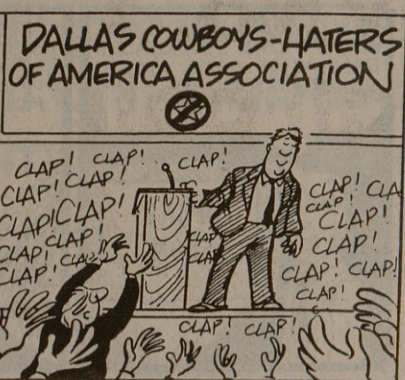


TANK McNAMARA®



by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds **Tollner out as Trojans' head coach**

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Ted Tollner has been dismissed as the head football coach at the University of Southern California, effective next month, the university's president announced at a news conference Monday.

In Tollner's four years as head coach, the Trojans had a 26-19-1 record with one Pacific-10 Conference championship and three appearances in post-season bowl games, including the 1985 Rose Bowl.

The Trojans finished the 1986 season at 7-4 and will play Auburn in the Florida Citrus Bowl on New Year's Day. Southern Cal was ranked 10th in the nation before losing its final two games, 45-25 to UCLA on Nov. 22 and 38-37 to Notre Dame a week later.

"This press conference has been called to announce my decision to relieve Ted Tollner as head football coach of USC effective Jan. 2, 1987, after the Florida Citrus Bowl," Southern Cal President James Zumberge said in a statement.

After going 4-6-1 during his first season, Tollner led the Trojans to a Pac-10 Conference championship in 1984 and a 20-17 victory over Ohio State in the Rose Bowl. Tollner was named the 1984 Pac-10 Coach of the Year.

Tollner was named the Southern Cal's 18th head coach in November 1982, succeeding John Robinson, now the head coach of the Los Angeles Rams. Tollner had spent nine months as the school's offensive coordinator and running backs coach before being appointed head coach.

Cowboys' playoff chances remain alive despite slump

IRVING (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys' NFL playoff hopes hang by a slender thread after their 29-10 loss to the Los Angeles Rams.

After a 6-2 start, the Cowboys arrived home early Monday with a 7-7 record following Sunday night's defeat in Anaheim. Dallas will now have to win its last two games against Philadelphia and Chicago at home and hope the San Francisco 49ers lose their last two games.

The 49ers play at New England next Sunday and host the Rams on Dec. 19.

Even with the scenario of two Cowboys' victories and two 49ers' losses, Dallas still won't earn a wild card unless Minnesota loses one of its last two games against Houston and New Orleans.

Also in danger is the Cowboys' streak of 20 consecutive winning seasons, the longest active streak in professional sports.

The NHL's Boston Bruins have 19 straight winning seasons. The NFL's second-longest active winning streak is five by Miami.

In the history of professional sports, only the New York Yankees — 39 straight winning seasons 1939-64 — and the Montreal Canadiens — 32 straight, 1952-83 — have bettered the Cowboys' mark.

Coach Tom Landry finished Sunday night's game against the Rams in a bulletproof vest after a series of telephoned threats on his life.

"I think it's just something we have in our society today and we have to deal with it," Landry said.

Larry Wansley, a former FBI agent who is the Cowboys' director of security, was by Landry's side.

"I just put on a vest and went back out," Landry said. "The authorities were nervous. I just don't think much about those things."

Dallas running back Herschel

Walker said, "This is an unusual world with unusual people. Coach Landry showed how much he cared for his team in that he came back. That showed a lot of courage."

Dallas' offense collapsed against the Rams as quarterback Steve Pelluer suffered an interception return for a touchdown and was sacked for a safety.

Landry said Pelluer was just in shell shock as the Cowboys lost for the fifth time in their last six games.

"We still have some hope for Steve," Landry said. "It's just hard for an inexperienced quarterback to do anything."

Starting quarterback Danny White suffered a broken wrist in a 17-14 loss to the New York Giants and the Cowboys haven't been the same since. The Cowboys, who averaged 33 points per game under White, have fallen to 14 under Pelluer.

