

Super Bowl XIII: Dallas vs. Pittsburgh

Dallas 28, Los Angeles 0

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Charlie Waters intercepted two passes, setting up a pair of Dallas touchdowns, and the defending champion Cowboys charged into Super Bowl XIII with a 28-0 victory over the Los Angeles Rams in the National Football Conference championship game Sunday.

Waters, who also recovered a fumble, led a Dallas defense that completely frustrated the Rams, forcing seven turnovers — five of them interceptions — by Los Angeles, which was hoping to qualify for its first trip to the Super Bowl.

It was the fourth NFC title game loss in the past five years for Los Angeles.

Cowboys tackle Randy White wiped out two-thirds of the Rams' starting backfield with jarring tackles that knocked running back John Cappelletti and quarterback Pat Haden out of the game.

Cappelletti suffered a dislocated right shoulder after being hit by White at the end of a 15-yard pass play in the first quarter. Haden suffered a compound fracture of his right thumb when tackled by White near the end of the third period.

The injury to Haden came on Waters' second interception of the game and set up Roger Staubach's 4-yard touchdown

pass to Scott Laidlaw. Earlier, Waters intercepted a pass from his safety position and set up 5-yard touchdown sprint by Tony Dorsett, breaking a 0-0 halftime tie.

Dorsett finished with 101 yards — most of them in the fourth quarter — as the Cowboys drove for the first of three touchdowns they scored in the final period.

Los Angeles was working on its second series of downs in the second half after Pat Thomas picked off a Staubach pass at the Rams' 3-yard line. Los Angeles moved out to the 21 — most of the yardage on a facemask penalty against Too Tall Jones.

Then Haden, throwing for tight end Terry Nelson, was intercepted by Waters at the 30. The veteran defensive back returned the ball 20 yards to the Rams' 10 and after a penalty against Thomas kept Dallas' drive alive. Dorsett went into the end zone for the touchdown.

Later in the third quarter, Jackie Wallace's 23-yard punt return gave the Rams possession at the Cowboy 23. Three plays gained 9 yards and now, facing a fourth-and-one at the 14, Los Angeles Coach Ray Malavasi had to decide whether to take the field goal or

try for a first down.

He chose to run the ball, perhaps because rookie placekicker Frank Corral — the NFL's leading regular season scorer — had missed field goal tries of 39 and 45 yards in the first half.

Jim Jodat, replacing the injured Cappelletti, tried the middle of the Cowboys' line but was stopped with rookie Larry Bethea making the first hit.

The next time the Rams had the ball, Waters intercepted Haden again, and returned the ball 29 yards to the 20 and five plays later Staubach took the Cowboys into the end zone for a 14-0 lead.

Vince Ferragamo replaced Haden at quarterback for the Rams, and connected on a 65-yard pass play with Willie Miller that gave Los Angeles the ball at the Dallas 10-yard line midway through the fourth quarter. But on the first play after that, Harvey Martin recovered a Cullen Bryant fumble for the Cowboys.

Dallas then moved 89 yards — 70 of them produced by Dorsett — and scored on an 11-yard pass from Staubach to Billy Joe DuPree.

Linebacker Thomas Henderson completed the Dallas devastation when he intercepted a Ferragamo pass in the final two minutes and returned the ball 68 yards for the wrapup touchdown.



Franco Harris, 32, eludes the outstretched arms of Houston's Gregg Bingham enroute to a seven-yard touchdown run which put Pittsburgh on top, 7-0. The Steelers went on

to crush the Oilers, 34-5, and earn a berth in Super Bowl XIII.

Pittsburgh 34, Houston 5

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Terry Bradshaw passed for two touchdowns just 19 seconds apart in the final minute of the first half, blowing apart a rain-soaked American Football Conference championship game Sunday and sending the Pittsburgh Steelers past the Houston Oilers 34-5 and into Super Bowl XIII.

In Los Angeles later in the day, the Dallas Cowboys swamped the Los Angeles Rams, 28-0, to win the National Football Conference victory, and will face Steelers in the post-season classic.

