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Landry bids farewell to Cowboy players

Ousted coach asks players to do their best for Johnson

Tuesday, February 28, 1989

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 emo-tions under control," said a red-eyed Landry afterward. "I tried to tell them that this crisis will pass that

The Battalion

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

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 Mi-ami Hurricanes. He coached at Mi-ami 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.

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 pre-ceded 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

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.

"Tom wasn't the only one in the room who broke down," said linebacker Jeff Rohrer. "It was tough,

he was saying goodbye to 29 years." Rohrer, like other players, was still furious over the way Landry was replaced. "There was a better way to dump Tom," he said. "You could take two

people with IQs of three, put them n 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 a second after (club president) Tex Schramm 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 trans-action leaked out Thursday.

Landry had one year left on his contract but had been talking like he wanted to coach well into the 1990s.

It hasn't been determined how Landry's contract, which has one year left on it, will be handled. He is owed some \$800,000.

Landry said on Sunday he didn't want to stay with the organization,

Staubach feels Cowboys will greatly miss Landry

per Bowl appearances. Staubach said he didn't put much stock in reports that Landry had become detached 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 quar-terbacked the Cowboys during 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 perspec-

"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 an skeletons and he would change his style for his players. He's sur vived the time.

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

"I don't think there will be an problems with the new coach, a though I think the players in tially will miss Tom Landry mon than they thought. I feel that Dal las Cowboys football is on its wa up and that Johnson is steppin into a situation where he has chance to bring the team back."

Schramm said his role would be outlined by Jones within the new "I will do what I can to help!

new owners make the transition will have to do something," Landry continue the Cowboys tradition News s Schramm said.

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by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds

Los Angeles (Of the 55 sl this year, 15 ar out competitor At least four each last year in Commander L "These urba for a normal lif • Similar ba major U.S. cit crime, which o day, an averag possessing, sell to the FBI. Half to three

Duke's Danny Ferry, who was guarding Elliott when the Arizona

for the Wildcats to regain the No. 1 ranking, and Sean Elliott made a 3pointer and another basket in the

top of the key, but Olson said he had no doubt the 6-foot-8 senior would come through.

"We'd like to finish the total sea- TANK MCNAMARA"

Arizona leads poll after Sooners fall

comes to the top ranking in college basketball, the first time around is around. 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

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son ranked No. 1," he said.

Arizona, 22-3, the fourth team to honored as No.

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) - When it and then Arizona the first time

shots before his 20-footer from the

said Monday between presenta tions 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.

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.

"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 Cow-

just hanging around looking over everyone's shoulder. He said he didn't ever want to month.

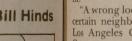
coach again or get into politics. I can't stay inactive though, so I

a season-ending road trip Thurs against Washington State and Satt day against UCLA.

The Bruins are still smarting fr 102-64 loss here, which rank UCLA's worst Pacific-10 Conferen loss ever. The nationwide panel of spo

writers and broadcasters gave diana, 23-5, five first-place votes: 1,122 points for the No. 3 spot, w Oklahoma, 24-4, had one No. 1 He said was more concerned with and 1,083 points for fourth.

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last 53 seconds as Arizona seized the opportunity against Duke. Elliott had made only four of 19

Oklahoma's loss cleared the way

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.

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

their glory years. "I feel very sympathetic right

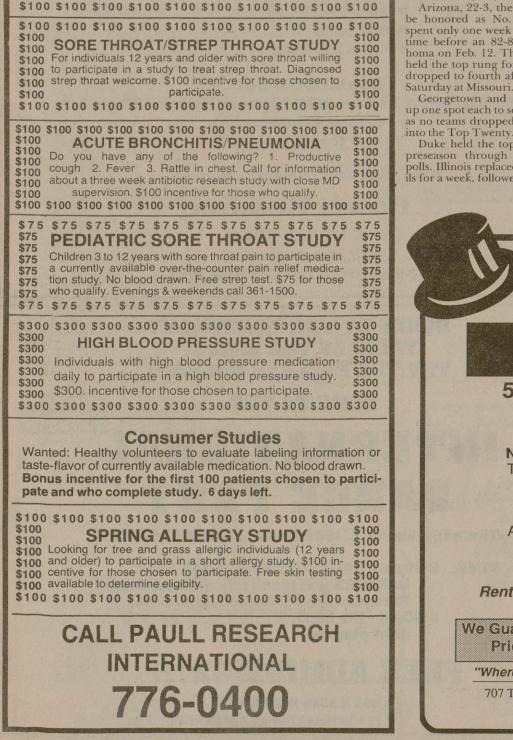
now and I know that down deep

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

The way it happened — it wasn't ideal," Staubach said.

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