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Horns' Akers praises Grey

United Press International

While running back candidates for the Heisman Trophy are dropping like flies, Texas Coach Fred Akers has a candidate on the other side of the ball.

He's All-America safety Jerry Gray. Since he plays for Texas, Akers can be accused of being parochial, but Gray has some credentials no one can argue with.

In the second-ranked Longhorns' only game, Gray had 10 solo tackles and two assists in a 35-27 win over Auburn and is considered among the nation's best pass defenders.

"They give the Heisman Trophy to the best player," Akers said. "When you consider who plays his position best, Jerry has to be at the top of the list. We've had some outstanding defensive backs here at Texas and Jerry's way ahead of all of them."

With running back Bo Jackson of Auburn and Napoleon McCallum of Navy out for the year, the 6-foot-1, 183-pound senior Gray can throw his hat in the Heisman ring Saturday against No. 6 Penn State at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J.

Penn State has another fine running back who has been injured — D.J. Dozier.

D.J. Dozier. Dozier, who gained 1,002 yards last year as a freshman, gained 97 yards on just 12 carries before suffering a groin injury in the Nittany Lions' opener against Rutgers and sat out the last two games. In his absence, backups Tony Mumford and David Clark each gained over 100 yards last week in a 56-18 win over William & Mary.

Penn State is off to a 3-0 start, compared to a nightmarish 0-3 start last season as defending national champion. The Lions' biggest vic-

tory was a 20-7 upset at Iowa ma alerted the country that Penn State back. A8 sha

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"It feels much better compareds last year," Penn State defensive bat Chris Sydnor said. "Last year, w didn't know what was happenin You couldn't understand why w were losing. It was embarrasing This year, everyone's motivated in a young squad and everyone de

This year, everyone's motivated in a young squad and everyone de what they have to do." The Nittany Lions righted the selves to finish 8-4-1 in 1983. Tea ended up 11-1, with its only is coming to Georgia in the form Bowl. That cost the Longhorns the national title but Akers expects in team to be in contention the who way again this year. "We don't feel we're going to

"We don't feel we're going wh far off in any year because we hav players who can compete," Akm said.





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