

Dallas officials fight to keep Cotton Bowl game

Weather an important factor in decision of moving the New Year's Day game to Irving

DALLAS (AP) — It is now up to Dallas city officials to come up with a plan if they hope to keep the New Year's Day Cotton Bowl game at the state fairgrounds a couple of miles southeast of downtown.

The Cotton Bowl Athletic Association has proposed that, effective Jan. 1, 1996, the post-season game be moved from its longtime home in Fair Park to Texas Stadium, which is only about 5 miles northwest of downtown but is actually not in Dallas, but in suburban Irving.

The proposal was contained in a plan submitted Monday to the NCAA Division I-A conference commissioners, CBAA president John F. Crawford said.

However, Mayor Steve Bartlett and other city officials reacted strenuously in opposition to Crawford's announcement, and Crawford said later in the day that he would submit to commissioners any city counterproposal to keep the

game in downtown Dallas.

Cotton Bowl officials must compete this year with other bowls for the right to remain a top-rank, New Year's Day college football bowl game. The conference commissioners have said they expect to retain only the Rose Bowl and three other major bowls for New Year's Day.

"Over the past few weeks, it's become abundantly clear that if we were to make the first cut, we had to consider moving the game to Texas Stadium," Crawford said.

A major factor in the decision was the "perception" among college football and network television officials that the downtown stadium is too exposed to inclement winter weather, Crawford said.

In talks with bowl officials, Jerry Jones, owner of the Dallas Cowboys and suburban Irving stadium where they play, proposed installing a retractable cover for the hole in the stadium's roof.

Jones was out of his Irving office Monday and unavailable for comment, his secretary said.

Since 1937, when Crawford's father-in-law, oilman Curtis Sanford, founded the Cotton Bowl, the game has been played in the Fair Park stadium whose name it bears.

"Without question, the football game has enjoyed a great tradition. However, I think it's im-



portant that we be clear that the tradition is the game itself, not where the game is played," Crawford said.

"The bottom line is, if we don't have a game, we won't have to worry about where to play it,"

he said.

Regarding the Fair Park stadium's exposure to winter weather, Crawford acknowledged that Texas Stadium would be little less exposed without the retractable roof.

However, he said the problem is not so much the reality of the weather problem, but the perception of one among national college football and network officials.

That is the problem that city officials must address and resolve if they hope to keep the game downtown, Crawford said.

"If we can cure the major perception of weather (problems), then it'll help. If we can't, then there's a problem," he said.

The concession came as Bartlett lobbied Crawford

and other association members before and after Crawford's scheduled announcement of the proposal Monday.

Bartlett removed Crawford on Friday from the chairmanship of a city panel that was considering the need for a new indoor arena.

He said Crawford had "betrayed" the city with the decision to move the Cotton Bowl game to Irving and Texas Stadium.

However, Crawford told reporters on Monday that he warned Bartlett last year that a move to Texas Stadium was possible, and again two weeks ago that such a move was "a strong possibility."

After the news conference, Bartlett said he had responded then by offering Crawford the city's help in keeping the game in Dallas.

"He said he understood," Bartlett said. "I assumed from that that either that option would be taken off the table, or at least the Cotton Bowl would come back to the city with an opportunity to discuss it. Neither of those two things happened."

Crawford conceded that he might not have spoken clearly to Bartlett.

"I think the shortfall in the process was that the mayor and perhaps others did not have the opportunity to talk again before we made the final decision," he said.

Brazil beats Russia in their fourth World Cup soccer championship

Brilliant Brazil is back at the World Cup.

The Brazilians gave every indication Monday they are ready to challenge for an unprecedented fourth world soccer championship. They beat undermanned Russia 2-0 and it easily could have been more lopsided.

"There's still a lot more the team can do," coach Carlos Alberto Parreira said after Romario and Rai scored and Brazil dominated. "This was our first game in 30 days. There were a lot of opportunities lost."

