

## sports GLANCE

### Jordan, Bulls beat Suns for 15th straight

CHICAGO (AP) — Michael Jordan scored 31 points as the Chicago Bulls set a franchise record with their 15th consecutive victory by beating the Phoenix Suns 93-82 Sunday.

Dennis Rodman had 20 rebounds and Scottie Pippen 21 points for the Bulls, who are 38-3 at the season's midway point.

Only the 1971-72 Los Angeles Lakers, who went on to win an NBA-record 69 games, ever won 38 games by the midseason.

The Bulls resume pursuit of the 70-victory mark Tuesday, when they begin a seven-game road trip at Houston. In 1991-92, they were 36-5 at midseason before a losing trip ruined their bid to break the Lakers' record. Earlier this season, Chicago went 6-1 on a similar Texas and West Coast swing.

Chicago also stretched its team-record home winning streak to 29.

Charles Barkley had 20 points and 16 rebounds for the Suns.

### Red Raiders hang on, defeat UT, 79-78

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) — With half a second to go, Brandy Perryman lobbed a long 3-pointer that brought Texas to within 79-78 of upsetting No. 22 Texas Tech.

But the Red Raiders held on Sunday and took a two-game lead in the Southwest Conference.

"We are a long way from being where we want to be, but we have done a good job of winning at home," said Tech coach James Dickey, whose team won its 26th straight at the Lubbock Municipal Coliseum.

It was the first meeting between the teams since Texas won in double overtime 107-104 in the SWC tournament finals last spring. The Red Raiders (16-1, 6-0) are off to their best start in school history.

Cory Carr scored 18 points for Tech, including a key free throw with 6.5 seconds remaining.

Carr missed the front half of a 1-and-1, but his second shot gave the Red Raiders a 79-75 lead, so that Perryman's 3-pointer just cut the final margin.

"I was pleased with our defense and Texas has a lot of good one-on-one players," Dickey said. "If we have to face them again, any time Perryman touches the ball we are just going to have to foul him."

### NBC reports Magic will return Tuesday

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP) — Magic Johnson reportedly has signed a contract with the Los Angeles Lakers and will return to the NBA Tuesday night in a home game against the Golden State Warriors.

NBC-TV reported Sunday that Johnson's comeback would be officially announced Monday at a news conference in Los Angeles.

The network cited unidentified sources in the league and close to Johnson.

The Lakers have worked out a way for Johnson to sell his 5 percent ownership of the team to make his comeback, the network said.

Lakers spokesman John Black declined to comment on the report. Johnson's agent, Lon Rosen, did not immediately return calls made to his home and office.

The Los Angeles Times, citing unidentified sources, reported Saturday that Johnson had agreed in principle to a contract that would pay him \$2.5 million for the rest of the season.

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### SCORES ROUNDUP

**NBA**  
Bulls 93, Suns 82

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Men's Basketball**  
On Wednesday, the A&M Men's Basketball Team travels to Fort Worth to take on the Texas Christian Horned Frogs at 7:30 p.m. in Southwest Conference action.

**Women's Basketball**  
The Women's Basketball Team will travel to Fort Worth Tuesday to take on the Lady Frogs at 7:00 p.m. in Southwest Conference action.

**Men's Swimming**  
The Aggies will take on the University of Texas in Austin on Friday.

**Team Swimming**  
The A&M Swimming and Diving Teams will take on Rice University at 1:00 p.m. on Saturday at the Student Recreational Center.

# Local fans celebrate return to the top

## Cowboy fans gathered in local bars and restaurants to cheer their team on.

By Kristina Buffin  
THE BATTALION



From left to right, Clark Nortch, Barney Harrell, Christian Pope, Shelby Jackson, Jackie Shenkir and Justin Smith root for the Dallas Cowboys Sunday at Bullwinkle's. The Cowboys defeated the Pittsburgh Steelers 27-17 to claim their record-tying fifth Super Bowl championship.

Many Aggies could not afford the extraordinary price of a Super Bowl ticket, not to mention the plane fare.

However, Aggies all over town tuned into the contest between the Dallas Cowboys and the Pittsburgh Steelers through a little known technological device, the television.

Typical of most Texas towns, Bryan-College Station was rooting for 'America's Team,' the Dallas Cowboys. In fact, it was as hard to find a Pittsburgh Steeler fan in College Station as it would be to see Deion Sanders in a Coke commercial.

There is something about

the Cowboy mystique that creates a type of fanaticism. People either love or hate the Cowboys.

This fanaticism was demonstrated by Chad Spears, a former student, in his reaction to the Steeler drive before the end of the first half when Steeler fans pulled out their Terrible Towels.

"Put those things up because you won't see the end zone unless you take a picture of it," he said.

Unfortunately for Cowboys fans, and Spears, who were looking for a shutout, running back and Texas Tech graduate Bam Morris scored the Steelers' first touchdown. Unlike most of the last four Super Bowls, this one was a close contest, although Cowboys fans got a little nervous.

"It was an alright game," Jim Skeleton, a resident of Bryan, said. "We were a little nervous but truth, justice and the American way prevailed."

