

Section

Sports Stock listings Farm Classified

ALONG GAY TOR LEXAS



Gazette photo by Joe Edens

Rob Moerschell of Texas is stopped by Iowa's Nate Creer (left), George Little (front) and Kevin Spitzig

Long won't make his decision until January

By Gus Schrader

Gazette sports columnist ANAHEIM, Calif. — Hayden Fry said it was "unbelievable" that Iowa could beat Texas 55-17, and Chuck Long said he wouldn't make a decision on whether to go pro until

January. The Hawkeyes were a hilarious, whooping group as they streamed into the locker room from the rain

of Anaheim Stadium after Wednes- the Giants played here last Sunday, crowd seemed almost as large as the day night's inaugural Freedom and I don't think they created much paid attendance!

up, Fry was asked if this endan- Fry was as loose and funny after gered the future of the Freedom the game as he had seemed all

excitement (in the Giants' 16-13 Because only 24,093 fans showed victory). Eat your heart out!"

through the pre-bowl period. Re-"Hey, Iowa showed up!" Fry porters arranged to have him stand boomed. "Tonight's game ought to on a chair outside the dressing room make a lot of folks sorry they so the large mob of news media missed a good game. The Rams and could hear and photograph him. The

"You're putting me up in a high chair?" Fry joked. "Gee, I finally beat Texas and you guys are sentencing me to the chair!

"I've never been so happy. It's the best victory of my career. Of course, I dreamed we could beat a quality program like Texas has this bad." Please turn to page 5C: Hawks

Chuck's record 6 TD passes lift Hawks in Freedom Bowl, 55-17

By Mark Dukes Gazette sports editor

ANAHEIM, Calif. - Take that,

offense sizzled in the southern California drizzle Wednes day night, as the Hawkeyes rolled to a record-breaking 55-17 rout of Texas in the first Freedom Bowl.

Quarterback Chuck Long, perhaps playing his final football game for Iowa, led the onslaught with school passing records of 29 completions, 461 yards and six touchdowns. His scoring passes also tied the Big Ten record set by Illinois' Dave Wilson in 1980.

Long was a landslide winner of the game's most valuable player award. The 6-foot-4 junior helped Iowa deal the Longhorns their worst loss in 80 years. The University of Chicago beat Texas, 68-0, in 1904.

The victory was a most satisfying one for a native Texan named Hayden Fry. The Iowa coach had a 2-11 lifetime record against Texas. It also was Fry's fourth straight Hawkeyes finished 8-4-1.

"THIS IS definitely the biggest win of my career," Fry said. "Being from Texas, you don't get the chance to beat the U of T very often. have never had a victory more meaningful to me.

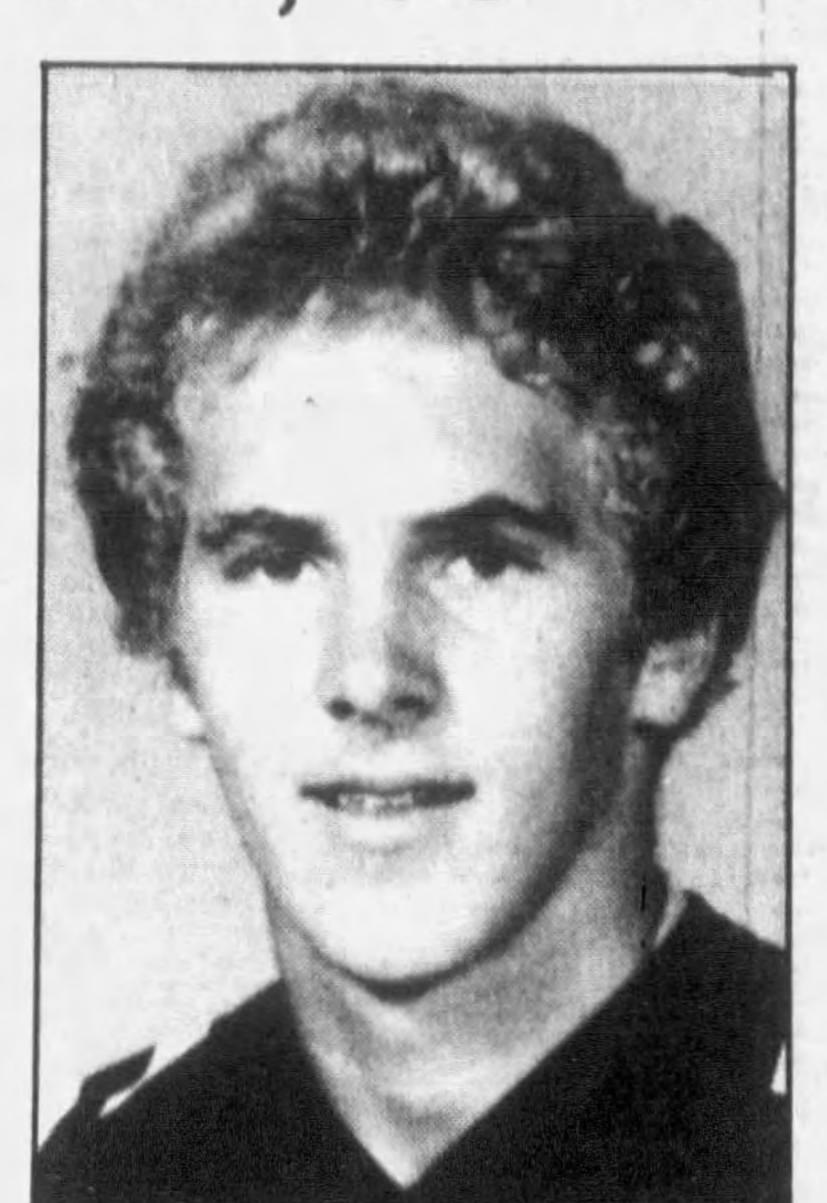
"It was a great victory and one that the coaching staff, especially myself, wanted very badly. We never dreamed we could throw that well on them, let alone score 55 points."

It was Texas' worst loss under Coach Fred Akers and the most lopsided Longhorn setback since losing to Oklahoma, 52-13, in 1973. Akers is 2-6 in bowl games.

