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 International lenge next Saturday night in the Astrodome against Houston before taking on TCU, Baylor and Texas A&M. league championship is down to

tion to be kicked in the teeth, then

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 Staturdays ago in T dium, are in a virtual deadlock heading into the stretch. The Mustangs actually have a half game lead by virtua of h 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 against the Aggies as Lance ending trip to Arkansas. Texas, McIlhenny flawlessly directed ending trip to Arkansas. Texas, meanwhile, faces a critical chal-

lenge next Saturday night in the

Both of those clubs will have to stumble for the current support-But if this is the year for tradi- ing cast to jump back into the title picture — that being the group of The SWC title has never been won by a club that has lost twice to 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

to come back from a tough loss the week before and perform well in the face of their bowl-banning probation.

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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

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

"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.

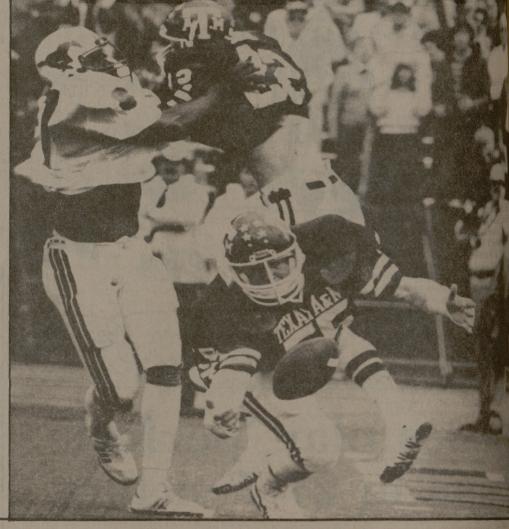
Arkansas, meanwhile, will be in Little Rock next weekend against Baylor, a team that has had a week off to prepare and a club that is in hopes of attracting a decent bowl opportunity with a win over the

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

Desperation

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 error pec to take win over Eagles

United Press International PHILADELPHIA — Some-

thing 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 Phi-ladelphia 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

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

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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."

lion years," Landry said.

"What can I say?" a down franklin said. "It was a good and a good hold. I just ble

For a time, the Dorsett errors loomed large. The Eagles took a team down."

14-3 lead three plays after the Eagles' coach Dick Ver Robinson interception when Ron didn't single out Franklin for 14-3 lead three plays after the Robinson interception when Ron Jaworski found Harold Carmichael past busy rookie corner-back 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 super job, and if not for some super job, and if not defend the super job, and if not super job, and if n to crawl into a hole and say, alert defensive plays inside the Forget it. But we play our best they could have beaten us football when we're behind. We than they did. I also thought 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 law of the White correlated to the company of the correlated to the control of the correlated to t 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 corner-back 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-yardp Carmichael and later scrain 10 yards to move the ball Dallas 16 with just over tw nutes to play. But a rung nothing, a pass went incom

and another pass was dropped Rodney Parker at the goal in Sudden death was a real publity when Franklin, who we of-10 inside 40 yards, trot with his bare foot. But the

went wide left.
"I never thought Fra
would miss that field goal in a What hurt more was that I let

'The whole team lost it,' said. "I'm sure when I looks films tomorrow I will find this should have done better, and

had too many penalties, esp



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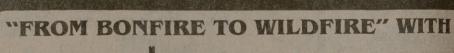
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