

The Battalion Sports

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Former Texas Tech coach Dockery dies in crash

United Press International
LAWRENCEBURG, Tenn. — Memphis State football coach and former Texas Tech head coach Rex Dockery and three other persons flying through rain and fog to a football banquet were killed Monday night in the crash of a twin-engine airplane in rural Lawrence County.

"Coach Dockery was on the airplane and there were four fatalities," said Federal Aviation Agency supervisor Alex McCleod at Memphis.

McCleod said he did not know the names of the other victims.

The Dockery plane slammed into a pasture shortly before Dockery was to have been the featured speaker at the Lawrenceburg Quarterback Club's annual awards banquet. Believed to be on the plane with Dockery were a member of his staff, one of his players, and the pilot.

Jim Thacker, spokesman for the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, said the twin-engine Piper Seneca carrying the Dockery party crashed about 5:30 p.m. 13 miles north of Lawrenceburg near the Maury County border.

"It was already dark, and it was foggy

with a misty rain falling — pretty poor weather for flying," said Lawrenceburg police officer Jackie Miles. "It was a mess (the crash site)."

"It was at the edge of a field and a tree line. It looked like they came straight down into the field. The plane was demolished. The parts and pieces were all there in one area. It was broken up real bad."

Miles said four bodies were pulled from the wreckage.

Dockery had been head coach at Memphis State since Dec. 17, 1980. He previously served as head coach at Texas Tech and held assistant coaching positions at Tennessee, Georgia Tech, and Vanderbilt.

John Majors, head football coach at the University of Tennessee, called Dockery a warm, fine person and a fine football coach.

"I'm very saddened by this because I liked him very much," Majors said. "All coaches and Volunteers are saddened by this."

The crash cast a pall over the Quarterback Club's banquet to honor recipients of its Coach of the Year and Player of the Year awards.

The club continued its banquet, which had started by the time word got back to the school that a plane had gone down and it was believed to be the one carrying Dockery.

"We were halfway through the banquet before anything was suspected," said Jim Thompson, football coach at Lawrence County High.

"We had someone waiting at the airport for them (the Dockery party) and the people we had waiting called back to say that Dockery had not shown and there was a plane down," Thompson said.

Dockery started his coaching career at as head coach at Harriman, Tenn. High School in 1966. He later coached at Morristown East High School before starting his college coaching career in 1970 as a wide receiver coach under Bill Battle at Tennessee.

Dockery moved to Georgia Tech in 1972 as offensive line coach under offensive coordinator Steve Sloan and followed Sloan to Vanderbilt and Texas Tech. Dockery served as offensive coordinator at both schools. He got his first head coaching job at Tech in 1978 when Sloan left Tech to go to Ole Miss.

Emory Bellard hires ex-A&M colleague

United Press International
STARKVILLE, Miss. — Mississippi State football Coach Emory Bellard announced Monday the hiring of former Texas A&M defensive coordinator Melvin Robertson as an assistant coach for the 1984 season.

Robertson, a resident of Bryan, was enroute to Starkville Monday night and could not be reached for comment.

Also joining the Bulldog staff is Tom Goode, Bellard said. The appointments were approved in a telephone poll of the state College Board, which is expected to formalize the hirings at its next regular meeting.

"Two outstanding men will

be joining the football coaching staff," Bellard also a former Texas A&M coach said. "Coach Melvin Robertson will begin employment immediately as defensive coordinator. Coach Tom Goode will become offensive coordinator on Jan. 2, 1984. Coach Goode will begin his duties just as soon as possible following Alabama's participation in the Sun Bowl."

"I feel that both of these men will have a very positive effect on the future of Mississippi State football."

Robertson, 53, was an assistant coach and defensive coordinator at Texas A&M from 1972-

78, serving as assistant head coach from 1975-78. He returns to coaching after being in private business since 1978.

Goode, 45, is an MSU graduate and former All-Southeastern Conference center on the 1960 team. He was an assistant head coach from 1978-82 at Mississippi, before joining Coach Ray Perkins for the 1983 season at Alabama.

Goode and Robertson have been hired after the resignation earlier this month of three assistant coaches — offensive line Coach Barry Wilson, defensive coordinator Marc Dove and offensive backfield Coach Gary Mullins.

