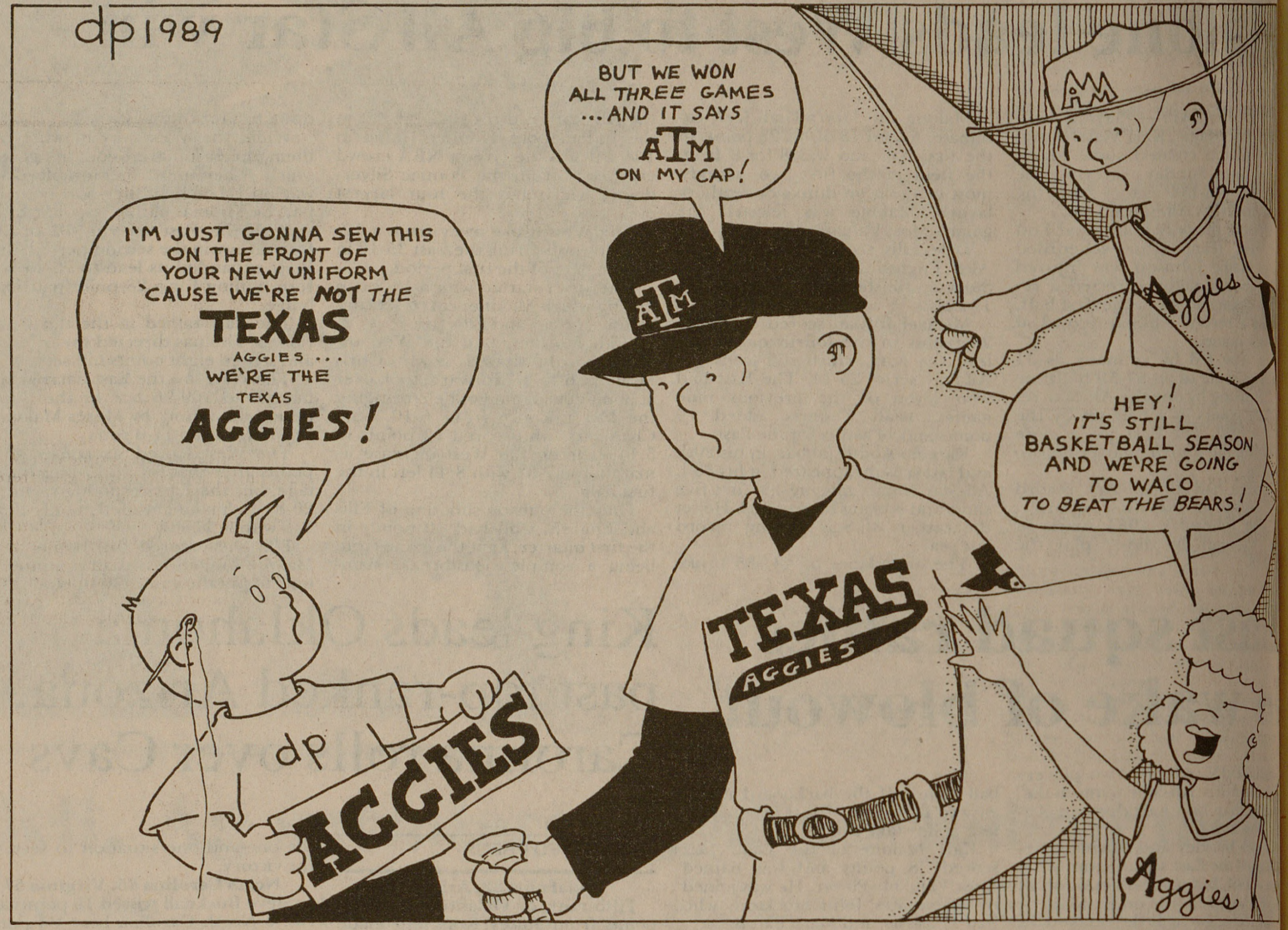


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Bright, Cowboys still looking for buyer

DALLAS (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys have been for sale nearly a year now, but owner H.R. "Bum" Bright's quest for a buyer shows no signs of coming together.

The Wall Street investment firm Salomon Bros. has marketed the team and Cowboys' president Tex Schramm has scouted out potential owners through his network of NFL contacts.

Bright reportedly wants \$150 million for the team and its leases on Texas Stadium luxury boxes, but several barriers to the sale persist.

NFL teams are no longer looked on as money trees they once were because of a flattening of television revenue, higher salaries and two players' strikes since 1982. The Cowboys haven't turned a profit since 1986.