The driving rain and near-freezing temperature in Three Rivers Stadium, helped turn what was expected to be a close, hard-nosed game into a debacle. The Steelers and Oilers combined for seven interceptions, five by Pittsburgh, and a whopping 12 fumbles, the latter an NFL championship game record.

Houston committed six of the fumbles, including two by Johnnie Dirden and Ronnie Coleman, that served to turn the game into a rout just before halftime.

Bradshaw, who completed 11 of 19 passes for 200 yards and whose passing had paved the way to first-quarter touchdown runs of seven yards by Franco Harris and 15 yards by Rocky Bleier, made it 21-3 with a 29-yard scoring pass to Lynn Swann with 52 seconds left in the second period.

Dirden then took the kickoff, and trying to avoid an approaching tackler,

lost the ball. Rick Moser recovered for Pittsburgh on the Oilers' 17-yard line. Harris was stopped for no gain, then Bradshaw hit John Stallworth, who bulled his way for the final yards, and the TD that made it 28-3.

There still were 33 seconds left in the half when Steve Furness tackled Coleman, he forced another fumble and recovered it. This time, though, they settled for Roy Gerela's 37-yard field goal with four seconds to go in the half.

Things failed to improve in the second half when Houston quarterback Dan Pastorini, hampered by the weather and the Steelers' swarming defense, had a pass picked off by linebacker Jack Ham at the Oilers' 15-yard line. This time, Pittsburgh stalled and Gerela's 22-yard field goal made it 34-3.

Pastorini completed only 12 of 26 passes for 96 yards and was sacked four times by the Steelers. Bradshaw, keeping Houston off guard with repeated first-down passes, never was trapped by the Oilers.

Houston's only points in the first half, on Toni Fritsch's 19-yard field goal, came after a Harris fumble, recovered by linebacker Robert Brazile. But it came after the Oilers, with a first down on the Steelers' 4-yard line and trailing 14-0, gained only 1 yard in three plays.

The Oilers got their other two points in

the third quarter when Bleier was tackled in the end zone for a safety.

The dozen fumbles by the Steelers and the Oilers broke the NFL championship record of 10 set in 1934 by the Chicago Bears and the New York Giants.

Bradshaw showed almost immediately that he did not intend to let the rain bother him. Four plays after the Steelers got the ball the first time, he combined with Swann on a 34-yard pass play to the Oilers' 9-yard line. Harris punched out 2 yards, then slanted off right behind a Gerry Mullins' block for the remaining 7 yards and his 13th playoff touchdown, extending his own record.

The 57-yard, five-play drive gave the Steelers a lead they never would relinquish with only 4:58 played.

It went to 14-0 with 1:09 remaining in the first period after Campbell had fumbled a handoff and Ham had pounced on the ball at the Houston 17.

Harris fumbled but Mullins recovered for a 2-yard gain, then Bleier followed blocks by Harris and Swann on the right side for his 15-yard scoring sprint.

Bradshaw's touchdown pass to Swann capped a 69-yard, three-play drive highlighted by Bleier's screen pass reception, good for 13 yards and a 19-yard pass interference-penalty against Houston safety Bill Currier.

Barber: I'm gonna get him

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Houston Oilers tight end Mike Barber, cut down by a knee injury early in Sunday's playoff loss to the Pittsburgh Steelers, had an angry postgame threat for the player who hit him, safely Mike Wagner.

"He won't play in the Super Bowl," the fuming Barber said as he limped into the Oilers' locker room.

"What's he gonna do, wait for me in the driveway?" Wagner calmly responded later after saying his hit was done only in self-protection and purely part of the game.

The threat wasn't made personally to Wagner. Barber shouted it to Pittsburgh captain Joe Greene, who was outside the Oilers locker room offering handshakes after Houston's 34-5 loss in the American Football Conference title game.

Barber was so angry that he mistakenly referred to Wagner as "Webster."

