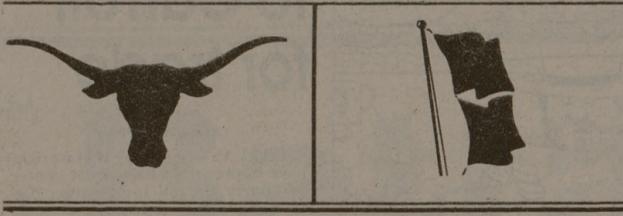


**SPORTS**

# Longhorns, Hurricanes left singing in rain

**Associated Press**  
 OMAHA, Neb. — Texas and Miami will have to wait another day to decide the NCAA College World Series champion for 1985.  
 The two teams, which have split their two previous meetings at the national collegiate baseball tournament, were rained out of their championship game Monday night. They are scheduled to meet at 6:10 p.m. Tuesday for another try.  
 Texas, third-ranked and 64-13 on the season, won the first encounter of the tournament 8-4 on Wednesday.

Miami, sixth-ranked and 63-16, won Sunday night's contest 2-1 in the double-elimination tournament.  
 Monday's rainout marked the first time since 1964 that two CWS games have been rained out in the same year. Miami and Texas also were rained out Tuesday night.  
 "I'd rather the championship game not be decided under these conditions," said Miami Coach Ron Fraser when Monday's rainout was announced.  
 Texas Coach Cliff Gustafson said the extra day gives him the opportunity of changing his starting pitcher.



Michael Poehl, 7-1 and a first-round Major League draft selection last Monday, was scheduled to start in

the title game.  
 "This makes a possibility of a switch to (Bruce) Ruffin. I hate not

to start Poehl because he's ready to go but Ruffin has been our No. 2 guy all year."  
 Ruffin, 13-2, likely will go against Miami's Kevin Sheary, 6-4, who already has picked up two victories in the tournament.  
 Both teams already have had a hand in the CWS record book. Miami's Calvin James had eight stolen bases, erasing the old mark of seven by Roger Dettler of Arizona State in 1969 and Tim Gloyd of Pepperdine in 1979.  
 Miami also hit five homers in its 17-3 first-round win over top-

ranked Stanford, bettering the record of four by Arizona State against Texas in 1981.  
 Miami's Greg Ellena and Rusty DeBold, and Texas' Billy Bates each hit two home runs in CWS games, joining several other players in that single-game feat. DeBold's 11 total bases in game one also tied a CWS single-game mark.  
 Texas' David Denny matched the series record with four doubles.  
 The series attendance record also will fall as only 4,396 fans are needed to top the 1981 tournament when 120,535 fans turned out.

## American netters can't play on clay

**Associated Press**  
 PARIS — Clay is produced by the chemical decomposition of rock. When it's spread out to form a tennis court, it tends to produce a serious decomposition in the games of America's top male players.  
 The French Open is one of the four Grand Slam events in tennis, and the only one played on clay. The last American man to win the tournament was Tony Trabert — 31 years ago.  
 John McEnroe came close in 1984, taking a two-set lead over Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia before dropping the last three sets and the match. This year, McEnroe and fellow American Jimmy Connors were eliminated in the semifinals.  
 The problem with clay is that a lot of those outright winners hit on grass, cement or artificial turf come right back at you on the slower surface.  
 "The difference is that players can run down the ball," Connors explained during the French Open. "The ball is much slower, it's heavier and you lose the speed on your shot."  
 "You also slide out there. It's really a whole different game."  
 This year's winner was Sweden's Mats Wilander, who defeated Lendl 3-6, 6-4, 6-2, 6-2 Sunday and picked up the first-place check for \$138,000.  
 American women have had a good deal more luck on the slow red clay at Paris' Roland Garros Stadium. Chris Evert-Lloyd won the tournament this year by beating fellow American Martina Navratilova in a tense 6-3, 6-7 (4-7), 7-5 cliffhanger Saturday.  
 Lloyd now has won six French Open titles in her career, matching the men's record held by retired Swedish great Bjorn Borg. Navratilova has won the French twice, and was defending champion at this year's event.  
 But Lloyd grew up playing the game on clay at her father's Florida tennis school, and Navratilova is a naturalized American raised on clay in her native Czechoslovakia.  
 Fewer and fewer major tournaments are being played on clay. In 1980, 36 of the approximately 80 Grand Prix events were played on clay. This year, the number was 26, with only four of those played in the United States.  
 Part of the reason for the decline is that tournament organizers, eager to attract the hard-hitting American stars, tend to shy away from a surface that tends to make the Americans stay away.

