



# Bengals still in Super Bowl form, bombard Oilers 27-6

**United Press International**  
CINCINNATI — If the Cincinnati Bengals really are as good as they looked Sunday, they may go to the Super Bowl again.

If the Houston Oilers really are as bad as they looked Sunday, they may plummet to the bottom of the NFL.

Simply put, Cincinnati was classy and Houston was horrible in the Bengals' 27-6 win in an NFL regular season opener.

The outcome was certain midway through the third quarter when Cincinnati scored two touchdowns in one minute for a 24-0 lead. The final score would have been more lopsided had the Bengals not wasted several long, impressive marches.

As it was, Cincinnati had all the firepower it needed in Ken Anderson, last season's AFC Player of the Year, who seems intent on repeating this year.

The 12-year veteran completed 29 of 40 passes for 354 yards, two touchdowns and no interceptions. He even ran for another TD.

Anderson's arm is accurate, but he won't pat himself on the back with it. After a decade of brilliant play, he still won't brag.

"It's an obvious advantage to have such good receivers," was the way Anderson explained his passing Sunday. "The big thing is, we got off to a good start."

The Bengals, after losing the Super Bowl to San Francisco last season, are hungry for another chance this year.

"This is the best job we've ever done against Houston," Bengal boss Forrest Gregg said. "They have some powerful people, Earl Campbell for one."

Cincinnati has had real problems containing Campbell in the past. He's rushed for more than 100 yards in six games against the Bengals.

While Campbell played a decent game Sunday with 82 yards in 20 carries, he was the only offense Houston had. The Oilers' only other rushing gain was a 7-yard scramble by quarterback Gifford Nielsen. That's it.

And Nielsen didn't do much passing. He was 11 for 17 for 119 yards. Houston's total offense, with 37 yards lost in sacks, amounted to only 171 yards. Cincinnati rolled up 419 yards.

"We controlled the ball," said Gregg, happy that the Bengals were on offense 40 out of 60 minutes.

"Cincinnati was in a free-wheeling, easy situation all day long," Houston head coach Ed Biles said. "If we had moved the ball the first half, it might have been an interesting game, but it wasn't."

Houston could have phoned

in its first half. Its first quarter offense consisted of six plays, two punts and no first downs.

"I looked up and the first quarter was over and we hadn't done anything," Nielsen said. "They threw a couple of (defensive) things at us that we really weren't expecting."

"They were walking their linebackers up tight. They came (blitzed) a couple of times, but then dropped off other times. Really kept us off balance."

Nielsen is starting his first full season as a regular quarterback — and the Bengals knew it.

"They probably said, 'Let's

put some pressure on the line and see what he can do," Nielsen said. "I'm not sure I was justified to what they did to us."

Believe it or not, in the second quarter Houston had the ball in just one series. And it fizzled in the third period.

Cincinnati, which led 19-0 at halftime thanks to Anderson's 18-yard TD pass to Dan Riffe and a 43-yard field goal by Jim Breech, capped the Oilers' good in the third period.

Anderson, after lofting a 36-yard bomb to Cris Collinsworth, ran 2 yards for a TD and a 17-0 lead.

# SMU, Arkansas at top of SWC after victories

**United Press International**  
The Southwest Conference race is already being touted as a two-team affair, and the Texas Longhorns haven't even played a down.

Southern Methodist and Arkansas rolled to impressive decisions last weekend and quickly checked in as the teams that appear to be the toughest to deal with in the SWC.

Texas thinks it belongs in that category as well, and the Longhorns will finally have a chance to prove themselves next weekend in Austin.

The Longhorns will host Utah, a team that has already split two games this season — losing last weekend to Arizona State, 23-10.

Texas' opener will highlight the weekend schedule, although a number of intriguing matchups are on the calendar.

Among them will be Texas A&M's return to the field in a meeting with Texas-Arlington. And if that does not seem like much of a test, consider the fact that the Mavericks scored 63 points Saturday night. A&M took last week off following their surprising loss to Boston College Sept. 4.

TCU will also be among the watched teams next weekend since the Horned Frogs — a 24-9 winner against Utah State to start the season — appear to have a decent chance on the road against the Kansas Jayhawks, a team that was whipped in their opening game by Wichita.

And Houston, which was drubbed by Miami in the Orange Bowl, 31-12, will be under the microscope against Arizona State. The Cougars have already lost fullback Ernie

Wesley with a separated shoulder and do not yet appear to be of championship contending quality.

Rice and Texas Tech will be looking for their first wins next weekend — the Owls hoping to bounce back on the road against Tulane after being stunned by Southwestern Louisiana, 21-14; and Texas Tech hosting the Air Force following its 14-10 setback at the hands of New Mexico.

Finally, the league's two show-stoppers — SMU and Arkansas — will be expected to run their records to 2-0. The Mustangs, who mauled Tulane last weekend, 51-7, will make the cross-state journey to El Paso to face the Texas-El Paso Miners.

And Arkansas, which mashed Tulsa, 31-0, will host the Naval Academy.

"It is games like that (against Texas-El Paso) that scare a coach to death," said SMU's Bobby Collins, whose debut against Tulane turned out to be an extraordinary one. "We have got to put Tulane out of our mind, correct the mistakes we made, get some of our bumps and bruises healed and go out there and play the game."

Texas-El Paso, one of the downtrodden teams in college football in recent years, opened with a win over New Mexico State but last weekend was blasted by Washington, 55-0.

"All I know," said Collins, "is that Washington has a very good football team."

But so does SMU. The Mustangs, coming off their win over Tulane, appear to be every bit the national championship contender they were forecast to be during the summer.

Collins sidesteps that thought, however.

"All I can do is compare this team with the team we had at Southern Mississippi (from where Collins came this year to take over the Mustangs)," the SMU coach said. "We had a good team there. This team, though, has bigger and faster players than we had there. This team has personnel that can play for any team in the country and play well."

"I believe this team can play defense. I think if we can stay healthy we can compete for the conference championship. And if we do that we will have to be considered."

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