

# Sports

## TANK McNAMARA®

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



## 6-9 Eagles ax Campbell as head coach

**Associated Press**  
PHILADELPHIA — Marion Campbell was fired as coach of the Philadelphia Eagles on Monday and David Shula, 26, son of Miami Dolphins Coach Don Shula, emerged as the major candidate for the job.

Fred Bruney, an Eagles assistant coach, will serve as interim coach for the rest of the season, General Manager Harry Gamble said.

Campbell, 56, had two years remaining on his five-year contract. He had moved up from defensive coordinator when Dick Vermeil resigned after the 1982 season.

Under Campbell, the Eagles were 17-29-1. The club lost, 20-14, to San Diego on Sunday, assuring a fourth straight losing season.

Gamble said Campbell was fired because the Eagles had not shown a year-to-year improvement in their record.

The Eagles under Campbell were 5-11, 6-9-1, and this season, 6-9 before their final game Sunday in Minnesota.

Eagles owner Norman Braman, who purchased the club last spring for \$65 million, had predicted the Eagles would make the playoffs this year and perhaps the Super Bowl.

"Marion felt we were a playoff-caliber team," Braman said Monday. "I still think we are."

Braman said he was not concerned about Shula's young age. "He has all of the qualities to be a head coach in the NFL," Braman said. "He'll be a head coach somewhere in this league. David Shula has been the right arm and trusted confidant of Don Shula. Working all these years, he has picked up qualities that have made Don such a success."

This is Shula's fourth season as an assistant to his father. He spent the first three coaching the Miami wide receivers and this year also has coached the quarterbacks.

Braman, who met with Shula last Monday to discuss the job, said the Miami assistant was not the only prospect, and he mentioned Jim Mora, coach of the two-time champion Baltimore Stars in the United States Football League.

Braman and Gamble said the Eagles hoped to announce a new coach after the end of the regular season.

In a written statement, Campbell said he felt no rancor about the firing.

"I feel at peace with myself because I know that my coaching staff and I put every ounce of effort we had into making the Eagles a better team," Campbell said. "And I feel we succeeded. There's no question in my mind that this year's team is considerably better than the one I inherited three years ago."

## Cowboys' Pelluer replaces Landry as team's stone face

**Associated Press**  
IRVING — Dallas Cowboys Coach Tom Landry, the original old stone face, says Steve Pelluer reminds him of himself.

"Pelluer never changed expression when I sent him in," Landry said. "He's worse than I am."

Pelluer, a third-string quarterback and former Rose Bowl hero who had never taken a snap in a regular season National Football League game, led the Cowboys to the National Conference Eastern Division title Sunday. It was Dallas' first division title since 1981.

"I really didn't have time to think about it, which is nice," said Pelluer, a fifth-round draft choice in 1984, after the Cowboys' 28-21 victory over the New York Giants.

Pelluer came into the game in the second half after starting quarterback Danny White had been sidelined with a shoulder bruise and Gary Hogeboom had suffered a concussion.

With Dallas leading 21-14, Pelluer took the Cowboys on a 72-yard

touchdown drive highlighted by a 28-yard pass to rookie Karl Pove on third and 15. The completion to the Giants' 24-yard line setup Timmy Newsome's 1-yard scoring run.

"This probably surpasses anything I've ever done," Pelluer said. "I've had some close games and that was a big thrill. I didn't feel like all the pressure was on me. I just went into the huddle and told everybody to do their job. It's just an unbelievable feeling."

Dallas running back Tony Dorsett said the completion to Pove "was the biggest play of the game. That enabled us to go down and score our last touchdown."

Pelluer didn't even practice with the first team during the week. He was busy impersonating Giants' quarterback Phil Simms on the scout team.

Pelluer could see some more action in San Francisco on Sunday.

White said Sunday he doubted he would play.



Tom Landry

Hogeboom was expected to recover for the 49ers.

