

## Boston home win streak ends in Hartford

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — The Celtics spared Boston by ending their 48-game home winning streak in Hartford, their home away from home.

"It's too bad," the Celtics' Kevin McHale said Tuesday night after the team's 117-109 loss to the Washington Bullets before more than 15,000 turned observers at the Hartford Civic Center. "But if it's going to end, it might as well be in Hartford."

The streak also began in the civic center, 110 miles from the Boston Garden, its old parquet floor and all of those championship banners. The Celtics play three regular-season games in Hartford each year.

The Celtics had not lost a home game since Dec. 6, 1985, when they were beaten by the Portland Trail Blazers at the Boston Garden. The winning streak started four days later when they defeated the Atlanta Hawks in Hartford.

The Celtics last season broke the previous record for consecutive home victories, 36 games, set by the Philadelphia 76ers in 1966 and 1967.

"This ended our streak even though we weren't at the Garden. We were the team in white, so it was a home game for us," Celtics Coach K.C. Jones said.

Jones had never lost a game in Hartford as head coach.

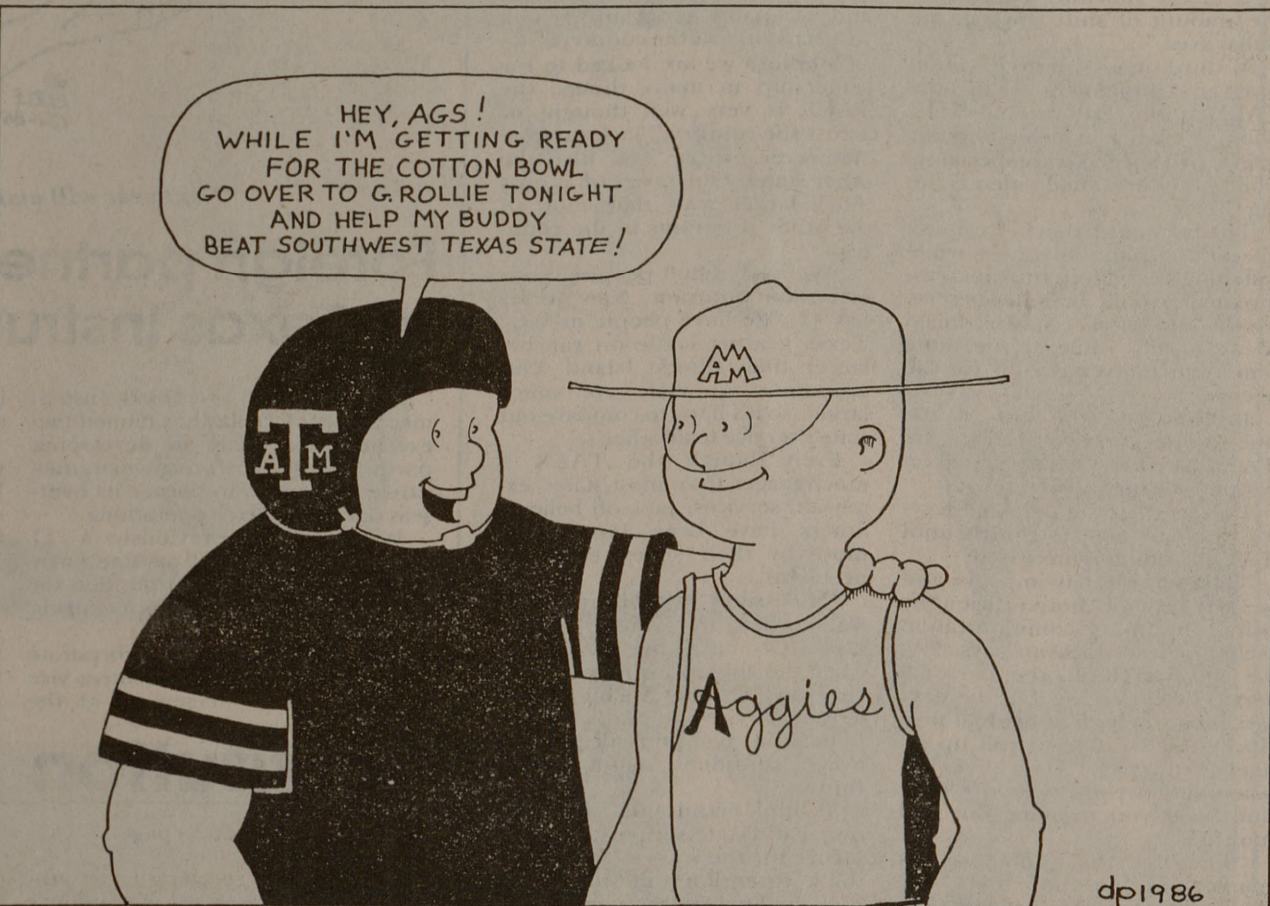
"I used to say that I didn't like streaks, but now I realize that I do like them," he said. "They don't start talking about them until they reach about 10 games and they're only broken by one loss."

