

# Sweeney must make most of his shot

DALLAS (AP) — Kevin Sweeney has to produce against the Minnesota Vikings on Sunday as starting quarterback of the Dallas Cowboys, or Steve Pelluer could have his job back.

"I'm getting my shot, and that's all I've ever asked for," Sweeney said. "I'm not going to say I'm out there to terrorize the NFL. I just hope the players rally with me and we can win the next six games."

He added, "I have to face the test before I can give the answers."

Pelluer said he wasn't surprised at Tom Landry's decision to replace him.

"I will be as supportive of Kevin as I can. But I have the confidence I can do the job if I get it back. This is just one step back in my career," Pelluer said.

Landry announced on Tuesday that Sweeney, whom he once cut after training camp, is his starter for the time being.

"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.

With the Cowboys trailing 26-0, Sweeney — a seventh-round pick in

1987 — came off the bench to replace Pelluer for the second half of Sunday's game with the New York Giants. Sweeney threw three touchdown passes, and Dallas lost only 29-21.

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"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."

Injured quarterback Danny White said: "I just hope there isn't too much pressure on Kevin. I hope he can handle it."

Landry said Sweeney must earn the starter's job from week to week.

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president Tex Schramm, a longtime Sweeney backer, Landry quipped "No, Tex lets me dig my own graves."

But Schramm was clearly pleased with the choice.

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## Nose tackle suspended for 30 days

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston Oilers nose tackle Doug Smith has been suspended 30 days for violating the NFL's substance abuse policy, the league told the Oilers in a statement Wednesday.

Smith was placed on the Oilers' non-football injury list and will not be allowed at the club's practice facility for the 30-day period which started Tuesday, the NFL statement said.

Smith was having the best season of his four-year career and will miss a minimum of four games.

Oilers officials said today they would have no comment on Smith's suspension.

Smith, who was tested under the reasonable-cause portion of the league policy, becomes the 22nd player disciplined by the NFL this season.

Hal Garner of Buffalo also received a 30-day suspension today.

The Oilers will be able to replace Smith on the roster. He will be placed on the reserve non-football illness list.

Because the trading deadline passed last month, the team probably will have to sign a nose tackle to play a reserve role until Smith returns.

Smith was embroiled in controversy in early September when he had two consecutive unexcused absences. Coach Jerry Glanville sent him home when he showed up for practice.

After meeting with General Manager Ladd Herzog, Smith returned to practice the next day and said he had passed the league-administered drug test.

Glanville and Herzog refused to comment.

Smith was in the lineup for the season-opening victory at Indianapolis and has played near peak form during a 7-3 season.

Under terms of the league's policy, a 30-day suspension means the player has tested positive before.

If Smith tests positive a third time, he will be banned from the NFL for life but could seek reinstatement after a year.

## Highsmith over fumble fear

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston Oilers fullback Alonzo Highsmith hopes he never loses his fear of losing, but he's overcome his fear of fumbling.

"The first half of the season, I found myself, if I took a toss sweep, the first thing I was worried about was fumbling the football," Highsmith said. "When you're a running back you can't think like that."

Highsmith, the Oilers' No. 1 pick last season, came with a reputation as a powerful blocker but he was tagged early as being fumble prone.

But the past two weeks, the Oilers have gone to Highsmith in key situations and he's responded with strong running performances.

"I've said to myself the second half of the season, 'Alonzo, do yourself a favor and just run, regardless if you fumble or make a mistake,'" Highsmith said.

Highsmith gained 75 yards on eight carries in a 41-17 victory over Washington and in Monday night's 24-17 victory over Cleveland. He got eight carries for 40 yards.

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third down play in the first quarter Monday when Highsmith took a direct snap and gained 8 yards for a first down.

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## Lady Aggies

(Continued from page 12)

The records weren't limited to the Lady Cougars. A&M's Yvonne Van Brandt, who came in to the game leading the SWC in digs average, set a school record with 38 digs. Senior Vivian Viera set a school record with 75 kill attempts.

A&M Coach Al Givens said, "The individual efforts are nice for the girls, but they (the records) lose a little bit of their luster because of the loss."

A&M started off slow but was able to come back in the first two games. The Lady Ags fell behind 5-0 in the first game before going on a 15-5 run.

realized how far I was ahead academically. But here at A&M it is much harder."

Espinosa has his sights set on playing professional tennis some day. However, if that doesn't work out, he wants to go back to Mexico and work in the stock market.

"I like the stock market," Espinosa said. "I like all facets of it and I like to be where things are happening."

Gus has made a lot happen this fall for the Aggies and hopes he can help the team compete for the SWC title this year.

"I think that we have a chance to win it if we keep improving," Gus said. "We play Arkansas here this year and we've

done pretty well against the other teams so far in the early tournaments."

A&M has competed in several tournaments this fall in which other SWC teams have appeared. The Aggies have had some success against the conference teams, including Texas, Rice and TCU. Arkansas is the one SWC team which has stopped the Aggies in those tournaments.

When talking about the Aggies' chances in the SWC and against the Razorbacks, Gus was typically confident and upbeat.

"We have a chance if we play to our potential," Gus said. "We play (Arkansas) here this year, and we're really excited about our chances."

## Espinosa

(Continued from page 12)

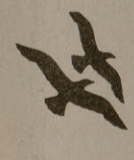
shrugs off any praise and credits his success at tennis and in the classroom to the tough public education system in Mexico.

"In Mexico it's very different from the United States," Espinosa said. "There sports aren't stressed at all. Studies are the most important thing, and they don't care if you are doing well at sports if you aren't doing well in your classes."

Espinosa said he noticed the difference in education when he started his collegiate career at Alvin two years ago.

"High school in Mexico is like college in the United States," Espinosa said. "You have to decide what you are going to do earlier in life. When I got to Alvin I

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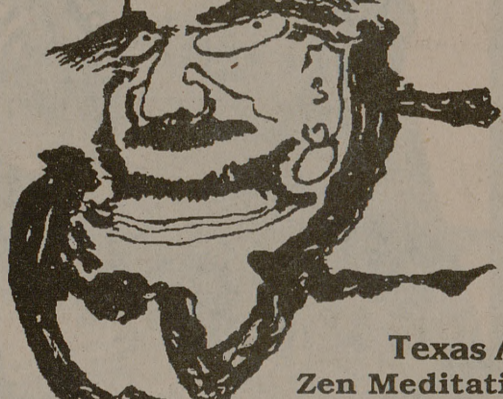
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