

Connors wins U.S. Open

United Press International
NEW YORK — For all those who saw the match, there is little question about the difference between Jimmy Connors and Ivan Lendl.

It has nothing to do with Lendl's awesome forehand and serve, nor Connors' unparalleled service return. There is no way to pick it out of the multitude of other statistics that are now available.

The difference between the two amounts to mental toughness, a quality Connors has honed while winning eight Grand Slam championships.

Mental toughness made the difference Sunday when Connors beat Lendl, 6-3, 6-7, 7-5, 6-0, to win the U.S. Open Championship for the fifth time. It was the second year in a row the American had conquered Lendl in the final.

The key to the match came in the third set when Lendl was serving at 5-4. On break point he double faulted, giving Connors

"If you keep doing mistakes like that (double fault) it doesn't matter how good you are or how tough you are, you're never going to win. After that I never really recovered mentally." — U.S. Open finalist Ivan Lendl

the only opening he needed. Although he was bothered by an upset stomach and a sprained toe, Connors completed the break for 5-5, and Lendl never won another game.

"I said, 'Well, if he's going to do that he's going to give me a chance,'" said Connors, who swept through the last 10 games to run away with a match he seemingly had been losing control of. "I started getting in there and jumping on my returns more. I hit them more solid and

started doing something with them instead of playing him back.

"I won that game and my spirits lifted about 50 to 60 percent and I think he dropped a little at that point. He played a pretty awful game to lose the set."

Lendl, who now has seen another year pass without achieving that elusive big title he so sorely wants, admitted that the double fault cost him a lot more than a point.

"I think I was tough enough," the Czechoslovakian said. "If you keep doing mistakes like that it doesn't matter how good you are or how tough you are, you're never going to win. After that I never really recovered mentally."

Connors, who registered the 100th tournament championship of his career and became the first man to go over the \$5 million mark in career earnings, was sympathetic to the plight of Lendl, whom he beat for the 11th time in 14 career meetings.

"I don't think he was choking," Connors said. "He's a little bit lax in the final because he's never won one. I don't think choking is the right word. I think he's thinking about it and wondering when it's going to happen."

Both men blew numerous opportunities during the first three sets on an afternoon when the courtside temperature reached 107 degrees.

Cowboys overcome deficit to defeat Cardinals, 34-17

United Press International
Ron Springs ran for touchdowns of 1 and 19 yards and the Dallas defense intercepted four passes to lead the Cowboys to their second straight comeback victory, this one over the St. Louis Cardinals, 34-17. The Cowboys, 2-0, fell behind 10-0 in the first quarter before scoring 31 straight points to beat the Cardinals for the ninth time in the last 10 meetings.

"We have a habit of coming back," said Dallas defensive back Dennis Thurman. "It's happened so many times that I think other teams that play us are kind of snakebit—they just wait for it to happen."

In the most thrilling game of the NFL's second weekend, Vince Ferragamo connected with rookie Otis Grant on a 57-yard pass to set up rookie Eric Dickerson's third touchdown of the game, a 3-yard run with 1:22 remaining that lifted the Los Angeles Rams to a 30-27 triumph over New Orleans.

Dickerson's jaunt helped rookie coach John Robinson to his second straight triumph—but not without some last-second doubts.

"We scored too fast on that final touchdown," Robinson said. "We're not sophisticated enough to know how to wait until the last seconds. But our defense held them and we got the win. It looks like Rams' football will be 'fight like hell' throughout the game and find a way to win it."

After the Saints gave up a safety rather than punt from their end zone, the Rams trailed 27-23 with two minutes left. Then Ferragamo hooked up with Grant, a rookie from Michigan State, at the New Orleans 40 and he outran four defenders before being hauled down at the 3-yard line.

Dickerson, the Rams' first-round draft choice from Southern Methodist, then ran off left tackle for the winning score.

At Baltimore's Memorial Stadium, a howling crowd of 52,613 came out hoping to see the Colts hound million-dollar rookie quarterback John Elway of Denver en route to victory.

The fans went 1-for-2. With the crowd booing his every move and a charged-up Baltimore defense sacking him three times, Elway yielded to veteran Steve DeBerg for the second straight week and watched as the Broncos pulled out a 17-10 triumph.

