

Bengals bomb Pokes

Esiason lowers 'Boom' in Cincinnati's 50-24 rout

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Quarterback Boomer Esiason turned an off-day by the Dallas Cowboys into a showcase for the Cincinnati Bengals' quick-strike offense.

Esiason threw three touchdown passes and directed a 22-point first-quarter blitz that staggered the Cowboys and launched Cincinnati to a stunningly easy 50-24 National Football League victory Sunday.

The Bengals trapped Dallas quarterback Danny White for a safety on the game's third play, and Esiason then directed three touchdown drives less than nine minutes into the game.

"They had an off day," Esiason said. "Everything we did seemed to go well for us. We got on the scoreboard right off the bat — the defense sited."

The 22 first-quarter points, the most ever given up by a Dallas defense, left the Cowboys remembering a 44-0 rout by the Chicago Bears in Texas three games ago.

"It was very similar to the way the Bears came in fired up when we played them," White said. "That was the difference in the game. It was a psychological thing. They came out to play playoff-caliber football and we didn't."

Bengals Coach Sam Wyche had his players primed for the Cowboys'

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— Dallas Cowboys quarterback Danny White

first visit to Riverfront Stadium, which drew a boisterous sell-out crowd of 56,937 to savor the drubbing.

"We just came into this game extremely motivated and took it to 'em," Wyche said. "We beat them man-to-man."

Esiason became the Bengals' big man, burning Cowboy blitzes with audibles and consistently finding the open receiver.

His first touchdown pass fueled the 22-point burst. He added a pair in the second half, squeezing the Dallas defense for the most points it has given up in 15 years. The Cowboys' previous worst defensive performance was a 54-13 loss to Minnesota in 1970.

"Boomer did a great job today," Dallas Coach Tom Landry said. "We didn't cover anybody, and he was hitting everybody. So you have to give him a lot of credit. We could never stop their offense when Boomer was in the game. They

moved every play, every time."

The Cowboys, now 9-5, came into the game leading the NFC East by a game over the New York Giants. The Bengals stay in contention in the AFC Central with a 7-7 record.

Esiason shook off a knee injury to direct the quick-striking offense that ended the Cowboys' streak of invincibility in post-Thanksgiving play. The Cowboys had won their last 15 games coming off the nine-day holiday break.

Esiason threw a 45-yard touchdown pass to wide receiver Eddie Brown before a knee bruise knocked him out of the game early in the second quarter. The left-hander returned to hit Steve Kreider with a 29-yard scoring toss early in the third quarter for a 29-3 lead.

The Bengals then recovered a fumble on the kickoff — one of the Cowboys' four turnovers — and running back James Brooks dashed 19 yards around right end for his second touchdown and a commanding

36-3 Cincinnati advantage two plays later.

Esiason capped his afternoon with a 58-yard scoring bomb to wide receiver Cris Collinsworth as the Bengals churned out their third-highest point total in team history. The Bengals led 50-10 before a pair of closing Cowboy touchdowns.

The second-year quarterback finished with 15 completions in 25 passes for 265 yards without an interception.

The Cowboys were in trouble from the start in their first-ever Cincinnati appearance. White, brilliant in impressive Dallas victories the last two games, was dropped in the end zone by end Ross Browner for a safety on a third-and-37 play.

Esiason hit three of four passes after the free kick to set up Larry Kinnebrew's 3-yard touchdown run.

Esiason passed to Brown for the second Cincinnati touchdown, then handed off to Brooks on a quick draw for a 27-yard TD run to complete the first-quarter devastation. The extra point try failed.

Brooks wound up with 109 yards on 13 carries. Collinsworth led the receiving corps with seven catches for 123 yards.

White wound up with 21 completions in 32 attempts for 226 yards with one interception and a pair of second-half touchdown passes.

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Morris sparks Giants' 35-14 win over Oilers

Associated Press

HOUSTON — The running of New York's Joe Morris and the passing of Phil Simms was a lethal first-half combination against the Houston Oilers Sunday, but the second half belonged to the Giants defense.

New York shut out the fading Oilers in the second half for a 35-14 victory that tied the Giants with the Dallas Cowboys in the National Football Conference's Eastern Division.

