

Dallas game on TV

United Press International
DALLAS — The Dallas Cowboys' Sunday game with New Orleans will be televised locally, a team spokesman said Thursday. Spokesman Greg Aiello said fewer than 300 scattered single tickets were unsold at the noon deadline, so the Cowboys decided to declare the season's fourth game a sellout. The game between the undefeated Cowboys and the improving Saints will begin at noon CDT Sunday.

Future of Continental up in the air

Airline president resigns suddenly

United Press International
HOUSTON — The sudden resignation of Continental Airlines president Stephen Wolf, respected former executive of American Airlines and Pan American World Airways, raised new questions Thursday about Continental's future. The resignation was expected to come up at Continental's regular board meeting Thursday. Chairman Frank Lorenzo took over Wolf's duties. Wolf had nothing to say publicly and Continental said little except he left for "personal reasons." One analyst, who asked not to be quoted by name, said Wolf's leaving cannot be interpreted as good news for financially troubled Continental, which recently lost a bid for \$150 million in employee cost-cutting concessions. "We're trying to figure this out, but since they didn't make any comment or it looks like they will not, he apparently didn't leave under the best of circumstances," the analyst said. The company's stock — a new issue put on the market after Continental was taken over by Texas Air Corp. 18 months ago — was selling for 4 1/4 at midday Thursday. Continental has lost \$400 million since 1979, using an accounting method that tallies balance sheets before and after the TAC takeover. The company recently reported an \$84 million loss for the first half of 1983. Robert Joedicke of Lehman Bros. Kuhn Loeb, one of Continental's bankers, said there likely was some kind of conflict between Wolf and Lorenzo, who also is TAC chairman. Wolf is the third president of

an airline under Lorenzo's control to quit suddenly. Texas International Airlines president Harry Chandis quit in 1981 and New York Air president Neal Meehan quit in 1982. "As chief operating officer of Continental, Steve Wolf was quite a dynamic individual," Joedicke said. "Sometimes two dynamic individuals such as he and Lorenzo find it difficult working with one another." The resignation of Wolf, who came to Continental after 15 years at American and a year at Pan Am, was announced unexpectedly late Wednesday in a terse corporate release. Earlier in the week, Continental announced it had withdrawn an offer of stock and profit-sharing to its employees after the employees could not agree immediately on \$150 million worth of labor cost and produc-

tivity changes. The airline also currently is wrestling with a strike by the International Association of Machinists. "His departure is totally unrelated to the labor issue," said Continental spokesman Bruce Hicks. "It is not something that is done lightly. I would think there were discussions earlier between him and the chairman." The analyst who refused to be quoted by name said Lorenzo has a reputation among his employees as a tough executive. "If you talk to his employees, he doesn't have a good reputation as a people person. Right now he's got tunnel vision. He's trying to reduce labor costs by \$150 million. He's not paying attention to other factors," the analyst said.

Although unavailable for comment Thursday, Lorenzo has answered that complaint before by saying his major concern is keeping the company profitable so he can keep as many people employed as possible. The analyst said labor costs unquestionably are a major problem for airlines since federal deregulation in 1979 removed the automatic cost-covering fare increases historically granted by the Civil Aeronautics Board. Fuel costs, also high, cannot be controlled so the pressure comes to cut labor costs, he said. One favorable factor in Continental's future is the general upturn in the economy and airline business. The analyst said, "I don't see them going bankrupt at this point for financial reasons."

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Dokes to defend title against Coetzee tonight

United Press International
RICHFIELD, Ohio — Friday night South African Gerrie Coetzee will be making his third bid for a heavyweight title. But Dokes, a 25-year-old native of nearby Akron, will be making his first title defense since May when he kept his championship in a 15-round draw with ex-champion Mike Weaver in Las Vegas. The 6-foot-3 Dokes has been training at a farm near Orwell, Ohio, and weighed in Thursday at 217 pounds. The 6-foot-4 Co. 1 contender despite being held to a draw in his last fight, a 10-round bout with unbeaten Pinklon Thomas last January in Atlantic City, N.J. Coetzee takes a 28-3-1 record into the fight, including 17 knockouts. Coetzee's first title effort came in 1979 in his native South Africa when he was outpointed in a 15-rounder by John Tate

for the WBA championship left vacra. "By all means that was my toughest fight ever," says Coetzee. "I really wasn't knocked out. It was a matter of fatigue. But he hits hard, harder than Dokes." Coetzee says he expects Dokes to "come right at me" and predicts he will win by a knockout within 10 rounds. Coetzee's wife, Rena, who is expecting their third child, attended the weigh-in, along with their two children. She said they may also attend the fight. Coetzee has been cheered on all week by a large contingent of South Africans who are staying with him in Cleveland. "Wouldn't it be wonderful if the child was born the night I won the title?" he said. "I'm at peace with the world and expect to go into the ring that way," he said. Dokes says he doesn't believe

Coetzee is worth of the WBA No. 1 ranking and also says he is unconcerned that most of the boxing world recognizes Larry Holmes, the World Boxing Council champion, as the true ruler of the heavyweight ranks. "To me that's no distract don't have that complex that other fighters might." The Dokes-Coetzee fight is the featured attraction on a card that includes five other bouts. Tim Witherspoon will meet James Tillis in a 12-round bout for the North American Boxing Federation heavyweight title and Rinaldo Snipes takes on Alfredo Evangelista in a 10-round heavyweight bout. In other 10-round bouts, featherweight Azumah Nelson takes on Alberto Collazo, lightweight Davidson Andeh meets Alvin Hayes and welterweight Bobby Joe Young faces Jeff Malcolm.

Pumps and Interviewing



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