Said Moses Malone of the Bullets, "It isn't the Boston Garden, but we beat them."

Boston's misfortune was Washington's salvation as the team recorded its first win after seven losses on the road this season.

## TANK McNAMARA®

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



## Collier has big appetite for success

IRVING (AP) — It's no secret that Reggie Collier is one of the best athletes on the Dallas Cowboys roster. Not as widely circulated is the fact that he's one of the top eaters on the team, too.

"I love to eat," said the reserve quarterback who may be just a hard tackle away from calling the signals as the team's offensive leader.

"Collard greens and smoked neck bones, wow! It must be a southern dish. I haven't been able to find smoked (pork) neck bones around Dallas."

Collier has to eat in a hurry these days, however. He has been very busy signing with the Cowboys in May after stints with Birmingham, Washington and Orlando in the U.S. Football League.

"The big difference in trying to learn the system here and in the USFL is that you have to take the books home and work every chance you get," Collier said.

"In the USFL, the playbook wasn't that big or complicated. We studied in class before going on the field to practice what we'd studied, and that was it. You couldn't keep up if you tried that here."

In addition to studying, Collier's three years of experience and outstanding accomplishments in

the USFL have put him into the Cowboys' No. 2 quarterback slot, even after veteran Paul McDonald was signed.

"All you try to do is be ready every game," Collier said. "Last year at this time, Steve Pelluer had no idea he'd be the Cowboys' starting quarterback."

Collier, who went to college at Southern Mississippi, signed with the Stallions in 1983 after being told by the Cowboys that he might have to play a skill position other than quarterback.

"The Stallions guaranteed me I could play quarterback," Collier said. "I was out practicing one day when I heard Dallas had drafted me (in the sixth round). I wondered then why they'd bother, but now I guess I understand they wanted the NFL rights to me, just in case."

Through the spring and summer of this year, Collier studied and worked daily with the Cowboys' quarterback book, but when his first chance for NFL action came it was as a wide receiver.

"We had a bunch of injuries and they asked me to go outside for a month," he said. "I played a few downs against Detroit and Atlanta." Since then, he has moved back to quarterback,

and he played well during the final minutes of the Cowboys' 41-14 loss to Washington on Nov. 23.

Collier's talents as a passer-runner had just the right showcase at Southern Mississippi, where Bobby Collins was running the same option he would later bring to Southern Methodist.

When it came time to select an academic major in college, Collier, a football and basketball star in Biloxi, Miss., was ready.

"I was already at ease with reporters and cameras and all that," he said, "so I got into TV-radio communications. Maybe I can make something out of it when football is no longer my thing."

For Collier and his wife, Cynthia, their idea of a big day is Tuesday. That's the Cowboys' day off and although Cynthia, a speech therapist in the Plano school system, has to work, there's a brief respite from the study-and-practice routine that necessarily must consume an aspiring NFL quarterback.

And maybe, if Collier can find them, there may even be time for some collard greens and smoked neck bones.

## Becker hammers Nystrom in Masters tennis tourney

NEW YORK (AP) — Playing with a cool demeanor and a hot serve, West Germany's Boris Becker easily advanced Wednesday night to post his 18th consecutive match victory as the \$500,000 Masters tennis tournament began at Madison Square Garden.

Becker, a two-time Wimbledon champ, crushed Sweden's Joakim Nystrom 6-1, 6-3 to begin the round-robin portion of this season-ending tournament.

Swedes were more successful in Wednesday's other matches as

third-seeded Mats Wilander defeated Henri Leconte of France 6-1, 7-5, and Stefan Edberg stopped Ecuador's Andres Gomez 6-2, 6-3.

Becker has been unbeatable in his last four outings, winning three Nabisco Grand Prix tournaments and an eight-man exhibition in Atlanta where he toppled John McEnroe in the final.

Tonight, Edberg will face Yannick Noah of France, top-seeded Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia will play Gomez, and Wilander will face Nystrom.

## Bass set for surgery

HOUSTON (AP) — Astros rightfielder Kevin Bass is scheduled to undergo arthroscopic surgery later this month in Los Angeles for a bone spur in his right shoulder, a spokesman for the National League team said Wednesday.

Bass was examined in Houston last week and on Tuesday in Los Angeles by Dr. Frank Jobe, Houston Astros spokesman Richard Fairly said.

Bass had soreness in his right shoulder for most of the 1986 season and it persisted afterwards. Bass is expected to report on

time to spring training in February, Fairly said.

The Astros also announced Wednesday that the club has agreed to terms for the 1987 season with Jerry Trupiano for broadcast of the Astros games.

Trupiano has been a member of the team for the past two seasons and has covered Houston sports for KRTH radio station since 1972, Fairly said.

Trupiano is sports director for KTRH, the flagship station for the Astros' network.

Terms of the contract were not disclosed, he said.



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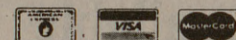
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