The Cowboys will meet the Los Angeles Rams either Jan. 4 or Jan. 5. They must beat the 49ers on Sunday and the Rams must lose to the Los Angeles Raiders next Monday night for the game to be played at Texas Stadium.

## Spurs struggle in post-'Ice' age

San Antonio style turns to defense without Gervin's scoring

**Associated Press**  
The San Antonio Spurs without George Gervin are not the same team that always seemed to win 130-125 and lose by the same score.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, when Gervin was the National Basketball Association scoring champion four times, the Spurs won five division titles. The team's philosophy was simple — put up more shots than the other team and try to outscore them.

But over the last two seasons, that method didn't work. The Spurs lost more games than they won and even failed to make the playoffs once. At 33, Gervin's once-smooth moves were showing some hard edges, and in a bitter preseason separation, the "Ice Man" was traded to the Chicago Bulls.

"You can't just outscore other teams anymore; the NBA is changed," said veteran center Artis Gilmore. "The organization saw that coming and did something about it."

"There is more emphasis on defense around the league. The teams that are most successful — Milwaukee (Bucks), (Los Angeles) Lakers, Boston (Celtics) — are excellent defensive teams. We had to start playing defense, too."

The Spurs undoubtedly are scrappier on defense and more physical than the old days, but can they be as successful?

San Antonio now is 14-12; the Spurs were 41-41 last season, so the answer is still in doubt.

"I think we're better," said the Spurs' leading scorer, Mike Mitchell. "We're a more physical team and we don't have to rely on one guy scoring to win."

Gervin's replacement at guard, second-year man Alvin Robertson, said, "We can be a better team than we were last year if we can be more consistent. Our division is strong, so there's no telling how far we can go. I think we're a 'harder' team — by that I mean

that we have guys at every position who play hard."

The 6-foot-4 Robertson, a standout for the Arkansas Razorbacks, epitomizes the changed emphasis of the Spurs. While Gervin was almost effortless in his ability to score, effortless is not in Robertson's vocabulary — on offense or defense.

"I'll never be the scorer Gervin was, but I can do a lot of things he couldn't do as well — like rebound, pass and play defense," Robertson said.

Only the 7-2 Gilmore has more rebounds on the Spurs than Robertson, who also leads the entire NBA in steals.

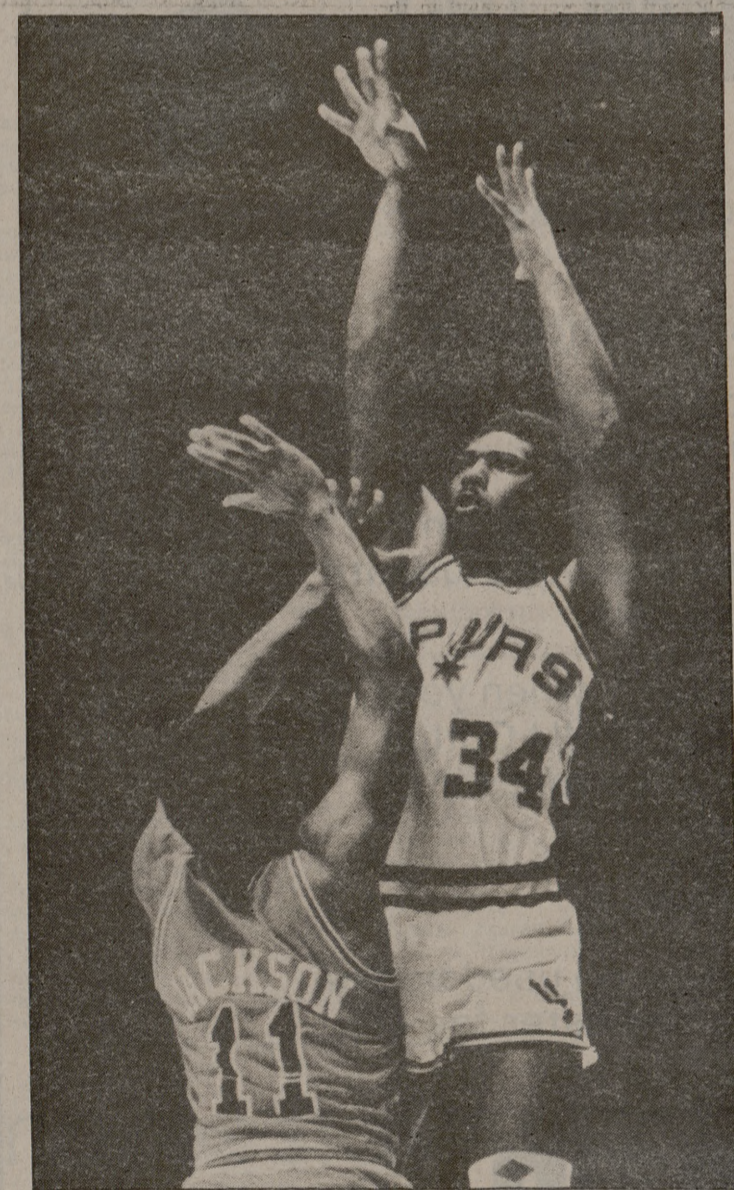
After 27 games, he has 90 steals, and four times he has recorded seven steals in a single game. Meanwhile, Gervin has only 12 steals for the Bulls.

