



Landry to showdown with Ditka

United Press International

DALLAS - If Tom Landry happened to be a betting man, which by all accounts he is not, he would, no doubt, have been willing to place a wager several years ago that this Sunday's coaching matchup in Chicago would never have taken place. And, of course, he would have lost

"When Mike Ditka first came to us I wouldn't have thought he could be a head coach," Landry said Tuesday. "He had a hard enough time being an assistant coach.

Ditka finished his playing career with the Dallas Cowboys and then became an assistant under Landry for nine years before becoming the head coach of the Chicago Bears

Dallas and Chicago face off Sun-day in what will be the first coaching meeting of Ditka and Landry, both bringing 3-1 records into the game. have lots of respect for Mike,'

Landry said. "I may not have thought he would have been a head coach when he came to the Cowboys, but when he left us I knew he would

be a good one.

"He has matured a lot as a person.
His temper was the thing that caused him problems now and then.

"After we got through playing tennis his racket always looked like somebody had beat it up. But the players in Chicago understand him now. You can see that in some of the

statements I see them making.
"They have learned to live with
his temper and they are playing his
kind of football."

Stories of Ditka's temper fill seve-Stories of Ditka's temper fill several volumes of underground Cowboys' folklore. During his days in Dallas he would prowl the sidelines, clipboard in hand, having his say early and often with the officials.

"There are a lot of things about my personality I don't want to rub off on my football team," Ditka said

in a telephone conversation to members of the Dallas media Tuesday.

"But I want them to follow my approch to football and I think they have. They don't ask for any quarter and they don't give any. They are willing to lay it on the line.

"They have paid a price to get where we are. And that is not to say we are anything special. We got our rears beaten by Seattle last week. The Seahawks are a good team, but they are not on the level of the Cowboys. We are going to have to reach a new plateau to beat Dallas.'



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Members of the Texas A&M Rugby Football Club leap for control of a line-out during a practice last week. The team was practicing

for last weekend's game against the Houston Heathens. The Ags' first side advanced their record to 2-0-1 beating the Heathens 28-6.

Gymnasts are not forgotten

United Press International

NEW YORK — At the very height of their exhilirating triumph, while the sweat still was dripping down their bodies and Olympic medals shone brightly around their necks, members of the American gymnastics team issued an impassioned plea.

"Don't forget us now," was the essence of the message that echoed from such as Bart Conner, Peter Vidmar and Mitch Gaylord. "We worked long and hard to achieve this success for America, and now we need the public to support us."

Almost two months following that plea in Los Angeles, the support has

olea in Los Angeles, the support has

been overwhelming. "We've been on quite a whirlwind since the Olympics," Conner said Tuesday. "People are very much excited about gymnastics and they're keeping that Olympic fever on a real bot roll

"I walk through an airport now

and people just grab me and say, 'You should have seen me sitting at home watching the TV and jumping up and down at what you were

So supportive has the public been that an original Tour of America's Gymnastics Champions, a sellout at all four cities on the original schedule, has been expanded to include 10 more sites.

The gymnasts participating include Conner, Vidmar, Gaylord, Julianne McNamara, Kathy Johnson, Jim Hartung, Tracee Talavera, Tim Daggett and Scott Johnson from a United States team that won 17 medals at the 1984 Summer Olympics.

"We're happy to have the oppor-tunity to go around the country and help promote gymnastics," said Mc-Namara, who won a gold medal on the uneven bars and a silver in floor exercise. "There's been a tremendous excitement generated by this you that one good chance.

tour, and this has provided as feeling for those of us who been involved in gymnastics at

Vidmar, also a winner of an vidual gold (pommel horse) and ver (all-around), added, "With success we enjoyed in the Olym we have the opportunity to prom this sport on a major level. The levels around the country have b doubling and tripling in size, and couldn't be happier."

Although the gymnasts do not paid from the proceeds of this to the money instead going to a United States Gymnastics Federation, the financial support its asked for in Los Angeles has been coming their way.

"A medal opens a couple of of for you," reasoned Conner, a medalist on the parallel bars." you on television one time, it



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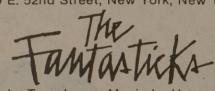
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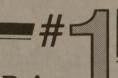
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