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Sports

Cowboys almost assured of playoffs

Landry not worried about team

United Press International
DALLAS — Moments after the Dallas Cowboys had beaten Philadelphia in their key NFC East matchup a few weeks ago, line-backer D. D. Lewis — who is playing his final season of pro football — said he recognized the pattern.

"We are playing good football right now in the middle of the season," Lewis said. "Then we will have our little slump and we will get it going again for the playoffs — just like Tom Landry plans it."

Landry, of course, does not plan for the Cowboys to go into slumps. But he recognizes the inevitability of it. And when Dallas flattened out against Detroit in the second half last Sunday, eventual-

ly losing on the Lions' "12th man" field goal on the game's final play, the Cowboys coach could almost say, "I told you so."

Landry's remarks came after a question about running back Tony Dorsett, who leads the league in rushing but who picked up only 55 yards against Detroit.

"I think Tony was running in a normal fashion," Landry said. "He wasn't running with the great enthusiasm that you sometimes do. But we weren't playing with the great enthusiasm that you sometimes do."

"There is no way you can play at a high level every week. You just try to play good football. Some days you play exceptional, some

days you drop back to good and some days you play poorly. That is the cycle you run in."

The down cycle into which Dallas fell against Detroit left the Cowboys a game back of NFC East leading Philadelphia, and Landry professed not to be concerned about how many more wins it might take for his team to make the playoffs or to win the division title.

"I don't even think about it," Landry said. "After we came off that four-game stretch (that included wins over Los Angeles, Philadelphia, Miami and Buffalo) people already had us in the Super Bowl."

"Now we're not in the Super

Bowl anymore. We are fighting game by game to stay alive. If you ever quit playing you get beat. I don't know how many games it will take. A lot of things will happen to a lot of teams from now on. The teams have best defenses are the teams that are more secure."

"Philadelphia is one of them, San Francisco is another and Denver is another."

And what about his own defense, which has given up more yardage than any other team in the NFC.

"Our defense has been playing pretty good," Landry said. "We played pretty good against Detroit until the two-minute period."

"We held Philadelphia to 14

points and the same against Buffalo."

"We are still giving up big plays defensively, but we've been doing that all year and I'm not going to worry about it."

Dallas faces the rampaging Washington Redskins this week and still has a game remaining with Philadelphia. But the Cowboys would have to almost completely collapse to miss the playoffs for only the second time since 1965.

The Cowboys carry a three-game lead with five to play over their nearest opponent in the race for the final wild card spot in the NFC.

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QUALITY FIRST

Switzer says Sooners will be going to a bowl game

United Press International
NORMAN, Okla. — Oklahoma head coach Barry Switzer said Tuesday that win or lose against Nebraska and Oklahoma State — the Sooners will play in a bowl game.

"We will be going to a bowl game," he said, countering earlier references to the possibility of refusing a bowl bid in order to hit the recruiting trail if Oklahoma lost to Nebraska Saturday.

Switzer said he had talked with

representatives of four bowls, none of which was the Fiesta Bowl, the newest New Year's Day game.

"The Fiesta has turned to a siesta," Switzer joked.

"We looked like the worst football team in the world against Saturday's 19-14 upset at Columbia, Mo., that locked Oklahoma out of the Big Eight championship for the first time in Switzer's head coaching career."

Looking ahead for Oklahoma — which was rated as high as second in the nation before losing to Southern California, Texas and, last week, Missouri to drop out of the top 20 — Switzer said fifth-ranked Nebraska poses as tough a

problem as any team his 52 Sooners have faced.

"They're the same football team they've always been," he said. Depth and junior-senior experience in the secondary is a tremendous asset for them, he said.

"I think Texas is the best defensive football team in the country and I think Nebraska is right there with them," he said. Switzer noted, however, that the Big Eight champion Cornhuskers are a somewhat slower defensive team than some teams Oklahoma has played.

Offensively, the Cornhuskers have a "huge" line and "sometimes they've never had before a speeding running backs like Mike Rozier and Roger Craig who have the ability to make the big play."

"As someone said," Switzer said, "they look like Oklahoma backs."

Switzer wound up the news conference with a mini-drama. Why Sooner backs have been almost as famous for running with the ball as with it, which he said contributed heavily to the losses this year. Grabbing a trophy glass in his right hand, he demonstrated how an option-quarterback has to carry the football.

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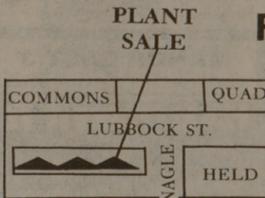
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Christian Frivolity

Nearly a century ago, C. H. Spurgeon wrote, "The extent to which sheer frivolity and utterly inane amusement have been carried in connection with some places of worship would almost exceed belief."

We wonder what Mr. Spurgeon would say about the state of Christian gatherings today in our area of the country. For several years we have heard about "Christian" rock concerts, "Christian" drama, "Christian" comedians, and "Christian" magicians. Now recently we hear of a prosperous new singles club for Christians. Their meeting place? A local cowboy nightclub. The first week, 300 brethren met for worship, the second week over 1000. And we have no assurance that this sort of thing is limited to this local area.

Although written in 1887, the words of Spurgeon carry a spirit that is desperately needed today. "The Lord our God is holy, and He cannot compromise His own glorious name by working with persons whose grovelling tastes lead them to go to Egypt — we had almost said to Sodom — for their recreations. Is this walking with God? Is this the manner in which Enochs are produced?"

"There can be no doubt that all sorts of entertainments, as nearly as possible approximating to stage-plays, have been carried on in connection with places of worship, and are, at this present time, in high favour. Can these things promote holiness, or help in communion with God? Can men come away from such things and plead with God for the salvation of sinners and the sanctification of believers? We loathe to touch the unhallowed subject; it seems so far removed from the walk of faith, and the way of heavenly fellowship. In some cases the follies complained of are even beneath the dignity of manhood, and fitter for the region of the imbecile than for thoughtful men."

— from the Sword and the Trowel, December, 1887.

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