For many of the local restaurants and bars, the Super Bowl provided the opportunity for them to draw in extra business.

"(The Super Bowl) means more money in tips tonight," Leo Angele, a bartender at Fitzwilly's and a junior business analysis and management information systems major, said.

"There will be more tips because everyone will be celebrating the Cowboys' victory. They are nothing but winners, that's why they are America's team."

For most Aggies, the Super

Bowl provided the chance to gather with friends and bond over men hitting other men for a chance to hold a pigskin ball.

Freshmen members of A Company in the Aggie Band gathered together at Fitzwilly's to watch the game and play some shuffleboard.

"You can't have a better time with your buddies than watching the Super Bowl," John Burescia, a freshman bioengineering major, said. "We're having a good time, having fun. It's not like just watching a regular game, it's the Super Bowl. We're getting unified and chilling out."

Even though many Aggies could not make the trip to the game to support the Cowboys or Steelers, College Station was represented by referee Red Cashion who tossed the coin at the beginning of the game.

"It was good bull for Aggies," Chris Caldwell, a freshman chemical engineering major, said. "We're everywhere, you can't escape us. We were supposed to be there (Tempe) in the Fiesta Bowl, but at least we had an Aggie in the Super Bowl."

No matter who people were rooting for Sunday, and despite the American Football Conference has now lost 11 of the last 13 Super Bowls, a good time was had by all.

Sunday gave students and residents of Bryan-College Station an opportunity to forget about school and work and enjoy one of America's favorite pastimes, the gridiron.

# Cowboys: Da 'Boys climb the mountain for the fifth time

## Continued from Page 1

who turned away quickly as he accepted the trophy. "But this for me was the sweetest."

Switzer, however, was clearly elated. He joined the Cowboys in a no-win situation — only a Super Bowl victory could guarantee success — and he got it.

"Are you having a good time, Jerry?" he asked Jones. "We did it our way, baby! We did it! We did it! We did it! We did it!"

But it was not the way the Cowboys had hoped.

But it was the defense that did it, led by Brown. It registered four sacks, one by Charles Haley, who was playing his first game since undergoing back surgery seven weeks ago. Haley, who was on two champions in San Francisco, became the first player ever to win five Super Bowl rings.

That rush, plus some slippery footing may have been responsible for O'Donnell's problems. He finished 28 of 49 for 239 yards and three interceptions, the last on the game's final play.

But the two to Brown were the ones that hurt.

Pittsburgh reached the Dallas 33 on the first possession of the second half. But on fourth and 8, coach Bill Cowher elected to punt and Rohn Stark's kick carried into the end zone, giving Dallas the ball on the 20.

Dallas didn't move on offense, but then the defense turned the game.

On a third and 9 from the Pittsburgh 48, Dallas' Bill Bates blitzed, both Steelers receivers turned inside, and O'Donnell threw outside, right to Brown. He returned it 44 yards to the Pittsburgh 18.

On the first play, Troy Aikman hit Michael Irvin at the 1, and Smith went over on the next play, although replays indicated he had not reached the end zone until he was already down.

Norm Johnson's 46-yard field goal 3:40 into the fourth quarter cut it to 20-10 after Tony Tolbert's sack of O'Donnell on third and eight at the 19 stopped Pittsburgh's next drive.

The Cowboys dominated the first half, scoring on their first three possessions.

But they led only 13-7 at halftime when O'Donnell, shaky for most of the first two periods, hit Yancey Thigpen from 6 yards out with 13 seconds left before intermission. It was the 10th time in the last 12 games the Steelers had scored in the last two minutes of the first half.

Dallas Cowboys Michael Irvin and Emmitt Smith celebrate in Tempe, AZ on Christmas Day during a win over the Cardinals. The pair celebrated again Sunday in the Super Bowl.



"Are you having a good time, Jerry? We did it our way, baby! We did it! We did it! We did it!"

— Barry Switzer  
Cowboys Head Coach

Aikman, who at one point in the first half completed 10 straight passes, tying Phil Simms for second place in Super Bowl history behind Joe Montana's 13, was good early but finished 15 of 23 for 209 yards.

And Smith, whose fourth and fifth rushing touchdowns passed Franco Harris and Thurman Thomas for the most in Super Bowl history, was held to just 49 yards in 18 carries, far short of the 115 he needed to become the leading rusher in Super Bowl history. Twenty-three of his yards came on the third play of the game.

the situation just a few weeks ago. It's hard to forget the moaning and grumbling that could be heard loud and clearly from coast to coast by many of the same fans when their beloved Cowboys were struggling.

They weren't cheering and saying, 'I told you so.' They were whining and bellyaching about losses to the also-ran Washington Redskins and a lackluster effort against the Elvis Grbac-led San Francisco 49ers.

Head coach Barry Switzer was criticized and berated for his now infamous 4th-and-1 decision that paved the way to another Cowboy loss against Philadelphia. Every Cowboy defeat was way over analyzed as experts broke down games to single plays in an attempt to explain what went wrong.

