

# Reeves, Parcels could have taken different teams to Super Bowl berths

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — A year ago, Bill Parcels was watching a linebacker named Pepper Johnson work out at the NFL's evaluation camp for college seniors when he turned around and saw Dan Reeves standing behind him.

"You've got a pretty good eye for talent. I just want to watch who you're watching," Reeves told him.

The coaches in next Sunday's Super Bowl aren't exactly strangers to each other. In fact, were it not for a kind of toss-of-the-coin twist of fate, Reeves might be coaching the New York Giants in next Sunday's Super Bowl and Parcels might be coaching the linebackers at New England.

Parcels' Giants, who arrived Sunday, began their workouts for the NFL championship game at the Los Angeles Rams' training complex in Fullerton on Monday.

Reeves' Broncos arrived later in

the afternoon from Denver, after a celebration and pep rally at Mile High Stadium on Sunday.

But Reeves also could have arrived from New York.

It goes back to 1979, when the Giants were undergoing a complete housecleaning and George Young had just taken over as general manager. He narrowed down the search for a coach to two young offensive coordinators — Ray Perkins of San Diego and Dan Reeves of Dallas.

Young chose Perkins and Reeves, who had undergone nearly eight hours of interviews in New York went back to Dallas, worried that he might never get the call. "Don't worry, you will," Young told him and he did — two years later, when he replaced Red Miller as the Broncos coach.

Parcels, meanwhile, was the linebackers coach with the New England

Patriots and joined the Giants as defensive coordinator in 1981. When Perkins quit at the end of the 1982 season to take the head coaching job at Alabama, Parcels was promoted to head coach.

Meanwhile, Parcels and Reeves have become friends who chat on the phone about once a week. Last spring, they agreed to have their assistant coaches meet in Denver to discuss and share scouting reports common opponents from the AFC West and NFC East, a practice that some of those opponents thought was a bit too chummy.

"It was just an exchange of information to facilitate both of our schedules," Parcels said. "We hadn't played those teams in three years and we were unfamiliar with some of the players so we exchanged some information on them. We didn't talk about each other in any way, shape

or form."

Their relationship may also help Denver against the Giants Sunday. Parcels had the first laugh when the Giants drafted Johnson, the linebacker both were ogling, but Reeves may have the last.

Midway through the season, the Broncos had been through two punters and Reeves was discussing his problem on the telephone with the Giants coach.

"Why don't you look at this Horan guy," Parcels told him, meaning Mike Horan, the former Philadelphia punter who had been cut by the Eagles in training camp.

So when Reeves brought a group of punters in for a workout, he included Horan, who was signed the next day and averaged 41.2 yards on 21 kicks — almost two yards better than either of his predecessors, Jack Weil and Chris Norman.

# McWilliams to shoot for No. 1 ranking at UT

AUSTIN (AP) — New head coach David McWilliams of the Texas Longhorns said Monday that just being competitive is not enough, he wants to compete for the No. 1 spot in college football.

McWilliams, a former player and assistant coach at Texas, returned as head coach for the 1987 season after one year at Texas Tech, where he was selected Southwest Conference coach of the year.

McWilliams, 44, replaced Fred Akers, who was fired after 10 years and later became coach at Purdue.

McWilliams said simply being competitive would not be enough for him next season.

"That's not quite strong enough for me just to say I want to be competitive," he said. "I want to win, win as much as I can, or all of it right now."

McWilliams' first test at Texas comes on national signing day Feb. 11, and he said that despite getting a late start because of the coaching

change, "We're getting a very good response. We're back in on a lot of the real top players that are in the state."

He also said he felt Texas, 5-6 last season, has "a good nucleus coming back both offensively and defensively."

Asked if bad publicity about SWC recruiting violations was chasing good recruits out of state, McWilliams said, "Last year that was true a good bit. This year, I haven't noticed it being quite as strong."

One plus for Texas, he said, is the addition of 1977 Heisman Trophy winner Earl Campbell to the University of Texas administrative staff.

"I think recruiting is something that you use every type of strength that you have for your university, and I think Earl Campbell is a strength for this university."

Williams said Campbell will probably be used as an on-campus recruiter.