"Iowa did a great job . . . as perfect as I've seen," Akers said. "Chuck Long was everything we

saw on film, and more." A meager crowd of 24,093 weathered the game-long rain at the Big A and was rewarded with an unex-

pected offensive show. The game had been regarded as a tossup, mostly because the two teams ranked among the nation's top 20 defenses. But it became an offensive bonanza for Iowa very



Chuck Long

Iowa, scoring the most points ever in six bowl appearances, padded a 24-17 lead with 31 points season of eight wins or more, as the in the third quarter. Four of Long's scoring passes came in the third period alone.

> LONG, WHO HAS yet to announce his decision on returning to Iowa or turning pro, used five different receivers for his six scoring passes: Jonathan Hayes (twice), Mike Flagg, Bill Happel, Robert Smith and Scott Helverson.

The previous Iowa record was five TD passes by Fred Riddle against Indiana in 1963. Long also broke the completion mark of 26 set by Mike Cilek in 1967 and bettered his single-game yardage total of 420 last year at Northwestern.

Asked if it was his best game at owa, Long replied, "Oh, yeah, it must have been. It wasn't easy because it was a great challenge to throw against Texas. But they used so much man-to- man coverage that we caught 'em."

The weather conditions and performances by Long and the Iowa team were similar to the Hawkeyes' 40-3 win at Purdue Oct. 13. Despite a steady rain that day in West Lafayette, Ind., Long completed 17 of 21 passes for 369 yards and four

Please turn to page 5C: Freedom

Hawks meet Cornell today in tourney

Special to The Gazette

HONOLULU, Hawaii — It was one of the better basketball games you never saw. Reserve guard David Adkins sank a jumper at the buzzer in overtime to give Maryland a 70-68

victory over Iowa in the first round of the

Rainbow Classic Tuesday night. The Hawkeyes, 9-2, will face Cornell University, 3-3, in a consolation-bracket game today at 4:30 p.m. (Iowa time). The game will be televised by the Iowa Television Network, which includes

KWWL (Channel 7). Maryland will play Hawaii in a tourney semifinal tonight. Hawaii beat Cornell Tuesday,

Tuesday's game was also to be televised, but as thousands of Iowans found out, it wasn't.

"WE'RE NOT EXACTLY sure (what happened)," said Dick Kaune, an ITN engineer. "It was probably a combination of a weak signal and some interference in Waterloo. We expect to

Basically, I feel good about what happened, except that we didn't win. 99

— George Raveling

have it resolved today (Wednesday)."

The result of the game was a loss for Iowa, but it wasn't for lack of effort. The Terrapins used rebounding and great free throw shooting to open a 35-21 lead with 4:48 left in the first half. But the Hawks scored 12 of the half's last 13 points, and trailed just 36-33 at halftime.

Gerry Wright scored 15 of his 19 points for the Hawks in the half. It was Wright's best scoring output since his 23 points in Iowa's season opener against Arkansas-Little Rock Nov. 24.

But the Terps sank 14 of 15 foul shots in the half for their advantage. Maryland finished with a 20-of-22 night of free throwing.

The Hawkeyes made their first six field goal tries in the second half and led by four points three times in the second half. Iowa consistently got the ball to center Greg Stokes, who is three inches taller than anyone who played for Maryland.

STOKES, WHO SCORED 19 of his game-high 29 points after halftime, hit a jumper with 1:30 left in the half to give Iowa a 64-62 lead. Maryland had three shots on their next possession, but didn't score.

Iowa guard Andre Banks was fouled with 29 seconds left, and had a chance to give the Hawks a cushion with a one-and-one free throw situation. But Banks missed the front end of the bonus, Maryland rebounded, and tied the game

with four seconds left when 6-foot-8 guard Adrian • Please turn to page 2C: Iowa basketball

Huskies sideline ISU in Rainbow Classic, 72-59

Special to The Gazette

HONOLULU, Hawaii - The losers' bracket at the Rainbow Classic now contains two Iowa basketball

Iowa State could do little with Washington's burly frontline, and fell to the 11th-ranked Huskies Wednesday night, 72-59. Washington improved to 6-1, while the Cyclones fell to 8-3. All of ISU's losses have come to Top 20 clubs.

The Cyclones will play the loser of Wednesday's Arkansas-Georgia Tech game tonight at 6:30 (Iowa time). An Iowa State-Iowa rematch would occur Friday if both clubs win or lose today. The Cyclones won at Iowa earlier this month, 54-50. Washington's three frontline play-

ers combined for 54 points. Iowa State's main man on offense, forward Barry Stevens, was virtually a non-entity.

Stevens scored 10 points and played just over half the game. He got in foul trouble in the first half, and fouled out with 11:45 remaining in the game. Meanwhile, the tall trio of Chris-

tian Welp, Detlef Schrempf and Paul Fortier methodically took care of business. Welp, a 7-foot-1 sophomore center, scored 20 points, 14 in the first half when the Huskies opened a 39-30 advantage. Schrempf, a 6-9 forward, had 18

points, and 6-9 forward Fortier scored 16.

• Please turn to page 2C: ISU

RED PERS

Lucky lowa?

