

SPORTS

Cowboys trade Bills Dickerson

Linebacker swapped for future draft picks

Associated Press

DALLAS — Veteran linebacker Anthony Dickerson of the Dallas Cowboys said Tuesday that he has been traded to the Buffalo Bills.

"Sure, I'm a little upset about it," said Dickerson, a six-year veteran who saw the handwriting on the wall when he did not play Monday night in the Cowboys' 15-13 NFL exhibition win over Chicago.

"I'm the best linebacker they've got here and I hate to go, but I can tell you one thing, I am shifting my loyalty to the Bills right now," Dickerson said.

Dickerson quickly cleaned out his locker at the Cowboys' new headquarters at Valley Ranch and returned home to make immediate arrangements to fly to Buffalo.

Team sources said that the Cowboys would receive future draft choices in exchange for Dickerson.

Dickerson, who played at SMU, was obtained by Dallas as a free agent in 1980. He had been a starter for the Cowboys the last two seasons.

In the current Cowboys' media guide, Coach Tom Landry described Dickerson as having "the big play qualities you look for in a linebacker."

Dallas linebacker coach Jerry Tubbs said, "The trade will help Dickerson. Buffalo is very vanilla in what they do, but we run a very controlled type defense and that works against (Dickerson)."

"Anthony is the type of player who reacts to what he sees. This could be to his advantage."

Stump won't leave Ags' year to chance

By PETE HERNDON
Sports Writer

Texas A&M quarterback Craig Stump believes that saying "things just didn't go well" for the Aggies during the '84 football campaign would be an understatement.

Memories of several "bad breaks" and last season's mediocre 6-5 record makes Stump all the more anxious for the 1985-86 season to begin. And, as far as Stump's concerned, this year can't begin any worse for the Aggies than last year did.

After quarterback Kevin Murray went down with a season ending ankle injury against Arkansas State, Stump had to face the unenviable chore of replacing the Southwest Conference's 1984 Newcomer of the Year. Stump became A&M's No. 1 signal caller just one week before the Aggies' opened SWC play against Texas Tech.

The Red Raiders, along with most of A&M's other conference foes, didn't welcome Stump with open arms. The Aggies were defeated in five of Stump's first six starts, losing to Tech, Houston, Baylor, Houston and Arkansas.

Stump says that last defeat, 28-0 to the Hogs, seemed to wake the team up and helped spur the Ags to season ending victories over bowl-bound TCU and Texas.

But it's those first six starts that haunt Stump the most.

"I think about the SMU (28-20), Houston (9-7) and Baylor (20-16) games the most," Stump says.

"Those games we had a real chance and I do mean a real chance to win. If we would have, it would have meant a 9-2 record and the Cotton Bowl last year."

"We couldn't get a break that wasn't bad. I'm not making any excuses for losing, but things could've been a lot different last year. I want a chance to even it up."

A&M's '85 offense should give Stump that chance.

Under new offensive coordinator Lynn Amedee, Stump says the Aggie offense will be more wide open this year.



Battalion File Photo

Texas A&M's Craig Stump (9) will duel with Kevin Murray to keep the quarterback spot he inherited in the third game of 1984.

"The passing plays will be determined by how we read the defense at the line of scrimmage," Stump says. "The receivers will not know exactly what route they are going to run until they see the defense."

Stump says the biggest hitch so far has been getting the quarterbacks

and receivers to make the same reads.

"It's hard on the receivers because they've never had to read a defense before," he says. "Last year, all they had to do was run a certain pattern and catch the ball."

"But on the other hand, once you

learn this system, you don't have to worry about learning new plays every week to meet the different defenses because it's already built-in."

Stump says he's confident enough in his knowledge of Amedee's new offensive scheme that he can concentrate on winning the starting job

before the opener against Alabama Sept. 14.

"It should be a real dog-fight," Stump says, referring to the upcoming battle between himself and Murray for the starting quarterback position.

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