

# Sports

## Landry to coach Dallas 3 more years

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas Cowboys Coach Tom Landry ended speculation about his future Thursday, saying he'll coach the team for another three seasons.

The only coach during the National Football League team's 27-year history was upbeat about the future, saying that with some reshuffling and rebuilding he should have the club back on track.

"We're optimistic. We're below where we should have been last year, but we'll be working hard and we'll be a factor in the eastern race," Landry said.

The Cowboys finished 7-9 last season, their first losing season in 21 years. Landry described it as one of the most frustrating years in football.

Cowboys President Tex Schramm said Landry, whose contract expired

at the end of the 1986 season, told him of his decision Wednesday, saying he wants to "get the job done."

"It just shows a very renewed determination on his part, that he hasn't tired of the challenges," Schramm said. "His position has always been when the game was no longer fun, when it no longer commanded his attention, he was going to quit. Now he has incentive and determination to get us back."

There had been speculation that Landry would not coach the team for more than one season.

Landry's salary will be among the highest among NFL coaches, Schramm said, but he declined to disclose the amount. That means it would be about \$1 million, since Don Shula of the Miami Dolphins was paid \$900,000 last season and is ex-

pected to earn about \$1 million this season.

"As always, he will be paid according to his success," Schramm said. "And he is, no doubt, one of the top coaches in the league."

Explaining his decision to stay three more years, Landry said "After having 20 years of winning, we're trying to get back on track, and it's going to take us a little while to turn it around."

One of Landry's first moves since announcing his plans to remain with the team was to put veteran player Tony Hill on a waiver Thursday.

Hill was waived because he missed three weigh-ins, and didn't participate enough in the club's off-season program. But Landry said deciding to let a veteran go is one of the hardest decisions he has to make.

Landry, who will turn 63 before regular season play opens Sept. 13, said he would have a contract negotiated by the time rookies report for training camp Sunday in Thousand Oaks, Calif.

"We'll sign something for this year. Everyone has to have a contract (when coaches step on the field for training camp)."

Landry, who was a player, a player-coach and an assistant coach for the New York Giants before taking over as head coach of the Dallas expansion team, says he has worked harder during the off-season this year than any other period of his career.

"I just feel that this is a very important time in our history," he said. "It's time to blend in some new blood with our team. I am willing to take the time to do that."

## Cowboys' Hill let go after weight problem

DALLAS (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys on Thursday released wide receiver Tony Hill after Coach Tom Landry said the 10-year NFL veteran was overweight and did not show up for three weigh-ins this summer.

Hill, 31, had 479 career receptions with the Cowboys, only 11 short of the NFL club's all-time record of 490 held by Drew Pearson.

He has played in three Pro Bowls and holds the Cowboys' record for yardage gained by a receiver.

Hill weighs about 230 pounds, more than 30 pounds over his assigned weight, according to the Cowboys.

"He had weight problems," Landry said. "He just didn't fire up as everyone else did."

Landry informed Hill on Thursday of the decision to place him on no-recall waivers.

Last season, with the addition of rookie Mike Sherrard, Hill played less of a role in the offense.

He grabbed 49 receptions for 770 yards, compared to 74 receptions for 1,113 yards in 1985.

"We just felt that the time had come and we needed to make a change for the best interest of the club and Tony Hill himself," Landry said.

"I like Tony very much. It's one of the toughest things I have to do, when I have to let a veteran go," he said.

Hill indicated to Landry that he wanted to continue playing,

and another NFL team could claim him.

Earlier, Landry had said that Hill did not appear to be heeding warnings that more would be expected this off-season of Cowboys veterans than ever before following a 7-9 record in 1986, the team's first losing season in 21 years.

"He knew he hadn't been working," Landry said.

Hill was a standout at Stanford University, breaking all of former San Francisco 49ers All-Pro Gene Washington's receiving records.

He led the Cowboys in receiving yards for eight straight years.

But Hill lost his starting position last year to Sherrard, becoming the first player in the club's history to lose a starting position during the off-season.

Cowboys running back Tony Dorsett said Thursday he was surprised by Hill's release.

"I would guess a guy of his caliber would be given the benefit of the doubt. I still feel Tony can play football," Dorsett said. "I'd like to see that seasoned leadership out there in the wide receiver department. It could be beneficial to the young players."

Last year, wide receiver Mike Renfro threatened to retire if Hill remained on the team, but he decided to stay when Sherrard was placed ahead of Hill on the roster.

Hill's release comes in the midst of a rebuilding of the franchise, with Landry agreeing to be at the helm for another three seasons.

## Australian Davis fires 7-under 64, takes early lead in British Open

MUIRFIELD, Scotland (AP) — Rodger Davis, a little-known Australian who once gave up pro golf, took advantage of ideal early conditions for a 7-under-par 64 and a 3-shot lead Thursday in the first round of the 116th British Open.

