

Cowboy's seven field goals lead to win, record

■ **NFL:** Dallas head coach Barry Switzer's decision to go for a late field goal didn't sit well with Green Bay

By Dave Goldberg
The Associated Press

IRVING, Texas — Chris Boniol's record-tying seven field goals kicked the Dallas Cowboys to their seventh-straight win over the Green Bay Packers 21-6 Monday night.

But were the Cowboys kicking the Packers when they were down?

Boniol's first five field goals came on Dallas' first five possessions.

The other two came in the second half, the final one from 28 yards with 20 seconds left in the game to match the NFL mark shared by Jim Bakken and

Rich Karlis. The kick came after Troy Aikman took a knee and the Cowboys called timeout to get Boniol onto the field.

It precipitated a minor melee as some of the Packers, upset about a needless score, milled around with the Cowboys near the Dallas bench. Reggie White and Michael Irvin got into a jawing match, but after the game they talked again and this time they hugged each other and walked off.

"I wouldn't deny your son, my son, anyone's son a chance to make an NFL record," said Dallas coach Barry Switzer, who earlier this year vetoed a suggestion by owner Jerry Jones that he run up the

score against Miami and Jimmy Johnson, Dallas' former coach.

"I made the decision and he damn sure deserved it tonight because he won the game with his foot. Someone's got to make the damn decision and it was me. You can never have sympathy for anyone in this league. If our kicking coach hadn't told me he could set an NFL record, we wouldn't have done it!"

Said Boniol: "I feel good, it's something I'm proud of. I'm not excited about what happened after

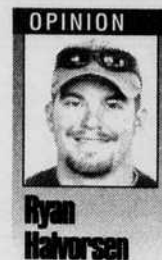
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Playoff picture starting to clear in NFL, maybe

What a wacky year it's been for odds makers who are trying to make the spreads in the National Football League.

Who would have guessed that 11 games into the season teams like Denver, Washington and Carolina would be at the top of or near the top of their respective divisions, and looking good for playoff positions.

With the Broncos, it's not that surprising that they are at the top of the AFC West or even the fact that they are 10-1 on the season. Their schedule this year has turned into a four-lane freeway to the playoffs and you have to give them credit for taking advantage of it.



Ryan Halvorsen

So far this year, Denver has only played three teams with better than .500 records. Seven of their wins have come against teams that are either dead last or second to last in its division; teams like the New York Jets, Seattle, Tampa Bay, Cincinnati and Baltimore. The combined

winning percentage of the Broncos' opponents is a whopping .438. Their biggest tests are yet to come as they play Minnesota, Green Bay, Seattle, Oakland and San Diego in the final five weeks, but it is probably safe to say that they have at least a lock on a wild-card position for the playoffs even if they don't win another game.

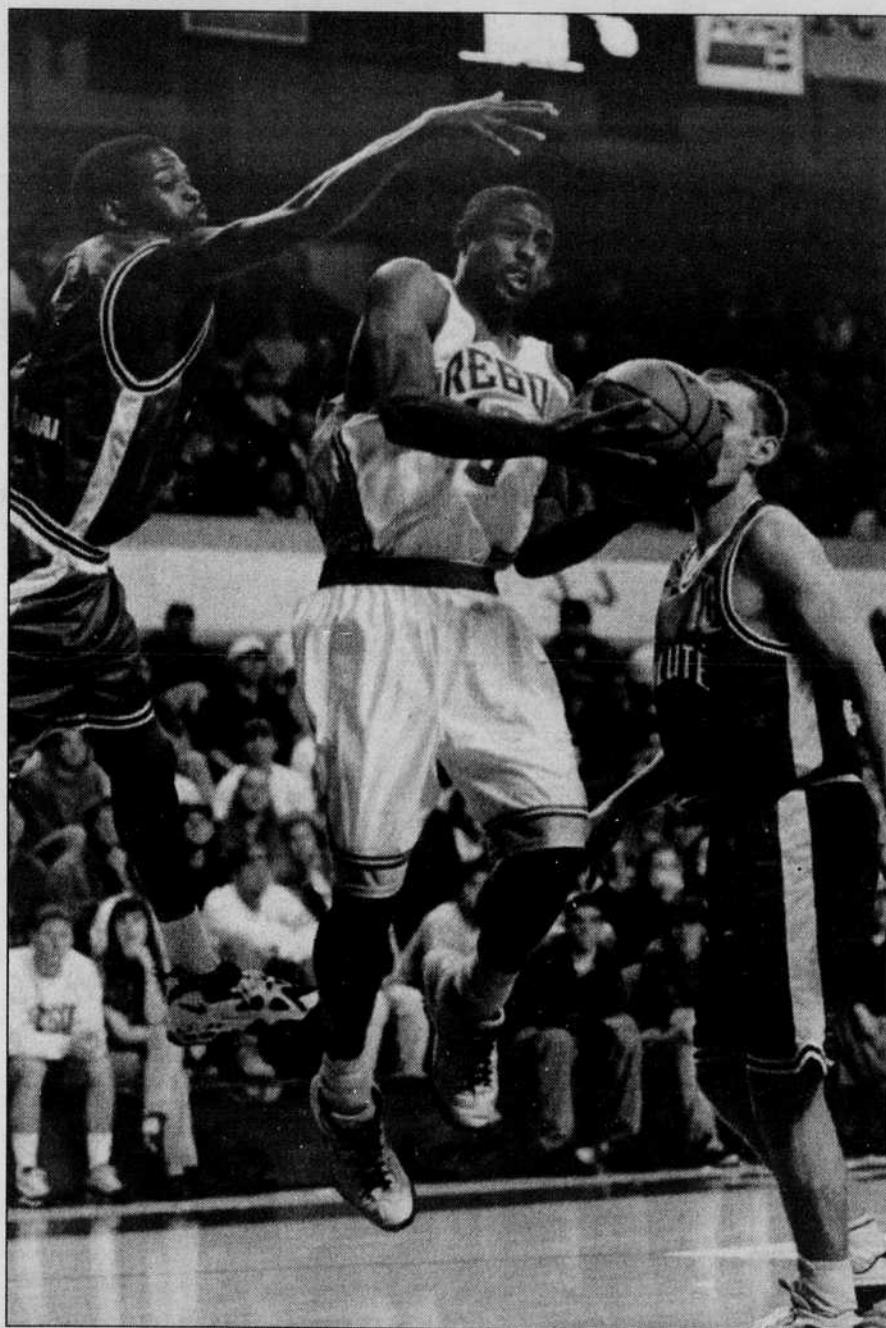
The Redskins have been cruising on that same freeway that the Broncos are driving down, but there are some major road blocks on Washington's off ramp. So far the Redskins' opponents have a .463 winning percentage and they have beaten such NFL powerhouses as the Jets, the Rams and the Giants. Washington has, however, played four teams with winning records, Philadelphia twice, Buffalo, New England and Indianapolis, going 3-2 in those games. So the record is not a total fluke.