There certainly were a lot of opportunities created. With their magical touch, the Brazilians won nearly every loose ball and created wide open spaces to run with it. When they got it near the goal, either Romario or Bebeto, their star strikers, got a chance.

"There was a total supremacy by Brazil and we even lost several chances to score three or four times more," Parreira said.

In a night game, Saudi Arabia played the Netherlands at Washington.

Brazil, one of the favorites in this event, needed a strong ear-

ly showing to answer criticism it was not up to the quality of previous championship teams. That criticism, particularly concerning the defense, seemed ill-founded at Stanford Stadium.

Bebeto set up Romario for the first goal, in the 27th minute. Capitalizing on a fifth corner kick in a five-minute span, Bebeto lofted the ball over the Russian defense. Romario shook off defender Vladisav Ternavski and deflected the ball with the outside of his right foot into the right corner past goalkeeper Dmitry Kharin.

Kharin kept things close until Romario was pulled down by Ternavski in the penalty box in the 53rd minute. Rai took the penalty kick, the first of the tournament, and put it into the right corner.

Brazil goalie Claudio Tafarel rarely was challenged in registering the shutout.



The Russians, a team in revolt leading to the World Cup, were without four key players who refused to play for coach Pavel Sadyrin. They were also missing captain Viktor Onopko, who was suspended for the World Cup opener.

Parreira issued an ominous warning after Brazil's dominating performance.

"I'll tell you, the trend is for the team to improve as the tournament progresses," he said.

In other World Cup news: Two U.S. starters might miss Wednesday's game with Colombia. Eric Wynalda, who scored the Americans' goal in their 1-1 tie with Switzerland on Saturday, has a severe rash. Claudio Reyna is bothered by a right hamstring injury.

One man received minor gunshot wounds and a policeman was injured after fighting broke out between police, home fans and Moroccan immigrants in Verviers, Belgium. Belgium beat Morocco 1-0 Sunday.

The daily Le Soir newspaper said 200 to 300 Belgian and Moroccan fans were watching the game on television when the fighting erupted.

Texas pounds Chicago to end losing streak

Rangers 12, White Sox 6

CHICAGO (AP) — Ivan Rodriguez hit a go-ahead, two-run double as the Texas Rangers scored seven runs in the eighth inning Monday night to beat the Chicago White Sox 12-6 and end a six-game losing streak.

White Sox starter Jack McDowell took a 6-2 lead into the eighth, but for the third straight start the Cy Young winner got a no-decision when the bullpen couldn't hold on.

McDowell hit Dean Palmer

with a pitch and gave up a single to Manuel Lee and RBI double to Oddibe McDowell before leaving in the eighth.

Pinch-hitter Chris James followed with a run-scoring single off Dennis Cook to make it 6-4 and Jose Canseco had an RBI infield single off Dane Johnson (1-1), cutting the lead to 6-5.

Rick Honeycutt (1-2) was the winner in relief.

Kevin Brown (5-9) lasted five innings-plus and had to leave with a hyperextended right hand and wrist.

Houston scrapes by Denver

Astros succeed in eighth attempt to overcome Rockies at Mile High Stadium

Astros 5, Rockies 4

DENVER (AP) — Jeff Bagwell and Scott Servais hit two-run homers, helping Doug Drabek post his 10th victory as the Houston Astros beat the Colorado Rockies 5-4 Monday night.

The Astros overcame two rain delays to win at Mile High Stadium for the first time in eight tries.

In the second inning, Mike Simms hit a one-out double off Greg Harris (3-7).

Servais followed with his sixth homer.

Craig Biggio led off the third with a walk and scored on Bagwell's 20th homer.

John Hudek pitched the ninth for his 11th save.

The Rockies got single runs in the first and third innings.

However, Drabek (10-3) avoided further damage by working out of jams.

Colorado loaded the bases in the first on two singles and a hit batter.

Charlie Hayes hit an RBI single with one out.

But with the bases still loaded, Drabek struck out Mike Kingery and Joe Gi-

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