagles' 15 in the third quarter, Dorsett saw a pass slip through his fingers and into the waiting arms of linebacker Jerry Robinson at the 3.

But Dorsett shook off his bad luck in time to contribute to the Cowboys' second comeback victory in as many weeks, a 17-14 victory over the Eagles that

earned Dallas, 7-2, a share of first place with Philadelphia in the NFC East.

The NFC's leading rusher slashed off left guard for a 9-yard touchdown run, carrying an Eagle defender the final three yards, with 7:24 to give the Cowboys the lead. Dallas then held its breath until the Eagles' Tony Franklin missed a 34-yard field goal attempt with 1:46 to play.

"No, I don't feel I'm snakebitten when I come here," said Dorsett, who gained 78 yards in 20 hard carries. "You have good days and bad days. Today, it wasn't a great day for me but the touchdown made up for it."

For a time, the Dorsett errors loomed large. The Eagles took a 14-3 lead three plays after the Robinson interception when Ron Jaworski found Harold Carmichael past busy rookie cornerback Everson Walls for an 85-yard touchdown pass with 5:20 left in the third quarter.

"The character of this team shows in that we really come out fighting when our backs are against the wall," Dallas quarterback Danny White said. "It's easy to crawl into a hole and say, 'Forget it.' But we play our best football when we're behind. We get fired up."

White moved the Cowboys downfield right away, hitting tight end Doug Cosbie on a 17-yard touchdown pass with 12:45 remaining. That came on a broken play after White scrambled away from pressure.

The Dallas defense then backed Philadelphia to its own 3 with the help of Ed Jones' sack on Jaworski, and the Cowboys got the ball back on the Eagle 39. Dorsett opened the drive with a 15-yard gallop and closed it with the TD.

The Eagles' last-gasp drive stayed alive when blitzing cornerback Dennis Thurman was called for roughing Jaworski at the Philadelphia 28. Jaworski left the game with bruised ribs and Joe Pisarcik came on.

Pisarcik drilled a 24-yard pass to Carmichael and later scrambled 10 yards to move the ball to Dallas 16 with just over two minutes to play. But a run game, a pass went incomplete and another pass was dropped. Rodney Parker at the goal line.

Sudden death was a real possibility when Franklin, who was of-10 inside 40 yards, trotted with his bare foot. But the went wide left.

"I never thought Franklin would miss that field goal in a million years," Landry said.

"What can I say?" a downcast Franklin said. "It was a good one and a good hold. I just blew it. What hurt more was that I let the team down."

Eagles' coach Dick Vermeil didn't single out Franklin for loss. "The whole team lost it," he said. "I'm sure when I look at films tomorrow I will find things they should have done better, and players will find things they should have done better."

"We got beat by a better ball team. I thought Dallas did a super job, and if not for some alert defensive plays inside the they could have beaten us worse than they did. I also thought we had too many penalties, especially on special teams."

**We've Got THE TOUCH!**  
See what's in Thursday's Focus

**"We Need Your Head to Run Our Business!"**  
**BILL'S BARBER & Roffler Style Shop**  
Hair Styling For Men & Women  
"A Great Cut at a Reasonable Price!"  
215 University (next to Campus Theatre) 846-2228  
Open Mon.-Sat. Appointments Available

**TM AGGIES!**  
**AM Douglas Jewelry**  
**10% AGGIE DISCOUNT**  
ON ALL MERCHANDISE WITH STUDENT ID (Cash Only Please)  
We reserve the right to limit use of this privilege.  
Downtown Bryan (212 N. Main) and Culpepper Plaza

**Mr. Gatti's**  
*The Best Pizza In Town! Honest.*  
**WE DELIVER 846-3412**  
Mr. Gatti's Pizzamat  
AFTER 5 P.M. — MIN. \$5.00 ORDER

John Snyder Washington Lobbyist Vs. Phillip Zelikow Houston Lawyer

**GUN CONTROL: The Right To Bear Arms**  
Monday  
Nov. 28 p.m. — Rudder Theatre

Admission:  
\$.50 Students  
\$1.00 Non-Students  
Tickets available at Rudder Box Office

**MSC GREAT ISSUES**

**FARMERS INSURANCE GROUP**  
Symbol of Superior Service

**REWARD**  
If you don't smoke, I can offer important savings on auto insurance. Claim your reward from:  
**RON ALLEN, Agent**  
707 Texas Avenue Suite 110-A 696-9351

**Get ACTION with WANT ADS**

**"FROM BONFIRE TO WILDFIRE" WITH Michael Murphey**

**AFTER THE AGGIE BONFIRE**  
**NOV. 25TH 9 P.M.**  
NOV. 2ND-6TH — OPTION PERIOD  
NOV. 9TH — ALL TICKETS GO ON SALE  
PRICES: \$2.50 \$3.25 \$4.75  
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT MSC BOX OFFICE FOR MORE INFO 845-1234  
PRESENTED BY MSC TOWN HALL AND MSC BASEMENT