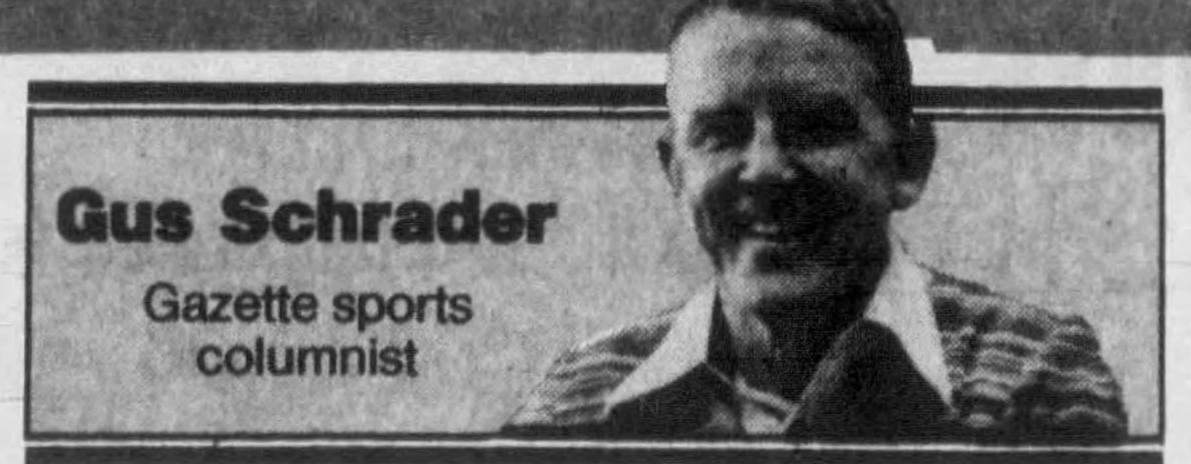
ANAHEIM, Calif. — As we splashed through the rain and puddles en route to the beautiful "Big A" Anaheim Stadium for the inaugural, Freedom Bowl Wednesday afternoon, we certainly couldn't be blamed for thinking about those lucky Hawkeyes and their fans.

"Lucky" did we say?

Well, yes, in a way. A lot of major universities would love to play in bowl games four straight years. These Hawkeye seniors have helped their own "luck" by working hard in each of those seasons to be rewarded.

But as Anaheim Stadium workmen peeled the plastic covers off the stadium turf at 4 p.m. Wednesday, we watched some of the early-arriving fans and marveled at how these loyalists keep following their team through the darnedest string of weather we've seen for post-season football.

Coach Hayden Fry has been insisting his luck is anything but good with two things: injuries and correct calls from the officials. Fry noted that a "no call" by a substitute zebra in Iowa's 17-16 loss to teams — and fans? Michigan State cost the Hawks two million bucks and the Rose Bowl berth.



"That no call (on Chuck Long's dive for a two-point conversion) was devastating," Fry said. "Our kids watched on TV the next Saturday as Ohio State clinched the Rose Bowl spot by beating Michigan. Our morale was terrible that night as we went up against Minnesota and lost."

Losing Ronnie Harmon, one of the nation's best running backs and pass receivers, in the Wisconsin contest with a broken leg was the worst kind of luck. Fry said injuries to about a dozen other Hawks made this "the worst season in that respect I've had in 34

years of coaching." But what kind of hex is it that follows Iowa's bowl

Look at the weather conditions that have plagued the four straight bowls:

started the New Year out very wet. We know many Iowa fans who canceled plans to attend the Tournament of Roses parade, but then the skies miraculously cleared in time so the famous flower carnival escaped. Iowa couldn't blame its 28-0 loss to Washington on the climate, but Fry came down with bronchial pneumonia two days before the game. Some Iowans — Fry included — will always think the Hawks were hampered because Fry was so weak and ill during the game.

1982 — Iowa beat Tennessee, 28-22, in the Peach Bowl. The weather was delightful in Atlanta Dec. 26 when we arrived, but then the clouds and cold weather came in. By Dec. 31 it was not much fun sitting in Fulton County Stadium the whole day.

1983 - Iowa lost to Florida, 14-6, in the Gator Bowl at Jacksonville, Fla., and the fans who survived will tell you they've never attended a game in which the conditions were more unpleasant. Jacksonville had and even the Gator Bowl plumbing was frozen. Then

1981 — Cold weather hampered Iowa's preparathe the rains came, and it was frigid and damp Dec. 31. tions at home before going to Pasadena. It wasn't bad bought all kinds of cold-weather clothing, and after the Hawks reached there, but a downpour of rain some even appropriated blankets from their hotel beds. Not many stuck it out till the end.

And that brought us down to Dec. 26, 1984, and the Iowans who came out here before Christmas thought they finally had it made. Heavy rains stopped in the Los Angeles area last Friday, and the weather had been nearly perfect since.

Then, bingo, the weather changed about noon Wednesday. By 2 p.m. the rain started coming down in earnest.

As much sympathy as we feel for the lowa team and fans, the biggest load of our feeling was saved for Director Tom Starr and his Freedom Bowl committee and sponsors. They deserved better than this. They were counting on a big turnout of fans on game day to help them come close to breaking even. That was washed away as the cold rain fell. Only a hardy lowa or Texas fan would buy a ticket to sit in the rain when he could find shelter and watch it on TV.

If this is the last Freedom Bowl, the sponsors can been hit by 12-degree temperature on Christmas day, very well blame it on Wednesday's rain in sunny

FREEDOM BOWL



Gazette photo by Joe Edens

Freedom rings for Hawkeyes as 'Horns get hooked, 55-17

By Bob Denney Gazette sportswriter

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The Texas Longhorns won't have to remember the Alamo any more.

From this day forward, the football battle cry in the Longhorn state will be: "Remember the Freedom Bowl!"

Wednesday night's assault by the Iowa Hawkeyes and quarterback Chuck Long at Anaheim Stadium embarrassed a Texas defensive secondary that was once proud of its ability to shut down the air lanes. But what can you say after a 55-17 thumping?

"Our stop troops didn't do the job," said senior Lombardi Trophy winner Tony Degrate. "There were three tough losses for me in my career: the loss to Baylor, (Texas) A&M, and against Iowa but the Iowa loss is the worst. It hurt to lose your last one."

And, what about you, Jerry Gray? You were out in the air lanes where the bullets were flying.

"I've never suffered a loss this bad in my life," the two-time All-American free safety said. "No quarter-

"When we took the middle away, Iowa went to the outside," Gray said. "Long is the best quarterback I've seen; he threw when he had to, and to the right guy when he had to. I think their coach Fry knew just about

what I was going to do before I did it."

Gray was the only senior in the Longhorns' secondary. There were three sophomores who will not sleep well tonight — left cornerback James Lott, right cornerback Tony Tillmon and strong safety Steven Braggs. The 469 total yards and six touchdown passes they surrendered will seem like a bad night at Guadalcanal.

