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Landry shouldn't quit, wife says

IRVING (AP) — Alicia Landry said Wednesday she wouldn't encourage her husband to quit professional football, saying "everyone who knows anything about the game still thinks he is doing a great job."

Her husband, Tom, has undergone a crossfire of criticism from some media and fans because of the Dallas Cowboys' 2-6 start, worst in 25 years.

"So far I'm not worried because I'm very optimistic in Tommy's ability to coach, and I know he can do it," she told the Associated Press. "He has proved he can do it, hasn't he?"

Mrs. Landry said the carping "was from a very very unfair people. Their job is to say something awful. The polls are kind of tacky, but there have been a lot of people standing up for him."

Alicia said the attacks on her husband were also attacks on his age, 64.

"Don't we have a president who is over 64?" she asked. "I guess it's a sign of the times that when you

get a little older you aren't supposed to be able to do anything."

Alicia and Tom aren't letting the bad times get them down.

"When we came to Dallas in the early '60s, a good friend of mine from the New York Giants (Ann Mara) told me, 'Don't read the newspapers when you lose.' I guess that's why we've lived this long. I don't think Tom's morale is down. I don't think he will let it affect him."

A 24-23 loss to Philadelphia on Sunday triggered the criticism of Landry after Dallas blew a 20-point lead.

"It was a very tough loss," she said. "I didn't dream we could lose that game."

She attends all the Cowboys' game at home and on the road.

"Sports is a lot like politics," she said. "If you can't stand the critics, then you have to get out."

"I know what you're saying right now — he should have retired, right? You have to understand that Tom is

a competitor. He thrives on competition. I wouldn't want to influence him to get out of the game — yet, he's the one who has to live with it, go to the office, those long hours every day."

Coach Landry said on Tuesday he will honor contract which lasts through the 1989 season.

She said her husband was "extremely crazy" about the current team.

"He's very happy with this team because it works hard, that there is no dissension," she said. "The team has so much heart and just a super mind. I hope someone doesn't ruin it."

She said her husband does read the sports pages, everything else but football.

She said the Landrys plan to be around to see the Cowboys regain their NFL prominence.

"Life is difficult but once you know it, it isn't so difficult anymore," she said. "Most of the people have been lovely. They've still been nice everywhere we go."

Lady Aggies

(Continued from page 9)

match," he said. "I'm not afraid to use my bench or freshmen."

It was a Texas freshman, attacker Annette Garza, that put the finishing touches on the match for the Longhorns.

Texas took advantage of A&M mistakes and some hard kills to take a 7-1 lead on the Lady Aggies in the final game.

A&M continued to mis-hit the rest of the game while the Longhorns played almost error-free volleyball.

The high spot in Game 4 for A&M was two straight service aces by junior setter Yvonne Van Brandt to pull to within seven at 12-5.

That was all they could muster, however, and after several Ag errors, Garza put it through outstretched defenders for the victory.

Despite the loss, Givens was optimistic for the rest of A&M's season.

"Even though the scores in the last three games weren't close, we were playing good volleyball," he said. "We got beat by a better team tonight."

"But it doesn't have to stay that way. Eventually we're going to beat them. It'll happen."

The Lady Aggies, now 15-9 (3-2 in Southwest Conference play), have not defeated the Longhorns since 1982, dropping 14 straight matches. The win moved Texas to 19-3 on the year, 6-0 in the SWC.

Senior attacker Cheri Steensma led the

Lady Ags with 10 kills and added 13 digs on defense. Sophomore Amy Cumings led in attack percentage with a low .267. Van Brandt had 16 digs to lead the squad.

Haley had only praise for the Lady Aggies.

"Steensma is great," he said. "She must fool 90 percent of the blockers in the country. And when (senior Vivian) Viera gets hot, she's like a rubber band."

The Lady Aggies team hitting percentage of .051, compared to Texas .273, was a major difference in the loss for A&M.

