

To Deion or not to Deion? A Dallas fan's dilemma

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SPORTSWRITER



I don't like Deion Sanders.

I've never met him, he may be a sweetheart, but I don't like him. I think he symbolizes everything that is wrong with contemporary professional sports. "Prime Time" wears the dew-rag, he dances and prances, and in recent years, he has taken up selling himself like some kind of high-dollar athletic male whore who offers his services to the football team with the highest bid.

That said, I believe I may soil myself from sheer joy if he signs on with the Cowboys this season as a free agent.

Presently, Sanders is up in San Francisco playing baseball with the Giants, but he still has time to flirt with NFL owners

like a head cheerleader the week before the homecoming dance.

Only Super Bowl contenders need apply, and Dallas, Miami and San Francisco are the only teams with a legitimate shot. However, the Cowboys have a slight edge for a few reasons.

First, the Cowboys have an extra wad of cash from a blockbuster deal with Pepsi a few weeks ago that made that soft drink the official beverage of Texas Stadium. The deal was made in the face of Coca-Cola, the NFL's long-time official soda.

Jones does not care the rest of the league because the deal gives him a pocketful of gold coins to throw at Sanders' feet. Even quarterback Troy Aikman has opened his heart and offered to restructure his contract to make room for Sanders under the salary cap. God bless you, Troy.

The Cowboys also have an advantage due to the fact that they are the most popular and most

marketable franchise in the universe. Becoming a Cowboy would make Sanders even more overexposed than he is. Two hours in Dallas, and Sanders will have boot and beer endorsements, his own television show and his own Holy Church of the Blessed St. Neon.

Most importantly, San Francisco is old news. Sanders has been there and done that. It's time to move on to Dallas so he can prove, once and for all, that he is the man who makes the difference. Think of what it would do to Sanders' ego if he came to Dallas, and the Cowboys went on to beat the



Sanders

49ers and win the Super Bowl. He could brag that the confidence and swagger he brings to a team are the essential elements for ultimate success.

Everything points to Dallas

winning the Deion derby. So does Sanders really deserve all of this attention? Should Jones sell his soul to the devil to sign Mr. "Prime Time"? Yes, indeed.

Sanders is the best cornerback in the league. He can cover any receiver for a full 60 minutes and is just about the only guy who can hang around in the same area with Jerry Rice — something current Cowboy corner Larry Brown proven that he cannot do.

Teams can also stick Sanders back deep on punt returns and kickoffs, use him as a third receiver, and make him the swing-man on reverses. Hell, you can even let him sing the national anthem.

All of this hype over Sanders and his exploits just proves the fact that America, as a sports-crazed society, can put up with a good athlete, no matter how big of a jerk he might be. If he can help the Cowboys win, bring him in. Of course, maybe I'm just jealous. I can't even get call backs as a free-agent, multi-purpose water boy.

ready in the Astrodome when officials decided the game would not be played because of complaints from both teams of dangerous soft spots in the artificial turf.

In the 2 1/2-hour hearing that included Oilers general manager Floyd Reese and executive vice president Mike McClure, Tagliabue reviewed video tapes of the field and the week-end's chronology of events that included the conversion of the field from baseball to football.

"We expect that the Astrodome's field will be properly installed and ready in all respects for the Oilers' home opener on Sept. 10" against Pittsburgh, the league said in a statement.

The investigation comes while Oilers owner Bud Adams is attempting to move the team to Nashville, Tenn. Adams is unhappy in Houston because the city is unwilling to build him a new stadium.

The dome is owned by Harris County.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Texas to start freshman at running back

AUSTIN (AP) — For the first time since Heisman Trophy winner Earl Campbell took the field in 1974, Texas will start the season with a true freshman at running back.

Coach John Mackovic said Monday that Ricky Williams, a 6-foot, 215-pound fullback from San Diego, Calif., will be in the starting lineup when the 18th-ranked Longhorns open the season Saturday night at Hawaii.

While other true freshman running backs have started games for UT, none have started the season since Campbell, who is the school's all-time leading rusher.

Coaches say Williams, a solid blocker with good speed and hands, has fully grasped the offense and may help Texas ignite a potent running attack lacking in recent years. The Longhorns ranked 76th in rushing offense in 1994.

Seles wins at U.S. Open

NEW YORK (AP) — Breathing hard, gasping for air at times, yet still superior in every aspect of the game, two-time U.S. Open champion Monica Seles extended her stunning comeback Monday with another lopsided victory.

Seles, grunting as always, slugged serves at up to 105 mph, drove groundstrokes with the pace of old into the corners and displayed a deft touch on drop shots as she beat a plucky but overpowered Ruxandra Dragomir 6-3, 6-1.

"I think the whole match I was very nervous," Seles said. "My heart was so fast. I had so much energy and she just slowed down everything."

Seles, who sometimes had more trouble with her hair blowing in the breeze than she did with Dragomir, said she kept thinking about the match all day, not making plans on how to play, but just about the moment.

Seles didn't have an easy time in this match, despite the score. Dragomir, a Romanian ranked No. 44, played well and made her run. Seles isn't yet in the best shape, even after winning the Canadian Open just over a week ago, and there were moments when she bent over gasping for air following long rallies.

Tagliabue meets with Oilers' brass

NEW YORK (AP) — NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue met with Houston Oilers executives Monday regarding the cancellation of an exhibition game Aug. 19 against San Diego.

More than 25,000 fans were al-

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Dr. Malon Southerland, Vice President for Student Affairs, will be having luncheons this year for freshmen and new transfer students at Texas A&M. The program is designed to welcome new students and have interaction on their experiences at A&M. The luncheon will be at the Memorial Student Center and will include an open-ended discussion and questions and answers. If you would like to attend, complete this form and return it to:

Dr. Southerland
Vice President for Student Affairs
Texas A&M University
College Station, Texas 77843-1256
(or Tenth Floor, Rudder Tower)

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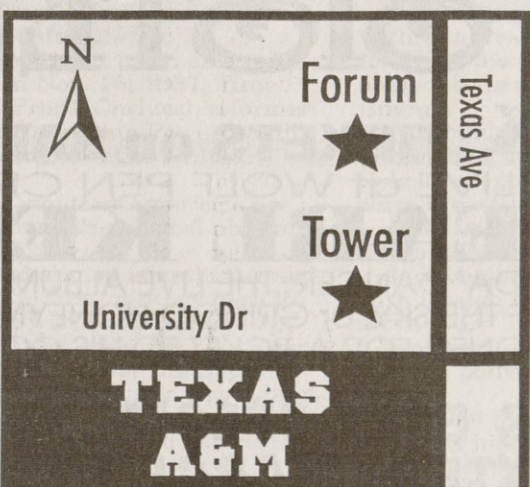
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