

Sports

Pioneer dies after 47 years of broadcasting

DALLAS (AP) — Longtime radio and television broadcaster Jack Drees, who covered some of the nation's biggest sporting events including the first Super Bowl, died Wednesday at his Dallas home of cancer.

Drees was 71. Among the many events that Drees announced for radio and television audiences included the Kentucky Derby, the Masters golf tournament, NCAA basketball and major league baseball.

As a free-lance announcer, Drees worked for every major network and several syndicators, covering almost every major sport.

Drees began working as a sports announcer in 1939, after graduating from Iowa, where he was an All-Big Ten center in basketball.

His television broadcast of the 1963 Sonny Liston-Floyd Patterson fight for the world heavyweight championship drew the largest audience in history up to that point, and his Wednesday Night Fights of the 1950s were consistently among the nation's television shows.

At one point, Drees' weekend sports commentaries on the CBS Radio Network were the top-rated network radio show, outrating the popular Arthur Godfrey Show and the Huntley-Brinkley Reports.

But his wife Mary Drees said her husband never expected the Super Bowl to have grown into the mammoth spectacle it is now after he announced the 1967 contest between Green Bay and Kansas City in the Los Angeles Coliseum.

"He couldn't have expected it," she said. "Back then, I don't think any of us could have realized how much the media can build an event."

Drees spent the last 10 years of his 47-year career as a broadcaster for an Alabama television station before retiring and moving to Dallas in 1986.

Gault joins Raiders' stable of speedy wide receivers

PLATTEVILLE, Wis. (AP) — The Chicago Bears traded holdout Willie Gault, a wide receiver with world class speed and acting aspirations, to the Los Angeles Raiders Thursday.

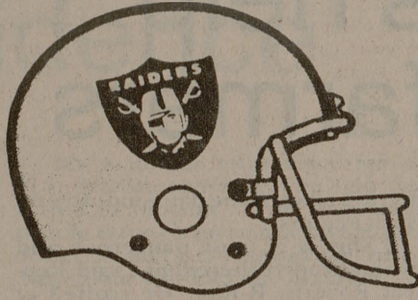
The Raiders gave up a No. 1 draft pick in 1989 and an undetermined choice in 1990.

Gault, who has been taking acting lessons in southern California, "indicated that this might be the time to change scenery," said Bill Tobin, the Bears' personnel director. "Willie gave us five outstanding years."

Gault agreed to terms on a five-year contract with the Raiders at their training camp. After meeting with Coach Mike Shanahan and the press, and taking a physical exam, he was on the field for the afternoon practice session.

"He's one of the most explosive receivers in the NFL," said Shanahan. "This move can only strengthen our team."

The Raiders are well stocked at the wide receiver position with the arrival of Gault.



Starters James Lofton and Mervyn Fernandez, plus backups Jessie Hester and Chris Woods are back from last year's team. The Raiders also drafted Heisman Trophy winner Tim Brown on the first round last spring and added wide receiver Mike Alexander later in the draft.

Shanahan said he was not concerned about having too many receivers.

"Our plan is to keep five wide receivers," said Shanahan. "With the utilization of three and four-receiver

(offensive) sets, our receivers will keep very busy."

Shanahan downplayed suggestions that Gault's addition was the first of a planned series of moves.

"Do we have something in mind? No," he said. "We're pleased with the people we do have and that we've made a move to strengthen our football team."

When Gault and the Bears could not agree on a contract, the Bears called the Raiders.

"I'm just happy to have the opportunity to come here and hopefully contribute to the greatness of the Raiders," said Gault. "I'm sure Mr. (Al) Davis saw something in me."

Gault, who caught 35 passes for 705 yards and seven touchdowns last year, said he felt somewhat stymied in the Chicago offense.

Chicago has nearly a dozen receivers in camp, including veterans Dennis Gentry and Dennis McKinnon and the club's first-round pick, Wendell Davis from LSU.

Puckett's act a big hit in Minnesota

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Kirby Puckett, a reputed bad-ball hitter, has been hitting to all the right places.

"I'm just seeing the ball and sticking my bat out there," said the Minnesota Twins centerfielder, who leads the major leagues with a .361 batting average and 147 hits.

A perfect example: With two outs in the bottom of the ninth inning last Monday, Puckett hit an 0-2 pitch off the fence in right-center for a two-run double to give the Twins a 5-4 victory over Toronto.

"I swung at two balls over my head," Puckett said. "I had to swing again and see what happened. I was just fortunate to drive the ball. I know it wasn't a strike. If it was, I probably would have missed it."

"It was a waste pitch," said Toronto reliever Tom Henke, who gave up the hit. "But he hit it anyway. He's swinging the bat good." Real good.

He went 4-for-5 on Monday and again on Tuesday against Toronto before going hitless in four at bats Wednesday to snap his second 14-game hitting streak of the season.

During his latest streak, Puckett hit .444 with 28 hits, four home runs, three doubles, a triple and 12 RBI in 68 at bats.

Puckett has always gotten a large share of his hits in bunches.