Lott made his night worse by slipping in the third quarter while covering lowa's Robert Smith. Lott

Smith gather the ball in his hands and score. It was 41-17 at the time, and was getting worse. "I just jumped up and fell," said Lott. "Iowa found the

things they could do and did them over and over."

Said Tillmon, "We went out and it didn't look like we had it in us tonight. That third quarter did us in."

Iowa scored 31 points after halftime and went on to score the second-highest point total ever against a Texas team.

"I thought it was like a dadgum storm out there," said Longhorn Coach Fred Akers. "The way I saw it at halftime, the team that got the big plays in the third quarter was going to win the ballgame. Iowa did that, and they deserved to win."

When asked if the playing conditions in a constant downpour was a major factor, Akers replied, "You know it rains sometimes in Austin, Texas, too."

Akers shook hands with Fry following the game. He said to the lowa coach, "You did a great job, you should be proud."

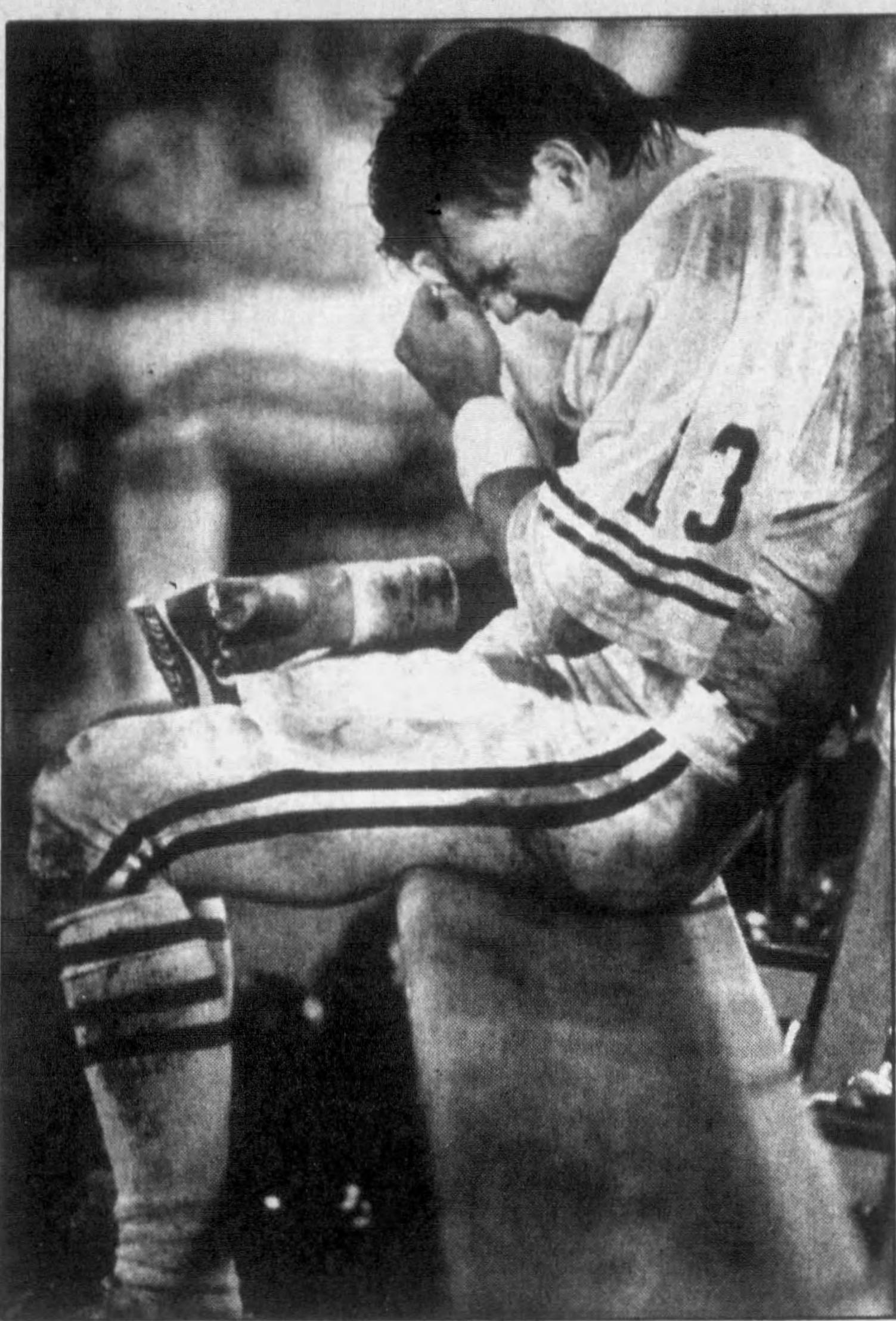
The fact Long had to return late in the fourth quarter and still passed the ball after the issue was well in hand did not upset Akers.

"I knew they had to get Long back in there because their other quarterback (Mark Vlasic) apparently broke his hand (actually a broken thumb). I never get concerned about someone scoring a lot of points on me. Tonight it didn't bother me because they deserved it."

