

Dorsett gets wise

Former Cowboys star enjoying final pro days in Super Bowl

DENVER (AP) — After 12 seasons of uncommon effort and one of extraordinary patience, the career of Anthony Drew Dorsett draws to a close where it began.

Tony Dorsett finds delicious irony in the fact that his last game — although as a non-playing member of the Denver Broncos — will be in the Super Bowl in New Orleans, where

maybe it would be all right found out later that ligaments no nerve endings.

"It was Aug. 3. I knew the was a wash." And as an aging ning back hoping for one more son, the ligament tear repre career-ending injury.

"It would have been easy discouraged," he said. "But I hard in rehabilitating the worked it back in shape. I never up. I didn't want to be a cripple."

He now sees the injury as a thing of a blessing in disguise. Football has taken up more of his life. It will be something miss.

Asked to evaluate his career said, laughing, "It's one I can with. To be a running back in NFL at 183 pounds and when see some of the hits they dish this league, sometimes I wonder I played this long. I'm the time leading rusher, and I would play only five years. leaf through the pages of the book some day, I can smile what I've done."

Dorsett already has made some quires into a future career in casting. "I want to get involved broadcaster in radio or TV," he "I'll try to prepare myself dig. There are three networks out which might have some interest.

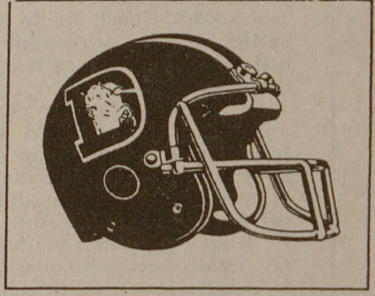
After eight 1,000-yard and 77 rushing touchdowns, followed record-setting performances at Pitt that earned the Heisman Trophy in 1976, he it won't be easy to cut his ties game.

He said he "felt butterflies" ing the Broncos' 37-21 victory Cleveland in the Championship game last Sunday was thinking I wish I had just more opportunity. I wanted out there."

He likes the Broncos' cl against the San Francisco 49ers the Super Bowl.

"I've got the feeling this team give San Francisco all it can handle," he said. "This team has depth more balanced, with a better of run and pass, and it has a defense than the last two years played in the Super Bowl."

"(Quarterback) John Elway presses me so much. He's like Roger Staubach in having that intense competitive drive. John has the aura about him that Roger had."



Dorsett's Dallas Cowboys beat the Broncos in his rookie season for his lone Super Bowl ring.

"To end up where I started ... what a great ending this would have been to my career," Dorsett said. "I wouldn't miss this one. This is my last hurrah."

Dorsett, 35, leaves the game as the No. 2 all-time rusher in NFL history with 12,739 yards, trailing only Walter Payton at 16,726.

He leaves it not as a still-vibrant running threat but as a player rehabilitating from major knee surgery last August.

But he leaves it with no regrets, and with an eye toward a career in broadcasting.

Dorsett sounds about 98 percent sure his playing days are over.

"Never say never," he says. "The odds of me being able to play again are not insurmountable. But I don't foresee me playing any more football. I'll be 36 in three months. I don't want to put my body through this any more. I've enjoyed it. I think it's time to move on."

This wasn't the way he wanted to go out.

While running a simple pass pattern in training camp, Dorsett planted his left knee and it gave way. Dorsett had been hit thousands of times during his career with no serious repercussions. This time there was no contact.

"It just crumbled like a piece of spaghetti," he said. "I knew it was pretty serious. The funny thing is, the pain went away and I thought

Gaston named Coach of Year for Jays' season

HOUSTON — Cito Gaston, who took over a losing Toronto Blue Jays team in May and managed them to the American League Eastern Division championship, is the Texas Professional Coach of the Year for 1989.

He took over in May with the Blue Jays near the bottom of the AL East with a 12-24 record and guided them to a 77-49 record thereafter. The Blue Jays won the division by two games over the Baltimore Orioles. They lost to the Oakland Athletics in the playoffs.

Hogs, Longhorns squaring off

SWC basketball action heats up this week

The Arkansas Razorbacks and Texas Longhorns, both unblemished in Southwest Conference basketball play, finally will have their long-awaited showdown Thursday night in Fayetteville.

The Hogs (6-0) and 'Horns (5-0) meet on national television (ESPN) at 6:30 p.m. in the first of two meetings within a two-week period. They play again at 1 p.m. Sunday Feb. 4 in Austin in yet another nationally televised matchup (ABC).

The 12th-ranked Hogs moved a half-game ahead of Texas on Saturday with a solid 100-84 over Texas A&M University in College Station, traditionally a difficult place for Arkansas to play.

In other games, surprising Rice earned its fourth consecutive league triumph, a 58-55 overtime verdict against Southern Methodist; Texas Christian upset Houston 89-73 in Fort Worth, and Baylor snapped a 15-game conference losing streak with a 58-50 victory over Texas Tech.

Before it takes on Texas, the Razorbacks have a toughie on Monday night when the Houston Cougars come calling. In another game that evening, the 'Horns have to travel to Lubbock to take on Texas Tech, winless in league play.

On Wednesday night, SMU is at Houston, Rice is at Texas A&M, and Texas Tech is at TCU.

On Saturday, A&M is at Houston, Rice is at Texas, Texas Tech is at SMU and TCU is at Baylor. Arkansas is at Alabama-Birmingham in a non-conference game.

For Arkansas coach Nolan Richardson, it was a big victory in a G. Rollie White Coliseum. He got two technical fouls in the first half.

"Coach Richardson told us he hasn't won here in more than two years," said Arkansas center Oliver Miller. "We did this one for the coach. When he got his second technical foul in the game, we remembered him telling us this week how much he wanted to win here. It really got us pumped up."

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