

# Leonard returns, will fight for title

**United Press International**  
**ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, Md.** — Former welterweight champion Sugar Ray Leonard, who retired last November after eye surgery, says he will fight again, perhaps as early as February.

Leonard, 27, boxed two three-round exhibitions Saturday night before making the surprise announcement. He showed some flashes of the

quickness that characterized his 32-1 record that included 23 knockouts.

Leonard's last fight was a third round TKO of Bruce Finch on Feb. 15, 1982 in Reno, Nev.

Leonard was to defend his world welterweight title against Roger Stafford in Buffalo last May but he had problems with his vision the week before the

fight and returned to Baltimore to be examined at Johns Hopkins Hospital. His condition was diagnosed as a partially detached retina and corrective surgery was performed. After several months of contemplation, Leonard announced his retirement at an elaborate news conference last November.

"Yes, I will fight again but it's not a comeback," said Leonard. "I'm back. I've got to get in serious shape and get with (attorney) Mike Trainer and work out the logistics. Hopefully, I could have a 10-round tuneup by February or March, maybe."

# One pounding by 'Skins quiets boisterous fans

A friend came over to my house Sunday to watch what he termed the "Skinning of the 'Skins." To say that my friend is a Dallas Cowboys fan is like saying a Rolls Royce is no more than a four-door passenger sedan.

Like most of the Cowboys' fans I've been around, my friend has always let me know just how good "America's Team" is. In fact, he gets a little out of hand at times. But I accept that because he is a friend.

But late in the season I have to pray that the Cowboys will lose just two in a row so my friend can return to his pre-season "nice-guy" nature.

It didn't even take two in a row to answer my prayers this time, though. One solid pounding at the hands of the 'Skins and my friend forgot his allegiance altogether. When the 'Skins scored their 28th point and the "staunch" Cowboys fans in Texas Stadium began their exodus, my friend jumped up and stripped off his t-shirt that said "Landry and God — No place but Dallas."

When I asked him what he was doing, he replied, "I sure wouldn't want anyone to think I was associated with that sorry bunch."

Well, I guess that is why I'm not a Cow-



bob caster

But it seems like the fans who are the vocal during the week are the first to be blasted the organization when they lose.

Even the players lose their composure when things don't go their way. I told my friend I was embarrassed for him when Michael Downs and Dennis Thurman led their juvenile stunt in the middle of the Redskin touchdown celebration. I was wasn't.

I guess the Cowboys just can't stand idleness. There's not a player on the team fan under the age of 18 that can recall the 'Pokes had a poor season — and doesn't mean getting beat in the first round of the play-offs either. I'm talking about the last years — like the ones Dandy Don Meredith and Bob Hayes could tell you about. They are the foundation on which the Cowboys team rests and even though it didn't always win, they were sure exciting watch.

Maybe Cowboys fans and players should take a look at Tom Landry. He has much to say. But then again, he's around the Cowboys forever. He knows what it's like on the other side of the street and he's glad to be where he is.

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# Packers beat Bucs in overtime as Stenerud boots 23-yarder

**United Press International**  
**TAMPA, Fla.** — Jan Stenerud's fourth field goal of the game — a 23-yarder at 4:07 of overtime Monday night — kept the Green Bay Packers' playoff hopes alive with a 12-9 victory over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Stenerud's game-winner cap-

ped a night in which the 40-year-old kicker set an NFL record for most field goals in a career. He now has 338, three better than mark set by George Blanda.

He sent the game into overtime with a 23-yard field goal with 28 seconds left in regulation.

The victory moved the Pack-

ers into a tie with the Detroit Lions and made the the NFC Central title race into a free-for-all. The Packers and Lions both have 8-7 records while the last-place Bucs fell to 2-13, their worst record since 1977 when they finished 2-14.

The NFC Central race comes down to the final week like this:

- Detroit can win the title next week by beating the Bucs at Pontiac, Mich., but a loss there and a Packers' victory over the Bears at Chicago would give the Packers the title.