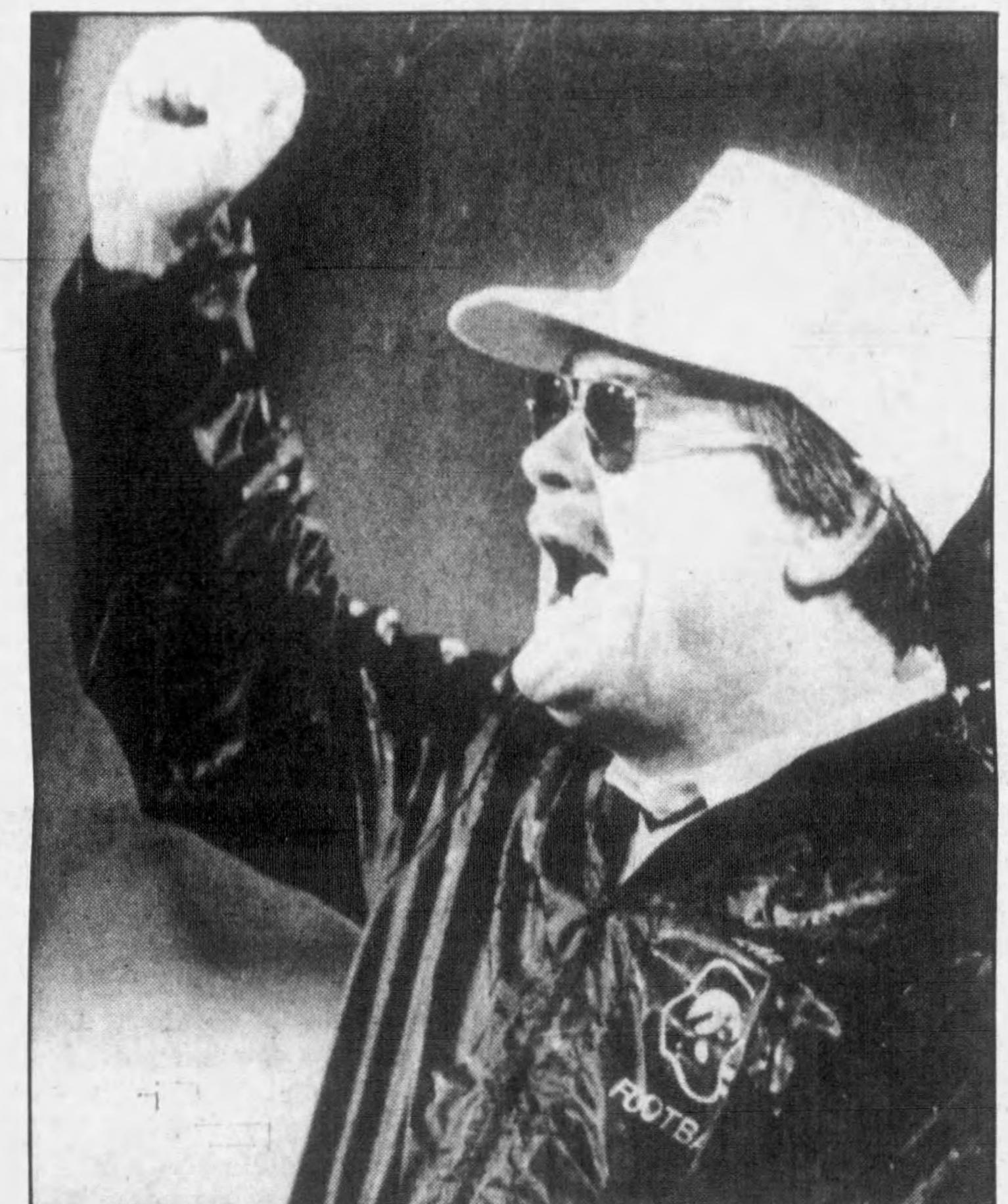
Texas defensive coordinator David McWilliams said Long just executed "tremendously."

"Long threw it as well as anyone," McWilliams said.
"Their receivers caught the ball as well as anyone we've faced. When Long was hurt earlier in the season it hampered his mobility but he bounced back strong tonight, didn't he?"

AT LEFT: lowa quarterback Chuck Long (16) unloads a pass in the downpour at the Freedom Bowl Wednesday. BELOW: Texas quarterback Todd Dodge hangs his head in defeat after lowa defeated the Texas Longhorns in the Freedom Bowl.



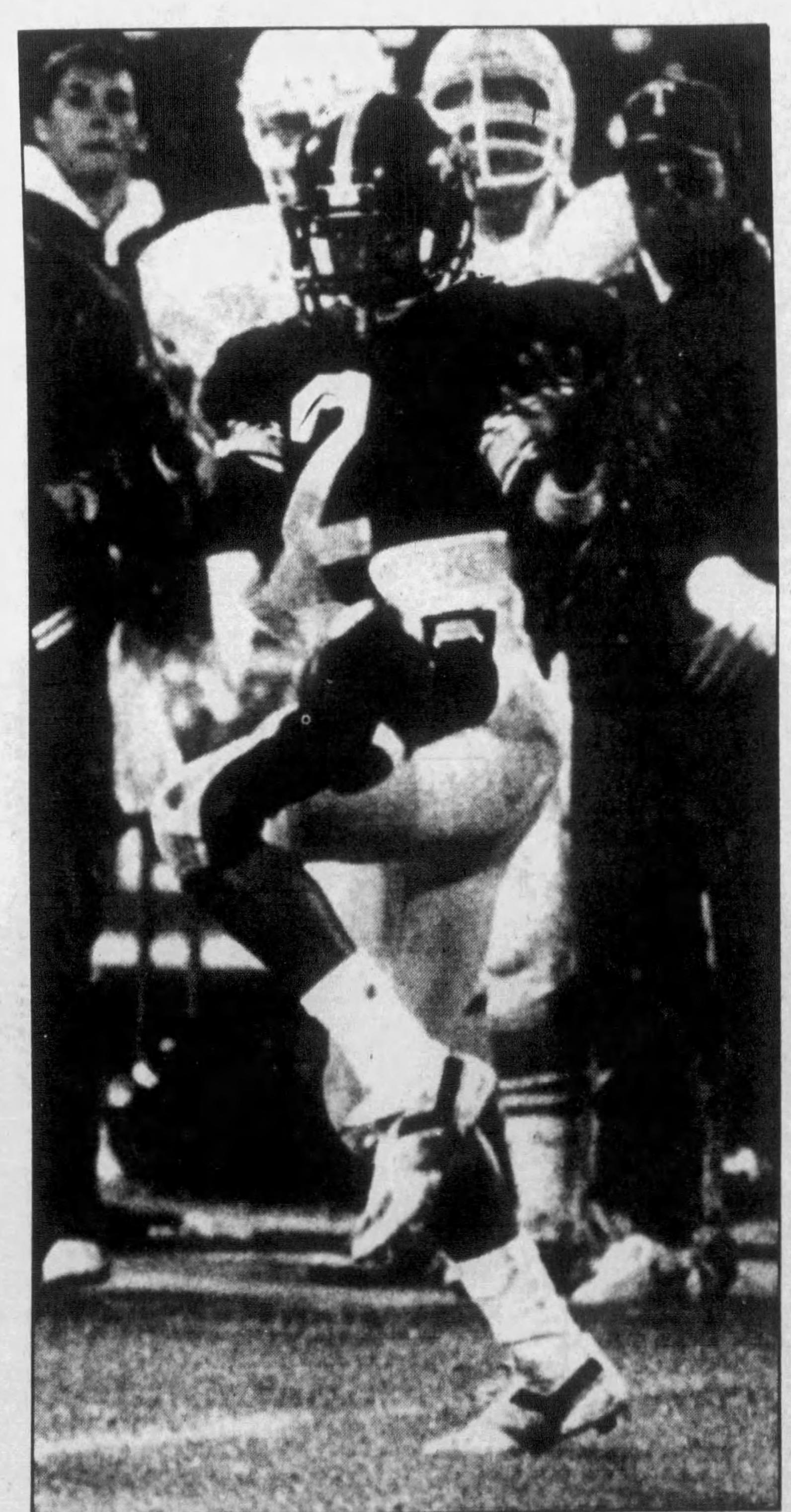
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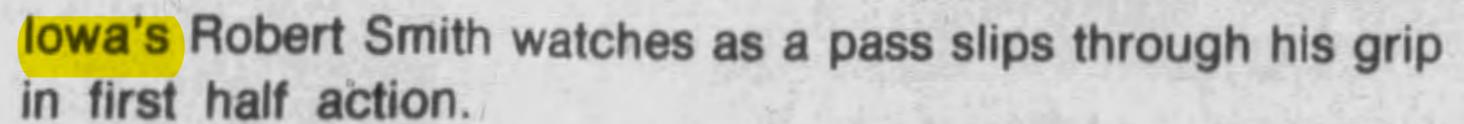
At left: lowa coach Hayden Fry raises his fist in triumph as lowa defeats the University of Texas.