Morris scored three touchdowns and turned in his fifth 100-yard performance of the season, and Simms hit two touchdown passes, all in the first half.

Dallas and New York, each with 9-5 records, meet in the showdown at Dallas next Sunday with the Cowboys trying to recover from a 50-24 loss at Cincinnati Sunday.

"It was a good win. We played good enough to win," Simms said. "We did what we wanted to do, and that was get on top early and then let them play into our hands."

"We got some good catches early and that got us going."

The Giants also were scoreless in the second half, but Simms wasn't concerned.

"In the second half, we could have done a lot of the things we did in the first half if we'd wanted to gamble, but we didn't," Simms said.

Morris made a quick exit but his teammates had plenty of praise for the 5-7 runner.

"I'm happy for him," Simms said. "It was a great accomplishment for him and our offensive line. Joe does a great job of running the ball."

The Giants stopped the Oilers twice at the Giant 3 in the third quarter.

"When we got those goal line stands, it's got to take some of the sting out of them," defensive end Curtis McGriff said. "To get that close and to come up empty-

handed took some spunk out of them."

Oiler quarterback Warren Moon returned after three weeks on the sidelines with a hip pointer injury.

"We did improve as a team and came together a little on offense," Moon said. "That's the way I want to look at it. I know we've got a young club and if we look at the improvement, I think we've accomplished some things."

Morris, who became the second 1,000-yard rusher in Giants history, gave the Giants a 14-0 lead on touchdown runs of 12 and 2 yards in the first quarter.

Moon hit touchdown passes of three yards to Jaime Williams and 27 yards to Tim Smith over a 48-second span of the second quarter to knot the score.

But then the Giants erupted with 21 points on Simms' touchdown passes of 10 yards to Mark Bavaro and 22 yards to Bob Johnson, and Morris' third TD of the day, a 2-yarder for a 35-14 lead at the half.

Linebacker Lawrence Taylor's 25-yard fumble return gave the Giants a first down at the Oiler 11 and set up Morris' third touchdown run.

The Giants, who blew a 33-21 lead last week in a 35-33 loss to Cleveland, stopped the Oilers twice at their 3-yard line in the third quarter.

Morris' three touchdown performance extended his NFL lead to 17 touchdowns.

He finished with 132 yards rushing on 22 carries, giving him 1,057 for the year. The Oilers are 5-9.

The Giants scored the first two times they got the ball and dominated play in the first quarter.

But Moon got the Oilers back in the game by completing nine of 10 passes in an 80-yard drive leading to Williams' TD catch.

New York's Maurice Carthon fumbled on the first play of the next drive, and Patrick Allen recovered for the Oilers at the Giant 27.

Jackson looks beyond Heisman

Associated Press

NEW YORK — For Bo Jackson, winning the 1985 Heisman Trophy isn't only the culmination of his collegiate football career. It's also a beginning.

Jackson, the Auburn tailback who rushed for 1,786 yards and scored

17 touchdowns this season, capped his superb four years with the Tigers by winning the closest race in the 51-year history of the Heisman. Jackson beat Iowa quarterback Chuck Long by only 45 points and 31 first-place votes in balloting by 1,050 electors.

"It's like getting to the top of the ladder," said Jackson. "You climb and climb and eventually you will get to the top. I feel like I am at the top right now."

But Jackson made it clear when he got the news at the Downtown Athletic Club that he has much left to achieve, particularly away from the gridiron and the diamond — he is a major league prospect in baseball as well as being projected as a high first-round selection in next spring's National Football League draft.

"The Heisman symbolizes the best athlete," he said, "but when I'm done with sports, I can always use my degree in the rest of my life."

Jackson is approximately three semesters short of his degree in Family and Child Development. He thinks being the Heisman winner will help him reach youngsters.

"I try to be a role model today for the kids," said Jackson, who is one of 10 children, nine of whom were raised in a three-room house in Bessemer, Ala. "Today kids do everything but get involved in sports. I hope I can influence them to go in the right direction."

In becoming the second Auburn player to win the Heisman — QB Pat Sullivan got it in 1971 — Jackson had 317 first-place votes and finished with 1,509 points. Long was second with 1,464 points and had 286 first-place votes.

