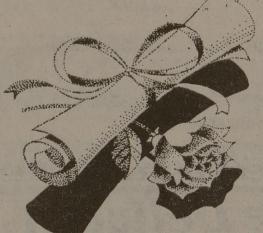
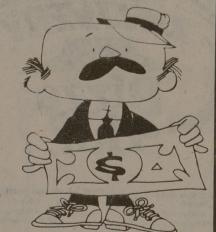


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## Pokes say goodbye to finesse with draft

By DENNE H. FREEMAN Associated Press Sports Writer

DALLAS - The National Football League draft has always been the holiest of days to the Dallas Cow-

The Cowboys built their franchise and name on glittering gems found in the NFL draft mother lode.

They discovered Cornell Green on a basketball court, Bob Hayes on a track and Roger Staubach in the

The Cowboys made the draft a science and have five Super Bowl ap-pearances as proof of their prowess. They even slickered Seattle into

giving up running back Tony Dorsett in 1977 and he immediately took Dallas to a Super Bowl in his rookie

But the competition has caught up with the Cowboys.

Pressured by the opposition, the Cowboys have made some draft goofs in recent years, including Rod Hill and Larry Bethea to name two of recent vintage who are no longer with the team.

The NFL draft is no longer their personal recruiting ground.

"It's been tough, and it keeps get-

ting tougher every year," said Gil Brandt, the former baby photographer who has masterminded the Cowboys scouting. "Other teams do their homework now."

The "homework" includes not

doing business with Dallas on trades.

"We did more to try to make a trade than we have in 10 years. We would have loved to have an impact wide receiver but we got some solid players for the future." - Cowboys' President Tex Schramm

The Cowboys couldn't pull off a big trade last Tuesday when they needed to move up from the No. 17 position to get an impact wide re-

"We did more to try to make a trade than we have in 10 years," admitted Cowboys President Tex

Schramm "In the long run what happened is probably for the best. We would have loved to have an impact wide

receiver but we got some solid players for the future."

The "future" is the operative word there.

You must understand that Tom Landry calls the draft shots.

Brandt puts the information in front of him, but it's Landry who makes the ultimate decision. It's Landry who has the say on the first four rounds then he turns the decisions over to Brandt.

Landry picked

275-pound Michigan defens tackle Kevin Brooks in the fir round and tabbed Virginia Is linebacker Jesse Penn in the sen round on Tuesday.

CASA

"I felt very good about those players," said Landry. "They good players for the future."

Of 17 Cowboy drafts I'e tended, I never heard the word" ture" used so much.

The impression you got was in Landry is in for the long had bring Dallas back to a Super Bo caliber

Landry has any length of contra he wants. And apparently he's read to be at Dallas another five year that's what it takes.

Not making the playoffs last ye stung Landry's pride. Landry's a tough competitor as doesn't like getting beat.

Every player he drafted had? excellent "competitive" rating from the Dallas scouts Landry even had Penn flown

Dallas for a personal interview to significant what he was getting.

"The guy can play," said Land"
"And I liked his attitude. He's a constant to the said liked his attitude.

You get the picture. Land drafted the kind of players who an alley fight.

The days of the Cowboys being strictly a finesse team are about 10th

Robertson, a 6-4 guard, was

Spurs No. 7 pick in the first roul last year. He has the kind of sperior

Fitzsimmons says the team needs.

Moore, who as point guard led team with average assists with 10 game, Jeff Cook, Marc Iavard Billy Knight and John Paxson.

future of the other free agents. Taking a look back at the 1984 season, Fitzsimmons said wouldn't rate it a bad one.

The team has five free agent

Drossos said the team will try keep Moore, but he refused to p what he called "20 questions" on

'But unless you're restructuring

don't see how you can be happy w 41 and 41," he said. "We didn't

the division. The team wasn't

proved enough to suit me as a coa or the general manager or the fant

## Spurs due for a change after disappointing '85

**Associated Press** 

SAN ANTONIO — Adjectives like "disappointing" come to Coach Cotton Fitzsimmons' mind when he evaluates the San Antonio Spurs' defeat at the hands of Denver in the first round of the NBA playoffs.

"Average" is the word he uses to describe the Spurs' 41-41 record this year — his first as coach of the San Antonio team.

But Fitzsimmons is even less descriptive when it comes to talking about the makeup of next year's Spurs team. There will be some changes," he

Team owner Angelo Drossos isn't much help, either. "Anything is possible," he said,

"and it always has been." But some changes undoubtedly are in store. As team spokesman Wayne Witt said, "It's going to be an

interesting summer. Drossos did say the Spurs "would be reluctant to trade a George Gervin because he has been such a major

He also said he would hate to lose Artis Gilmore, this year's top re-bounder (10.4 per game) for the

part of this franchise since our first

Spurs, who this past week made noises about retiring.

"I think he has several more years to play in the league. He is a major part of any franchise, including this one," he said

Drossos has been quoted as saying there will be no major shakeup of

The Spurs nucleus of Gervin, Gilmore, Mike Mitchell, Johnny Moore and Gene Banks has been intact since 1982. The squad finished 53-29 the first year, then 37-45 and the even split this year.

"This team has been intact for three seasons. I don't think you can stay intact another year," Fitzsimmons said, adding that the Spurs are leveling off. "We need some quicker people on the ball club.'

The Spurs will have to flip a coin with Utah to determine their slot in the NBA draft in June. The team will pick either 13th or 14th in the first round.

Unless the Spurs put together a trade for a much higher draft slot, it is unlikely they will come away with a

get one as good as Alvin Robertson.

first-rate talent. "I hope to get a good player," Fitz-simmons said. "I don't know if we'll

The Spurs were plagued all son long with turnovers, and failing proved their undoing in playoffs, Fitzsimmons said. "Most of our quickness and spewas hurt," he said, referring to keertson and Banks. "I'm disappoint in the way it ended. I would have liked for it to come up to the wift with a final layup."