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# Houston gets winners but remains NFL loser

**United Press International**  
KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The Houston Oilers brought in winners and they got losers.

But that's why Coach Hugh Campbell, one of those winners, is not about to panic over his team's 0-10 start this National Football League season: Winners don't stay losers.

The Oilers have made a concentrated effort in recent years to add players with backgrounds of success. In recent years, they have drafted Dean Steinkuhler of Nebraska, Mike Munchak and Mike McCloskey of Penn State, Bruce Matthews of Southern Cal, Larry Moriarty of Notre Dame, Keith Bostic and Stan Edwards of Michigan and Herkie Walls of Texas — players from schools that can be labeled traditional national powers.

This season Houston hired Campbell, who compiled a Canadian Football League record 77.3 winning percentage (81-22-5). He won five Grey Cups with the Edmonton Eskimos, and then outbid several teams for Warren Moon, who took Washington to a Rose Bowl in his senior

year (1977) and then quarterbacked Edmonton to those five Grey Cups.

Campbell feels his players all know how to win and will eventually do just that in the NFL. And that's the incentive that keeps the Oilers plugging away in 1984.

"All the coaches and players here have been in situations that have been very successful," Campbell said. "We have people who have been in winning situations and that has been an influence on our drafting. We have people who have been in that environment and that will eventually help us."

"I'm not sure what that's doing for us right now except that those players know there's something better. Anybody who has been in football knows that it's a game of cycles. There are going to be down periods and up periods."

The down period started long before Campbell ever arrived. The Oilers went 1-8 in the 1982 strike season and 2-14 in 1983. Campbell still hasn't coached the Oilers to a victory in this his first season and Houston's overall losing streak stands at 11 games.

"I've gone through tough times but nothing exactly like this," Campbell said. "Every season is unique within itself. If you had a team that was winning a lot of games and losing three or four in a row, it has the same effect as a team like this that is not used to winning and has been in a row. When you lose it's tough to cope with. It's something I have faced before but not for an extended length of time."

"The psyche of a football player attained on the field; it isn't something you can teach him on the sidelines or in the classroom. They're going to be adversity and you've got to come back. The players have to realize they have to fight their way through it because something has been waiting down the line."

There hasn't been much of a change this season, however. The Oilers have come no closer than 10 points in any of their 10 losses thus far. They were completely blown out by the Atlanta Falcons (42-10) and Pittsburgh Steelers (35-7).

# Pokes puttin' on the blitz

**United Press International**

ST. LOUIS — Dallas coach Tom Landry says the Cowboys will live or die with their blitzing defense, although it left them cold in their previous meeting with the St. Louis Cardinals this season.

"We've been using the same defense all year, blitzing some," Landry said. "We'll probably continue. That's our trend."

In the first St. Louis-Dallas matchup, the Cowboys' safety blitzes failed to reach Cards' quarterback Neil Lomax in time, and left his wide receivers with man-to-man coverage.

As a result, Roy Green caught eight passes for 189 yards and two touchdowns, and the Cardinals left Texas Stadium with a 31-20 victory.

Landry and the Cowboy defenders are well aware that they must find a way to stop Green, nicknamed "Jet Stream" by his teammates.

"The guy is one of the best receivers in the business," Landry said. "He's got great speed and one of the best spurts under the long ball. That's really the key to the long receiver — his ability to change speeds when the ball is maybe a little out ahead of him."

Dallas cornerback Everson Walls, who was victimized several times by Green, said Green is the hardest to cover of all the NFC's pass receivers.

"By far, by far," Walls said. "I can handle some of the guys because they're small, and I can handle some because they don't quite have that much speed. But Roy is strong and he's fast. He gets faster as he rolls along and that's a problem."

The Dallas defense might do well to adopt the method used by the Los Angeles Rams against the Cardinals last Sunday in St. Louis. The Rams dropped into a deep zone, forcing

Lomax to dump off to his running backs with nary a blitz.

Green still caught five passes for 105 yards, but Los Angeles stopped St. Louis offense that had been averaging 30 points a game. The Rams left as a 16-13 winner.


But Walls echoed Landry in saying the Cowboys probably won't stick with their blitzes.

"We've been doing this ever since I've been here," Walls said. "We're actually live and die by our philosophy of matchup man-to-man, with a blitz once in a while."

Green, who has caught 33 passes for 682 yards and five touchdowns in his career against Dallas, said he welcomes the single coverage.

"They are a blitzing team and the means they're playing man-to-man," Green said. "When a receiver is one-on-one, he is supposed to have his eyes on the ball."

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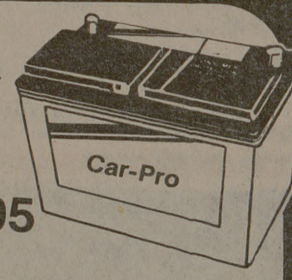
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