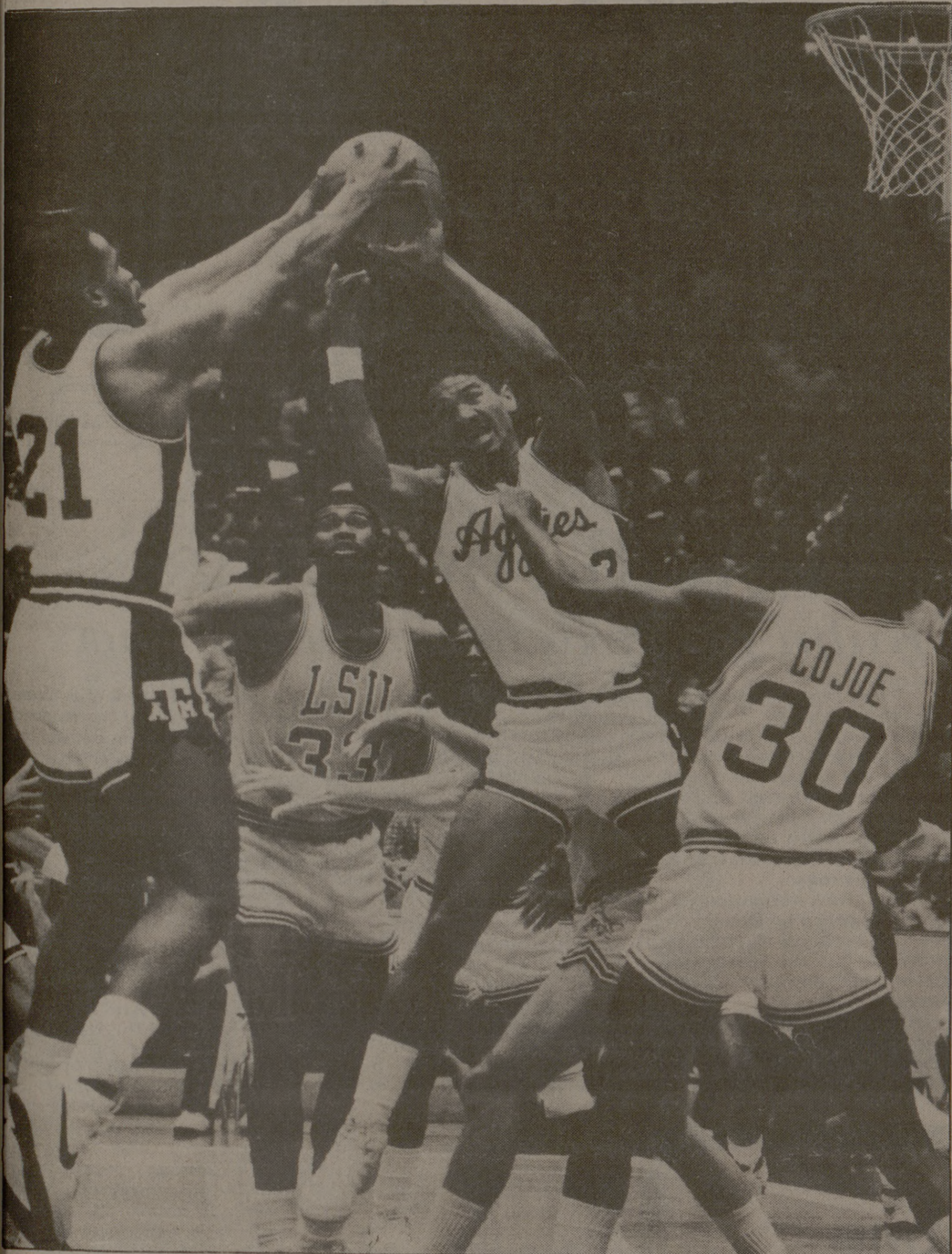


Texas A&M

The Battalion Sports

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Dean Saito, Battalion staff

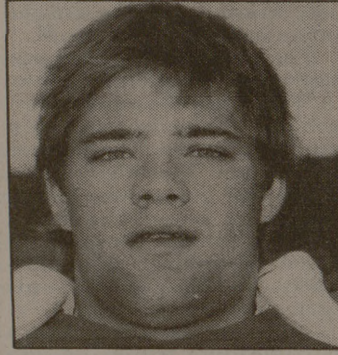
Nebraska's Steinkuhler given Outland Trophy

United Press International
HOUSTON — Nebraska Cornhuskers' senior offensive guard Dean Steinkuhler Thursday night was named the winner of the 14th Lombardi Trophy as one of the top collegiate linemen in the country.

Steinkuhler, who cleared the way for Nebraska tailback Mike Rozier to win the Heisman Trophy, became the second Nebraska player to win the Lombardi.

Steinkuhler, 6-3, 270 pounds, is considered to be the fastest offensive lineman in school history. Wednesday he was named to the United Press International All-America team.

Steinkuhler became the second consecutive Nebraska lineman to win the award and the third in the history of the honor. Dave Rimington was



Dean Steinkuhler

named winner in 1982 and Rich Glover won in 1972.

The other three finalists honored Thursday night were Pittsburgh offensive tackle Bill Fralic, Tennessee defensive tackle

Reggie White and Texas offensive guard Doug Dawson.

Unlike the Outland Trophy, tight ends and linebackers were eligible for the Lombardi.

Vote totals were not disclosed from the voting of 158 college football coaches, sportswriters and ABC-TV sportscasters.

