

Hog-Horn rivalry intense

United Press International
AUSTIN — Because of the time and the circumstances, the annual case of Arkansas-Texas fever might not be quite as contagious as usual this year.

But the Razorbacks and the Longhorns could play in the middle of May and it would still be a biggie.
"It's rare when it isn't a great game," says Texas coach Fred

Akers, getting to the heart of the matter.

Beginning with the arrival of Frank Broyles at Arkansas and Darrell Royal at Texas in 1959 — either the Hogs or Longhorns won the conference title 13 out of 15 years.

The rest of the Southwest Conference began to make dents in that record starting in 1974 — the year Baylor stunned the big shots and in a season that is now looked upon as something of a landmark in league history.

Still, this game is one of the major events each year in the SWC and for the second time in three seasons ABC-TV succeeded in moving it from its original mid-October spot on the schedule.

In 1980 Texas and Arkansas kicked off the decade by playing each other on the first Monday night in September.

Last year the game was played at its regularly appointed time,

but it was also nationally televised — the then-No. 1 Longhorns being humiliated in Fayetteville, 42-11.

Now the Longhorns and Razorbacks will be playing on the last weekend of the season in a game the television people hoped might bring together the nation's top two teams.

Arkansas (8-1-1) will go into the game ranked sixth and Texas (8-2) is 10th. But neither will be conference champion this year.

After losing back-to-back meetings with Oklahoma and SMU, Texas has won five games in a row. Arkansas has had a week off to try to forget about a 17-17 tie with SMU.

"That game would probably have had an affect if we had played them maybe two hours afterwards," Akers said. "But with two weeks rest and preparation, I don't expect that."

"They never seem to have any trouble getting up for us."

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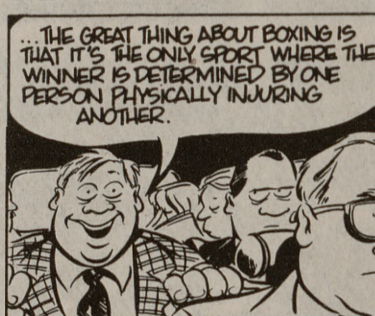
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Cowboys, Washington to play for NFC lead

United Press International
WASHINGTON — It'll be like old times Sunday when the unbeaten Washington Redskins host the Dallas Cowboys at RFK Stadium.

For several years, until the past three seasons, the two NFL teams were usually fighting for the top spot in the NFC East. This year, they go for the top spot in the entire NFC.

The Redskins, 4-0, are the only NFL team without a defeat and have won seven straight and 12 of their last 15 over two seasons.

Dallas, 3-1, owns five straight victories over Washington. The Redskins haven't beaten the Cowboys since taking a 34-20 decision Nov. 18, 1979, at RFK.

Both teams are in good shape for the 16-team Super Bowl playoffs since the top eight teams in each conference qualify.

The rivalry was built to a fever pitch by former Redskins Coach George Allen and his veteran team called the "Over-the-Hill Gang." Few players still active took part in the verbal battles.

In fact, Dallas Coach Tom Landry is one of the few remaining participants in this rivalry, and his low-key approach doesn't excite opponents.

Second-year Redskins Coach Joe Gibbs doesn't put the game in the same category as Allen, either.

"We want to get into the play-

offs, no matter who we have to play or beat to get there," Gibbs said. "Dallas is one of our remaining games and we want like crazy to win it. But we still have to beat other people, too."

Dallas comes off a 10-day layoff following their 31-14 Thanksgiving Day thumping of the Cleveland Browns for Landry's 200th NFL victory, against 113 losses and six ties. Washington squeezed past Philadelphia, 13-9, last Sunday in the mud.

The layoff has helped in the past, as Dallas is 13-1 in games following the Thanksgiving layoff.

"Obviously, we should have an advantage," Landry said. "We should be in pretty good condition. The combination of rest and a few days to condition should help."

Dallas was expected to be in the heat of the regular-season race, strike-interrupted or not. No one, however, figured the Redskins to be undefeated at this stage with four victories over 1981 playoff participants.

"We had to go down to life-and-death in the fourth quarter in all four games, so you can see the small difference between 4-0 and 0-4 in this league," Gibbs said. "There's no way we're sitting here fat and sassy with Dallas coming to town."

"I think one of the reasons we've won is that our guys have played extremely hard football, even when things weren't going

well. Sunday, our guys trying their darnedest something going on offense we just couldn't. But we else picked up the slack."

"We just aren't good to win without an all-out from everyone," he said, "what we've gotten through games, and I feel like we, continue to get it."

Gibbs emphasized, however, that he wasn't putting down Redskins' abilities.

"You look at the roster, and you see an array of Pro Bowl names on a roster," Gibbs said. "We have that. Most of our guys too young to have gained kind of reputation."

One Redskin gaining a reputation is quarterback Theismann. Theismann is second among NFL quarterbacks behind Lynn Dier Green Bay.

Theismann has passed 938 yards hitting 70 of 113 passes for seven touchdowns and only two interceptions, against the Eagles last Sunday. His Dallas counterpart, White, is ranked third with yards on 69-for-106 passes with nine touchdowns and interceptions.

"How well I play is one of our offense," Theismann said. "I just want to keep team doing what it is doing, continue making the right decisions."

Washington's pass offense built on Theismann's ability read opposing defenses pick the right receiver. No routes or receivers are predetermined.

"Joe is doing a great decision-making," Gibbs said. "He has a complete grasp of offense, his ability and the two mesh together, playing as well as any back I've been around."

Dallas has the "name" players in Drew Pearson, Tom and tight ends Billy Joe DePue and Doug Cosbie. But the skins counter with Art and rookie Charlie Brown in January. The strike that forced out eight games changed Landry's thinking the 1982 season.

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