Jackson and Long split as winners of the six regions in the voting. Jackson was first in the Mid-Atlantic, South and Southwest, while Long won in the Northeast, Midwest and Far West.

Third place went to Brigham Young quarterback Robbie Bosco, followed by sophomore tailback Lorenzo White of Michigan State and junior quarterback Vinny Testaverde of Miami.

Purdue quarterback Jim Everett was sixth, followed by Navy running back Napoleon McCallum, Notre Dame runner Allen Pinkett, tailback Joe Dudek of Plymouth, N.H., State,

a Division III school, and, tied for 10th place, quarterback Brian McClure of Bowling Green and running back Thurman Thomas of Oklahoma State.

Previously, the closest vote was in 1961, when fullback Ernie Davis of Syracuse beat running back Bob Ferguson of Ohio State by 53 points.

"Bo is a very deserving winner," said Long, who led Iowa to the Big Ten championship, a 10-1 record and the No. 3 ranking. "I'm just glad to be considered in the same company."

Heisman Trophy Winners of the Last Four Decades:

- 1985 — Bo Jackson, Auburn
- 1984 — Doug Flutie, Boston College
- 1983 — Mike Rozier, Nebraska
- 1982 — Herschel Walker, Georgia
- 1981 — Marcus Allen, USC
- 1980 — George Rogers, S. Carolina
- 1979 — Charles White, USC
- 1978 — Billy Sims, Oklahoma
- 1977 — Earl Campbell, Texas
- 1976 — Tony Dorsett, Pittsburgh
- 1975 — Archie Griffin, Ohio State
- 1974 — Archie Griffin, Ohio State
- 1973 — John Cappelletti, Penn State
- 1972 — Johnny Rodgers, Nebraska
- 1971 — Pat Sullivan, Auburn
- 1970 — Jim Plunkett, Stanford
- 1969 — Steve Owens, Oklahoma
- 1968 — O.J. Simpson, USC
- 1967 — Gary Beban, UCLA
- 1966 — Steve Spurrier, Florida
- 1965 — Mike Garrett, USC
- 1964 — John Huarte, Notre Dame
- 1963 — Roger Staubach, Navy
- 1962 — Terry Baker, Oregon State
- 1961 — Ernie Davis, Syracuse
- 1960 — Joe Bellino, Navy
- 1959 — Billy Cannon, LSU
- 1958 — Peter Dawkins, Army
- 1957 — John David Crow, A&M
- 1956 — Paul Hornung, Notre Dame
- 1955 — Howard Cassady, Ohio State
- 1954 — Alan Ameche, Wisconsin
- 1953 — John Lattner, Notre Dame
- 1952 — Billy Vessels, Oklahoma
- 1951 — Dick Kazmaier, Princeton
- 1950 — Vic Janowicz, Ohio State

Spurs fend off Warriors in 4th period, 121-114

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — The San Antonio Spurs held off a late rally by the Golden State Warriors and took a 121-114 NBA victory Sunday night behind the 26 points of Mike Mitchell.

Golden State scored eight straight points in the last two minutes to cut a 117-106 Spurs lead to 117-114, but Mitchell and Alvin Robertson canned a pair of free throws apiece to seal the game.

Robertson scored 25 points and had seven steals and Artis Gilmore added 20 points for the Spurs, whose record improved to 12-10 with the victory.

Golden State played most of the game without starting center Joe Barry Carroll, who left the game early in the first quarter because of a bout with stomach flu.

Jerome Whitehead scored 18 points and Eric Floyd and Purvis Short added 16 for the Warriors, who lost their fifth game in six outings and second in two nights.

Whitehead also led Golden State with 10 rebounds.

San Antonio hit its first eight shots

Other Sunday NBA Scores:
 (home team in capitals)

WASHINGTON 111
 Sacramento 89

Seattle 105
 PHILADELPHIA 100

L.A. LAKERS 125
 Dallas 119

enroute to a 33-26 first quarter lead.

Golden State pulled to within 63-60 at the half with the help of a 11-2 run that was capped by a Greg Ballard jumper on the last play of the first half.

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