UPI photo



Gazette photo by Joe Edens

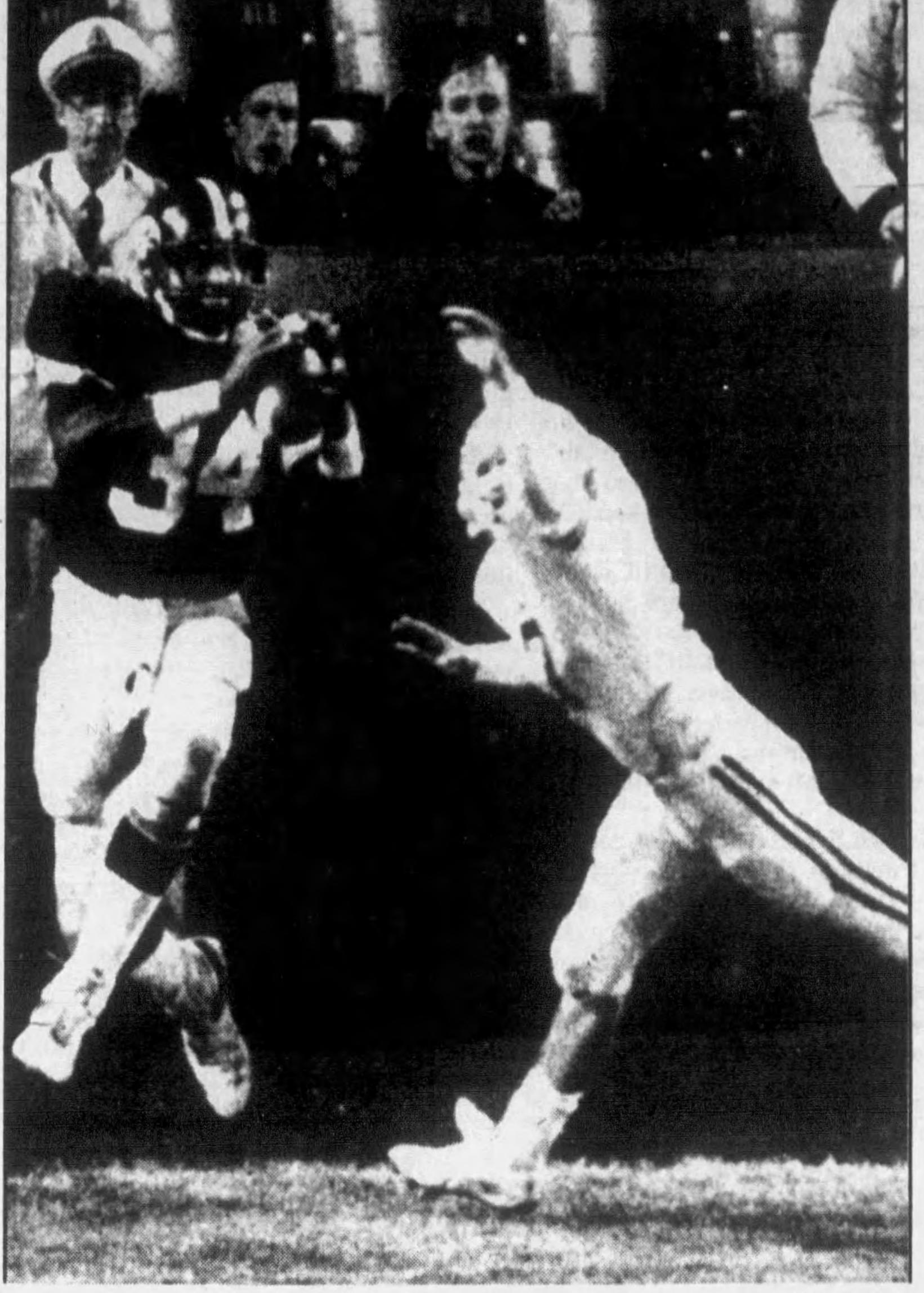




UPI photo

University of lowa cornerback Keith Hunter (left) and tight end Jonathan Hayes (right) hold the Freedom Bowl trophy after winning the game, 55-17.





