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Sweeney takes over in Dalla

Landry gives 'Giant killer' nod for Viking game

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas Coach Tom Landry, who had the only vote that counted, on Tuesday elected Kevin Sweeney to be the starting quarterback for the Cowboys against the Minnesota Vikings on Sunday.

"Kevin earned the start but the worst thing that can happen is for people to expect him to be a miracle worker against the Vikings," Landry said.

Sweeney threw three touchdown passes in the second half of Sunday's 29-21 loss to the New York Giants as he came off the bench to replace Steve Pelluer.

Dallas has lost its last six games in a row and is 2-8 for the season under Pelluer as a starter.

Landry said starting is a lot more difficult than being the relief quarterback.

"It's a little different when you tee it up from the first tee," Landry said. "Kevin is confident, and I believe he will get the job done, but we can't expect miracles. It will be interesting to see what he can do."

Sweeney started and won two games last year as a member of the "Rhinestone Cowboys" replacement team.

"The players have a lot of respect for him," Landry said. "He is exciting and he has the ability to throw deep. Some say he isn't mobile enough but when you run for your life you can get pretty fast."

Landry said Pelluer took his demotion in stride.

"He was fine," Landry said. "He is a team player."

"Of course I'm disappointed, but I figure this is just a step back" said Pelluer. "I'll be very supportive of Kevin, but I'll work very hard to take the job away from him. I haven't lost my confidence in my ability to do the job."

Asked if he was influenced by Club President Tex Schramm, a longtime Sweeney backer, Landry quipped "No. Tex lets me dig my own graves."

Schramm said "the fans are anxious to see some excitement. I've said all along it's up to us to create the excitement.

"There was just something special about Sweeney in the replacement games. Of course, once he starts he has to perform like anybody else."

Asked how long he thought a fan honeymoon with Sweeney would last, Schramm said "Oh, probably about two interceptions."

The player reaction was immediately positive.

"Why not give the guy a shot?" asked linebacker Steve DeOssie. "He's played great and deserves it. It will get the team pumped up that's for sure. It will be exciting."

Landry said Sweeney must earn the st[illegible] from week to week.

"Pelluer is tough enough to handle this" [illegible] said. "If Sweeney keeps playing well, the[illegible] chance to stay as the starter. He's the starte[illegible] that doesn't mean anything in the permane[illegible] position. I'm not disappointed in Steve at all."

Landry's announcement at his weekly pre[illegible]ence immediately lit up the Cowboys' ticke[illegible] board for Sunday night's nationally telev[illegible] with the Vikings.

"We're getting a lot of calls, that's for su[illegible] ticket manager Steve Orsini. "We still have [illegible] tickets left."

About 100 tickets were sold Tuesday mor[illegible] fore the announcement of Sweeney's schedu[illegible] Between noon and the 5:30 p.m. close of the [illegible]fice, 600 more ticket requests were received, [illegible] said. Capacity at Texas Stadium is 63,855, [illegible] one home game has been sold out this season.

Sweeny found out about his promotion wh[illegible] ping for his wife's birthday present.

"I'm excited," he said. "All I ever asked f[illegible] chance."

Controversial instant replay no-call leaves Glanville questioning system

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston Oilers Coach Jerry Glanville said Tuesday he has lost confidence in the instant replay system following a controversial end of the first half of Monday night's 24-17 victory over Cleveland.

Glanville charged two officials at the end of the half, claiming the Browns had run a key third down play from the Oilers' 11-yard line with 12 players.

"We need to get somebody to wake up and quit eating a hot dog or doing something in the press box on a play that crucial with 12 men on the field," Glanville said.

The Oilers were leading the Browns 7-3 when Browns fullback Kevin Mack gained five yards to the Oiler six-yard line in the final minute of the first half.

Glanville said the Browns had two running backs, two tight ends and two wide receivers on the field for the play.

The Browns ran three more plays without scoring before the half ended.

"I've changed my entire feeling on the instant replay," Glanville said. "If you can't find 12 men on the field, what can you find, so why have it?

"It's totally ridiculous to pay all that money and have all this (instant replay) equipment and can't find two tight ends two running backs and two wideouts in the game at the same time."

Asked what the officials told him in their halftime confrontation, Glanville said, "They said I was crazy, which I may be, but sometimes I'm right too."

The Browns didn't purposely have 12 players on the field, Glanville said, and tried to cover up the infraction by not calling a time out to try a field goal.

"I don't think Cleveland ran the 12 men intentionally because as soon as they got the first down, he (the 12th player) slithered off to the side," Glanville said.

"I think (Coach) Marty (Schottenheimer) realized if they called a time out, the play was backing up."