# Conner leads U.S. boat to America's Cup finals

FREMANTLE, Australia (AP) — A ripped sail couldn't stop Dennis Conner from sewing up another trip to the America's Cup finals as he steered Stars & Stripes to a one-minute, 29-second victory Monday over once unbeatable New Zealand.

The Kiwis had won 37 of their first 38 races and 28 straight before they ran up against Conner, the world's most experienced 12-meter skipper. In the best-of-seven Challenger finals that ended Monday, the U.S. boat whipped them 4-1.

"Thirteen years beat 13 months experience," said New Zealand's 25-year-old skipper, Chris Dickson, who was in his first America's Cup campaign.

New Zealand foulups — a poor spinnaker change on the fifth leg and contact with a buoy at the end of the seventh leg of the

eight-leg course — were damaging.

That last problem cost Dickson 30 seconds as the rules required him to reround the buoy. Conner's lead, down to nine seconds before New Zealand hit the buoy, was up to 39 seconds after it went around it again.

Stars & Stripes, strong going into the wind, pulled away on the final leg, a windward beat, as the breeze packed a powerful 28-knot wallop.

Now Conner, the only American helmsman to lose yachting's top prize since competition began in 1851, must wait until an Australian defender is chosen.

It probably won't be a long wait.

Kookaburra III notched its fourth consecutive easy victory over Australia IV, winning by 1:13 Monday and taking a 4-0 lead in their best-of-nine series.

# Hogs' coach to miss week

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. (AP) — University of Arkansas basketball coach Nolan Richardson will not be with the team this week because of the condition of his 15-year-old daughter, UA Athletic Director Frank Broyles said Monday.

Richardson's daughter, Yvonne, has leukemia and is hospitalized in Tulsa, Okla. A spokesman at St. Francis Hospital told a reporter for the *Tulsa World* that Yvonne began hemorrhaging and that the family had requested that her condition not be released.

The Razorbacks play Baylor in Waco on Thursday night and Texas A&M in Fayetteville on Sunday.

Assistant coach Andy Stoglin, who has filled in for Richardson at two games this year, will serve as head coach this week.

Richardson has the full support of the athletic department, Broyles said. "Our thoughts are with him."

# Giants' McConkey relishes role as self-promoter, media darling

COSTA MESA, Calif. (AP) — Phil McConkey is not letting Super Bowl XXI pass him by, especially not all the hoopla.

"McConkey has moved up to the No. 1 self-promoter on the team," New York Giants Coach Bill Parcels said. "He's passed (Jim) Burt, (Leonard) Marshall and, of course, (Sean) Landeta."

In Parcels' mind, McConkey is getting more attention than even punter Dave Jennings got in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

"You have to take advantage of what's put before you," said McConkey, who for \$1,500 is writing a first-person column on his Super Bowl experience for a New York newspaper, has appeared on numerous radio interviews and is always available for talks with the media.

"You have to have fun doing it,

and you have to keep it in perspective," the 29-year-old said.

McConkey's presence here for next week's NFL championship in Pasadena against the Denver Broncos tends to defy all odds. A graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, McConkey flew helicopters for four years before being allowed to leave the service because he suffered from seasickness.

In 1983, he tried out with the Giants, but the Navy called him back to complete his five-year commitment, and the team put him on a military reserve list. The 5-foot-10, 170-pound wide receiver and kick returner was back again in 1984 — this time making the team with an average amount of talent and a lot of hustle.

"I have wanted to play football since I was a 6-year-old," said McConkey, who set several football re-

ports and was the most valuable player in the 1978 Holiday Bowl.

After catching 33 passes in his first two seasons with the Giants, McConkey was released on the final cut this season and signed by the Green Bay Packers. However, when Lionel Manuel went down with an injury and New York's punt return game floundered early on, the Giants acquired McConkey from the Packers for an undisclosed draft pick.

Benson said jokingly that McConkey has been difficult to be around.

"We went to the city (New York) the other night for an interview," said Benson. "Now McConkey is a helicopter pilot. He has defended our country flying for the Navy and he can't sit backwards in a limousine because he's going to get sick. He's got to have the back seat. You tell me."

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