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# Cowboys stun 49ers 30-20, earn sixth Super Bowl berth

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO — The Dallas Cowboys capped their rise from the NFL's depths at the same spot their downfall began.

The Cowboys, the league's youngest team, qualified for their first Super Bowl in 14 years Sunday with a 30-20 victory over San Francisco, the team that dominated the '80s.

"Fantastic! Fantastic! Fantastic!" Dallas coach Jimmy Johnson told his players from a podium in the locker room.

Dallas, 1-15 just three years ago and now 15-3, will play Buffalo for the NFL championship Jan. 31 at the Rose Bowl. The Bills beat Miami 29-10 to win the AFC title.

The Cowboys are early 7-point favorites to give the NFC its ninth straight league championship against a team that has lost the last two Super Bowls.

Candlestick was the perfect place for the Cowboys' championship comeback.

Dallas' slide from top to bottom began 11 years ago in San Francisco, when Dwight Clark made "The Catch" that put the 49ers in the first of the four Super Bowls they won that decade.

Now, they could be sending the 49ers on their own slide.

It will be a record sixth Super Bowl appearance for Dallas, but its first since 1978, when it lost 35-31 to Pittsburgh, third of the Steelers' four Super Bowl wins. It was that record four Super

# Norwood

Continued from Page 4

broke the story during the pre-Cotton Bowl hype. And if the four players were paid for work they did not do this summer, why did the story not come out until late December?

If this type of argument sounds like a desperate plea for leniency on the part of the NCAA, it's no accident. A&M carries Sherrill's legacy squarely on its shoulders, so the possibility of the NCAA investigating the Aggies for the least little infraction is a real one.

Head coach R.C. Slocum is fully aware of this, as he has to almost beg boosters at A&M Club meetings around the state to watch their step around his players.

At the same time however, many players are set up with jobs working for alumni, making for a potentially dangerous situation.

Slocum, as well as every other major college coach in the country, is fighting a losing battle in this area.

There is no way that anyone can babysit a horde of boosters, each of whom has a mind of his or her own.

It's hard enough to keep track of 80 or 90 players, much less more than a hundred thousand alumni.

Maybe the answer is to legalize booster payments and take coaches off of pins and needles. Allow anyone not employed by the school in question to grease the palms of anyone they want.

If they want to spend their money that way, let them.

The chances of the NCAA adopting this kind of attitude are slim and none, which means coaches will continue to suffer due to circumstances beyond their control.

Face it, many players who are offered money will take it in a second, basically because many of those same players need it.

Heck, if a prominent A&M booster who for some reason loves journalism offered me money for nothing, it would be next to impossible to say no.

All speculation aside, A&M stands to make it to next season relatively unscathed. The suspension of the four players before the Aggies' biggest game of the year should serve to soften the blow from the NCAA, who has yet to announce they are even investigating A&M.

And the predicted hit to the Aggies' recruiting haul has yet to arrive, as A&M has received commitments from four of the top 100 high school players in Texas.

The real damage could come to the reputations of both A&M and the conference as a whole. This type of thing goes on everywhere, but the media focus is on A&M. And the last thing the Southwest Conference needs is another public relations nightmare.

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