

# Aikman, Pokes shut out by Saints 28-0

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The plan was to have no plan. And it worked, producing a 28-0 victory for the New Orleans Saints and ruining the NFL coaching debut of Dallas Cowboys coach Jimmy Johnson.

Saints coach Jim Mora said that Johnson, hired by new owner Jerry Jones in February to replace Tom Landry, had no track record to scout.

"We didn't really have a good idea of what we would see from these people, so we went in with a plan to adjust to what we did see," Mora said.

Mora said his own NFL debut was recent enough that he could sympathize with Johnson. Mora opened his fourth season with the Saints after moving over from the defunct United States Football League.

His debut was similar to Johnson's: on the short end of a ball-control offense.

"Don't remind me of those unpleasant thoughts," Mora said. "It's tough. Those opening games, there's a whole different atmosphere about them."

Johnson said he didn't feel any pressure from it being his first game, and didn't think his team did, either. "I didn't think of it as a first game," he said.

The Saints had the ball for 44

minutes, 2 seconds to 15:58 for Dallas.

Bobby Hebert didn't throw long, averaging only 7.3 yards per pass, but he completed 16 of 19 attempts.

"Only three incompletes? I didn't realize that," Hebert said.

It was the first regular season shutout for Dallas since the 11th game of the 1985 season. The Saints had never shut out an opening day opponent.

"I could sit here and give you a dozen reasons why we didn't get it done, but the bottom line is we just didn't execute," said Cowboy quarterback Troy Aikman, the first player taken in this year's college draft.

Aikman said the hoopla surrounding his and his coaches' debut had nothing to do with the defeat. "It didn't make me any more nervous than I've always been going into a ball game," he said.

The Saints used 19 minutes, 14 seconds on two first-half touchdown drives — the first an 8:21, 11-play, 74-yard march capped by Dalton Hilliard's 5-yard run; the second a 73-yard, 17-play drive that consumed 10:53. Craig Heyward went over from 1 yard out to end that drive.

The dominance continued in the second half, with the Saints control-

ling the ball for 10:01 of the scoreless third quarter and 11:04 of the final period.

New Orleans used 8:33, including the first 7:42 of the fourth quarter, on a 13-play, 89-yard drive to a 1-yard touchdown run by Paul Frazier.

There was little Aikman could do about it. Dallas netted 41 yards total offense through the first 30 minutes, having the ball just 6:19 and making only three first downs. Herschel Walker netted 3 yards rushing and Aikman completed 6 of 16 passes for 60 yards, but was thrown for a 23-yard loss on a sack by Saints cornerback Toi Cook at the Dallas 7-yard line.

Walker led Cowboy rushing with 10 yards on 8 carries.

"We never did really get the running game started," Walker said. "When you fall behind 21-0, what you have to do is come out and pass the ball."

Shepard's punt return came after the big sack. He took the ball at his own 44, broke through the coverage at about the Dallas 40, then eluded Cowboy punter Mike Saxon to score the touchdown.

Dallas pieced together its first consecutive first downs in the third quarter, driving from its own 4-yard line to its own 46 before having to punt.

Aikman was plagued by dropped passes, with even the reliable Walker dropping one.

Hilliard led New Orleans rushing with 83 yards on 22 carries, while Hebert completed 16 of 19 passes for 153 yards.

Aikman completed 17 of 35 for 180 yards and had two interceptions. An apparent touchdown pass of 22 yards to Michael Irvin with 1:56 left was nullified by a holding penalty on Dave Widell.

Dave Waymer, playing his first game at free safety after nine seasons as a Saints cornerback, had four tackles and one of the interceptions.

"Aikman is going to be a good quarterback," Waymer said. "One thing you don't want to do is play a mobile quarterback, and that guy can run."

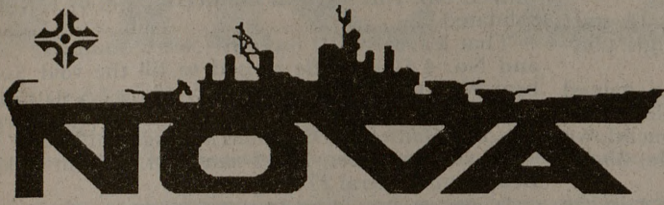
"Before the game, everybody was talking about the new owner, the new coach, the rookie quarterback. What they all forgot is that Herschel Walker is their main weapon."

"The guys up front did a heck of a job. They stopped Herschel, and they had Aikman running around and throwing off the wrong foot."

"It doesn't make any difference who the coach is when that's happening."

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## Giants drops Astros, 5-3

HOUSTON (AP) — Bob Knepper got his revenge but he didn't take delight in beating his former teammates. He just was happy that the Giants beat Houston 5-3 Sunday and widened their lead to six games in the National League West.

Bob Knepper held his former teammates to five hits over six innings and Pat Sheridan hit a three-run double in the first.

"I have no animosity toward them," Knepper said. Then, speaking about Houston's general manager, manager and owner, he said: "I didn't look at it as a chance to get back at Bill Wood, Art Howe or John McMullen. It was a business decision."