Texas was led by senior Dawn Davenport with 13 kills for a .478 hitting percentage. Haley said Davenport is one of the top three players in the country.

The crowd of 1406 was the largest for the Lady Aggies this season. Haley said he enjoys playing at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

"I would hate to think what it would be like if the whole place was filled — A&M might win the first two games," he said.

Givens said his teams goal is to finish in the top two teams in the SWC. They are currently tied for second.

"Our season doesn't start and end with how we do against the Longhorns," Givens said.

The Aggies travel to Florida this weekend for matches against Florida, Purdue and North Carolina State in the Volleyball Monthly/Nike Classic.

Attendance

(Continued from page 9)

make it this week."

As a life-long A&M fan, one who didn't get to see them play in person until 1961 (and the 1967 Texas game was only my eighth game, six of which were here), I really thought that the stadium was full all the time.

That's what Aggies told me — but, sorry guys, somebody lied. The falsehood didn't — and doesn't — matter a bit to me, but what about the players who look up and see 20,000 or more empty seats when a "lesser opponent" shows up?

Including the 1967 loss to SMU, A&M has played 115 home games through the recent Rice game, posting a 75-40 record and winning three undisputed SWC titles. Yet, in only three years did the Ags draw an average of 60,000 fans, topped by last year's 66,623.

Three of the seven crowds exceeding 70,000 occurred last year, including LSU (71,282), Arkansas (73,511) and — surprise — Texas (78,573).

One week after the Ags lost to LSU, attendance dropped 13,000 as they trounced Washington 29-12.

Those who missed the game also missed the only time quarterback Lance Pavlas has thrown a touchdown pass.

Yeah, the same guys play each week even if the number of empty seats goes up or down depending on the opponent.

Attendance jumped 20,000 from the Louisiana Tech rout (32-3) to the Arkansas game (14-0).

Three of the other four 70,000 crowds came to see Texas, of course, but in 1986 74,739 fans left Kyle Field gasping for breath after the Aggies overcame a 17-0 deficit to win 31-30.

While the mean for the 115 games is 50,024, the numbers have gone up since Coach Jackie Sherrill took over in 1982.

With Sherrill at the helm, the Aggies have drawn 57,193 per opening, only 15,000 and change under capacity.

A&M has won 33 of those 42 games but actually drew under 40,000 once — probably when the team needed some support in the worse way.

After Arkansas humiliated A&M 28-0 in the rain and sleet in Fayetteville, the Aggies returned to Kyle Field to play a TCU team that could have gone to its first Cotton Bowl since 1958 had it won that day.

Just 38,209 fans "filled" Kyle Field that afternoon, but they were rewarded when defensive back James Flowers intercepted a pass in the first quarter, returning it for a touchdown.

Though nobody knew it at the time, that interception turned the entire program around. A&M beat TCU 35-21, went to Austin and beat Texas 37-12 and has won every SWC title since then as well as being 4-0 (and ineligible) so far in 1988.

Lots of you missed that, huh? Too bad, for if Ags really meant it when they said that they "always" support the team, the stadium would have been rocking that day.

Sherrill has seen six different occa-

sions when 40,000 were in attendance, 23 in the 50,000 range and another six between 60,000 and 67,884. Six of the seven 70,000 crowds are his, too (A&M drew 71,731 in Coach Tom Wilson's final home game in 1981).

Television tends to limit the size of the crowd, which isn't supposed to happen with devoted Aggie fans. Interestingly enough, weather hasn't been that much of a factor. The 1980 Baylor game is an example, as the eventual SWC champion Bears pounded the hapless Aggies 46-7 in cold, rainy conditions before 69,588 (the eighth largest crowd at Kyle Field).

Nonconference games are a drag too, as only 16 of 34 have drawn more than the mean. In SWC games, 50 of the 81 played have surpassed the average.

