

# Mr. Smith doesn't go to Washington

## Redskins scalp Cowboys 35-16 in Monday night opener at RFK Stadium

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Don't blame the Dallas Cowboys' 35-16 loss to the Washington Redskins Monday night on Emmitt Smith's holdout.

The whole Dallas team failed to show up. Mark Rypien threw for three touchdowns, including one to Art Monk at the end of a 99-yard, third-quarter drive as the 1991 Super Bowl champions beat the 1992 version.

In fact, the preordained dynasty of the '90s showed clear signs of post-Super Bowl malaise.

The Cowboys lost the ball four times on fumbles, twice on punts, dropped a half dozen passes, never came close to sacking Rypien and were penalized seven times for 63 yards.

They would have lost by more had Washington made its share of mistakes in coach Richie Petitbon's first game as Joe Gibbs' successor.

It got so bad that on a fourth-quarter punt, rookie Tom Thomas was waving all his Dallas teammates away from the bouncing ball.

It wasn't just the absence of Smith, the league's leading rusher the past two years — rookie Derrick Brown, his replacement, gained 75 yards in 16 carries and was guilty of only one gross misdemeanor, a dropped pass with a lot of room to run.

It was a general run of mistakes that began with a fumbled snap on the first play of the game. And they were accompanied success — an 80-yard TD pass from Troy Aikman to Alvin Harper that gave the Cowboys a 6-0 lead was followed by a missed extra point by Lin Elliott.

Washington came right back after that to go 80 yards in 13 plays, the final one a 15-yard pass from Rypien to Ricky Sanders early in the second quarter. Rookie Reggie Brooks had 48 yards in eight carries

on the drive. Then came two gift touchdowns six minutes apart on either side of halftime that gave the Skins a 21-6 lead.

One, a 1-yard run by Brian Mitchell with 40 seconds left in the half, followed a recovery by Pat Eilers of a punt that bounced off James Washington as he was trying to get away from the ball at the Dallas 17.

The second, a 1-yard TD pass from Rypien to Ron Middleton, was set up by a 36-yard pass interference call on Dallas' Larry Brown.

The Cowboys finally got going after that one — taking just 2:13 to go 80 yards with Aikman hitting Harper on a post pattern from 32 yards out for the score.

But they couldn't benefit from a horrible Washington mistake — Mitchell, thinking he was in the end zone, knelt on the 1-yard-line with the kickoff and the Redskins had to take over there.

Instead, the Redskins went 99 yards in 13 plays and ate up more than seven minutes as Rypien, who was 22 of 34 for 161 yards, hit Monk from 15 yards for the TD. Rypien, who did not have a three-TD game last season, was 9 of 10 for 79 yards on the drive.

Elliott had a 22-yard field goal with 6:30 left to bring Dallas within 12 points, hardly close enough on this night. In fact, it was followed by the last mistake — a kickoff out of bounds that gave Washington field position on the 35.

Mitchell, who carried 20 times for 116 yards, took advantage of that by bursting up the middle for 29 yards on fourth down with 2:12 left to cap the scoring.

Aikman completed 17 of 29 passes for 269 yards, 140 by Harper on five receptions.

## Clay

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Ryan pitch on the radio while I'm sweating to death in the hot Texas sun and cursing the guy who invented barbed wire seems to be a natural part of my life. (And one I will sorely miss when the Express takes his bow after the season ends.)

Listening to a game on the radio gives you all sorts of advantages. It allows you to do things while you're listening.

Your hands and eyes are free to work on something else while your mind gets its baseball fix. This is a definite contrast to the television which keeps your butt tied to the EZboy recliner and your eyes glued to the set.

Radio coverage of baseball is completely different than TV coverage. The fact that watching baseball on TV is surpassed only by golf, bowling and ping-pong on the scale of most boring events on Earth tells you some-

thing about television coverage. Commentators leave you to follow the action while they babble on about their own pathetic careers in the game for innings at a time. They usually say something idiotic about the cameraman's fascination with the roving audience shot which is really a thinly disguised attempt to search the crowds for buxom blondes in tight shirts.

Commentators on radio have the added responsibility of bringing the ballpark to the listener.

The play-by-play man relays everything happening on the field to his audience. The color commentator continuously offers pertinent information about the game, the teams, batters and pitchers. They talk about the game because their audience depends on their information.

There is nothing more climactic than listening to the description of a game-winning home-run or suspenseful as listening to the last at bat in the ninth

with the winning run on third. Every move on the field, every wince of the pitcher, every hit to the gap is followed in detail. The emotion of radio coverage is contagious.

On the lobotomy box you are subjected to commercials (one of the true evils of the world), toupees worse than Sam Donaldson's and the ridiculous gibberish of ex-jocks trying to be witty.

In most cases, radio commentators are professionals at their craft who love the game and enjoy their work. Granted, the Rangers have the greatest radio coverage in the nation so I might be a little spoiled. But the radio is as much a part of my love for the game as the ballpark itself.