- Should Detroit win the division and Green Bay beats the Bears, the Packers still could win a wildcard berth if the Los Angeles Rams beat New Orleans in their final game.

- Should Detroit and Green Bay finish with 9-7 records, the Lions would win the division on the strength of a better divisional record.

The Bucs stormed from behind midway through the final period and took the lead for the only time on a 4-yard pass from Jack Thompson to Adger Armstrong. But Bill Capece, who kicked a 22-yard field goal in the second period, missed the extra point when the ball hit the upright, leaving the Bucs with a 9-6 lead.

Capece then had a 35-yard field-goal attempt blocked with

just under three minutes left and the Packers began their game-tying drive from the

Lynn Dickey, who had the fifth player to pass for more than 4,000 yards in a season, moved the Packers to the top of the list with the tying goal.

Green Bay won the toss and overtime and received the starting from their 29. Dickey connected with James Lee for a 15-yard play in the end zone and after Harlan Huck broke loose for a 20-yarder, Dickey ran one play to the end zone for a 23-yard touchdown. Stenerud came on to kick.

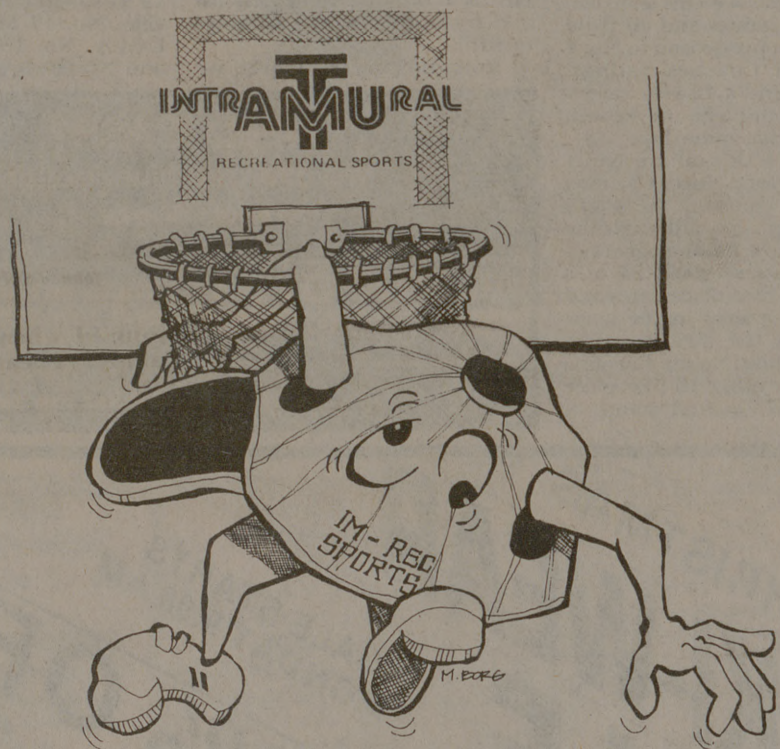
Dickey completed 24 passes for 278 yards, giving him 4,194 passing yards for the season. Bill Kenney of Kansas City had become the fourth player to surpass the 4,000-yard mark when he passed for 4,187 yards Sunday. Kenney has 4,187 for the season.

Joe Namath of the New York Jets, Dan Fouts of San Diego and Brian Sipe of Cleveland were the other three quarterbacks to make the 4,000-yard mark.

The victory was the second overtime in five tries this season for Green Bay. Tampa Bay had a third overtime game of the season.

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**UT plans rooftop practices**

**United Press International**  
**AUSTIN** — A proposed \$7 million football practice room facility at the University of Texas will, among other things, feature a rooftop practice facility, school officials said Monday.

UT sports information director Bill Little said the facility has been on the planning books several years.

The building will be located at the south end of Memorial Stadium and will house dressing and training facilities. Atop the building will be a practice field of about 41,000 square feet, covered with artificial turf.

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