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UT's Dodds denies move to PAC 10

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN - University of Texas athletic director DeLoss Dodds said Monday the school has no plans to leave the Southwest Conference, responding to a published report that Texas is an expansion target of the Pacific-10

In a copyright story, The Dallas Morning News quoted two Pac 10 officials as saying the chief executive officers of the league discussed plans to bring in the University of Colorado and Texas at an Oct. 20 meeting in Seattle.

'First of all, we did not know they had a meeting," Dodds said. Second, we haven't been contacted. Third, our position has not changed. We are a member of the Southwest Conference and are working for its improvement.'

The Morning News reported in Monday editions that the Pac 10 plans to expand to 12 teams, with Colorado to become its 11th member and Texas the 12th.

"They're approaching Colorado first because they think it's ready to go and Texas is not," said one official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity. "Texas is the more important

Pac-10 commissioner Tom Hansen said he has been instruct-

ed not to comment on expansion. 'I won't confirm or deny anything," Hansen said. "Once you start down that path, you never

stop."
Colorado athletic director Bill Marolt said he had no knowledge of the Pac-10's discussion.

Well, there are all sorts of rumors about all sorts of schools," Marolt said. "I really don't have anything to say.

An official within the Pac-10 told the newspaper "in the next few weeks and months, there will be movement at the presidential level" regarding Colorado. He said the Pac-10 presidents had been "careful" not to take a vote on the issue.

Texas Chancellor William Cunningham was out of town Monday and did not return a phone call from The Associated Press.

Season forces Dykes to change goals

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LUBBOCK — Entering this season, the Texas Tech Red Raiders were optimistic about getting their first Cotton Bowl berth. Now they'll be happy to finish .500.

Head coach Spike Dykes admits his team's 3-5 overall record, 2-2 in Southwest Conference play, has forced him to lower his goals. The important thing, he says, is to

keep some goal in mind.
"You've got to decide exactly
where you're headed," Dykes said Monday. "If you're not careful, it's easy to pack it in."

Tech, beaten by the Texas Longhorns 44-33 on Saturday, now must win its final games -Rice, TCU and at home against Houston — to finish above .500.

It's highly important that we get our heads up and get ready to play this week," Dykes said. There's still a lot to play for. A winning season, an outside chance for a bowl bid and pride come to mind pretty quickly."

Dykes had predicted better for his team. Then came a heart-breaking 19-17 loss to Texas A&M and Saturday's defeat, which all but eliminated the Red Raiders' hopes of a bowl invitation.

Going into the season we thought we had a chance to be highly competitive in the conference, to be a contending factor," Dykes said. "But when we've come right up to the lip of the cup in the conference we haven't been

able to win the close games. 'Against Texas, when they had to go to the well, it worked," he said. "When we had to do it, didn't."

The Longhorns, who have beaten Tech in three out of the la four years, won despite being stopped on 13 third-down at tempts. Texas didn't secure the victory, however, until Peter Gardere ran for an 11-yard touch down with 3:29 left.

Tech also helped the Long horns' cause by losing four furbles in the first half.

"Texas made several bi plays," Dykes said. "We ha flashes defensively, but Tex made the plays they had to in der to win. We just didn't pl well enough to beat a good tea You can't make the mistakes made and expect to win."

Cowboys enjoying NFL's best record for first time since 1983

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IRVING - The Dallas Cowboys, making the long climb from a 1-15 start under Jimmy Johnson in 1989, have reached a plateau that even their most veteran players don't recognize.

The Cowboys, at 7-1, own the NFL's best record halfway through the season.

"It's a good feeling but we have a big task in the next eight games," said defensive end Jim Jeffcoat, a 10-year veteran. "I don't remember the last time we've been two games up in the NFC East.'

The last time the Cowboys had the best record in the NFL was after 10 weeks in 1983, when they were 9-1. Dallas hasn't had a two-game lead in the NFC East since the sixth week of the 1985 season, when it

Entering the second half, Washington and Philadelphia are 5-3, two games behind Dallas. That's a sharp contrast to an 0-8 start in 1989.

"Our start this year is about as far away from a couple of years ago as you can get," said center Mark Stepnoski.

The Cowboys were riding especially high at Valley Ranch Monday following their 20-10 revenge whipping of the Philadelphia Eagles, who had defeated them 31-7 four weeks earlier.

The coaches told us we could have through Monday to celebrate, then we'd have to cut it off, said fullback Daryl Johnston.

The fact that Dallas plays the Detroit Lions on

Sunday in the Silverdome is sure to be sobering. Lions twice beat the Cowboys at home last year, 10 in the regular season and 38-6 in the playoffs.

'We have enough tape on those two games keep our guys from walking around with heads," said defensive coordinator Dave Wannst whose team replaced the Eagles as the NFL's best

'We owe them (the Lions) one," said defens tackle Tony Casillas.

Emmitt Smith notched another milestone on S day, when he became the first runner to crack 100-yard barrier against the Eagles in 54 gam Smith carried 30 times for 163 yards

"We were pounding them," said offensive lin man Nate Newton.

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Added Stepnoski, "They hadn't given up? yards to a running back forever so it had to happy ventually. Why not to us? Emmitt was great."

Smith, the NFL's leading rusher last year, said, was the biggest high I've had, getting over 100 ya against those guys. You want to have a 100-ya game, but you don't count on it.

