

Cowboys riding off into sunset at ol' OK Corral

It was a cold, windy January day when Arkansas duke Jerry Jones rolled into Dallas with his saddlebag of gold and held up the Cowboys front office. The little old Texas town could do nothing to stop him.

Scott Wudel

Jones forced out "Big Tex" Schramm and town favorite Tom Landry and replaced them with himself and his long-time sidekick Jimmy Johnson, who had been stirring up trouble out in Florida. Jones, Johnson and their gang made a lot of promises but found them hard to keep.

Times were hard for the two newest Texans. The people didn't take to their kind of folk. The town, heck, the whole state, reacted to Schramm's and Landry's ousting as if it were some kind of hangin'. Johnson found the doors of the local saloon slammed in his sunbeaten face. Jones' southern drawl couldn't even win him a shot of whisky at the bar.

But the two sidekicks forged on. They went out in search of people who could help their cause. They hired out the fastest gun in the West in an Oklahoma boy named Troy Aikman. They already had the services of someone named Herschel who Texans thought was the strongest man in the state. Things were gonna change, darn it. The long drought in Texas was nearing its end.

But trouble still lay on the horizon. So the two amigos put their heads together and came up with a dustball of a plan.

Johnson told his buddy they could supplement the gang with a boy he knew in Miami named Steve Walsh, who had quite a reputation as a leader. Jones blew a bowl full of wooden nickels to get Walsh, and the town immediately wanted to know who Johnson was going to deputize as his main man.

Jones and Johnson also used some of Landry's leftovers in "Wild Bill" Bates

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Dykes hoping for rain, snow Tech must find way to disarm UH Run-and-Shoot