Knepper, 7-11, was released by the Astros July 28 and signed by the Giants Aug. 5. He gave up a two-run double to Gerald Young in the second inning and pitched out of a jam in the fifth.

"Some of those guys over there are my best friends," Knepper said. "I played with some of them nine years."

San Francisco, which lost the first

two games of the series, has not been swept this season. The Giants now return to Candlestick Park for a 13-game homestand.

"This was a big game for us," Knepper said. "The one thing we had to do was not get swept. It was such a big game as a team, you have to put that other stuff aside."

Rick Rhoden, 1-6, was knocked out after 1 1/3 innings in his shortest outing of the season. He allowed four runs and four hits.

"They've still got their hopes up but this dented that," Giants manager Roger Craig said. "We'd still be in good shape if we lost but we're in great shape now."

Houston goes on the road now, trying to make up a six-game deficit.

"We're still in there, we have three more games with them out there," Astros manager Art Howe said. "Everyone else said we had to sweep them but I said we'd stay in it if we won two out of three."

Glenn Davis hit his 32nd homer in the eighth off Lefferts. It gave Davis a new single-season high for homers, topping his total in 1986. Davis also singled off Knepper in the fifth.

## Becker overcomes Lendl for Open win

NEW YORK (AP) — Wimbledon whiz Boris Becker won his first U.S. Open on a sweltering Sunday, staking his claim to the world's No. 1 ranking by beating top-seeded Ivan Lendl in a four-hour struggle.

Frequently icing his legs and eating fruit during breaks, the second seed from West Germany took his fourth Grand Slam title 7-6, 1-6, 6-3, 7-6. He won his third Wimbledon crown in July.

That double success won't be enough to lift him past Lendl in the computer rankings. But Becker's strong serve and improved court command were enough to outlast the three-time Open champion in the 3-hour, 51-minute battle in temperatures that reached 110 degrees on the court.

For Lendl, it was a second straight long and disappointing Open final. After winning three straight titles from 1985-87, Lendl lost in five sets to Mats Wilander last year, surrendering the top ranking that he soon recaptured.

Becker, 21, now has won four consecutive meetings with the 29-year-old Lendl. They are 7-7 lifetime.

Becker's win gave West Germany a sweep of the singles championships at Wimbledon and the Open. Steffi Graf also won both.

It was Becker's first Grand Slam final anywhere but Wimbledon. His best previous showing at Flushing Meadow was the semifinals in 1986.

Lendl tied an Open record with his eighth consecutive final, something Bill Tilden did from 1918-25. The Czech, who now lives in Greenwich, Conn., less than an hour from the National Tennis Center, lost to Jimmy Connors twice, John McEnroe once and Wilander in previous

Open finals.

Becker won \$300,000, while Lendl earned \$150,000.

After the first-set tiebreaker, won 7-2 by Becker after moving ahead 5-0, Lendl easily took the second set. But Becker got a decisive break in the eighth game of the third set — just after Lendl had broken him — to take a two sets to one lead.

Becker was up a break in the fourth set, but couldn't hold serve in the eighth game. They went to another tiebreaker, which Becker won 7-4 with an ace and a service winner after losing the first two points.

As he did at Wimbledon, Becker threw his racket in the stands after winning the final point.

Becker, who had 11 aces and 11 double-faults, became the first German to win the American championship. With a section of fans who rooted home Graf the previous day shouting, "Boris, Boris," Becker stood at the baseline with his hands raised high after winning the title.

The West Germany nearly was out of the tournament in the second round. He was down two match points to Derrick Rostagno, but rallied to win with the help of a timely netcord.

After that, he said anything was "extra."

His extra turned out to be an Open championship.

Becker slowly moved to a 3-0 lead, holding serve in a nine-minute game before breaking Lendl in another long game. Lendl double-faulted on break point.

But Lendl came right back, winning the next three games and holding two break points in the seventh game. Becker saved those and a service winner gave him a 4-3 lead.

## Rockets' Lloyd ready to sign

HOUSTON (AP) — Lewis Lloyd, who was reinstated by the National Basketball Association following a two-year ban because of a drug violation, said he wants to move quickly in negotiations with the Houston Rockets.

Lloyd, who played for the Rockets for four seasons before being kicked out of the NBA 2½ years ago, was reinstated into the league Friday by NBA Commissioner David Stern.

"I'm just happy to get another chance," Lloyd said. "When I heard the news, I wanted to scream."

"You learn things as life goes on

and, hopefully, I'm trying to deal with my disease one day at a time."

As for playing with the Rockets, Lloyd said, "My intentions are to be in Houston."

After watching Mitchell Wiggins get reinstated six weeks ago, then have trouble agreeing on a contract with the Rockets, Lloyd said he hopes to sign a contract next week.

Steve Patterson, general counsel for the Rockets, said he hopes negotiations with Lloyd can be expedited.

"We look at Lew as one more piece to the puzzle," Patterson said. "Lew has already expressed an interest in getting a contract finalized."

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\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300	\$300
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