## Ratings god loses hope for USFL

**By ED CASSAVOY**  
*Sports Writer*  
 Sunday is as good a day to play, even for the gods. Well I think this past Sunday was when everyone up on the mountain decided they needed an extra good laugh.  
 I almost can hear them as they pull up a cloud and a cold goblet of wine, and watch the humans beat the hell out of each other.  
 "Well Hermes, what you want to watch today?" Apollo asks.  
 "Um...how 'bout some hackey (Hermes is a New Yorker at heart)."  
 Zeus chimes in, "Hockey's over you goof, and I sure ain't going to watch the Celtics lose (God's can see the future)."  
 Now Poseidon sees his chance, "Hey guys, what about the USFL football game?"  
 Assorted groans whip through the clouds, causing a minor hurricane off the coast of Florida.  
 Reluctantly the tube is switched to the Denver Gold vs Houston Gamblers game.  
 Pluto goes for more brew, Pan falls asleep, and Harry pulls his cloud closer to the glowing blue set.  
 Harry? He's the new kid in town. The god of ratings.  
 "Who's winning?" asks the astute Harry. A graphic flips up on the screen, compliments of ABC. Denver 7, Houston 6.  
 "Geez, this is a football game?" Pluto says, as he plops back into his seat, arms full of Olympia beer.

"Where the hell are they playing?" queries Zeus. He crushes his empty can into a small pea.  
 "Denver," answers Pan.  
 "I know that," says Zeus irritably, "but what is that yellow stuff all over the field?"  
 "You mean the ABC announcers running around the sidelines in their rain gear?"  
 "No, the stuff on the field, on the baseball dirt area," Zeus continues.  
 Lynn Swann, announcing the game, settles the argument, "and now the grounds crew is spreading corn kernels and cobs on the dirt to control the mud."  
 Laughter bounces off the distant stars and causing two tropical storms to erupt in the Indian Ocean.  
 Thankfully, there's a commercial break.  
 Beer cans are hurled at the screen as the monstrous face of Harry Usher, the USFL commissioner fills the screen assuring viewers that (accurately) "the USFL is still fun."  
 During this lull in the inaction the gods try and decide how they can improve on the entertainment.  
 "We could make it physically impossible for either team to ever score again," Apollo says.  
 "They do that already," shout the others back.  
 "We could make them drop lots of passes and...um, never mind," says Zeus, ducking a volley of popcorn aimed at his head.

Silence falls over these heavenly fans. Is there any way to improve on the product?  
 The game returns to the screen.  
 By the third quarter, "Swanny" and play-by-play commentator Keith Jackson seem to have relaxed somewhat. Now they yuck it up as Gambler punter Frank Corral nails another 21 yarder.  
 "It's inhuman to make those two guys watch these games," says the compassionate Vulcan. "Imagine it, game after game after game. They should get a sainthood."  
 "I'll see what I can do," adds Zeus.  
 As these celestial quarterbacks howl and scream in gleeful agony, the drama continues to unfold under the cloudy skies of Denver.  
 A Gold receiver is knocked out-of-bounds and gets tangled up in ABC camera wires.  
 Laughter.  
 Player after player falls in the horrible corn mash concoction between the 10 and the 30-yard line of the field. They drag themselves up of the yellow junk shaking their heads and brushing corn kernels from their helmets.  
 Laughter.  
 ABC's on-the-field announcer, discusses one touchdown with Denver coach Darrell Davis during a 20-minute rain delay in the first half.  
 More laughter.  
 Finally Harry, tearfully

switches the channel, and collapses into his cloud weak with laughing.  
 "I can't stand it any longer," he whimpers, "they're destroying everything for me."  
 "How can they expect me ever to be tempted to chuckle at Night Court, Family Feud or Saturday Night Live, after watching this game?"  
 The other assembled gods are sympathetic, they know how humans foul up the whole system.  
 But Harry suddenly brightens.  
 "Hey, but just imagine if they decided to switch to late night games!" Harry yelled. "They'd give David Letterman a run for the money."  
 "I'll work on it," Zeus says.

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