Five Tech coaches to quit; will head to UT

LUBBOCK (AP) — At least five Texas Tech assistant coaches, including offensive coordinator Johnny Mize, are leaving after the team's Dec. 20 Independence Bowl appearance to join David McWilliams at the University of Texas, school officials announced.

McWilliams became head coach at Texas last Friday after one year at Texas Tech.

Spike Dykes, the Red Raiders' defensive coordinator, was elevated to head coach on Saturday.

Besides Mize, the other assistants leaving Lubbock include quarterback coach Steve Bricky, line coach Clovis Hale, wide receiver coach Clarence Jones, and tight end coach Jack Kiser.

Line coach Dean Slayton was uncertain whether he would stay.

Those remaining with Dykes are defensive end coach Dick Winder and secondary coach Jack Tayrien. Rhudy Maskew has been promoted to fulltime assistant.

It's gut-check time for Oilers

HOUSTON (AP) — After getting blanked by the San Diego Chargers, it's gut-check time for the Houston Oilers, coach Jerry Glanville says.

"We'll expect more from them," he said Monday, speaking of his team in the wake of a 27-0 weekend shutout at San Diego. "We'll find out who can get up off the floor and we'll find out after they look at the film and see for themselves who will come back. And we'll find out who we can count on in the future."

Glanville said with few exceptions, his team's pitiful 134 yards in offense

was the result of wide receivers not picking up the Charger blitz and second-string quarterback Oliver Luck, subbing for injured Warren Moon, not throwing the ball well.

"Ollie usually gets the job done," Glanville said. "This time he did not. There was no exotic design, no mystery," he said. "It's important for our players to come back after getting whipped — which we did."

Glanville said films of a game generally show that good games are not as good as they immediately appear and bad games are not as bad.

"Unfortunately, this film may test that theory," he said.

Monday marked one year since Glanville took over from Hugh Campbell, who was fired after a 3-11 mark. So far this season, Glanville is 3-11.

"We've improved in every single category there is in football except the most important — which is winning," he said. "Other categories, we are better. Usually what you have to do when you've been 28th in the league in everything, you need to make a move to get yourself in a position to win."

Seahawks destroy Raiders, 37-0

SEATTLE (AP) — Dave Krieg passed for a pair of touchdowns, Curt Warner ran for two more scores and Seattle's defense recorded a team-record 11 sacks Monday night as the Seattle Seahawks kept their NFL playoff hopes alive with a 37-0 victory over the Los Angeles Raiders.

The loss dealt a harsh blow to the Raiders' playoff chances and meant they no longer were in control of their own destiny with two regular-season games remaining. Both the Seahawks and the Raiders now are 8-6. Both teams trail Cincinnati, 9-5,

in the race for the last wild-card playoff berth.

It was the first time the Raiders had been shut out since Oct. 11, 1981, when they were blanked by Detroit, Denver and Kansas City in successive games.

The Seahawks' victory also gave Denver, a loser Sunday, the AFC West championship.

Krieg, benched for two games this season for poor play, passed 12 yards to Ray Butler and 10 yards to Steve Largent for touchdowns in the first half, as the Seahawks grabbed a 24-0 lead. Krieg completed 14 of 21

passes for 243 yards and two touchdowns and also had five carries for 23 yards.

Warner, who rushed 23 times for 116 yards, scored on runs of 5 and 3 yards while Norm Johnson added had field goals of 53, 51 and 46 yards.

A noisy Kingdome crowd of 62,923 watched the Seahawks record their third straight victory and their second shutout of the season. It was the Raiders' second loss in a row.

The Seahawks recorded their club record 11 sacks against three Raiders' quarterbacks; Jim Plunkett, Marc Wilson and Rusty Hilger.

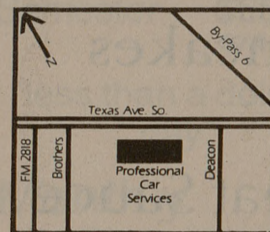
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