Smith had averaged 59 yards against the Eag

"It's quite an accomplishment," said Dallas co Jimmy Johnson. "But there is still more to do. have a tough game in Detroit and we haven't pla

well up there the last two times. Oddsmakers made the Cowboys seven-point vorites for Sunday's meeting with the Lions.

Johnson decides to retire again hour

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

INGLEWOOD, Calif. - Because some people didn't want to play against him, Magic Johnson

won't play again after all. Johnson retired again Monday, mainly be-cause his return prompted several NBA players to say they felt at risk by competing

against someone who has the AIDS virus.

Johnson 'It has become obvious that the various controversies surrounding my return are taking away from both basketball as a sport and the larger issue of living with HIV for me and the many people affected," Johnson said in

a statement. After talking it over with his wife, Cookie, and his family, Johnson said, "I decided I will retire from the Lakers."
Dr. Michael Mellman, John-

son's personal physician and the Lakers' team doctor, said Johnson

was physically fit to play.
"This is not based on his doctor's advice," Dr. Mellman said. "It's his lifestyle decision."

Several NBA stars, including fellow Dream Team member Karl Malone, said they were concerned about playing with Johnson for health reasons.

One NBA general manager,

speaking on the condition that he ably thought he would be ab not be identified, was quoted in a story published Sunday in The New York Times as saying that Johnson should step aside to

avoid any controversy. Malone was quoted in the story as saying, "Just because he came back doesn't mean nothing to me. It may be good for basket-ball, but you have to look far be-

Contacted Monday, Malone added: "Look at the cuts and scratches I get now. All of a sudden, the last second of the game, and here comes Magic to the basket. It's the same as, what if I had the virus as a player and what if a Buck Williams or a Charles Barkley comes in?

"It is a physical game and you do get kicked and scratched," Malone added. "I do have concerns, just like anybody would have. It's not a thing of kicking a man when he's down.

Johnson, the NBA's career leader in assists with 9,921, made his announcement four days before the beginning of the 1992-93

The 33-year-old had shocked the sports world last Nov. 7 when he announced his retirement after testing HIV positive.

A source close to Johnson, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said the retirement was tied to the controversy surrounding the player's comeback and not his health.

Another source familiar with the situation, who also declined to be identified, said Johnson "prob-

any kind of controversy becau he's Magic. But he discovered the wasn't going to happen.

It was only Friday night, aft the Lakers' final exhibition ga that Johnson had said he and team were ready for the upon ing season. Johnson made onl of 10 field-goal attempts wh scoring eight points in the Lake 103-92 loss to the Cleveland Cav liers at Chapel Hill, N.C. played 28 minutes and had f

He sat out a few minutes in the first quarter of that game when got a scratch on his right arm. scratch required a bandage, wh he covered with a sweatband.

Johnson played in five of Lakers' eight preseason gam averaging 10.4 points and nea 12 assists a game. The Laker were 4-1 with Johnson in the lim

up.
''I've come to realize that simply isn't possible to return playing in the NBA and still of tinue to be involved in all t things I want to do," Johns said. "Although my family given me their support to rett to the Lakers, I feel that it is me important to spend my time w them as well as continuing w HIV and AIDS education proje than in the competitive and ti

consuming world of the NBA."
After leading Michigan State
the 1979 NCAA championsh Johnson went on to average 1 in 12 seasons for the Lakers, lea ing them to five NBA champ

Norwood

Continued From Page 7

evitable. History should have shown the Oilers that playing for the last-minute field goal, to quote a certain, well-known conserva-tive, just wouldn't be prudent at that juncture. Del Greek had more than the outcome of one game on his shoulders. He also had the legacy of so many kickers before him that had folded in the same situation. That was too much pressure for a kicker who hadn't attempted a field goal since the first drive of the game, and was now facing a stiff, cold, Three Rivers breeze.

Three words for Pardee to consider - play-action pass. It works, and it would have

worked to perfection when Carlson handed off to White with 19 seconds left in the game. The Steelers knew that Houston would hand off, and they packed the middle of the line of scrimmage to stop it. At the very least, a pass after a play-action fake could have resulted in better field position for Del Greek. Ideally, it would have resulted in a touchdown. But, of course, that would be too risky.

Perhaps Pardee should take notes from New Orleans head coach Jim Mora. In the past, Mora's play calling was more conservative than a tent revival led by Pat Buchanan and Rush

But this year, Mora has opened his mind and the New Orleans offense. He's taking chances for a change, a shift in thinking that was essential to

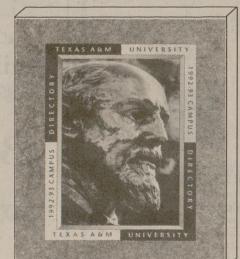
the Saints' 23-21 comeback win over Tampa Bay Sunday. That win put the Saints at 6-2 and in the driver's seat of the NFC West title race.

To save the rest of Houston's season, and maybe even to save his own job, Pardee might want to consider a few left-wing advisors. How about Darrell

"Mouse" Davis, the inventor of the run-and-shoot and a former assistant of Pardee's. Or maybe Atlanta assistant June Jones, the former Houston quarterbacks coach who might be growing weary of Jerry Glanville's sideshow in the Georgia Dome. Heck, why not John Jenkins? The Walter Mondale of offensive coaches might just be ready to hit the big time.

Whatever the choice, Pardee needs to open things up. The last thing Houston needs is a kinder, gentler football team.

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