He leads the majors with 48 multiple-hit games this season, and he has four four-hit games this season and 24 in his 4 1/2-year career.

Puckett's recent surge moved him ahead of four-time AL batting leader Wade Boggs in the chase for the batting title, .361 to .359. He also has 76 RBI, 14 homers and 26 doubles this year.

Puckett, who hit .332 last season and had a .311 career average entering 1988, says he's surprised he's leading the league in hitting this late in the season.

Puckett also says he's not concerned with the batting championship, and he's doubtful he can beat Boggs.

"The man hits .350 every year. He's my idol," Puckett said of the Boston third baseman. "If it happens, it happens, and I'll love it."

'Hitting Machine' pities Cowboys' foes

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP) — He wears shoes that have "No Pity" marked on the toes.

He begged his coach to let him play last year only three weeks after he suffered a broken leg.

His nickname is "Hittin' Machine."

"It's something I try to live up to every day," says Eugene Lockhart, linebacker for the Dallas Cowboys.

Lockhart, who missed the last three games of the 1987 season with a fractured right fibula, is the holler guy of the Cowboys' 1988 camp.

"I want teams to respect me and my team," he said. "I want us to get back to respectability. Our notoriety

will take care of itself once we get back respect."

He said that's why he has adopted the "No Pity" motto.

"I don't care if it's a practice or what I'm going all out and I hope I inspire some other people to do the same," said the 1984 fifth-round draft pick from the University of Houston.

Lockhart said he has 100 percent mobility despite his injury, one of three broken legs suffered by Dallas linebackers in 1987.

"I've healed fast," he said. "In fact, I tried to play but the coaches wouldn't let me. I could have played."

Lockhart said it burns him that every publication he reads has the Cowboys at the bottom of the NFC East charts.

"All I can tell you is that as the season comes upon us everyone will start realizing the Cowboys are for real," Lockhart said. "We're going to have a mobile and hostile defense that may be one of the most aggressive in Cowboys' history."

Even though he missed the last three games in 1987, Lockhart was third in tackles with 80. Leader Michael Downs had 86.

"I was on my way to a good season, considering the strike and everything," said Lockhart, who had

two quarterback traps and one interception.

"Eugene was enjoying the finest year of his career until the leg was broken," said Dallas Coach Tom Landry. "He had a great knack at the point of attack. He's a tough tackler."

Lockhart is one of a short but illustrious list of Cowboys' middle linebackers. There have only been four in 28 years.

It all started with Jerry Tubbs, followed by Lee Roy Jordan, Bob Breunig and then Lockhart.

"It's a proud tradition and I'm going to hold up my end," Lockhart said.

Ex-Trotter learned from basketball, moved on

CORSICANA (AP) — Ovie Dotson swished six straight free throws with a two-handed, over-the-head shot from behind his back.

He then stepped beyond the 3-point line and hit the same unlikely shot from that spot.

That was the shot that made him someone special as a member of the Harlem Globetrotters.

The former University of Texas and Globetrotter standout made the unlikely look easy in a recent visit to Corsicana. He held a group of young basketball campers spellbound with superb skills and even better advice.

"To succeed, you have to take your time, be observant, and pay attention," Dotson told campers at Ron Meikle's North Star Basketball Camp, held at the Corsicana YMCA.

Through demonstrations and participation, Dotson impressed the young players with his skill. But basketball was not his only point of emphasis.

"There won't always be basketball for all of you, but be good at something," he said. "No matter what you do, try to be the best."

It is advice Dotson has taken to heart.

His smile is as natural as his rapport with youngsters, something that will always be a benefit of having played with the Globetrotters.

Dotson's court success started early. He was a high school All-American at San Antonio Sam Houston before a successful career with Abe Lemons' Texas Longhorns from 1976-1979.

At Texas, Dotson's forte was his team play. A strong defender, he is also remembered for his thunderous dunks during a time when that shot was not so prevalent.

He played on two Southwest Conference championship squads.

It seems appropriate that a player for Lemons, the ultimate basketball coaching showman, would play for the Harlem Globetrotters. Dotson has fond memories of his college coach, who is now the coach at Oklahoma City University.

"Abe helped me a lot," Dotson said. "He got this bad rap that said he didn't care about his players, but he wanted them all to finish college. Abe taught me more about life and helped me where I could communicate with the kids. My last two years, he took me with him on speaking engagements so I could learn from that."

Dotson's play in Austin caught the attention of Globetrotter officials, who first saw him his sophomore season. After college, he was invited to a tryout.

"Twenty-five guys were there, and most

of them had been drafted by the NBA," Dotson said. "I didn't get drafted, but I was fortunate to be one of five selected."

That's when he developed the behind-the-back, over-the-head shot.

"They wanted everybody to find their place in the show, like the half-court shot that Curly (Neal) had," Dotson recalled. "When I first started trying it, everybody was laughing at me."

Later, they laughed with him.

Although Dotson doesn't skirt the comparisons between his former team and NBA squads, the question has grown wearisome.

