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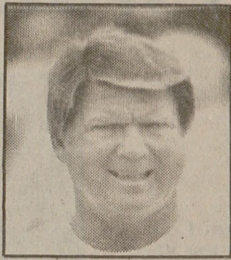
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Cowboys ready for 49ers

IRVING (AP) — Dallas coach Jimmy Johnson said Tuesday that his downtrodden Cowboys "will be pumped" playing the unbeaten San Francisco 49ers, but admitted it would take something from the NFL twilight zone for his team to upset the defending world champions.
 "Our players know that sometimes strange things happen," Johnson said of a possible upset. "Granted, it would be a strange thing if we beat the 49ers."



Johnson

Francisco is a 10-point favorite. Johnson said San Francisco might be the best NFL team of all time. "Our guys are upbeat and looking forward to playing the 49ers who just might be the best team to ever play the game," Johnson said. "I know we'll give a maximum effort." Ironically, the game will mark the Texas Stadium debut of Montana. San Francisco and Dallas have played in Texas Stadium just once since 1980. That was last year, and Montana didn't play. Sun Devil Stadium in Phoenix is the only other NFL stadium where Montana has never played.
 "He's the best quarterback I've ever seen," Johnson said. Johnson said defensive players can read most quarterback's eyes, but not Montana's.
 "He's the most difficult quarterback I've ever seen trying to read his eyes," Johnson said. "If you try to read Montana, you're going to be wrong."
 Johnson said he hopes that someday Troy Aikman can become another Montana.

"A quarterback has to know when his people are going to be, and that's one of the problems with our offense," Johnson said. "We're just inconsistent, and it hurts Troy. He has to learn to scan the field like Montana does and keep the defense from reading his eyes."
 Johnson said the Cowboys are just about over Sunday's 25-9 loss to the New York Jets.
 "The team is excited about being on national TV, and I think we will play well against the 49ers," Johnson said.
 The 49ers have won an NFL record 14 consecutive road games and have conquered 16 consecutive opponents, including playoff games.
 The Cowboys got some good news from the team doctors on Tuesday. Offensive tackle Mark Tuinei won't have to go on the injured reserve because of an injury to his right knee.
 "There's not as much swelling as there had been, and we are setting a target date of Thanksgiving to get him back into the lineup," Johnson said.

TCU's Vogler named Player of Week after 690-yard pass bonanza

FORT WORTH (AP) — Matt Vogler figured he would spend the rest of the season on the bench as Leon Clay led the Texas Christian Horned Frogs to one comeback after another.
 That was before Clay broke his thumb two weeks ago in a 26-21 loss to Baylor.
 Vogler, a junior transfer from Auburn, got the call against the Houston Cougars on Saturday and he did something no quarterback had ever done before: passed for 680 yards in one game.
 Vogler earned The Associated Press Southwest Conference Offensive Player of the Week award for the performance. He became the first to win the honor with a losing team.

"We've found a confident quarterback and the team has confidence in him," said TCU coach Jim Wacker. "Vogler did a tremendous job. And I think it also shows that our triple shoot offense is for real."
 TCU became the first team to out-pass Houston (690-563) since the Cougars began running the run-and-shoot offense.
 "It was a fun game," Vogler said. "I've got mixed feelings, of course, because I wish we could have won. We gave it a great shot."
 Vogler started TCU's second game of the season but lost the job when Clay came off the bench to rally the Frogs to a come-from-behind victory over Missouri.
 "I tried to make the most of my opportunity," Vogler said.
 TCU's school-record 739 yards in total offense was an NCAA record for a losing team.
 "This is not a good time to be a defensive coordinator in college football," Wacker said. "Watching Houston is what got us interested in the passing game."
 It's the third time a TCU player has won Offensive Player of the Week honors this year. Clay won it twice with his heroics.
 Powell is a strongside linebacker who beat out Jason Burleson for the job after missing part of the 1989 season with a cracked elbow. He missed spring practice with a shoulder injury.

