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Landry bids farewell to Cowboy players

Ousted coach asks players to do their best for Johnson

IRVING (AP) — Tom Landry tearfully bid farewell to the Dallas Cowboys Monday, saying he loved them and asking them to give their best for new coach Jimmy Johnson.

"It was hard to keep your emotions under control," said a red-eyed Landry afterward. "I tried to tell them that this crisis will pass, that you have to keep moving forward."

The 64-year-old Landry choked up and couldn't finish his speech to the players assembled in the lecture hall.

"It was one of the most difficult things I've had to do," Landry said. "It was hard saying goodbye to the players."

us in person from now on he would be with us in spirit."

Then Lockhart paused and added, "I couldn't stand much more."

Quarterback Danny White said he had never seen Landry break down like he did.

"I felt for him," White said. "It's rare you see him in a situation that's difficult for him to handle. It's something I'll never forget. It must have lasted only five minutes but time stood still, believe me."

White said he would stay with the team until he sees what develops.

"I'd still like to play another year," he said.

Landry spent 29 years as the Cowboys head coach, the only one in the team's history. His teams won two NFL championships and set a league-record of 20 consecutive winning seasons. The team went 3-13 last year, worst in the NFL, but Landry had hoped to eventually take them to another Super Bowl, the Cowboys' sixth.

Landry cleaned out his desk on Sunday, making room for Johnson, who also said goodbye to a football team Monday, the University of Miami Hurricanes. He coached at Miami five seasons, leading them to the national championship in 1987.

Johnson, a college roommate and football teammate of new owner Jerry Jones on the unbeaten 1964 Arkansas Razorbacks, will meet the Cowboys today. He has scheduled a 1 p.m. press conference.

"There was a better way to dump Tom," he said. "You could take two people with IQs of three, put them in a room together and let them brainstorm 10 minutes and they could have found a better way."

Jones told reporters in Little Rock Monday that he handled Landry's dismissal poorly.

"It did mean everything to me for Coach Landry to hear what I had to say in the manner I had to say it as quickly as possible, and that was done," Jones said. "We made every effort in the world. Frankly, Coach Landry would have known about it if we could have gotten to him."

Jones and Schramm flew to Austin Saturday, where Landry was spending the weekend, to tell him of the change. Reports of the transaction leaked out Thursday.

Former linebacker coach Dave Wannstedt who recently joined the Miami Dolphins' staff, and David Shula, the Dolphins' assistant head coach and passing game coordinator, have accepted positions with the Cowboys.

Johnson was also expected to bring the Hurricanes' offensive line coach Tony Wise, receivers coach Hubbard Alexander, defensive backs coach Dave Campo and defensive coordinator Butch Davis.

Landry's farewell speech preceded a mini-camp for the players Monday.

"There wasn't a dry eye in the room," said linebacker Eugene Lockhart. "Coach told us he loves us all and although he couldn't be with

just hanging around looking over everyone's shoulder."

He said he didn't ever want to coach again or get into politics.

"I can't stay inactive though, so I will have to do something," Landry said.

Schramm said his role would be outlined by Jones within the next month.

"I will do what I can to help the new owners make the transition and continue the Cowboys tradition," Schramm said.

Staubach feels Cowboys will greatly miss Landry

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Although not handled in an ideal manner, the parting of the Dallas Cowboys and Coach Tom Landry was inevitable, according to Roger Staubach, who quarterbacked the Cowboys during their glory years.

"I feel very sympathetic right now and I know that down deep he's (Landry) hurt, but the change was inevitable. Jerry Jones was very specific from the beginning that he wanted Jimmy Johnson as his coach," Staubach said Monday between presentations at the National Corn Growers Convention.

Landry, who guided the Cowboys through their first 29 years of play in the National Football League, was unceremoniously dumped this weekend by new owner Jones and replaced by the University of Miami coach.

Staubach said the suddenness of Landry's release made him wonder if his former coach could have been treated better.

"Probably, I would have waited awhile and I would have met more with Coach Landry. I think everyone would have liked to have seen Tom Landry have another year to bring the team back. The way it happened — it wasn't ideal," Staubach said.

"Coach Landry felt the team was young, I think he really wanted to be a part of the team coming back in a strong fashion," said Staubach, who led the Cowboys to two victories in four Su-

per Bowl appearances.

Staubach said he didn't put much stock in reports that Landry had become detached from the players in the last two or three seasons.

"I look at him as being the best at what he did," Staubach said. "Even when we were winning he was (so) concentrated (in his job) so much that he could have been looked at as detached. When you're losing these things are looked at in a different perspective."

"He knew how to get his point across. He has those darting eyes or he could just give you 'that look.' I don't think the game passed him by."

"One thing about Landry, or anyone in the limelight. You dissect them and you look at what you have. For 29 years Tom Landry was a class act. He was a very consistent person. He is not a phoney. He doesn't have any skeletons and he would change his style for his players. He's survived the time."

Under Johnson, Staubach said he believes the Cowboys will be a team on the move.

"I don't think there will be any problems with the new coach, although I think the players initially will miss Tom Landry more than they thought. I feel that Dallas Cowboys football is on its way up and that Johnson is stepping into a situation where he has a chance to bring the team back."

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Arizona leads poll after Sooners fall

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — When it comes to the top ranking in college basketball, the first time around is best, says Arizona coach Lute Olson.

Olson's Wildcats moved up a notch to No. 1 this week after a 77-75 victory Sunday over No. 9 Duke in East Rutherford, N.J. It was Arizona's second time on top this year and fourth in the past two seasons.

"I don't know that it will have much effect on us," Olson said Monday. "I think our players have been there, not just this year but, with most of them, a year ago."

"We'd like to finish the total season ranked No. 1," he said.

Arizona, 22-3, the fourth team to be honored as No. 1 this season, spent only one week on top the first time before an 82-80 loss to Oklahoma on Feb. 12. The Sooners then held the top rung for two weeks but dropped to fourth after a 97-84 loss Saturday at Missouri.

Georgetown and Indiana moved up one spot each to second and third as no teams dropped from or broke into the Top Twenty.

Duke held the top spot from the preseason through the first nine polls. Illinois replaced the Blue Devils for a week, followed by Oklahoma

and then Arizona the first time around.

Oklahoma's loss cleared the way for the Wildcats to regain the No. 1 ranking, and Sean Elliott made a 3-pointer and another basket in the last 53 seconds as Arizona seized the opportunity against Duke.

Elliott had made only four of 19 shots before his 20-footer from the top of the key, but Olson said he had no doubt the 6-foot-8 senior would come through.

Duke's Danny Ferry, who was guarding Elliott when the Arizona star hit a clutch 3-pointer, said after the game he expected to see the Wildcats regain the top spot.

Olson, whose squad made the Final Four last season after a total of six weeks atop the poll, said he'd like to have seen them pick Georgetown, which received five first-place votes and 1,219 points to Arizona's 54 first-place votes and 1,305 points.

He said he was more concerned with a season-ending road trip Thursday against Washington State and Saturday against UCLA.

The Bruins are still smarting from a 102-64 loss here, which ranks as UCLA's worst Pacific-10 Conference loss ever.

The nationwide panel of sports writers and broadcasters gave Indiana, 23-5, five first-place votes and 1,122 points for the No. 3 spot, while Oklahoma, 24-4, had one No. 1 vote and 1,083 points for fourth.

TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds

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