A potential new owner can't now predict future player-related costs because owners and players are at an impasse trying to reach a new collective bargaining agreement.

Several prominent names have surfaced in discussions of a potential Cowboys' sale, including New York billionaire Robert Tisch, Los Angeles billionaire Marvin Davis, Los Angeles Lakers owner Jerry Buss, Dallas Mavericks owner Donald Carter. Even an unnamed Japanese billionaire has expressed interest in the Cowboys during the past year.

"Teams for sale have sat there for a long time," said Art Modell, who owns the Cleveland Browns and believes selling an NFL franchise is a "matter of timing."

"Not everyone wants a football team. There are many other ways to invest \$150 million," he told The Dallas Morning News.

"As the prices of NFL teams have increased, a purchase can be more difficult to justify from a bottom-line basis," Schramm said. "To most businessmen, this is the most important gauge they look at when considering the acquisition of property...a football team isn't going to measure out as well as other business ventures."

Edgar Kaiser bought the Denver Broncos in 1981 for \$36 million and sold controlling interest in 1985 for \$75 million. Bright hoped for a similar return when he bought the Cowboys and Texas Stadium from Clint Murchison in 1984 for \$84 million.

But the days of rapid appreciation of sports franchises may be over.

"Today, neither the league nor the purchasers seem to want to invest in football solely for the appreciation," Schramm said. "There really no foundation for the appreciation. You play in stadiums where the capacity is fixed, and other elements of income are pretty fixed."

The Cowboys finished 3-13 last season, but the team's marketability could receive a boost from the prospect of increased ticket sales from fans eager to see Troy Aikman, UCLA quarterback whom the Cowboys are likely to take in the first round of the NFL draft.

"Despite their record last season they remain one of the most prominent franchises in all of professional sport," Modell said. "It's a matter of finding the right man, and they'll be sold. You need patience."

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Fort Worth's Curry fights media after loss

GRENOBLE, France (AP) — After losing his boxing title, Fort Worth's Donald Curry had to suffer verbal jabs, including a suggestion that he quit, during post-fight interviews.

The American boxer told reporters after losing to France's Rene Jacquot on a 12-round decision that he just was worn down, but others said Curry's problems in the ring seemed much more serious.

Promoter Bob Arum, the president of Top Rank, told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram that Jacquot's future looks bright, but his advice for Curry was less encouraging.

"He should retire," Arum said. "He should have quit after the McCallum fight."

Curry's first bid for the 154-pound title ended in a one-punch, fifth-round knockout delivered by then-World Boxing Association junior middleweight champion Mike McCallum in July 1987. Curry had won four fights since, but Arum remained unimpressed.

"He doesn't have it anymore," Arum said of Curry, whom he used to bill as the "best boxer, pound-for-pound in the world" during Curry's reign as undisputed welterweight (147-pound) champion. "And even if he does come back and beat a contender, where's the kid going with his career?"

Jacquot's victory was hailed as one of the biggest upsets in the history of French sport.

Jacquot thought otherwise.

He pointed to his head and said, "I knew that Donald Curry was a better fighter than I am, but in my mind I was the strongest fighter in the world. When I wanted to become world champion, I did it. So it is not an upset in my mind."

Asked about a rematch 20 minutes later, Jacquot said, "Yes, I can give it to him. But I know now that Donald Curry is not the best man in the world. And I want to fight in the United States — that has always been a big dream for me."

Jacquot's dream was Curry's nightmare.

"I'm all right," Curry said to trainer Paul Reyes moments after sitting down in the dressing room. "I just got tired."

He weakly slapped fives with Akbar Muhammad, the executive vice president of Top Rank, Inc., and his representative. Curry then asked if he could lay down.

"I'm all right," he repeated. "Guy just wore me down."

"Tell you what," Muhammad said. "You've had a helluva run. Two-time champ. You should go back home and decide what you want to do."

Lying on his back, eyes closed, Curry said quietly: "One more go. I'll fight him again."

Curry was asked about he had during training camp.

"I felt I was in the best condition in my whole life," said Curry, who like Jacquot is 27. "The seventh, eighth, ninth rounds ... my leg went. I just got tired. Then about the 10th round, I really got tired. I was winded."

Reyes, who has been at Curry's side for 19 years, began to pump the champ to pick up his pace in the corner after the 10th round.

Reyes told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram that he was disappointed for Curry. "Maybe Don took it lightly. Only he can answer that. But I don't feel that bad because he gave it all he could."

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