In scoring, where Robertson seemingly takes a back seat to Gervin, the gap is not as wide as expected.

Gervin went into this season with the the highest career scoring average (27.3) of any active player, including all-time leading scorer Kareem Abdul-Jabbar. For the Bulls, however, Gervin is scoring just 15 points per game, less than a point higher than Robertson, who has improved his average in his last four outings with 29, 17, 23 and 19-point games.

"If I can make my outside shots, I'm pretty hard to stop," Robertson said. "But I have to hit my outside jumpers to be effective."

Spurs Coach Cotton Fitzsimmons said, "Everyone's getting after it more on defense. We try to make things happen on defense. Last year, we tried to make things happen on offense. If we were outshot, we lost. Now we hustle and scrap and I think the people in San Antonio like us more."



Battalion File Photo

Forward Mike Mitchell (34) picked up the scoring slack for the San Antonio Spurs after George Gervin was traded to Chicago.

## Old Oilers find little new hope

**Associated Press**  
HOUSTON — The Houston Oilers had a new coach, new hope and new offensive flare, but little changed in a 28-21 loss to Cleveland that may have ended interim coach Jerry Glanville's bid to be retained next season.

But Glanville reported to work Monday morning with a positive attitude about his team and his own future.

"If I'm not back as head coach next year, I've got all kinds of pluses that counteract that," Glanville said after his first game as a replacement for Hugh Campbell.

"I've got one of the best coach's wives in the business, a great son and a dog that still hunts. I've got a car that's down to 36 more payments and I belong to a helluva church. So I'm better off than most of the people in Houston even if I don't get the job."

Oilers General Manager Ladd Herzog fired Campbell last Monday and said the permanent job would be Glanville's if the Oilers won their last two games.

The Oilers, 5-10, close out their season Sunday at Indianapolis against the Colts.

"I don't worry about that because I'm just worried about making this a good football team," Glanville said. "We don't want anyone to go Indianapolis that doesn't think this is a good football team."

Asked if Herzog had any comments to him following the game, Glanville said, "He said it was a good job. But Ladd is no different from anyone. A good job can only be judged if you win the football game."

Glanville had only six days to prepare for his first game as a head coach and there were certain adjustments. Glanville, as a veteran defensive coordinator, had spent most Sundays in the press box calling defensive signals.

He also was unfamiliar with the Oilers' offensive terminology and relied on offensive coordinator Joe Faragalli to make the calls.

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