Rice still taking SMU game seriously

HOUSTON (AP) — It's been a while since the Rice Owls football team had to worry about overconfidence.
 But that's exactly what has coach Fred Goldsmith concerned as Rice (4-5) prepares to play host to Southern Methodist (1-7) Saturday with a chance to post a winning season for the first time since 1963.
 "We haven't won two games over Division I opponents since 1985," Goldsmith said. "We're not good enough to let down. It's been 11 years since we won five football games. If we don't get No. 5 we won't have a chance at a winning record."
 Not since the Jess Neely era has a Rice team finished with a winning record. Neely's 1963 Owls finished the season 6-4, and then began the Owls' 27-year non-winning streak.
 A winning season became a possibility with Rice's 19-11 victory over Arkansas last week in Little Rock. After Saturday's game in Rice Stadium the Owls close out the season at home against the Baylor Bears.
 The Owl's triumph over the two-time defending SWC champion Razorbacks was their first against Arkansas in a decade.
 Goldsmith disagrees with the early line saying the Owls are 23-point favorites.
 "I see it as an even game," Goldsmith said.
 Rice broke an 18-game losing streak with a 35-6 victory over Southern Methodist last season. It was SMU's first game coming off the NCAA death penalty for rules violations.
 "I sense that they think if they are going to get a victory in the Southwest Conference, it is going to be against Rice," Goldsmith said.
 Still, the thought of a winning season is tantalizing to the Rice players.
 "I'm sure it's in the back of people's minds to win six," senior wide receiver Courtney Gravin said. "But we've got to take it to SMU. A 6-5 record can't come if we don't take it one step at a time."

Only probation stands in way of Cougars' title

Associated Press
 If college football's national championship picture seems muddled, it's perfectly clear in Houston, where the Cougars are the only undefeated and untied team in the country.
 And also uninvited.
 The Cougars, serving a three-year NCAA probation, are barred from the bowls, but not from The Associated Press poll. After winning eight straight games and leading the nation in passing offense with 448.8 yards per game and total offense with 564.0 yards per game, they are ranked No. 3 behind Notre Dame and Washington in the poll of broadcasters and sports writers.
 Coach John Jenkins thinks they ought to be better than that.
 "We should be ranked No. 1," he said. "If we're the only team without a blemish, we ought to be ranked No. 1."
 There is, however, one blemish —

a probation cloud that hangs over all the accomplishments. The 15-page, single-spaced bill of particulars in Houston's folder at the NCAA charges the Cougar program with all manner of misdemeanors.
 "The (infractions) committee determined that a considerable number of major violations of NCAA legislation occurred in the university's football program," the report said.
 "These violations included the provision of cash and extra benefits to student-athletes on occasions so numerous that the former head football coach and his assistants, even after they began to tell the truth, were unable to recall the number of occasions they gave money to student-athletes."
 Those crimes led to the NCAA probation and the decision of the American Football Coaches Association to bar Houston from any honors, including voting for the Cougars in the United Press
See Coogs/Page 9

Pils Continued from page 7
 start, Davis put together one of the finest classes for A&M in recent years.
 He brought in five junior college transfers for this year, but the best is in what he's already garnered for next year. Two big transfers from the tradition-rich Big East Conference in Tony Scott (Syracuse) and David Edwards (Georgetown) are already lined up for 1991-92 and both are currently practicing with the team.
 Also ready for next year will be 6-4 Artie Griffin from San Antonio, who is ineligible for this year for failing to meet entrance requirements. Davis already has non-binding oral commitments for the early signing date from 6-5 Damon Johnson, from Converse Judson, and 6-9 Kevin Barker from Longview Pine Tree.
 But those things are for next season — what A&M as a student body needs to concentrate on is this season. It may take Davis and his staff one to four years to get this program

on its feet, so the team will need support from the word go.
 The team may look pretty bad at times, but somebody, somewhere must have faith in a belief that things will turn around and the Aggies will become a force in collegiate basketball. Look no further than the blueprints for the new \$35 million Special Events Center and there is evidence that someone believes in this dream.
 Another reason for optimism is Davis, who at 30 is considered to one of the brightest young coaches in America. In two years at Idaho Davis was 50-12 and he took the Vandals to two NCAA tournament appearances.
 So give this new coaching regime a chance, he doesn't have a awful lot to work with, but the man carries with him an aura of success. He's been successful wherever he's coached and he's certainly gained the confidence of whoever's footing the bill for that new arena.

Rockets outrun Nugget system, 145-135

HOUSTON (AP) — Kenny Smith had 35 points, including seven foul shots in the final 1:09 Tuesday night and the Houston Rockets became the latest team to spoil Denver's high-scoring system, beating the Nuggets 145-135.
 Denver, in its first season under run-and-gun coach Paul Westhead, is 0-3. The Nuggets are giving up an average of 149 points per game.
 Otis Thorpe had 21 points and 23 rebounds and Akeem Olajuwon added 24 points and 13 rebounds as Houston won its first game in three tries. The Rockets led by as many as 16 points in the first half and were ahead 111-101 entering the fourth quarter.
 Denver cut Houston's lead to 136-133 with 1:41 to play on two free throws by Walter Davis but Smith kept Houston ahead with three foul shots.
 Both teams had six players score in double figures. Todd Licht scored 27 points and Orlando Woolridge had 26 for Denver.
 The Nuggets reduced their deficit to 115-109 with 10:05 to on a basket by Avery Johnson, but a basket by Olajuwon and a basket and two free throws by Thorpe kept the Rockets in the lead at 121-109 with 8:17 to go.

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