"You tell that Webster that he's a cheap shot," said Barber, continuing the sentence with a string of unprintables.

"I'm gonna get him," Barber told Greene.

Barber was hurt on the first play of the second quarter on a long, incomplete pass over the middle. He and Wagner both

lowered his shoulder and chopped Barber down at the knee. He did not return to the game.

"I'll get him back," Barber repeated inside the Oilers' locker room. "And when I do, he won't play a game again."

About a half hour later, Barber was approached again by other reporters.

"I don't want to say anything," Barber said more calmly. "I'm so filled with anger right now that anything I say wouldn't be the real me. I just don't want to say anything."

After he was helped off the field, Barber pointed a finger at Wagner and yelled at him. He also yelled at him several times during the game.

"That's really smart. If that's his mentality, fine," said Wagner. "I can't worry about that."

Wagner said it wasn't a dirty play. He said he was just protecting himself.

"We were both running full speed. It was a collision course, and I was just hitting the dirt," said Wagner. "On a play like that, I'm not going to stand up and just take a shot ... all I could do was buckle and go down."

Gymnasts deal Springfield a double dual meet blow

By DARLENE HROBAK
Daily Collegian Sports Writer

There was no bone-chilling, fingernail-biting finish to Saturday night's women's gymnastics meet. In fact, there wasn't even a hint of one.

After the first few moments of the meet, nary an observer in the Rec Hall crowd could have doubted that the Lady Lions would soundly trounce Springfield — and they did, 139.40 to 122.45.

Penn State so dominated the meet that all four of its all-around competitors' scores topped those of the Springfield all-rounders, and the first three places in each event went to State.

"Normally it's hard to compete in a meet like this," Lady Lion Debbie Alston said. "But we trained for this meet to beat ourselves. It really wasn't to beat Springfield. We were trying to beat our own scores."

But Penn State, now 2-0 in dual meet competition, came just shy of surpassing the 139.85 it scored in its first win against East Stroudsburg. However, there were consolations.

Sophomore Lisa Ingebretsen took the all-around title with a score of 35.25 and was the recipient of the Gene Wettstone outstanding performance award for her balance beam (9.15) and parallel bar (9.1) routines.

The freshmen duo, Marci Levine and Margie Foster, followed her in all-around scoring and Alston took fourth place.

But, according to Lady Lion coach Judi Avenor, all wasn't rosy.

"Generally I was a little bit disappointed with our lack of consistency," she said. "If we are going to win some big meets, we are going to have to be a lot more consistent."

It looked as if State was getting a foot on the wayward path when Foster and Pat Spisak performed sub-par balance beam routines, but it was not to be.

"Specifically I was pleased with Debbie Alston's beam routine (8.7)

because we had quite a few breaks right before her," Avenor said. "When everybody right in a row has problems, sometimes it's difficult to perform. I was glad to see Debbie pull herself, and the team, out of that syndrome."

And when the Lady Lions did get out of that temporary syndrome, it seemed very probable that the Springfield gymnasts were wishing they had stayed home in Massachusetts. First year coach Terry Pasqua, though, said that wasn't the case.

"It's an advantage to face Penn State in our first meet," she said. "It gives us a chance to go against someone that has a lot of experience. I was satisfied with our performance, but we have room for a lot of improvement."

Pasqua can take heart because the Springfield line-up is heavily laden with freshmen, and freshmen are bound to improve with age.