"Probably my best round ever," Davis said.

"It isn't the thing to do to say you're unlucky with a 7-under, but this could have been anything," said Davis, 36, who left three birdie putts an inch short dead in the throat of the hole.

His effort, which included eight birdies on Muirfield's testing links, was within a single stroke of the record in this, the oldest golf championship.

He got a break from the weather in doing it.

"It was just perfect out there," Davis said of the light breezes and mild temperatures that favored the early starters.

"It was the luck of the draw, probably the luckiest I've ever had," agreed Lee Trevino, another early starter and one of three Americans tied for second at 67.

Also at that figure were PGA champion Bob Tway and Ken Green, who holed a 58-yard shot from the fairway for an eagle-3 on the 17th.

There would have been four Americans at 4-under-par but for a brush with the rules by Craig Stadler, who was bruised with a 2-shot penalty that turned his 67 into a 69.

Stadler took a drop from an embedded lie in the rough on the fifth hole, thinking the embedded ball rule was in effect. It was not.

A couple of the pre-tournament favorites, Bernhard Langer of West Germany and rebounding Tom Watson, were in a large group tied with Stadler at 69.

Stadler, along with most of the other first-round leaders, played in the gentle conditions of the morning.

But the weather took a turn for the worse in the afternoon, with occasional showers and a chilly wind gusting in from the Firth of Forth.

Scores went up.

"We had the toughest conditions in the afternoon," defending champion Greg Norman said. "The wind turned around 180 degrees and that's the wind that makes this course the toughest."

It didn't have a major effect on the bunkers, however, and that's where Norman came to grief.

He was two under par for the day until he got his second shot in a bunker on the 18th, took two to get out of the wet sand and stalked off with a double bogey and a round of 71.

Jack Nicklaus, who scored the first of his three British Open titles on this course 21 years ago, was 10 strokes back after a struggling 74.

Seve Ballesteros of Spain was one shot better — but no happier. The Spaniard, twice a winner of this event, scored 17 consecutive pars before he, too, found that troublesome bunker on the 18th.

He failed to reach the green surface with his sand shot and also walked away, his face as bleak as the Scottish skies, with a double bogey.

Old champions Gary Player, who won this title on this course in 1959, and Arnold Palmer, 57, also played in the chilly afternoon rains.

Player beat Ballesteros with a 72 and Palmer shot 75, one higher than Nicklaus.

Larry Mize, whose pitch-in play-off birdie upset Norman in the Masters; American money-winning leader Paul Azinger; Nick Faldo of England and Nick Price of South Africa had 68s that left them four strokes back.

"A workmanlike start," said Watson of his 69. He scored the third of his five British Open victories at Muirfield in 1980.

"I made no mistakes with the putter," said Watson, a one-stroke runner-up in the recent U.S. Open.

Davis, who has played without particular distinction in brief appearances on the American tour, has spent most of his career on the Australian, Japanese and European circuits.

He gave it up in 1983 to go into the motel business in Australia, he said. But that venture failed "and I was forced back on the tour."

He became a dedicated globetrotter in the next few years, and broke through with three victories last season, in the Australian and New Zealand Opens and the British PGA.

## Texas Football magazine picks Arkansas to oust A&M in SWC

DALLAS (AP) — Arkansas is the pre-season favorite of Dave Campbell's Texas Football magazine to win the 1987 Southwest Conference football championship, with Oklahoma getting the nod to take the national title.

Last year, the pre-season edition correctly predicted that Texas A&M would win the SWC. It's the second straight year for the magazine to pick Oklahoma for the national title. The Sooners finished second last year.

This year, there were some changes in SWC football with Southern Methodist blanked out

by NCAA sanctions and three new coaches at the eight remaining schools.

"There's a story in the magazine on SMU's plight and then kind of a chart telling where all the SMU players scattered," Campbell, the editor-in-chief, said Thursday. "This is the first time we've ever had to do something like that in the 28-year history of the magazine."

A panel of football writers picked A&M to finish second behind Arkansas, with Texas tagged for third and Texas Christian for fourth.

Campbell said Arkansas hasn't been chosen to win the conference since 1978. Houston wound up as the champion that year.

"Everything points to Arkansas," Campbell said.

When schools juggled their schedules after the NCAA banned football at SMU for 1987 and the school voluntarily scrapped the 1988 season, Texas picked one of the toughest opponents, adding Miami to the schedule, Campbell said.

Campbell said a game to watch this season will be Arkansas vs. A&M on Nov.

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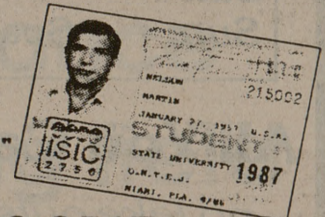
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