Curiously enough, considering that during the first three years of this survey A&M averaged only 36,484 for 12 games, the median and mode are extremely close to the mean (50,024).

The median game is Rice, 1978, when 51,461 watched quarterback Mike Moseley throw a touchdown pass on Coach Wilson's first offensive play (A&M won 38-21). Rice was also the 57th smallest crowd, this time in 1980 when 51,630 saw the Owls upset the Aggies 10-6.

And the number in thousands that was most frequent was, yep, 51,000, which was good for nine games.

Should only about 50,000 or so show up for Louisiana Tech next weekend, who knows what the empty 22,767 seats will miss? Recall that the longest pass completion in A&M history occurred

against La. Tech in 1981 (92 yards).

Kubiak to Don Jones).

The longest running play at Kyle place in 1976, when reserve halfback Darrell Smith raced 90 yards to a fourth quarter A&M's 59-10 win over TCU. Keith Woodside tied that last fall against Texas.

The only two times A&M has passed 700 yards in total offense are current record of 705 in 1986 over TCU.

Let's not forget the over-proud A&M alumni, especially those who live in either the Dallas-Fort Metroplex or around Houston.

Where are they? One place where they are not is at a local A&M game. Since SMU, TCU, Houston Rice all draw poorly at home, they ply is no excuse for Aggies not filling their stadiums.

Stallings' 1967 squad played 27,500 hardy souls against Purdue in Cotton Bowl stadium — some fewer than saw that same team beat Iowa 20-16 in the 1968 Cotton game.

Rice couldn't fill up their place bet, but the largest crowd A&M has there in 21 years was 58,000 — in 1987.

So what's it going to be, my Ags? Are we going to fulfill our dream of watching our team play all the time? Do we just let our words fill empty seats?

Oh, yes. I missed the SMU and due games in 1967, but have seen other 113 in a row.

Campbell number to remain retired

AUSTIN (AP) — University of Texas Athletic Director DeLoss Dodds said Wednesday he would not support any move to take former Heisman Trophy winner Earl Campbell's No. 20 jersey out of retirement.

A newspaper report over the weekend had said "a big rumor floating around Austin" was that No. 20 would be pulled from retirement for Robert Strait of Cuero, who also wears No. 20 and is considered one of the state's top college running back prospects.

"Let me make my position clear," Dodds said. "There is no way I would support any move to activate that number. There has never been any discussion about Earl's number with relation to any recruit or player."

Dodds said discussions with former football coach Darrell Royal, head coach David McWilliams and the UT athletics council earlier this year had centered around the possibility of retiring the jerseys, or numbers of former Longhorn greats Bobby Layne and Tommy Nobis.

Campbell, a former UT running back and in 1977 UT's only Heisman winner, had said he did not think his jersey — the only one ever retired at UT — should be used again.

"I don't think it's fair to me or fair to the guys I played football with here for four years. We all worked hard and deserved the honor of having it retired. If they (UT officials) are planning on

bringing it out of retirement, all of who played on those teams should have a role in making that decision," he said.

McWilliams said, "We were last year that there's no way we're going to get Robert (Strait) since we can't get him No. 20. We've never considered giving it to him because it's retired, at least, that's my feeling. As far as I'm concerned, there's no way we would consider doing that."

Dodds said UT officials have been discussing what to do with No. 22, worn by quarterback Larry No. 60, worn by such players as linebackers Nobis and Johnny Tramm and current middle linebacker Hager.

"I don't want to get into a fight over a jersey, but I feel strongly about the Campbell told the Austin American Statesman. He said he hadn't discussed the matter with Dodds. "I don't think that it's DeLoss Dodds' decision would he they would have enough respect for me and those guys I played with to at least mention it to me."

"We are looking into ways of honoring athletes in the future," Dodds said. "If the council had even considered doing anything that would have hurt Earl, he would have been the first anybody discussed it with. Personal would oppose anything that would what we have already done with respect to honoring Earl."

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