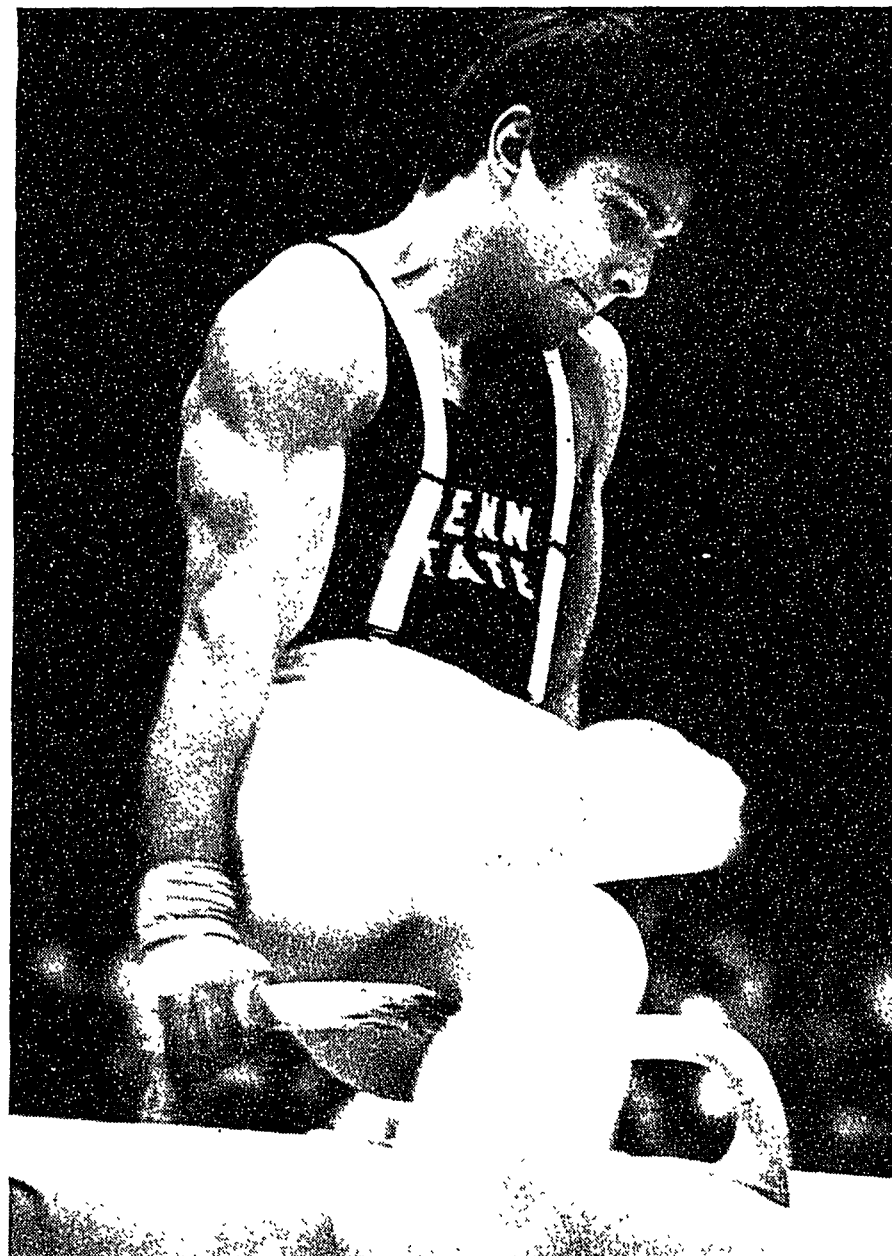
All-around champ Ingebretsen, too, is looking toward improvement.

"I think I did okay, but I still have a lot of work to do," she said. "I need a new vault, a double twist on the floor ..."

Teammate Levine echoed her sentiments: "We're starting in pretty good shape, but we're not quite there yet. We're still going to get a lot better."

BACK FLIPS: Saturday's meet marked the first time that Anthony, who competed in the vault and the parallel bars, was not in all-around competition. . . . Avenor commented on the absence of Ann Carr, who has been out eight weeks with a badly sprained ankle: "The team is picking up the slack in Ann's absence. We'll be a lot stronger team when Ann comes back because everybody has been working harder to make up for her absence."