"Magic Johnson, Michael Jordan, they're the elite of basketball, along with Dr. J, Larry Bird, Mark Aguirre and guys like that," the former Trotter said. "We played with a lot of flair, but to do that, we had to

work hard to be fundamentally sound. A lot of people forget that."

"We might have played well in the NBA, but I don't think we could compete for a championship. When it comes to showmanship, though, the Globetrotters are second to none."

The stint with the Globetrotters meant travel around the world and an opportunity he used to establish contacts for his life after basketball.

"I'm involved with a leather shop now, and that started in Australia," he said. "I met the people in that when we played there."

Dotson left the game two years ago, but his time with the Harlem Globetrotters was punctuated by visits to exotic locales and some unusual playing surfaces.

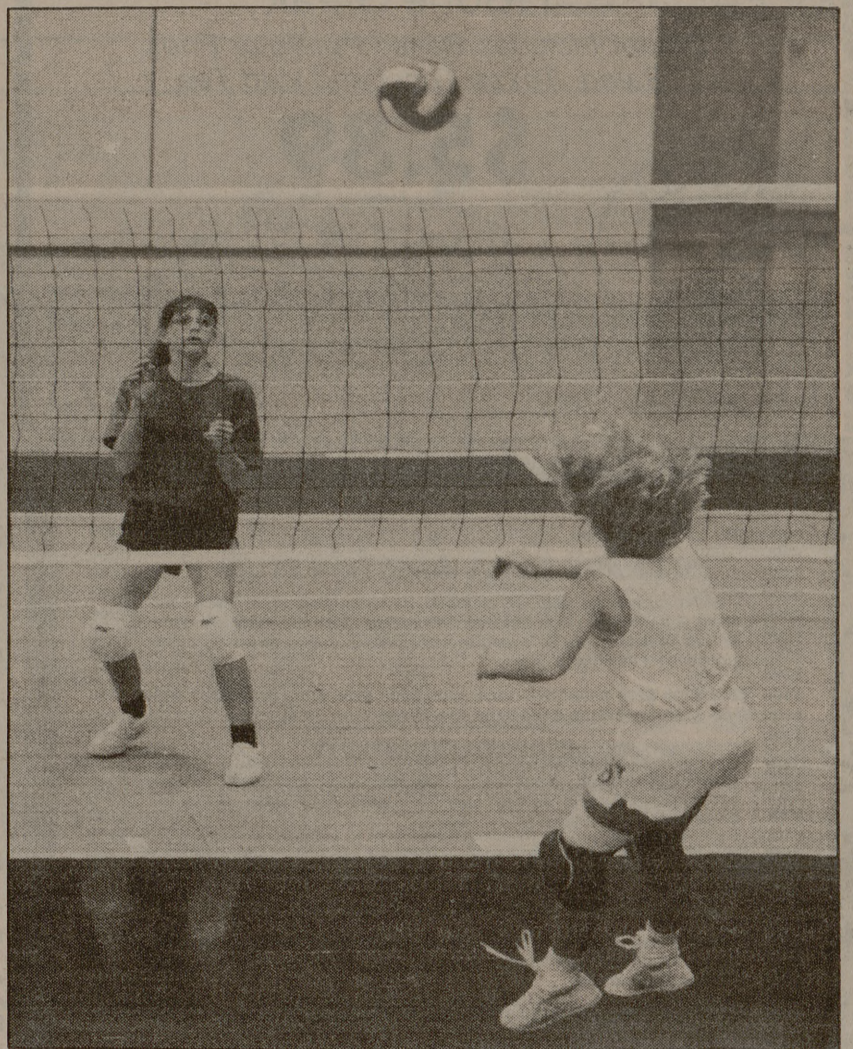


Photo by Jay Janner

Two teenagers practice their skills at G. Rollie White Coliseum at the Texas A&M Volleyball Camp. Texas A&M Volleyball Coach Al Givens is director for the camp which is hosting 156 students, ages 13-16, from throughout the state.

Astros homer again to edge Padres 3-2

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Bill Doran's two-run homer sparked a three-run first inning and Bob Knepper and Larry Andersen combined on a nine-hitter as the Houston Astros defeated the San Diego Padres 3-2 Thursday.

Houston has now homered in 14 of its last 15 games.

Billy Hatcher led off the first against Eric Show with a ground-rule double to left center. Doran hit an 0-2 pitch to right for his sixth homer. Terry Puhl then singled and Kevin Bass walked. Both runners advanced on a double steal. Puhl scored on a groundout by Craig Reynolds.

The double steal gave Houston 154 stolen bases for the season, tops in the major leagues.

Knepper, 11-3, pitched six innings, allowing seven hits, walking two and striking out three. Andersen gave up two hits and struck out three in three innings to earn his fifth save.



San Diego's Dickie Thon, a former Astro, went 3-for-4 with two stolen bases.

The Padres scored a run in the third on singles by Show, Stanley Jefferson and Randy Ready. San Diego made it 3-2 in the sixth when Carmelo Martinez walked, took second on a wild pitch and scored on Thon's single.

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