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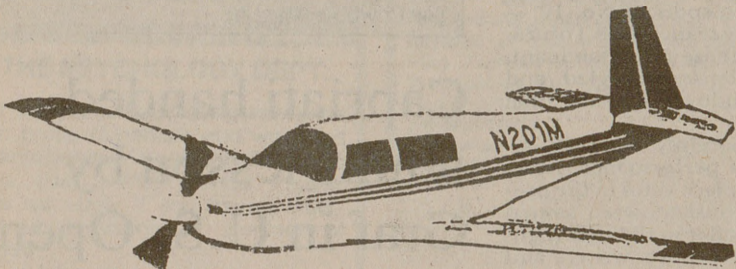
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three points. Field goals are considered easy points. Talbot made almost 69 percent of his field goals last year — equaling the national average of kicks made.

Maybe with the smaller width of the posts, these easy points will not be as easy. The uprights are reduced from 23'4" to 18'6" while the current width of the hash marks on the field will stay the same.

So the angle to the center of the goal is increased, thus making the kick more challenging. The NCAA Rules Committee made this change hoping to keep football a team sport rather than an individual sport, which is basically what kicking is.

Since all colleges will switch next year, high schools will have to switch as well. This is where a problem is created.

High school football teams, for the most part, run on a limited budget. Buying new goal posts is not

cheap, especially if they just recently purchased some of the wider posts, not expecting the new rule to pass.

I remember in high school everyone was always worrying about extra costs and "extravagant" items for the lab classes and such were always put off because the school just couldn't afford it at the time. But, since football is so dear in the hearts of many, that next year I could drive by my alma mater and see those new uprights gleaming in the sun.

So now we're left wondering if the NCAA Rules Committee has made a brilliant move or if it has just created more havoc. One way or another, kickers will still be in the same place as before, either being the scapegoat for a loss or receiving a short-lived hero's applaud for winning.

So, I guess we'll have to wait and see next year. Meanwhile, I'll go make a round by my high school.

Cowboys

against the San Diego Chargers. Dallas gave Houston second and third round draft picks.

"Alonzo is the best blocking fullback in the league and a winner through and through," Johnson said. "Now we only have one piece of the puzzle left."

Johnson said he knew of no immediate movement in talks with Smith, who is asking \$700,000 a season on a three-year contract. The Cowboys are offering about \$600,000 with a \$1 million bonus.

"It feels good to get back to coach Johnson again," said Highsmith. "He's running the same offense we had in college. I know what he is all about. His main thing is to win."

Highsmith was Houston's leading rusher in 1989 with 531 yards.

He rushed for only 35 yards on five carries in the preseason.

Highsmith said he didn't like playing for then-Houston coach Jerry Glanville.

"I've regressed since I went to Houston," Highsmith said. "My pass receiving and running skills went down. All they wanted me to do was block."

Highsmith passed the Dallas physical although he was bothered by a sprained foot.

"I hurt my foot a couple of weeks ago and it's been painful," he said. "I'll still be ready to go on Sunday."

"I've never been a loser and I came here to win," Highsmith said. "It was frustrating just wasting my time in Houston. I thought I'd be the top fullback in the NFL but never got an opportunity to prove it."

The Cowboys also obtained guard John Gesek from the Los Angeles Raiders for a future draft pick Monday.

To make room for the moves, the Cowboys put placekicker Ken Willis and running back Tim Smith on recall waivers. If they aren't claimed in 24 hours the Cowboys can bring them back to the team if they so wish.

Head scout John Wooten said Highsmith could be the missing ingredient the Cowboys need to get their running game going.

"I like this guy second only to breathing," Wooten said. "He can play."

Open

the quarters, beating Jay Berger 7-5, 6-0, 6-2.

Graf next goes against 12th-seeded Jana Novotna, who beat No. 7 Katerina Maleeva 6-4, 6-2. Fourth-seeded Zina Garrison also advanced to the quarters with a 6-1, 7-5 victory over Nathalie Tauziat of France.

Graf's victory came on the same day when she was ranked No. 1 for the 160th straight week, a record for both men and women.

It was obvious early in the first set, when Capriati seemed tentative and her usually solid forehands and backhands floated long or into the net, that she was suffering a case of stage fright.

"At the beginning I couldn't hit a ball," said Capriati, overly excited "just going out there knowing that you're on the stadium court, and everybody's going to be out there watching."

Capriati had said before the match that she was "psyched up" and ready to attack Graf. She said she told herself at the start of play, "keep moving, attack a lot, serve well."

But nothing came. Instead, she stood and watched Graf as if trying to record in her memory how she plays.

"If you don't lose, you don't learn," Capriati said. "Every match you lose, you learn something from it. At first, I wasn't doing anything,

not making shots, not coming to the net. Next time I can't let that happen. She's definitely still at another level."

Graf sympathized with her. "I think there was a lot of pressure on her. I think she was tight," Graf said. "She didn't play as well as she can play. I expected a tough, hard-fought match."

Capriati, who reached the semifinals at the French Open and has nearly \$7 million in commercial endorsements in her first year as a pro, acknowledged she was disappointed with the loss, but displayed a typically mature attitude.

