

DANCE

BOOTHS

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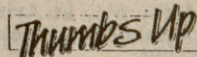
CONTESTS

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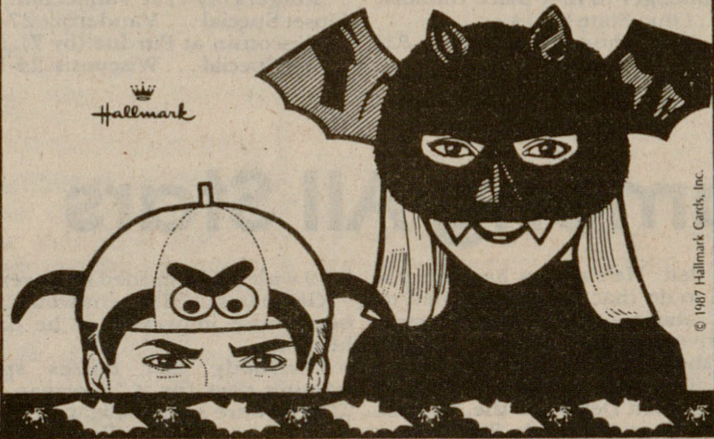
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Oilers sign Highsmith after lengthy delay

HOUSTON (AP) — Alonzo Highsmith practiced for the first time Thursday with the Houston Oilers...

"I'm glad it's over, and I'm ready to practice tomorrow," the former University of Miami fullback said after signing.

The Oilers would not disclose terms of Highsmith's contract, but it reportedly is a four-year package worth \$2.6 million...

With Highsmith having signed, the first-round choices still holding out are No. 2 pick Cornelius Bennett...

The Indianapolis Colts drafted Bennett, St. Louis chose Stouffer and Atlanta picked Miller.

Rod Woodson, the 10th pick, also signed Wednesday with the Pittsburgh Steelers.

Highsmith sat out the entire pre-

season and three-week NFL player strike because of his contract dispute. His difficulties reaching agreement with the Oilers prompted his attorney to file a lawsuit...

"I don't regret anything I've done," Highsmith said. "I'm relieved it's over."

But he added that the suit may have helped push the contract talks forward.

"If not for the lawsuit, I could be in the same situation," he said.

Oilers General Manager Ladd Herzog said despite the lengthy holdout, the wait was worthwhile.

"Alonzo is the player we wanted when we made the decision to move from the eighth spot in the first round to the third spot."

A Florida judge, acting on Highsmith's suit, declared the fullback a free agent and granted his agent permission to negotiate with any team in the league.

Further hearings on the suit were postponed last weekend after Herzog began new negotiations with Highsmith's agent, Robert Fraley.

"Our current plans are to seek a two-week exemption from the commissioner and get Alonzo into football playing condition," Herzog said.

Herzog said Highsmith would be activated for the Nov. 15 Pittsburgh game.

NY Giants hope to avoid Texas Stadium nightmares to improve shoddy record

IRVING (AP) — The New York Giants can't afford another slip and Texas Stadium has traditionally provided them poor footing.

"We are in a must win situation every week," says Giants' Coach Bill Parcells. "There is no margin of error."

The defending world champions got off to an 0-2 start then tumbled to 0-5 by losing three replacement games.

The old Giants showed up last Sunday with a 30-7 rout of St. Louis. However, New York has never had it easy against the Dallas Cowboys (3-3) in Texas Stadium where they play at 8 p.m. Monday.

New York is 3-11 in the Cowboys' home with victories in 1972, 1974 and 1984.

"It's a nice place to play because you never have to worry about the weather but it's been a tough spot for us," said Parcells.

The last two games between the two teams in the stadium evolved into agonizing losses for the Giants.

In the 1985 regular season finale, the Cowboys edged the Giants 28-21 in a shootout for the National Conference Eastern Division title. Steve Pelluer directed Dallas to the win after starting quarterback Danny White was injured.

In the 1986 Monday Night Football opener, the Cowboys rallied to defeat the Giants 31-28 in Herschel Walker's NFL debut. It was only one of two losses suffered by the eventual Super Bowl kings.

New York has lost four of its last

five games against Dallas and trails the all-time series 34-14-2.

"I don't know for sure why we always play the Giants well," Cowboys Coach Tom Landry said. "There are just certain teams you play well against. I guess that's the nature of the game. We seem to play pretty good against the Giants even when we are down like we are now."

The Giants rated seven-point favorites over the Cowboys who beat them 16-14 on Sept. 20 when Raul Allegre missed a 46-yard field goal in the final seconds.

Dallas intercepted Phil Simms four times.

"Too much water has gone under the bridge to make that victory significant," Landry said. "That won't help us much Monday night."

Simms is riding a club record for completion percentage of 80.9 percent against St. Louis, hitting 17 of 21 passes for 253 yards and three touchdowns.

"Dallas controlled the ball for something like 41 minutes in the first game and Simms didn't have a good game," said Parcells. "They ran 80 plays and I think we had 59."

Parcells said the Giants can't afford to succumb to the Texas Stadium jinx.

"I just doubt we can afford another loss," he said. "Based on what I see in the division, I doubt you can make it (the playoffs) with six losses. If you did, you'd have to be lucky."

And the Giants wouldn't mind a little long-sought luck in Texas Stadium on Monday night.

Brit champ loses title in controversial bout

WEMBLEY, England (AP) — Jorge Vaca of Mexico became the World Boxing Council welterweight champion Wednesday when he dethroned Britain's Lloyd Honeyghan in a confusing and controversial finish to an explosive fight.

Vaca was awarded the title by a split decision after the fighters banged heads in the eighth round and Vaca was left helpless in the middle of the ring, blood spurting from his right eye.

Under WBC rules, Honeyghan was deducted a point for the head butt and the judges were asked by referee Henry Miespere to score the previous seven rounds only.

The point deduction proved crucial as two of the judges, Chuck Hassett of the United States, and Bob Logis of Belgium, favored Vaca. Malcolm Bulmer of Australia favored Honeyghan.

"We think it was a fair decision," Ignacio Huizar, Vaca's co-manager said as the new champion left the ring, his head wrapped in a white towel.

"But this was not the best way to lose a title and we will certainly give Honeyghan a rematch. Both guys are very good fighters," Huizar told The Associated Press.

While Vaca's record improved to 43-5-1, Honeyghan suffered his first defeat in a 32-fight career, and his

entourage appeared stunned at the decision.

"I definitely thought Lloyd was ahead," said Mickey Duff, Honeyghan's manager. "I'm sure the WBC will order a rematch in the circumstances."

Honeyghan, 27, was making his fourth defense of the title he took from former undisputed champion Don Curry 13 months ago.

Two of his previous three fights had been won inside two rounds as the Jamaican-born Briton gained a growing reputation as one of the world's most destructive punchers. His last defense against Gene Hatcher lasted just 40 seconds, a record for title fights.

But in Vaca, he found an opponent just as strong and durable as himself.

The Mexican had never fought outside his homeland or Los Angeles, but was unbeaten for three years and did not seem in the least intimidated by the stifling heat or the partisan atmosphere in the 2,800-seat Wembley Grand Hall.

In a frantic first three rounds, both fighters poured in punches, attacking each other with head and body shots and going for a quick knockout.

Honeyghan was cut early under the right eye and several times found himself caught on the ropes as the Mexican refused to back off.

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