AP photo

lowa's Jonathan Hayes (34) grabs a pass from Chuck Long for the first touchdown of Wednesday night's Freedom Bowl.

Hawkeyes

From page 1C

Fry was asked if he knew whether Long would decide to take his final Iowa season in 1985.

"I hope so, but I don't know what open." he will decide. We'd love to have him back, of course, because we've got most of the rest of our offense

coming back. "Chuck had a wet ball tonight, but he did a fantastic job of passing. He's always good, but part of this season he had to play on one leg. Against Texas' man-for-man defense, you have to throw perfect strikes, and he certainly did. He may not look great out there all the time, but all he does is throw strikes

and he probably reads defenses as

well as anyone in the country." Fry said Iowa went into the game without the services of defensive end Dave Strobel and free safety Devon Mitchell. Strobel still had a sore knee, and Mitchell was injured in pre-bowl practice.

"OUR DEFENSE WAS banged up some," said Jeff Drost, who moved over from nose guard to defensive left tackle when Paul Hufford was injured. "Paul got hurt on the second or third play, but I didn't even know it until Hap Peterson came in and said, 'Move over.' Hap played nose guard the rest of the way while I played tackle. Todd Dodge (Texas QB) is a good one, very quick. It seems we played against three of the fastest quarterbacks in the country the last three games, as Minnesota's Foggie and Hawaii's Cherry were a lot like Dodge."

needed one more touchdown pass to break the school record of five, and he also left him in to set a school mark for yardage.

"We weren't trying to run up the score on Texas, but I had to put Chuck back in when Mark Vlasic broke his thumb. We didn't have any other quarterback, as we've been using Kevin Harmon at running back. He hasn't practiced, so he might drop the ball or run the wrong way."

Bill Happel, who led both sides with eight catches, was asked if the Hawkeyes baited the Texas defense to set up his touchdown catch.

"Yes, I ran a lot of 'in' patterns early in the game," the Cedar Rapids junior replied. "The Texas defensive backs were covering me tight and hitting me quick inside. So I went back to the sideline and told Coach Fry I was sure I could fake

IOWA 55, TEXAS 17

WA-Flagg 11 pass from Long (Nichol kick)

TEXAS—Harris 1 pass from Dodge (Ward kick)

IOWA — Smith 49 pass from Long (Nichol kick)

IOWA—Helverson 4 pass from Long (Nichol kick)

Individual Statistics

Polite Bush

K. Harmon

IOWA-Hayes 15 pass from Long (Nichol kick)

IOWA-Bush 1 run (Nichol kick)

TEXAS—FG Ward 46

Brown Dodge

First downs

Yards rushing Yards passing

Punts-average

TEXAS

another pattern inside and then cut deep. So he called that play on our next series, and sure enough, I got

ROBERT SMITH is the only Hawkeye player from Texas, and he had been looking forward to playing against the big school from his native state.

"I can't wait 'til I get home tomorrow afternoon!" Smith beamed. "My mother couldn't get here tonight, but I know she enjoyed watching it on TV.

"I tried to talk to some of the Texas players tonight, but I guess they weren't too excited about talking to me. Yes, Jerry Gray is a great defensive back. He must be to be an All-American, but I have to admit I expected him to be better than he showed tonight. I think he underestimated our passing attack. Chuck really threw the ball tonight, and our receivers also did a good

Both Happel and Smith said they had no reading on whether Long will stay or turn pro.

Scott Helverson, who caught four passes, said, "I really didn't notice the rain tonight except when I was standing on the sideline watching our defense. Gee, there wasn't much of a crowd, was there? I think we had a bigger crowd than that for our spring game last time."

Tight end Mike Flagg said, "The crowd wasn't big, and it sure rained, but we could hear those Hawkeye fans." Helverson added, "The lack of noise sure made it a lot easier for Fry said the staff knew Long us to hear Chuck call the audibles."

KELLY O'BRIEN, offensive guard, said Tony Degrate, Texas All- American defensive tackle and Lombardi Trophy winner "was so good and quick that he was awfully hard to handle, but thank goodness our coaches had a good scheme for us to handle him. We felt if we gave Chuck enough time to throw that he could have a great game passing."

Mike Stoops, senior strong safety, intercepted a pass and almost ran it

back for a touchdown. "I was hoping to go all the way, but a couple of their guys got in my way," Stoops grinned. "This was my final game, so it's kind of sad for me, but if you have to go out, this was a wonderful victory to do it on. The Big Ten really needed a victory tonight, as they had lost two bowl games earlier (Michigan to BYU and Michigan State to Army)."

PASS RECEIVING

PUNTING

KICK RETURNS

INTERCEPTIONS

TACKLES

Brown Schmidt

Moerschell

McKinney

Torres

5-42.8 Kostrubalo

Bayless

Freedom Bowl

From page 1C

touchdowns — against man-to-man coverage.

The Iowa offense rolled up 560 total yards and 28 first downs against the Longhorns. Texas, which finished 7-4-1, had just 300 total yards.

Long played nearly the entire game, but Fry had an explanation.

"We had to put Long back in (the fourth quarter) because the backup broke his finger," said Fry, referring to second-string quarterback Mark Vlasic. "Fred Akers is a great man and a great coach, and I apologize for the score being too high."

LONG MISSED his first three pass attempts of the first half, but then caught fire. He completed his last nine passes and 14 of his last 15 attempts, sparking lowa to a sevenpoint lead at intermission.

Texas, which had 46 turnovers during the regular season, gave up the ball twice in its first six plays and had five turnovers for the game.

On the Longhorns' sixth play, Mike Stoops gave Iowa brilliant field position when he snared his third interception of the season. He Dodge's pass, returning the ball 18 yards to the Texas 19.

Owen Gill gained 13 yards. Two plays later, Long found a wide-open Hayes in the end zone for a six-yard

scoring pass. The Hawkeyes increased their lead to 14-0 when Long tossed an 11-yard touchdown pass to Flagg, a Cedar Falls freshman. A 41-yard reception by Flagg on third-andthree set up the score.