Cowboys, Landry regroup following loss to Redskins

United Press International
DALLAS — The Dallas Cowboys performance against the Washington Redskins is one they would just as soon forget, but it is one that coach Tom Landry probably will not let them forget.

Landry seemed honestly perplexed during the first post-game moments last Sunday, trying to figure out why a team he thought was so good could play so ineffectively in a game that meant so much.

The chief reason, which he was quick to admit, had to do with the fact the Redskins were the better football team. But that did not change the feeling, at least in Landry's mind, that his charges were not emotionally set to play in a big contest.

"This was probably the worst game we've had in a long time," Landry said following his team's 10-10 loss to the Washington Redskins. "I don't remember a game this year that we had such lack of real good rhythm."

"We were playing for the

"They just beat the stink out of us, really," — Dallas cornerback Ron Fello

championship. If you don't get ready to play for this game, well."

Landry let that tough trail off without a finish, but there were plenty of players to pick up the thought.

"They just beat the stink out of us, really," said cornerback Ron Fello, who was beaten by Washington flanker Art Monk for the 43-yard touchdown pass that broke the game open in the third quarter.

"They came out playing good, and we just weren't ready for them. You can tell by the score we weren't ready for them. I think our guys were relaxed before the game. They were just looking at it as another game to

play — not as a championship." Wide receiver Butch Johnson summed his feelings up in a hurry.

"I'm disgusted," he said. "That's the only way I can put it. They whipped us all over the field. It's a credit to them. They are an excellent club and playing very well."

"But I don't think you should take this for a playoff game." The fact that Dallas had a spot in the playoffs despite the drubbing from Washington was about the only consolation the team had.

"We've got next week and the week after that," said linebacker Anthony Dickerson. "I wanted to win, of course. But I am not

going to cry about it, because we are still in the playoffs. That's where you make your money, in the playoffs."

"They just beat us this time. Our record is 12-3 and that's the best it's been since I have been here. I am not ashamed of that and I am not ashamed of this team. They just outmanned us in the game and that's it."

"This wasn't a playoff game," echoed defensive tackle Randy White. "We still have that ahead of us. It would have been nice for us to have that week off and have the home-field advantage during the playoffs. But now, we'll just have to take the other route."

The Cowboys will host a wild card game December 26 unless the New York Giants can pull off a huge upset next Saturday and beat the Redskins. Even then Dallas would have to regroup and defeat the San Francisco 49ers in Candlestick Park next Sunday night to claim the NFC East title.

United Press International
NEW YORK — The beginning of the end has gone quite well for DePaul Coach Ray Meyer.

Meyer, who will retire after the season, has seen his team win its first five games and go from unranked in pre-season to No. 4 in the UPI Coaches' ratings. Meyer will end a 42-year career at DePaul, but he has never won an NCAA championship.

Ahead of DePaul are No. 1 Kentucky, No. 2 North Carolina and No. 3 Houston. Kentucky held the top spot, although the Tar Heels are gaining ground. The Wildcats received 24 of a possible 40 first-place votes and 583 overall points in the latest balloting by the UPI Board of Coaches while North Carolina received the other 16 first-place votes and 571 overall points.

Houston jumped three places into the third spot and received 458 overall points.

DePaul vaulted 10 spots after Saturday's 63-61 victory over Georgetown, which knocked the Hoyas from the unbeaten list and from third in the rankings to fifth.

Rounding out the Top 20 are No. 6 North Carolina State, No. 7 Purdue, No. 8 Memphis State, No. 9 Boston College, No. 10 Georgia, No. 11 Maryland, No. 12 St. John's, No. 13 Louisiana State, No. 14 Oregon State, No. 15 Texas-El Paso, No. 16 Louisville, No. 17 Michigan, No. 18 UCLA, No. 19 Michigan State and No. 20 Iowa.

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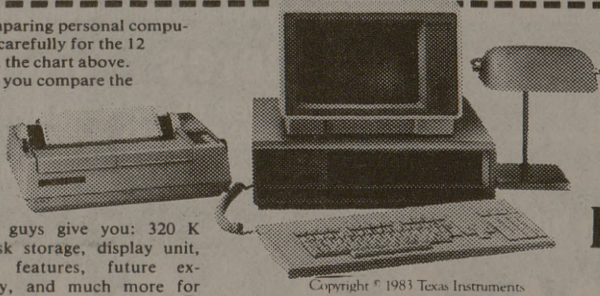
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