

Former UT kicker Allegre fires up Colts

"I don't want to end up on Boot Hill." — Raul Allegre, referring to mythical "graveyard" of previous Baltimore kickers who failed to last.

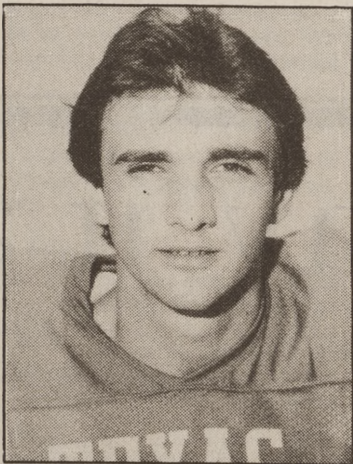
United Press International

BALTIMORE — He is a civil engineer, has worked as a translator and learned about football somewhere in the open spaces of Montana.

But it is Raul Allegre's endearing knack for kicking field goals that has roused the imagination of long-suffering Baltimore Colts' fans unlike anyone since the legend-filled days of Raymond Berry, Lenny Moore and John Unitas.

But mention the enthusiastic howls of "Rah-ool, Rah-ool" that spilled from the upper deck after the rookie from Torreon, Mexico, kicked his 10th field goal in 11 tries to lift the Colts to an overtime victory over the Chicago Bears Sept. 25 and the answer is something about "Boot Hill."

(Allegre added 10 points on two more field goals and four



Colts' kicker Raul Allegre staying alive in the NFL

conversions without a miss on Oct. 2 in Baltimore's 34-31 over the Bengals at Cincinnati).

"Boot Hill" is a mythological burial ground — the creation of a local writer — for the less-than-successful kickers of the Colts' past.

Set deep in the woods, just wide to the right of some prac-

tice goalposts, rest the soles of Dan Miller, Toni Linhart, Mike Wood and six others off whose feet had blown field goals and extra points in the last 20 years.

"I know that kickers haven't lasted too long around here. I heard that the first week I was here," Allegre said. "So, during the week I'm just thinking to myself, I hope I play well this week so I last another week. And then another week. I don't want to end up on Boot Hill."

Allegre connected on his first nine field goal tries this season before missing a 46-yarder with the score tied and three seconds left on the clock against the Bears.

Allegre kicked some dirt, then returned to the solitude of the Colts' bench to pray.

Deeply religious, Allegre says prayer helps him wash mistakes from memory and improves his concentration.

So when Colts' defensive line coach Gunther Cunningham touched his shoulder pads and said, "Good guys get a second

chance, Raul," the 24-year-old Allegre just nodded.

"I thought that if I was going to have another chance to make it, it would be good," he said. "I really don't get too down on myself. The madder you get at yourself, the quicker your concentration goes."

The noise from the crowd told him the Colts' had the ball, and with just minutes gone in overtime, were driving deep in Chicago territory.

"Like always, I prayed. I said, 'If You will let one go through, please let it be this one. Whatever happens, I will accept Your decision.'"

Baltimore Coach Frank Kush summoned Allegre on third down — the ball resting in the middle of the field — just 17 yards from victory.

Allegre's 33-yard field goal attempt rocketed through the uprights, giving last year's winless Colts their second victory in four games. The three points also tied Allegre for the American Football Conference scoring lead.

Boot Hill seemed very far away, indeed.

To understand Raul Allegre is to know that he cradled his first football while in high school, and that he really should be in Buffalo.

A soccer player in Torreon, Allegre played his first American football as a high school exchange student in Shinton, Wash. He later went on to the University of Montana but transferred and became a Texas Longhorn after his sophomore year.

Playing before crowds of 80,000, Allegre hit 60 percent of his collegiate field goals — 79 percent from 40 yards and in — and missed but two extra points in two seasons. He was ignored, however, in both the USFL and NFL drafts.

Allegre caught on with the Dallas Cowboys as a free agent, impressing former professional kicker and Dallas coach Ben Agajanian with his attitude and his accuracy.

But in Rafael Septien, the Cowboys had an all-pro kicker who was too proven to waive. Allegre was cut just days before the season opener.

"Raul is the finest young kicker I've ever had," Agajanian said this summer. "He is intelligent and hard-working. He improves week after week."