"This is not the end of the world for me," she said. "I'll think about it, and continue on to the next tournament. I feel great. I know now how it is to play in a Grand Slam. I learned so much, just playing one match. It's been a great year for me. I think I've done well, mainly getting experience."

Becker and Cahill engaged in a 3-hour, 14-minute dogfight in which the momentum changed repeatedly. Cahill, who called Goran Ivanisevic's effort in a third-round loss "gutless," played as courageously as possible against Becker.

Cahill, who beat a limping Becker here two years ago, won eight straight points in the fourth and fifth games of the first set as he weathered Becker's hard serves and sometimes wild shots.

Southwest Conference Roundup

Tech's Dykes praises SWC's weekend play

LUBBOCK (AP) — The Southwest Conference put aside its controversies over the weekend and got down to playing some impressive, hard-knocks football, Texas Tech head coach Spike Dykes said Monday at his weekly press conference.

"The Southwest Conference looked all right out there," Dykes said of victories by No. 13 Texas A&M and Rice and a narrow loss by Baylor to No. 7 Nebraska.

"I hope those teams start playing worse by the time they play us. They looked tough."

For weeks, speculation that Texas A&M and Texas were looking to leave the Southwest Conference dominated headlines. But on Saturday, action on the field took precedence as Texas A&M defeated Hawaii 28-13, Rice whipped Wake Forest 33-17 and Baylor suffered a 13-0 loss at Nebraska.

Texas Christian was outmanned by Washington State 21-3. "I'll tell ya, going in, Baylor had no business even being on the same field with Nebraska, but they played a great defensive game," Dykes said. "They have got a heckuva defensive line. They're front four could go bear hunting with a switch."

Dykes, who is preparing the Red Raiders for their season opener at No. 17 Ohio State Saturday, said he would like to "take a page out of Baylor's book when we play the Buckeyes."

Dykes is counting on his defense, which features eight returning starters from last year's 9-3 team, to anchor the Red Raiders until a young offensive line can mature.

"We are not going to shut out Ohio State, but we have to contain their offense which features some of the best players in the Big Ten Conference," Dykes said.

Dykes singled out all-Big Ten quarterback Greg Frey, fullback Scottie Graham and center Dan Beatty as players Tech will have to control.

Dykes said the Buckeyes' Alonzo Spellman may be the best defensive lineman in the country.

"He's unbelievable," Dykes said. "Their defense has great athletes and they are tough. Our young offensive line is going to look up and see guys with teeth missing, stitches all over their faces and tattoos. That will grow you up in a hurry."

Dykes said he has shown his team pictures of the Buckeyes' famed horseshoe-shaped Ohio Stadium to prepare them for the near 90,000 fans expected to attend Saturday's game.

A visiting team has not beaten Ohio State in its home opener since 1978, when Penn State beat the Buckeyes, 19-0.

But Dykes says his team showed last year with wins at Oklahoma State (31-15) and Texas (24-17) that the Red Raiders can win on the road.

Dykes said questions he had with Tech's kicking game about a week ago have cleared up.

He said Lin Elliott, who connected on only nine of 19 field goals last year, "has improved tremendously this fall" and freshman walk-on Mike Delagerheim will likely be the starting punter.

"I believe our players are ready for (the Ohio State) game," Dykes said. "They are up for the challenge and will play their fannies off."

Baylor's Teaff presents minimum attendance policy

HOUSTON (AP) — Despite lukewarm reception from several key Southwest Conference figures, Baylor Coach Grant Teaff's idea to set attendance criteria for SWC membership will be discussed during Friday's conference presidents' meeting in Dallas.

Teaff said he favors setting attendance minimums at a level deemed adequate by the conference, with any school failing to meet the minimum over a set period of time denied league membership.

"We could say that each school has to average 30,000 — or maybe 35,000 — in home attendance," Teaff told The Houston Post. "I don't think that any school that really commits itself to playing Division I football could fail to reach 30,000."

Last year four SWC schools failed to average 30,000 football fans. The University of Houston drew an average of 28,449; Texas Christian, 24,856; Southern Methodist, 21,922 and Rice, 18,540.

Houston Athletic Director Rudy Davalos said he disagrees with Teaff's plan.

"You can't base it strictly on attendance," Davalos said. "There are all kinds of ways you can generate revenues. We're probably going to go to something in our league where there's a guarantee where we pay everybody, say \$150,000. They pay us the same when we play there — that way it's a wash."

"I guess everyone of us could come up with self-serving ideas that could make sense. Maybe I'll bring up one that says if you haven't been to the NCAA Final Four or the Cotton Bowl in the last 10 years, you shouldn't stay in the conference."

Rice Athletic Director Bobby May said he thinks Teaff's idea is worth considering.

"I think everyone is clearly convinced everyone could do a better job of putting more people in the seats, and I think conceptually you would be expected to have a certain number of people in the seats," May said.

But he also said mandating minimum attendance probably is unnecessary.

"Our whole conference is on an upswing. What happened in recent weeks has drawn a lot of attention to the conference and maybe now everybody will appreciate it," May said.

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