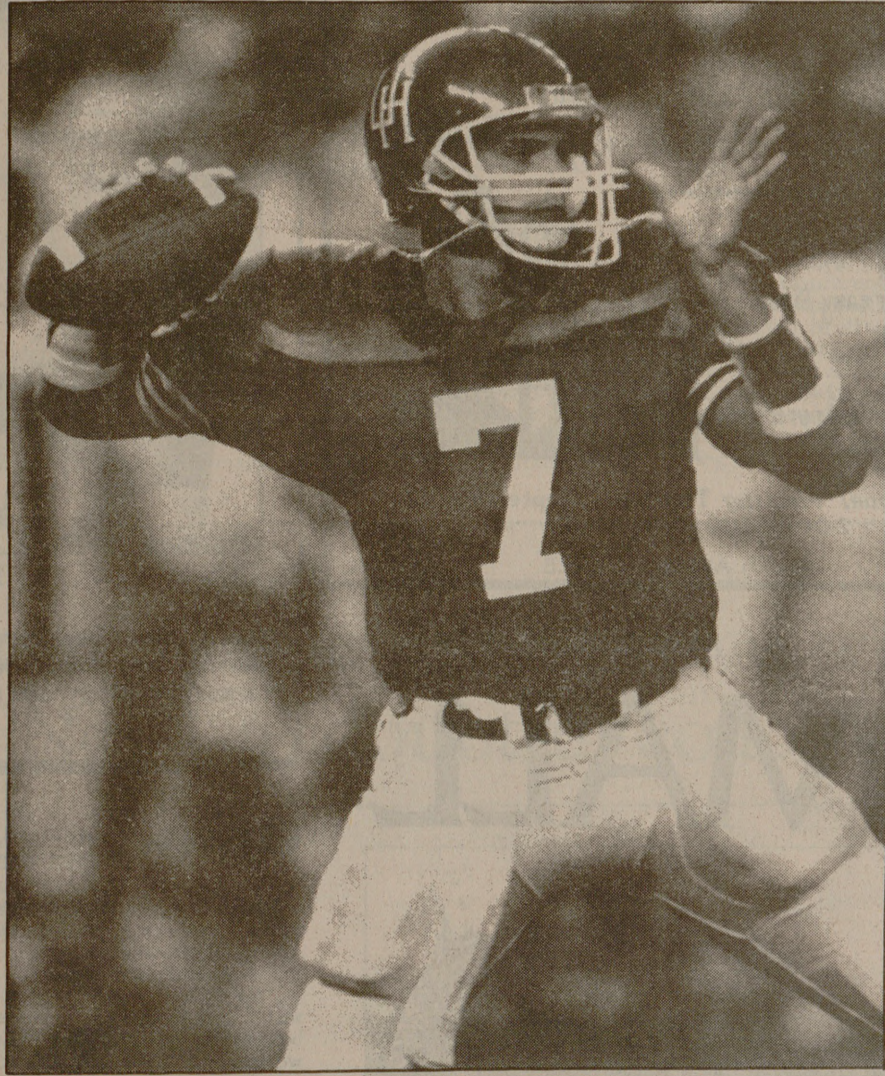


Photo by Mike C. Mulvey

Houston quarterback David Klingler had no problem stepping in for Andre Ware in the Cougars' opening season win against UNLV. Texas Tech coach Spike Dykes said he hopes Klingler has a bit harder time against the Raiders.

LUBBOCK (AP)

—Texas Tech coach Spike Dykes is calling upon any means possible to disarm the pigskin grenades of Houston's aerial assault—even the weather.

"Maybe we could get rain or snow or maybe we could get a 40 mile per hour wind blowing," Dykes said. "That might help."

Houston's air attack was slowed by a driving snowstorm when the two teams met in Lubbock two years ago. Barely able to find the goal line, the Cougars shoveled their way into the end zone late in the fourth quarter for a 30-29 victory.

The Red Raiders and 18th ranked Cougars kick off the Southwest Conference season Thursday night in a game televised nationally on ESPN. Kickoff is 7:07 p.m. CDT.

It will mark the first live television appearance in over three years for Houston, who is coming off NCAA probation.

Texas Tech linebacker Charlie Rowe fears the Cougars may want to show off.

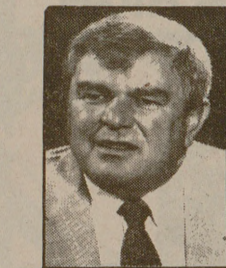
"They are going to try and show the country what the run-and-shoot is all about," he said. "Hopefully, they won't be able to use us as an example."

The scoreboard-busting offense, masterminded by Cougar coach John Jenkins, averaged 53.5 points and 511 yards passing per game in 1989.

Houston became known as the "best team never seen" due to the television blackout. But the lack of exposure could not keep the Heisman Trophy from Andre Ware, who smashed 26 NCAA passing and total offense records.

Houston, now led by quarterback David Klingler, defeated Nevada-Las Vegas, 37-9, Saturday and Dykes noticed no dropoff from last year's pass-crazy offense.

"It's scary when they get to rolling because they don't ever huddle," he said. "You don't know whether to send somebody in or not send somebody in. And boy, when they line up under that center, (the receivers) scatter like a covey of quail."



Spike Dykes

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Glanville takes 'jerk' remark back about Pardee

HOUSTON (AP) — After calling Houston Oilers coach Jack Pardee a "jerk," and after Pardee responded by saying Glanville ought to know a jerk when he saw one, Glanville has reconsidered. Now, he's calling himself a jerk.

The Houston Post reported Wednesday that Glanville, who coached the Oilers until the end of last season, is apologizing for comments about Pardee and insists he was not referring to the state of Texas on Sunday when he said "Texas can kiss my butt."

Glanville's initial comments came in the aftermath of his Falcons' 47-27 thrashing of the Oilers in the NFL season-opener for both teams.

Glanville told reporters he was sending the game ball to the 1989 Southern Methodist University football team that

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A's cruise by Mariners, 9-3

SEATTLE (AP) — Rookie Dan Howitt's first major league hit, an RBI triple, ignited Oakland's five-run sixth inning as the Athletics beat the Seattle Mariners 9-3 Wednesday.

Scott Sanderson (16-9) matched his career high for victories, set with Montreal in 1980.

Sanderson went six innings, allowing six hits and three runs.

Ken Griffey Jr. drove in his 40-year-old father, Ken Sr., for the first time since Ken Sr. arrived in Seattle on Aug. 29.

Griffey Jr. homered after his dad walked in the first inning.

The Athletics sent nine batters to the plate in the sixth, scoring five runs to break a 3-3 tie.

Two of the runs were unearned because of second baseman Harold Reynolds' throwing error, one of three by the Mariners.

Mike Gardiner (0-1), who started for the first time in the majors, was the loser.

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