The Lombardi Trophy was named for the late legendary Green Bay Packers coach Vince Lombardi and begun the year he died of cancer, 1970.

The winner received a miniature replica of the actual Lombardi Trophy, a mounted 40-pound block of granite.

The idea for the trophy came from Lombardi's college days as one of Fordham's "seven blocks of granite" in the offensive line.

Proceeds from the black-tie dinner attended by 1,100 people

were to go to American Cancer Society research, the sponsoring Rotary Club said. In the first 13 years of the dinner, the club said it raised nearly \$750,000 from the event.

Lombardi Trophy winners:

1983—Dean Steinkuhler, Nebraska

1982—Dave Rimington, Nebraska

1981—Kenneth Sims, Texas

1980—Hugh Green, Pittsburgh

1979—Brad Budde, USC

1978—Bruce Clark, Penn State

1977—Ross Browner, Notre Dame

1976—Wilson Whitley, Houston

1975—Leroy Selmon, Oklahoma

Showdown draws closer

United Press International
After 14 weeks of parity, the NFL finally gets around to some purity Sunday in Texas Stadium.

Football fans have waded through three months of often-bumbling play in anticipation of the league's major confrontations and the only people happier than the winners of the Washington-Dallas matchup will be the ticket scalpers who descend on Irving, Texas, this weekend hawking \$15 seats for \$200.

After weeks of looking ahead, the Cowboys have a chance to see the Redskins in their rear view mirror as both clubs take 12-2 records into the 4 p.m. EST clash of NFC East titans. The Cowboys expect to meet the Redskins again a month from now in the NFC title game — but Dallas wants to determine the site after suffering road losses in the last three conference championship games.

Washington has lost just three of its last 30 games, but two of the setbacks have been to Dallas, including a 31-30 loss at RFK Stadium in the 1983 season opener. Because of that triumph, the Cowboys can clinch their 13th NFC East crown with a win Sunday. The division champion will have home-field advantage throughout the playoffs; both clubs are already assured of post-season berths.

Redskins' coach Joe Gibbs says he's surprised by the resilience of his defending NFL champions. "Looking back, it's surprising

because the guys could have let down any week along the way," says Gibbs, who lost his first five games as an NFL coach in 1981.

"It's a credit to the intelligence of the players. They know what's at stake and they've done a good job of getting ready. They really went against human nature, playing without a letdown."

The Redskins are just 35 points away from setting a league single-season scoring record and the NFL's No. 1 passer, Joe Theismann, will be working against a Dallas defense that has yielded the most passing yards in the NFL. The Cowboys' pass defense has been improved in recent weeks, though, primarily because the line and blitzing linebackers are exerting tremendous pressure.

"The Dallas front four is definitely a factor," says Seattle guard Reggie McKenzie, part of a unit that was victimized by eight Dallas sacks in last week's 35-10 loss to the Cowboys. "If Washington gets behind, it could be tough for them. If they stay on an even keel, it could be a great, great football game."

The Cowboys, who will be buoyed by the return of clutch wide receiver Drew Pearson from a foot injury, have been anticipating Sunday's matchup for quite a while.

"I hate to admit this," says Dallas quarterback Danny White, "but my every thought has been with the Redskins. It

didn't make any difference if we were playing Kansas City or Seattle, I'd look across the line of scrimmage and envision those maroon and gold uniforms.

"It's like we've been playing them every week. We've been preparing from the first day of

training camp to play the Redskins, and I'm glad it's finally here."

The Redskins earned a Super Bowl berth last season by whipping the Cowboys 31-17 in the NFC title game as White sat out the second half with a concussion.

Crashing the boards

Texas A&M's Kenny Brown, right, and Winston Crite grab for the ball

during a recent game. The Aggies play Oral Roberts in Tulsa Saturday.

Sampson evaluates first games as NBA player

United Press International
CHICAGO — Seven-foot-4 rookie center Ralph Sampson of the Houston Rockets said Thursday his entrance to the National Basketball Association has forced him to revise his style of play.

But Sampson, speaking at a news conference prior to the Rockets' tune up for Friday night's game against the Chicago Bulls, said changing his game has presented few problems.

"While I have to learn all aspects of the game completely over, I do not feel that I am doing something strange because I have been playing basketball for 16 of my 23 years," the former University of Virginia star said.

Sampson, the NBA's highest-paid rookie who has been averaging just under 15 points per

game in 20 games with the Rockets this season, credited his college basketball career with making his professional debut a lot easier.

"I know I cannot lead a normal social life and I have to pick my spots," he said. "But I learned at the University of Virginia that I had to pick my spots and am a disciplined enough person to know that I can give up going out on Saturday night while making for myself a productive life in the NBA."

Rocket coach Bill Fitch, who also attended the news conference, agreed Sampson has not yet reached his NBA peak.

"Sampson still has to learn to play defense and while we all know he is a great offensive star, it's going to take him three to four years before he becomes

that complete player," Fitch said.

"Ralph came into the league with a lot of publicity and while he is the center of attention, I think fans in the NBA will be pleasantly surprised some day to learn that he will achieve all of the goals that we have predicted," Fitch added.

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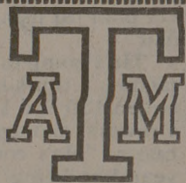
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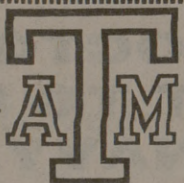
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