

Dallas lack of debate costly

IRVING (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys were kicking themselves Monday for not knowing one of the most elementary NFL rules on kickoff returns.

Referee Pat Haggerty's safety call on the game's opening kickoff went without debate from the stunned Cowboys' coaches.

The New York Giants went on to win the game 12-10 Sunday, with the margin of victory coming on Mark Collins' tackle of Darryl Clack, who had muffed the kickoff into his own end and tried to run it out.

Clack said he wasn't certain of the bobbled kickoff rule.

"The thought ran through my

head that since the ball hit me when I was out of the end zone, that it was a live ball," Clack said. "I tried to take it out of the end zone. From what I hear, it wasn't really necessary."

Replay official Armen Terzian later admitted "the play should have gone as a touchback with the Cowboys taking the ball on the 20. The rule states that if the return man muffs the ball and it goes into the end zone, he must recover the ball but he has no responsibility to take it out."

"I was remiss in not reviewing the play at the time but I felt there was

an interpretation on the field which I was unaware of and would have allowed the safety."

Dallas coach Tom Landry said he didn't raise a ruckus and admitted "we should have argued about it. But I don't know why the officials didn't replay it. It was really a bad call."

"We talk about those plays all the time. I thought it was a muff."

Club President Tex Schramm, chairman of the NFL competition committee, said he thought there must be something he was missing when the Giants were awarded a safety.

Penalties lead to Oiler loss

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Oilers don't need to change their aggressive style of football despite receiving 25 penalties in their last two games. Coach Jerry Glanville said Monday.

The Oilers received 10 penalties for 95 yards in Sunday's 45-3 loss to the New York Jets.

A week earlier, the Oilers were flagged 15 times for 184 yards in a 38-35 victory over the Los Angeles Raiders.

"I don't think we have to change anything about the way we play the game," Glanville said.

"If somebody does something to you after the play is over that's not

challenging your manhood or maiming you, you have to just go back to the huddle."

The Oilers, with a reputation for playing aggressive football, and the Jets were in numerous scuffles from the opening play in the game.

"The only thing that upset me was if we hit somebody after the play was over," Glanville said. "If somebody shoves us or pushes us, we've got to ignore that and go on back to the huddle."

Officials called 21 penalties in the game and several Oiler players felt they were penalty-happy.

"I think the refs are biased against us," linebacker Robert Lyles said.

"When you've got defensive linemen called for holding, I mean that's a bunch of bleep."

tight end Jamie Williams said the Jets beat the Houston team at its own game.

"They used our aggressiveness against us," Williams said. "They got us into a pushing and shoving match."

The Oilers had more than penalties to worry about against the Jets.

Williams and rookie starting cornerback Cris Dishman suffered injuries that likely will keep them out of Sunday's game in the Astrodome against the New England Patriots.

From the Bleachers

Precise, not dull

SPORTS EDITOR:

Did Cray Pixley and I watch the same tennis match? Referring to the men's finals of the U.S. Open she wrote (Sept. 13), "The sheer length and monotony of the match was part of its downfall." Does this mean that the shorter the match, the better? If so, then perhaps we should shorten tennis matches to one set, one game or one point.

And isn't monotony built into the game of tennis? A monotonous thing is a thing that lacks variety or variation. Since tennis involves hitting a ball from one end of the court to the other, over and over again, it is necessarily monotonous. What does Pixley want, an occasional explosion? A lunch break? A spontaneous gymnastics exhibition? I don't understand the complaint.

I was also surprised to see Ivan Lendl described as "iron-faced" and Mats Wilander as "stony-faced." This implies that they are emotionless, when everyone knows that they experience more intense emotions on the tennis court than most of us will ever know. Do not confuse experiencing an emotion with

conveying it to others. I, for one, appreciate the emotional intensity of these players. They are the best in the world at what they do. I do not, in addition, need looks of joy, distress, anger and disappointment.

Now the diagnosis of Pixley's discontent. We live in an age of instant gratification and limited attention. We cannot understand those, like Lendl and Wilander, who go about their business in a workman-like way; nor can we tolerate events of more than a moment's duration. Pixley watches the match and sees machine-like repetition. I watch the match and see discipline, exquisite athletic ability and emotional intensity. That's why I say we must have watched different matches.

Keith Burgess-Jackson
Visiting assistant professor
Department of Philosophy

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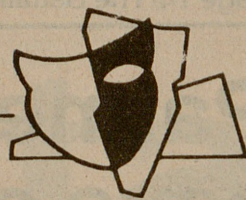
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