Seeing a game in a Major League stadium is an experience that can't be replaced for the average baseball fan. But if you can't afford the time or the trip to the ballpark, then turn on the radio and listen to baseball's in-

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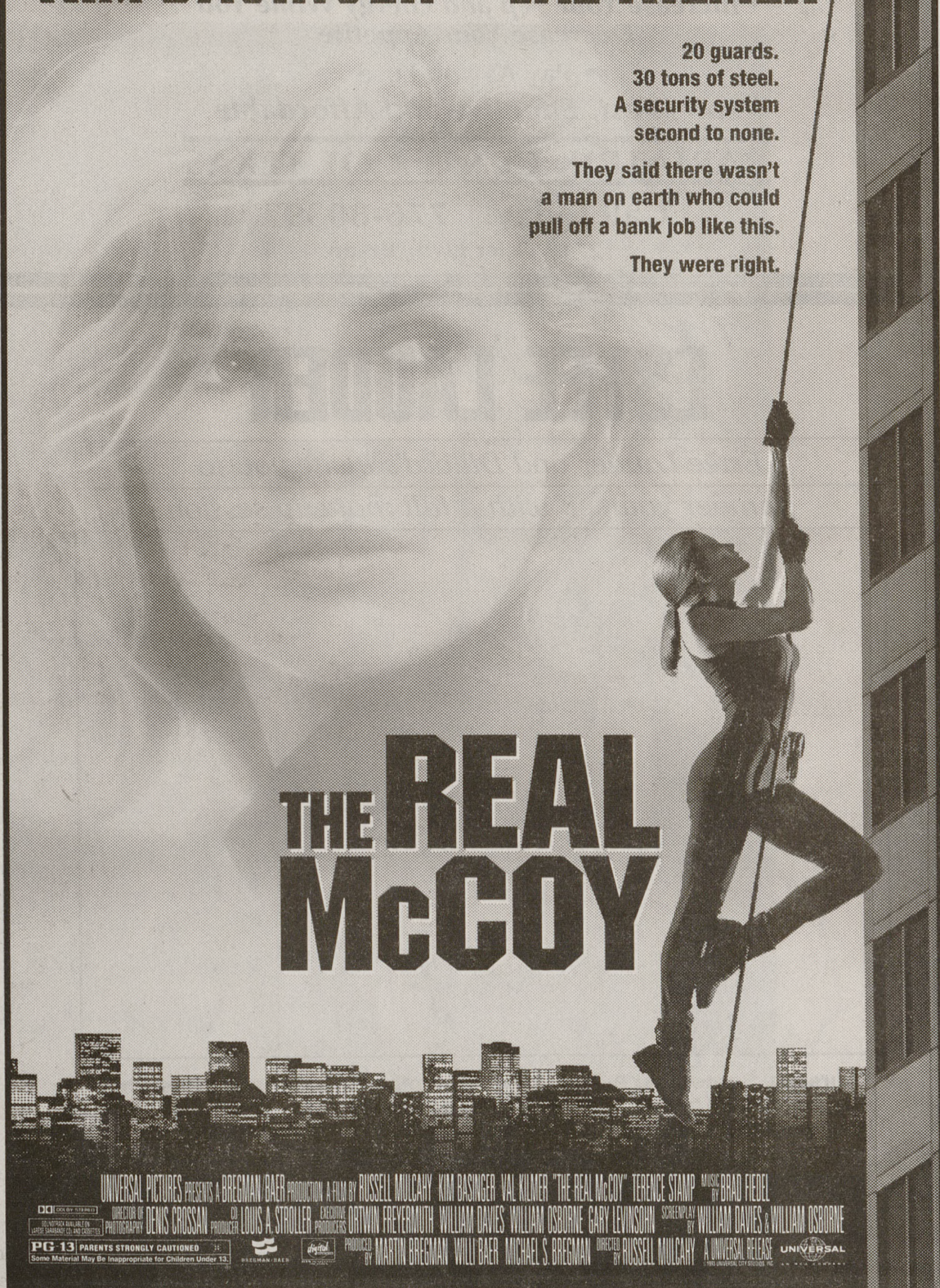


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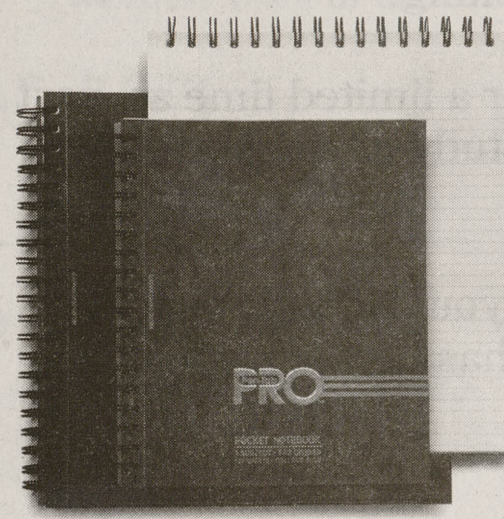


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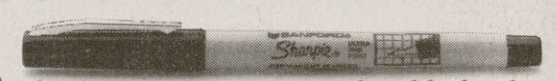
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