The Oilers came back in the third quarter, blocked an NFL record-tying fifth punt of the season and took a 21-3 lead.

The halftime theatrics had nothing to do with Houston's second-half surge, Glanville said.

"We didn't need to get any more fired up," he said.

The Oilers took a 14-3 lead after linebacker Johnny Meads broke through and blocked a punt by Cleveland's Max Runager at the Browns 30-yard line. Mike Rozier later scored on a three-yard run.

The Oilers now share the NFL team record of five blocked punts in a season with four other teams.

Glanville now has coached for three of the five teams that share the record. He was with the 1975 Detroit Lions and 1978 Atlanta Falcons when those [illegible] blocked five punts.

"Here, the numbers add up," [illegible] ville said. "We have more peop[illegible] ing the plays here. I'd like to s[illegible] team be the one to break the recor[illegible]

The victory improved the Oi[illegible] cord to 7-3 and gave them sole p[illegible] sion of second place in the AFC [illegible] Division behind Cincinnati, 8-2.

The Oilers return to the road [illegible] Seattle this week. All three Oil[illegible] this season have been road games.

Glanville said the Oilers came [illegible] the game with eight players who [illegible] will not practice this week becau[illegible] juries.

Drew Hill suffered a slight con[illegible] in the first half and didn't play th[illegible] ond half against the Browns. Line[illegible] Eugene Seale lost the entire fing[illegible] on the middle finger of his right h[illegible] the second half.

Lufkin High head coach knows his defense

AUSTIN (AP) — Pat Culpepper can't quite put out of his mind what his Lufkin Panthers did recently in its 39-0 trouncing of Texarkana High School.

It wasn't so much that his football team guaranteed itself a playoff berth, it was how they did it.

"It was the most unusual game I've ever been in," Culpepper said. "For the first time I've every heard of, a team had no first downs. And they never crossed the 50-yard line. We've got a great defense."

The man speaking should know a thing or two about great defenses. Culpepper, downright tiny for a middle linebacker at 5 foot 11 inches and 185 pounds, was defensive captain of the 1962 University of Texas team that went 9-1-1.

Today, after a coaching odyssey that has seen the 47-year-old Cleburne native coach at six colleges and two high schools, Culpepper is at the helm of a rejuvenated prep program that has had four winning season and two playoff berths over the last five years.

"My dream has always been to go back to the University of Texas and coach football," Culpepper said. "But you never know, because I'm enjoying what I'm doing now.

"I've coached college football, and I've met some great people. But hardly anything in coaching beats being with a team in the playoffs in the state of Texas."

Culpepper has had to readjust his goals before.

A diehard Aggie fan because of Bear Bryant, h[illegible] set to play for Texas A&M until Bryant left fo[illegible] bama.

Instead, he was wooed to Texas by Darrell Ro[illegible] was a move he was never to regret.

"I've kept a lot of letters and notes that I kept [illegible] I was at Texas," Culpepper said. "I've saved [illegible] azine and newspaper articles through the yea[illegible] (Royal's) responses to things. I review that inf[illegible] tion frequently."

Royal wasn't the only big influence on Culpe[illegible] Defensive coordinator Mike Campbell and as[illegible] Jim Pittman earned his undying respect.

Egos

(Continued from page 9)

Then comes the end of Murray's A&M career, and he's left in the cold. The word's out with the NFL scouts that Murray has attitude problems, and he doesn't get drafted — nobody wants him.

My heart goes out to Murray. He was built up as a "god" in Aggieland — and he couldn't help but read about himself. And then he gets out in a world that doesn't worship him, namely the NFL, and he's left with the reality of who he really is — just another person, like the rest of us.

It's a sad story, but everyone has to learn who they really are at some point in their life. I believe it could be a whole lot easier on athletes, though, if sports writers and fans in general didn't make idols of them.

Even guys like Lewis, who almost certainly will be what pro scouts are looking for, will eventually have to look at themselves outside of a newspaper article. Careers end and spotlights get turned off quickly, but coming down from a life of heroism is a slow process.

The University of Texas' Eric Metcalf has been strongly promoted as a Heisman candidate since last year. He was suspended for one game this year and is playing below most sports writers' and fans' expectations.

If Metcalf has been swayed by what others have said about him the last few years, there is a good chance that he is now wondering where all the good [illegible] went.

My heart goes out to Metcalf, too [illegible] he's not even close to being the only [illegible] falsely labeled sports god in this [illegible]

To me, it is a tragedy that writer[illegible] fans exalt college football players, [illegible] all athletes, onto a stage that is [illegible] temporary and invariably collapses. [illegible] There will come a day when the tr[illegible] known in every athletes life that aw[illegible] from the spotlight, they look just li[illegible] rest of us.

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