Texas finally got its offense untracked on its next possession, driving 80 yards in 12 plays. Bill Boy Bryant made a diving catch of Dodge's pass in the front corner of the end zone. Jeff Ward's kick reduced Iowa's lead to 14-7 with 13:35 left in the half.

faze Iowa's offense, though, as it drove 77 yards in 10 plays for another touchdown. Fred Bush scored the first touchdown of his career, blasting in from a yard out with 10:14 left in the half.

Long was 4 of 5 during the drive for 66 yards, including a 29-yarder T.J. Turner. "We started out the to Helverson that put Iowa in Texas

The seesaw scoring continued, as Texas rambled 80 yards in 11 plays. The Longhorns cut the lead to 21-14 when Dodge hit tight end William Harris on a fourth-down, one-yard

A big play in that drive was a 28yard pass from Dodge to Bryant when Iowa had the Longhorns facing a third-and-17.

Texas, recovering a fumbled Iowa snap at the Hawkeye 27, tightened the game even more when Ward drilled a 46-yard field goal with 2:23 left in the half.

Ward had missed a 51-yard try to the left on the previous play, but owa's Keith Hunter was whistled for roughing.

Iowa extended its lead when Tom Nichol hit a 27-yard field goal on the last play of the half.

The Hawkeye offense continued to click in the third period, gaining a whopping 301 yards on just 23

Iowa was whistled for clipping on the second-half kickoff, but that was merely a temporary setback. Long rifled a first-down pass to Hayes over the middle and the talented tight end turned it into a 49-yard gain, rambling to the Texas 39.

Long hit Happel for a 10-yard gainer and a fask mask penalty on Texas tacked on another five, putting Iowa at the Longhorn 24. Long's string of consecutive completions ended at 11 and the

Nichol field goal. On Texas' second play after the kickoff, linebacker Larry Station stripped the ball from Jerome Johnson and nose guard Hap Peterson recovered for Iowa at the

Hawkeyes settled for a 35-yard

Longhorn 33. Long seized the opportunity immediately, lofting a beautiful 33yard scoring pass to Happel. The Cedar Rapids junior roared past Tony Griffin at the line of scrimmage, raced down the sidelines and gathered in Long's toss in the end

THE ROUT was on.

Smith, the speedster from Dallas, was the next beneficiary of Long's hot arm. Smith leaped over the shoulder of cornerback James Lott and waltzed into the end zone. The 49-yard scoring pass and Nichol's kick put Iowa in front 41-17.

Long tied Riddle's record at the 4:53 mark of the third period, hitting Helverson on a four-yard scoring strike to make it 48-17.

Jeff Drost's recovery of a Terry Orr fumble at the Iowa 35 stopped a Longhorn threat.

Smith's 31-yard pass reception put Iowa at the Texas 23. Long followed with an 8-yarder to Happel and a 15-yarder to Hayes, the latter snapping Riddle's record. With 2:19 still left in the third period, the scoring was completed.

Happel was lowa's leading receiver with eight catches for 104 vards. Smith had four receptions for 115 yards, Flagg five for 71, Hayes three for 70 and Helverson four for



UPI photo

University of Houston Coach Bill Yeoman strides across the field at the Cotton Bowl Wednesday as his team goes through a workout. The Cougars will face Boston College in the Jan. 1 Cotton Bowl.

darted in front of receiver Rob Moerschell and picked off Todd Boston College, Houston arrive ards to the Texas 19. A first-down draw play with to begin Cotton Bowl workouts

DALLAS (AP) — Boston College and Houston got to the Cotton Bowl Wednesday by different routes. The favored Easterners came down from the stratosphere, while the Cougars got up off the floor.

Houston was 1-2 but rallied to finish at 7-4 and earn the Southwest Conference spot in the game. Boston College had to settle down after the highlights of quarterback Doug Flutie's Heisman Trophy and the school's first New Year's Day bowl bid since 1943.

"In a slight way" it's a relief to arrive in Dallas after a hectic round of public appearances, Flutie said THE LONGHORN drive didn't Wednesday. "Now that I'm down the delivery of their equipment. here there'll be a day or two of interviews and then I'll be able to concentrate on the game at hand."

If's a game the Cougars didn't figure to be in.

"It does surprise me, us being here," said Houston defensive tackle conference schedule 3-0, then we lost two games back-to-back to Texas Christian and Arkansas.

"After that I'd say we had just a little bit of luck, but everybody has to have some luck sometime to get something."

The Cougars practiced for about 90 minutes Wednesday afternoon at the Cotton Bowl. Boston College, which arrived in Dallas about two hours after Houston, abandoned

ee Now that I'm down here there'll be a day or two of interviews and then I'll be able to concentrate on the game at hand.

— Doug Flutie

practice plans because of a delay in Eagles' Coach Jack Bicknell said

that didn't bother him. "You've got to roll with the punches," he said.

Bicknell has taken in similar stride the designation of Boston College, which hasn't won a bowl game since 1941, as the team that's expected to win.

"I never really feel an awful lot of pressure," he said. Houston Coach Bill Yeoman said

being the underdog doesn't lessen the pressure on his team. "If you're raised in Texas, you'd

find out there's no less pressure" on Houston because it isn't favored, he said. "This is deadly serious down here. The representative of the conference plays real hard. I can said.

feel the pressure without any prob-

Bicknell said his eighth-ranked Eagles "have a lot of respect" for Houston, even though it is unranked.

"They're the Southwest Conference champions, which means an awful lot to guys from Boston and the East," he said. "We've heard a lot about the Southwest Conference. They beat who they had to beat to get here."

The Cougars, who rushed for more than 300 yards in each of their last two games, hope to control the

"We want to sustain some long drives and take some time off the clock, try to cool Flutie off so he'll have a lot of time between their series," said Houston quarterback Gerald Landry.

Bicknell said his primary concern is, "can we stop them? Can they control the ball for eight minutes at a time so it might be a long time before we get the ball back?"

Once the Eagles get the ball back, though, Flutie doesn't need much time to score.

"I'd rather be down by three points with the ball than up by three points with them with the ball and a chance to win because you're in control of your own destiny," Flutie

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