

# Lions hold their own in Dallas

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP) — Wayne Fontes has been telling anyone who would listen that his Detroit Lions can play with the big boys. After their 20-17 victory over the Dallas Cowboys Monday night, it looks like he's telling the truth.

It has been a slow climb and Fontes has taken a lot of criticism along the way. Some of it was earned. It was Fontes who kept changing the Lions' offense and playing musical chairs with his quarterbacks.

A lot of his moves have turned out well:

—He made Barry Sanders a No. 1 draft pick, when some NFL gurus thought he might be too small.

—He used a second-round pick on a kicker, something almost unheard of in the NFL.

—He pushed for a big, left-handed quarterback who had been riding the bench in Miami for four years.

Sanders carried 40 times for 194 yards against the Cowboys. Scott Mitchell passed for 134 yards and two touchdowns.

And Jason Hanson kicked a 44-yard field goal with 32 seconds left in overtime to seal the triumph. It was the second time this year Hanson has won a game for the Lions (2-1).

"When we went into the ballgame, we said, 'Let the good ballplayers win this game,'" Fontes said Tuesday. "When you

think of our good ballplayers you think of Barry Sanders, Herman Moore, Scott Mitchell.

"We've got a good kicker, too. Jason Hanson is one of the best in the NFL. I think with him I've got the guy who can win it."

"I think we have to go a ways yet to be a team like the Dallas Cowboys," Fontes said. "They have a good football team, they're strong in every phase. But let's hope we can get there."

"We're not where we want to be. We have to get better. I want to emphasize that. We have a long way to go. But this was a big win. It was on the road, it was Monday night, and it showed that we are a good football team."

# Red Sox fire Hobson as manager

BOSTON (AP) — Boston Red Sox manager Jim Leavelle was fired Tuesday after losing the team's first two games in the season.

"I believed in my belief that this day would happen," Hobson said during a news conference at Fenway Park. "I'm not going to burn any bridges. We have new faces come in, I want to bring in new faces."

Speculation on Hobson's future intensified when Duquette became general manager last Jan. 27, after serving in that capacity for the Montreal Expos.

It increased when the Sox faltered after getting to a strong start this year.

Duquette did not name a successor to Hobson. He said he was considering a list of candidates with more experience at the major league level, "an experienced veteran baseball man."

"Butch gave his best efforts for the last three years. Are we holding him responsible for everything with the club? The answer to that is no," Duquette said.

The Red Sox were 54-19 in the strike-shortened 1994 season, 17 games out of first place in the AL East.

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# Lady Ags

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the Lady Aggies have defeated since 1991, when they upset the seventh-ranked University of Texas Lady Longhorns in College Station.

Corbelli said even though the team lost two games over the weekend, several players excelled with strong performances.

"Suzy Wente was outstanding, Dana Santleben really ripped up Colorado and Andrea Williams showed us a really strong game," Corbelli said. "These are players (Santleben and Williams) who have not been getting a lot of playing time, but really came on

strong for us."

Suzy Wente, an All-American candidate for the Lady Aggies, said the weekend action typified the team's up-and-down play during the early stages of the season.

"The first two matches (against Notre Dame and Michigan) were not so good because we were really tired and not really as focused as we should have been," Wente said. "But against Colorado, I was happy with our play."

The Lady Aggies are completing a tough part of their schedule that includes four matches within five days including three opponents ranked in the Top 15.

Wente said playing SWC and non-conference opponents are both very important to the team, although for different reasons.

"We are really going to strive

to do well in the conference, and really get fired up to play those teams," Wente said. "But how we play against the other teams, like Colorado and Notre Dame, will affect our post-season play because of the NCAA selection committee."

Texas Tech is coming off a third place finish at the Louisiana State Tiger Classic. The University of Maryland Terrapins are the only common opponent between A&M and Tech so far in the young season. The Lady Aggies opened the 1994 season by defeating Maryland in four games while Tech was beaten in three straight games by the Terrapins two weeks ago.

After tonight's game, the Lady Aggies next play on Wednesday, Sept. 28, against at G. Rollie White Coliseum at 7 p.m.

# Diener

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more than he or anyone else could possibly understand.

Sundays were a structured institution around the Diener household in the early 1980's. Dad would wake me up at 9 a.m. He'd fix me breakfast while I got dressed. While we ate breakfast, we'd catch "The Tom Landry Show" on channel 5. Once the program was over, he'd take me to Sunday school.

For two hours, I'd wait impatiently for Dad to pick me up so I could get back to the old homestead and watch my dear Cowboys.

When Tony Dorsett would race 30 yards for a score or Danny White would hook up with Drew Pearson in the end zone for six, I could always count on Dad to bellow out a roaring "TOUCH-DOWN COW-BOYS!"

To this day, it is rare that I can watch Emmitt break for a long TD or Alvin Harper leap high for an Aikman pass and descend into the end zone with the ball cradled in his arms, that I do not say to myself

"TOUCH-DOWN COW-BOYS!"

Oh, the memories. They are fantastic... During halftime, Dad would usually take a nap and I'd go outside to reenact the first half in my next door neighbor's yard. More often than not, I'd stay outside too long and wind up missing the first few minutes of the second half.

After the game, if the Cowboys had won, Dad and I might take off for the park and throw the football for an hour or so. If they lost, we'd still go to the park; except the football would be left behind.

There was no ESPN Prime Time in the early 80's so Dad and I would usually cap off the day with dinner and 60 minutes, followed by a trip to Dairy Queen.

That was Sunday at the Diener house and it would remain that way until the 1984 football season began...

In the spring of '84, Dad got sick. He was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, however, after a complex operation and a summer of radiation treatment, all seemed fine...

We soon found out that all was not fine. This time Joe Montana and the 49ers were not marching down the field against the Cowboys for one last chance at a comeback, cancer was marching down the field

against my dad, and about to enjoy a similar comeback.

Cancer gained a fourth quarter lead against my father that it would never relinquish. He was a man with no time-outs left to spare, content to wait and suffer as the game clock emphatically expired.

However no evil, not even cancer was going to keep father and son from sharing our last Sunday afternoon together.

Curled up in a hospital bed next to the dying man that gave me the gift of life, I watched with him as the Dallas Cowboys defeated Walter Payton and the Chicago Bears.

When Dorsett scampered into the end zone for a score, the tired and suffering man that I called "Dad" did his best to utter the words I so loved...

"TOUCH-DOWN COWBOYS!"

It was not near as resounding as the "TOUCH-DOWN COW-BOYS!" of the past, in fact it was nothing more than a mere whisper, but to this day, it remains the most memorable.

Not long after that, on the morning of October 10, 1984, my sister informed me of the inevitable. I looked her in the eye.

There was a moment of silence. Someone had died. Turning back toward my bedroom, I began to cry.

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