Hopeful they could capitalize on the negotiating rights to Allegre, the Cowboys' Gil Brandt invited the Buffalo Bills, who were shopping for a kicker, to Dallas to see the Mexican rookie kick.

Special teams coach Mike Westhoff flew to Dallas and worked out a deal. The Cowboys dealt Raul Allegre to the Colts for a ninth-round draft pick and an If.

If the Colts' were not satisfied with Allegre, they had three weeks to re-claim their draft pick and cut the young kicker.

Said Colts' General Manager Ernie Accorsi last week after Allegre had kicked seven straight field goals, "Guess what? We're going to keep him."

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Sports Roundup

Volleyball team plays tonight

The Texas A&M volleyball team hosts the University of Houston tonight in G. Rolfe White Coliseum at 7:30. Coach Terry Condon said she is expecting a close game tonight. "The teams are pretty even so the game should be good," she said.

Texas A&M has a 9-11 record and UH has a 9-4 record.

Golf team to play in LSU Invitational

The men's golf team will travel to Baton Rouge, La. today to play in the LSU National Invitational which runs through Friday. Last week the team tied for seventh place with Purdue University and University of Texas in the Butler National Intercollegiate Tournament.

Women's tennis team at New Mexico

The women's tennis team will play in the University of New Mexico Invitational in Albuquerque Thursday through Saturday. The tennis team won the Lady Cardinal Tournament at Lamar University on Sept. 22-24.

Cross-Country travels to San Antonio

After coming in second behind the University of Texas at the Baylor Invitational on Sept. 23, the men's cross-country team will go to a meet in San Antonio on Friday.

Softball team plays in Oklahoma

The Texas A&M softball team will take a 10-2 record into the All College Classic this weekend. Last weekend the team won in the Sam Houston Invitational.

Men's tennis to play this weekend

After Greg Hill's winning performance last weekend in the Texas A&M Invitational, the men's tennis team will travel to Sourlake, Texas this weekend to play in the Pine wood Invitational. Hill won the single's title last weekend.

Women's cross-country traveling to Arizona

The women's cross-country team will participate in the Arizona Invitational on Saturday. The team won the Baylor Invitational two weeks ago with Suzanne Sheffield winning first overall and Patti Mileski winning second overall.

Arkansas guard ruled ineligible

United Press International
FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — Kenny Hutchinson, a heralded freshman guard who was expected to compete for a starting role with the Arkansas Razorback basketball team, is not eligible to play this year because he failed to pass a New York State competency test for high school seniors.

A UA official said the 6-3 guard from New York city planned to stay in school and gain his eligibility in time for the 1984-85

season. To do so, he must successfully complete 24 hours the next school year.

"Kenny is disappointed won't play, but he is trying turn this into a positive thing," assistant coach Bill Brown said Tuesday. "He realizes it probably will take him five years graduate anyway. Based on tradition, realistically he probably wouldn't have started our conference season began."

Hutchinson arrived at Fayetteville with better than a 2.0 grade-point, which translates a C average. That's good enough to meet NCAA requirements, but New York is one of two states — Florida is the other — that requires its students pass a competency test.

And Hutchinson was a touted guard that was expected to do see a lot of playing time the Hogs even though freshmen don't play for Eddie Sutton.

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TUE - FRI 7:00-10:00
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2002 E. 29th
775-2463 775-2468

7:20 9:50
THE BIG CHILL
7:15 9:45
MR. MOM
7:25 9:40
WAR GAMES
7:30 9:55
TRADING PLACES
7:10 9:35
FLASH DANCE
7:25 9:40
REVENGE OF THE NINJA
MANOR EAST III
Manor East Mall
823-8300
7:20 9:55
RETURN OF THE JEDI
7:25 9:45
THE MAN FROM SNOWY RIVER
7:25 9:40
HALLOWEEN

PLATT THEATRE
TUESDAY DISC NITE
FRIDAY STUDENT DISC NITE
CINEMA LII-III
315 College North 846-6711
8:00-10:00
"ZELIG" (PG)
7:45-9:45
"ROAD WARRIOR" (R)
7:45-9:45
"TEEN LUST" (R)
"CITY MAN III"
1500 Harvey Road 764-0411
7:30-9:55
"FINAL OPTION" (R)
7:45-9:50
"MY TUTOR" (R)
8:00-10:00
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