SCORES: (All gymnasts from Penn State) Vaulting — 1, Margie Foster, 9.35; 2, Marci Levine, 9.0; 3, Jan Anthony, 8.75. Bars — 1, Lisa Ingebretsen, 9.1; 2, Anthony and Levine, 8.75. Beam — 1, Ingebretsen, 9.15; 2, Levine, 9.1; 3, Debbie Alston, 8.7. Floor ex — 1, Joanne Beck, 8.85; 2, Ingebretsen, 8.75; 3, Levine, 8.55. All-around — 1, Ingebretsen, 35.65; 2, Levine, 35.40; 3, Foster, 32.85; 4, Alston, 32.80.



Paul Simon won the all-around title with 55 points — the highest total in his dual meet career — Saturday night. He and his Lion teammates combined to score 216.80 points — the second highest total any team in the nation has scored this year.

By CHUCK RUSS
Daily Collegian Sports Writer

Forget the fact that the Lions beat a weak Springfield College team Saturday night. Forget that Penn State won all the individual events and had the top three all-arounders. Forget, too, that the gymnasts yawned through two and one-half hours of a long gymnastics meet. What you should remember is the score: 216.80-184.50.

216.80. That is more than they scored in last year's NCAA finals. More than any team has scored this year, except No. 1 Nebraska. And more than anyone expected them to score, even their coach.

"We are a little ahead of what we thought we would be," coach Karl Schwenzfeier said.

"We wanted to score somewhere around 215," he said, "but I really didn't expect this. I'm of course pleased with the score, especially since we milked down the routines. The most exciting is yet to come."

"We had a lot of mental lapses," top all-arounder Paul Simon said. "The competition wasn't really good and the meet did drag on, but we are building up to the Indiana State meet."

For the Lions, Simon had the first 55 point score in his dual meet career. He was followed closely by teammate Bob Desiderio who finished with a 54.70. Both men dominated the individual events with Simon winning three and Desiderio winning two.

The highlight of the meet came on the floor exercise when the other individual event winner, Vic Trivino, performed two outstanding moves in a row. The first was a layout sommy that landed in a split.

The second was a press handstand with his arms spread two feet from his head. For this the crowd gave him an ovation in the middle of his performance. The judges appreciated it to the tune of a 9.35.

"I heard the crowd a little, but not

much," Trivino said. "I used to pay attention to the crowd and then lose my concentration. I'll definitely score higher later in the season."

Springfield, however, came to the meet unheralded and performed that way. Not one of their gymnasts received a score higher than 8.9 and the outcome of the meet was never in doubt. It may be the last time we see the Springfield gymmen for quite a long time.

Still, the big story of the meet was the score. 216.80 may be just a number to the layman, but to a coach the score tells just how good a team is.

"Comparative scoring has a psychological effect," Schwenzfeier said. "Some teams see how we have done and see our score and wonder how good we are."

How good the Lions are will be determined as the season goes on, but for now a feeling of optimism is something the Lions can afford. With Pittsburgh and Temple the next two opponents this is especially true. The only problem with optimism is complacency and Schwenzfeier is not about to let that happen.

"We will get better," he said emphatically. "We don't want to peak yet and that is why we milked the routines down for this meet."

But are the Nationals and Easterns, which are still over two months away, on the minds of the gymmen?

"We are practicing one day of optionals and one day of compulsaries every two weeks," Schwenzfeier said. "We want to be ready."

With a score of 216.80 in their first meet they are off to a great start.

SCORES: (All gymnasts from Penn State) Floor — Trivino, 9.35; 2, Simon, 9.1; 3, Gray, 8.95. Horse — Besong and B. Desiderio, 8.9; 3, Simon, 8.8. Rings — B. Desiderio, 9.15; 2, Besong, 9.05; 3, Muffoletto, 9.0. Vaulting — 1, Simon, 9.55; 2, B. Desiderio, 9.5; 3, D. Desiderio, 9.4. Parallel Bars — 1, Simon, 9.3; 2, B. Desiderio, 9.05; 3, D. Desiderio, 8.85. High Bar — 1, Simon, 9.35; 2, B. Desiderio, 9.3; 3, Weissend, 8.6. All-around — 1, Simon, 55.0; 2, Desiderio, 54.7; 3, Besong, 49.6.