Dallas fans and all the people from around the country that jump on the bandwagon during the championship years and proclaim the Cowboys as America's Team were keeping a pessimistic front. But, I think deep, down inside they still realized no one could light a candle

to their team.

I won't question most Cowboy fans' loyalty because it's true that they will support and defend their 'Boys to the death. But, it seemed like at times this season that fans were getting a little bored with winning all the time. When Dallas lost an occasional game, people were sounding alarms and questioning

out of proportion.

Come on, people. Like there was ever any doubt the Cowboys would win the whole enchilada once again. Real problems consist of going 1-15 in a season like the Cowboys did in 1989.

Although Cowboy fans may have been sweating out the final outcome of Sunday's game, the cream rose to the top in the end. Larry Brown became the unlikely of heroes for the Cowboys with two clutch interceptions that twice saved the game for Dallas and earned him the game's Most Valuable Player honors.

Quarterback Troy Aikman finished the game 15-of-23 for 209 yards while running back Emmitt Smith had just 49 yards on 18 carries, but his two touchdowns ran his career total to five, a Super Bowl record.

For those regular season

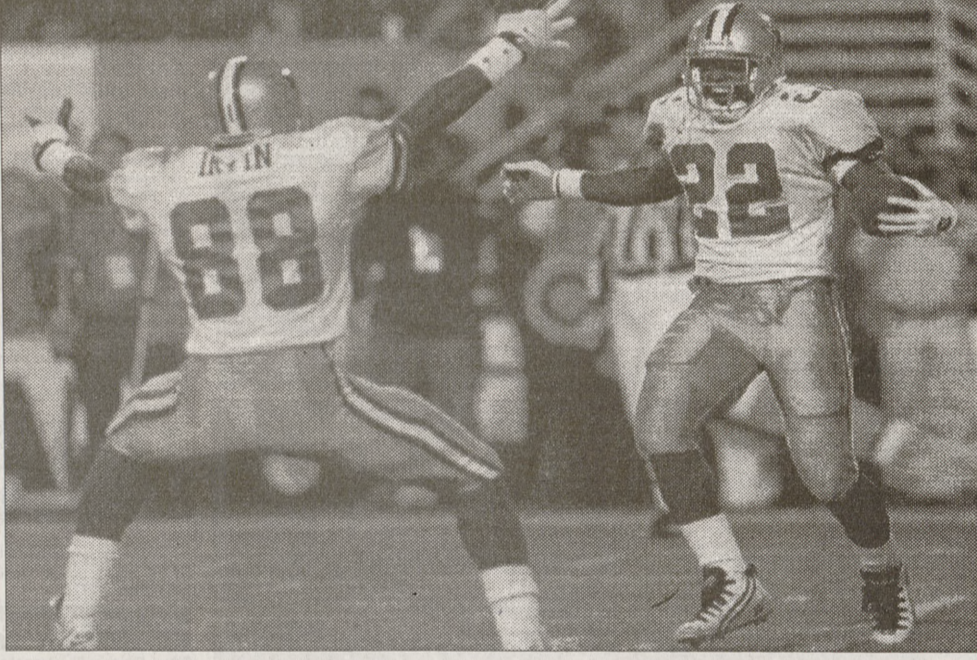
doubters, the Cowboys are now the second Texas professional sports team to show that winners are made in the post-season. In 1995, the NBA's Houston Rockets were so mediocre in the regular season, they could only muster a no. 6 seed heading into the playoffs.

Fans and experts said there was no way the Rockets could defend the title they claimed the year before. However, just like it did for the Cowboys Sunday, the Rockets' talent, heart and desire to be the best propelled them on a thrilling run to a repeat title.

Like the Rockets, the Cowboys were focused and unstoppable in joining the 49ers as the only two teams to win five Vince Lombardi trophies.

So for all the needless regular season worrying and whining about the Dallas Cowboys, you could almost dub the season 'Much Ado About Nothing.'

Fear not loyal Cowboy fans, it's not the end of the world. Your team is back on top...again.



Dallas Cowboys Michael Irvin and Emmitt Smith celebrate in Tempe, AZ on Christmas Day during a win over the Cardinals. The pair celebrated again Sunday in the Super Bowl.

# Cowboys prove winning comes from the heart



**TOM DAY**  
ASST. SPORTS  
EDITOR

"When you lose a football game in Dallas, it's like the end of the world."

Thus were the words of Cowboy quarterback Troy Aikman last week heading into Sunday's Super Bowl. Expectations in Dallas, he said, are so high that no one expects any less than a world championship.

Well, the Cowboys gift-wrapped and delivered Championship No. 5 to their fans on Sunday, disappointing the upstart Pittsburgh Steelers 27-17 in a game that was far more competitive than fans and oddsmakers expected.

But as the masses of Cowboy fans from around the globe celebrated and felt the ecstasy of victory once again, one can't help but recall

the situation just a few weeks ago. It's hard to forget the moaning and grumbling that could be heard loud and clearly from coast to coast by many of the same fans when their beloved Cowboys were struggling.

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