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Hanifan calls refs 'human'

United Press International

ST. LOUIS — Cardinal coach Jim Hanifan Monday came to the defense of officials feeling the heat from St. Louis fans enraged over two calls in Sunday's loss to the Dallas Cowboys, 24-17.

"It's part of the game," Hanifan said of the officiating. "You get into the human factor here. We all make

Hanifan said the problem with of-ficiating is the complexity of football

'You've got a heck of a lot of things going on — multiple types of coverages," he said. "It's not like it used to be. It was a simpler game. And I think being a simpler game, it was a little easier to call."

Both of the controversial calls that raised the ire of Cardinal fans and players involved St. Louis wide receiver Roy Green, the NFL's leading

pass receiver. On the first play, Green appeared to have hauled in a 39-yard touchdown pass from Neil Lomax that would have given St. Louis the lead with 26 seconds left in the third quarter.

However, field judge Pat Mallette ruled Green pushed off of Cowboy cornerback Everson Walls and called the play back on offensive pass inter-

Walls said Green's push was "slight," adding, "I thought he beat me for a touchdown.

The second call was actually a nocall and appeared even more blatant in replays. The Cardinals were try-ing to comeback in the fourth quar-ter of the 24-17 loss when Lomax passed to Green. But before the ball got to Green, Walls popped him from behind. No penalty was called. Hanifan, however, dismissed the

officiating as the breaks of the game, and pointed to a more important factor for the defeat - six turn-

"You often look at turnovers and say, well, that's from sloppy play or careless play," he said. "A lot of times a turnover is because of some body trying to do something a little bit more than the ordinary

"In the final analysis of it, whether you're a mature team or a young team, if you lose the ball four times in fumbles, you've got yourself a

world of crap,"
In fact, Hanifan said it was a tribute to the team that it was in position for a tying touchdown in the final minutes despite the four fumbles and two interceptions

"When it's all said and done, in my mind, we should have won that foot-ball game," said Hanifan. "We damn near did it anyway with a helluva lot of adversity, with turnovers, with penalties, with touchdowns called back. We were still in the cotton-picking

ball game."
The Cardinals now are 6-5 and facing what Hanifan called "an uphill battle" for a playoff berth.

What we've got to do is get out there in the next five weeks and play our game," he said.



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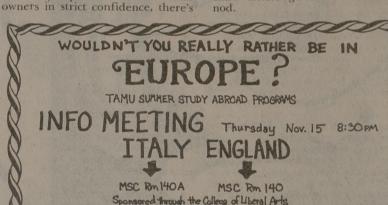
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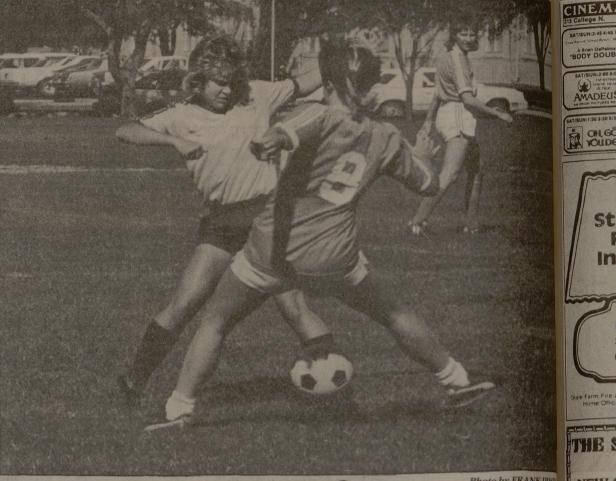
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A Kick In The Grass

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during Saturday's match. The Aggies' final Texas A&M Women's Soccer Team player game for this season ended up in a scoreless Tracy Holly attempts to slip the ball through tie, even after playing two overtime periods. the legs of a University of Texas defender

Dickerson legend to be

Payton passes torch

little chance all 28 wouldn't make

Dickerson their first choice.

Although he gained 208 yards a week ago against St. Louis, Sunday's performance against the tough Bear

defense may have been Dickerson's

finest. He took control of the game

in the second half, dancing his way to a seemingly effortless 99 yards and both touchdowns with a remark-

ably different running style than

When Payton runs, you look for a linebacker or safety. When Dicker-

son runs, you glance around for

This season, Dickerson has cranked out eight 100-yard games, piling up 1,309 yards. Payton is second with 1,172 yards.

OK. Sometimes the stats don't give the whole truth. Maybe Dickerson has carried the ball more often than Payton. Wrong. Dickerson has

241 carries this year and is averaging 5.4 yards per rush. Payton has carried the ball eight more times and is

Ginger Rogers.

United Press International

LOS ANGELES — The torch Walter Payton carried as the NFL's premier running back for so many seasons has been passed. The flame now goes to Eric Dickerson.

The final step in the exchange of the NFL's unofficial "Golden Cleat Award" was made Sunday, when Dickerson romped for 149 yards and a pair of touchdowns in the Los Angeles Rams' victory over the Chi-cago Bears. Payton finished with only 60 yards rushing.

For awhile, the doubters will remain. Those who have watched Payton confuse and baffle NFL defenses for a decade will be unable to let go. He is, after all, the all-time leading rusher, having left the legend of Jim Brown in his wake earlier this year.

"Eric Dickerson is not the best I've ever played against," Chicago line-backer Mike Singletary said after the Bears' loss. "But he's in the top two."

Asked who the top runner was, Singletary replied, "I'm not going to say. But he's in the room right now

Even the modest Dickerson casts his vote for Payton. "To me, he's the greatest," Dickerson said. "I think he's the best run-

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ning back in pro football. But if you polled the 28 NFL team

But even the majority of the Bears, very carefully trying not to damage the feelings of their franchise-carrier, gave Dickerson the

averaging 4.7 yards per carry.

"I had great respect for Ericli erson in college," said linebade Oris Wilson, "and I still have teste for him. He just kept coming at the

Dickerson, whose strange gland and oversized mouthpiece screen behind his cage facemask give the appearance of a creature another land, has averaged 119 per game this season. If he ave Just 20 more per game against 6th Bay, Tampa Bay, New Orles Houston and San Francisco, in break O.J. Simpson's NFL seasons cord of 2,003 yards.

If he doesn't get that recond season, he almost surely will be he gives NFL defenses a break retires. The 24-year-old from Sel Texas says he's still learning.

"I'll get better," he vows. "Your better as you get older. Per haven't seen the best of Eric Dide

Even Payton knows the sleek in L.A. now rules the jungle.

The only way I could keep h Dickerson from breaking my re would be to keep playing as long him," Payton said.



The Battalion SPREADING THE NEWS

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