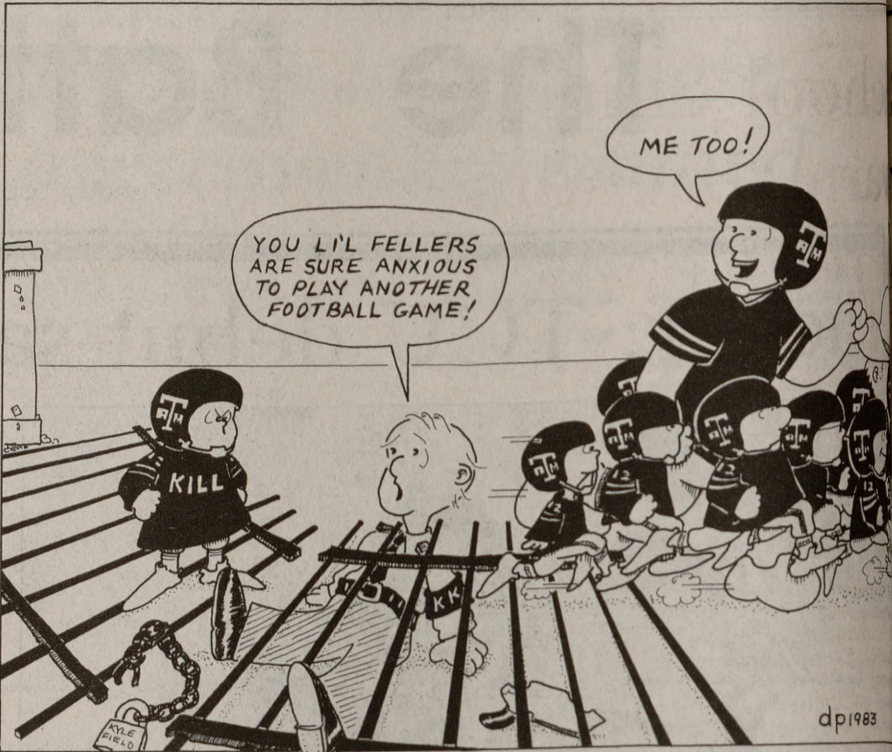
DeBerg came on in the fourth quarter and completed 9-of-11 passes for 158 yards and a touchdown, but it was his 54-yard bomb to Steve Watson that set up his own 2-yard scoring run with 29 seconds left.

"It can't get much worse than this," said Elway, who forced a trade last spring after being selected by Baltimore with the first pick in the draft. "I get to go home now and hope they still like me there. They said it would be tough but this was real

tough." Elway was replaced after completing just 9-of-21 passes for 106 yards. He consistently overthrew his receivers and was flagged three times for delay of game.

At Philadelphia, John Riggin broke a 10-10 tie with a 14-yard TD run early in the fourth quarter and Mark Moseley kicked three field goals to lift the Redskins to a 23-13 victory over the Eagles in a game played in on-field temperatures exceeding 100 degrees. The win was the eighth consecutive road victory for the defending NFL champions.

Elsewhere Sunday, Pittsburgh beat Green Bay 25-21, the New York Giants topped Atlanta 16-13 in overtime, Seattle upset the New York Jets 17-10, Buffalo edged Cincinnati 10-6, Cleveland downed Detroit 31-26, Chicago defeated Tampa Bay 17-10, Miami beat New England 34-24 and the Los Angeles Raiders topped Houston 20-6. On Thursday night, San Francisco routed Minnesota 48-17.



OSU coach says he'll be ready for Cincinnati

United Press International
STILLWATER, Okla. — Cincinnati probably will be sky high following its 14-3 win over Penn State, Oklahoma State coach Jimmy Johnson says, but at least his Cowboys will have a better idea of what to expect than they did against North Texas.

"It will be interesting," he said of this week's game against the Bearcats. "I have a feeling they will be sky high."

He made the statement shortly after both the Cincinnati win and his own team's season-opening 20-13 victory over the North Texas Eagles.

Johnson had said earlier most coaches agreed college football teams make their most improvement between the first and second games of the season.

Following Saturday's win he said a lot of his team's improvement would be based on knowing the next opponent better.

Although the Pokes were not sure what to expect from North Texas, they were able to compensate enough to win the first game of Johnson's fifth year at OSU. And if not "sky high," he

definitely was pleased. "Obviously I'm very happy with the victory," he said. "I've been telling everybody all over that North Texas State is a very good football team."

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Longhorn QB out with injury

United Press International
AUSTIN, Texas — University of Texas quarterback Todd Dodge, considered the frontrunner to win the starting nod for the Longhorns' Sept. 17 opener at Auburn, suffered a shoulder separation in a scrimmage Friday.

Texas coach Fred Akers said Dodge, a junior from Port Arthur Jefferson High School, is "pretty likely" to miss the game against Auburn. He said Dodge suffered a grade two separation to his left, non-throwing shoulder which will not require surgery.

"It will be a matter of when he can stand the pain," Akers said of when Dodge can begin playing. Dodge's injury came as he was battling with senior Rick McIvor and junior Rob Moerschell for the starting spot. The starter for Saturday's game against has still not been announced.

major blow to the team in as many days. Thursday, Akers announced starting flanker Ronnie Mullins had undergone knee surgery and would be lost for the season.

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