Former Tenn. State QB throws pass to beat Skins

They finally got down to No. 3 in the quarterback ranks of the Pittsburgh Steelers Monday night on national television.

And that meant Joe Gilliam.

The former signal-caller of the always-fimrobadel Tennessee State football empire was not the least awed by being thrown into a game between two of pro football's most powerful teams — the Steelers and Washington Redskins.

And to prove the pressure of the situation held no fear for him, Gilliam ipct hade 46-yard touchdown strike in

AFRO Sports

the fourth quarter to seal a 21-16 victory over the favored Skins.

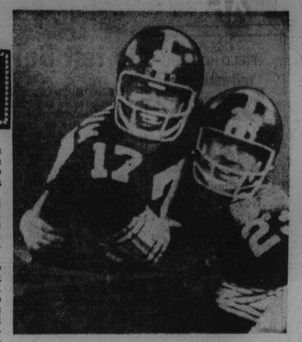
Gilliam, just activated this week after regular quarterback Terry Bradshaw suffered a shoulder separation, didn't show any fear of the Washington defense as he came out throwing. He hit on only three of ten passes but his pass to Barry Pearson streaking over the middle was enough to put the game out of reach.

"I knew I could ge tt eh job done," Gilliam, one of the two black quarterbacks in the NFL. "I've been with this team for two years and I feel I know what I'm doing. I have confidence in my self and I think the players have confidence in me."

forced out of the game with a recurring rib injury when he fell on a fumble on his own two-yard line and then was pounced upon by two Redskins.

"I hurt the ribs in the first quarter when I got rapped," Hanratty said.

"When they fell on me after that fumble there was no way I could go on. i hadn't taken any medication for it — I just bite silver bullets," he said with a half-grin.



Joe Gilliam (17) and Mike Wagner jubilation follows winning 46-yard TD completion

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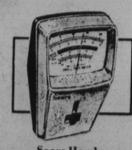

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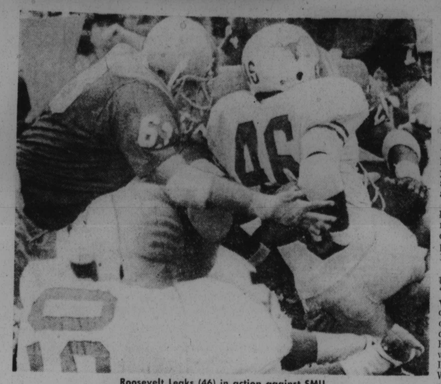
Black Longhorn explodes into Heisman picture



Roosevelt Leaks (46) in action against SMU 342-yard afternoon is extolled by two coaches

Texas coach Darrell Royal came out and said it, and Baylor coach Grant Teaff backed him up.

"Yes, I would say Roosevelt Leaks is a candidate for the Heisman Trophy," said Royal.

"Roosevelt Leaks may be the best player who ever stepped on a football field," said Teaff.

The praise for Leaks, indeed, is getting pretty thick in Texasthese days. Leaks gave himself a big boost toward national recognition last week by gaining 342 yards — just eight yards short of the NCAA — against Southern Methodist.

The performance just happened to com before a national television audience, and it just hanpened that it paced the 42-14 victory, over SMU.

"Obviously Roosevelt has been superb," said Royal, "and his feat last Saturday was fantastic." But Royal quickly said that although offensive linemen are seldom considered for the Heisman Award, the man who is the key blocker for Leaks — center Bill Wyman — should be given credit, too.

"I'd say Roosevelt is a candidate and I would say Wyman is one, too." Royal said. "I vote differently from most people. I don't remember a lineman getting the Heisman, though. It's mostly a backs' award."

Leaks went into the SMU game as the nation's third leading ball carrier with a 134-yard per game average.

His performance broke the 23-year-old single game rushing record of 297-yards set by Texas A and M's Bob Smith.

His efforts against SMU fell just short of the NCAA record of 350 yards set two seasons ago by Eric Allen of Michigan State.

Leaks has now carried for 1,146 yards this season. In his last three games SMU, the junior fullback has picked up 744 yards for an average of 248 yards per against Rice, Arkansas and game.

Rockets ink Johnson, waive Stan McKenzie

HOUSTON — The Houston Rockets Wednesday activated center George Johnson and placed guard Stan McKenzie on waivers. Johnson, 6-11, missed the Rockets' first 13 games with a fractured jaw injured in practice last month.

Both McKenzie and Johnson formerly played with the Bullets when they were in Baltimore.

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