The Redskins' playoff picture may not be as certain as Denver's, but to say the least, it is a good one. Washington still has to play Dallas twice, San Francisco, Tampa Bay and Arizona, which beat the Redskins in overtime this year. If they can pick up at least two of those games, the playoffs will be a likely place to find them come January.

The NFC playoff picture is starting to come into plain view after Week 12. San Francisco will probably lock up the NFC West spot, while Dallas and Philadelphia will challenge Washington for the NFC East title, but all will probably make the playoffs. Green Bay will more than likely lock up the NFC Central title leaving Car-

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Oregon takes close exhibition victory



Jamal Lawrence led the Ducks in scoring on Monday night with 19 points in Oregon's 81-79 victory over Lithuania.

■ **BASKETBALL:** Free throws clinch victory over Silute Lithuania

By Andrea De Young
Assistant Sports Editor

It may have been raining buckets outside, but the Oregon men's basketball team had to overcome a first-half scoring drought to beat Silute Lithuania 81-79 on Monday night.

After scoring 114 points in their first exhibition game last week, the Ducks did not have it quite as easy offensively as they shot only .386, including going more than six minutes in the first half without scoring a single point. The Lithuanians shot .627 and kept the game close throughout both halves.

But it was Oregon's clutch free-throw shooting at the end of the game that clinched the victory. The Ducks were down 79-76 with two minutes and 40 seconds to go when Jamal Lawrence sunk one of his two free throws, Kenya Wilkins hit his second of two, Kyle Milling went two-for-two from the line and Wilkins sank one more to put the Ducks up 81-79 with 13 seconds to go in the game.

The Lithuanians had one more chance to tie or win, but the Oregon defense was too tough, and the 5,834 fans at McArthur Court came alive to help keep the offense from taking a clean shot. The Lithuanians tried for an outside jumper, but missed, and as the players struggled for the rebound time ran out.

Although the Ducks got the exhibition win, head coach Jerry Green did not get to play some of his reserve players as

THE STATS

■ **REBOUNDS:**
UO 34,
Lithuania 32

■ **TURNOVERS:**
UO 17,
Lithuania 10

■ **STEALS:**
UO 15,
Lithuania 10

■ **KYLE MILLING:** 13 total rebounds, nine offensive

■ **JAMAL LAWRENCE:** 19 points, six steals

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Wilkins struggles to find his shooting touch

■ **POINT GUARD:** The Ducks' floor leader didn't score his first basket until half way into his second game

By Chris Hansen
Sports Reporter

In the two Oregon men's basketball exhibition games this season, point guard Kenya Wilkins has had no problems finding open teammates to dish the ball to, or careless opponents from whom to swipe the ball from. He has seen them quite well actually, leading the team in assists with 12 and also recording 4 steals.

But what he has struggled to find, though, is his shot. In the two games against China and Lithuania, Wilkins has taken 15 shots and made only five.

In fact, Wilkins didn't even put points on the board

until four minutes into the second half of Monday night's 81-79 victory over Lithuania, going 0-for-10 in the two games up to that point.

The reason for the poor scoring numbers? Part intentional and part struggle Wilkins said.

"Against China, I intentionally didn't take any shots," Wilkins said of his two-shot performance last Thursday night. "I wanted to see how we would do without me scoring."

They did just fine, scoring 114 points. But on Mon-

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