

## Proposal accepted despite failed ad

The Associated Press

### SEATTLE

Rand Fishkin wanted to propose to his girlfriend with a Super Bowl ad. That didn't quite work out, but there was still local TV, and he got the answer he wanted.

Fishkin, 27, got into the advertising gambit after a Tennessee man who started a Web site to try to raise \$2.6 million to buy a Super Bowl ad learned in the fall that his dream girl would turn him down.

Fishkin took over the Web site, mysuperproposal.com, which by then had dropped the fund-raising plan in favor of luring a corporate sponsor, and things looked good.

A major company, which Fishkin declined to name, offered to feature the proposal in one of its ads, but then withdrew, he says.

The dream was still alive, though. The site drew 200,000 page views on the day before the game, and according to Fishkin's relatives, CBS called on game day to say the network would air a video he made himself as an in-house spot. But then the network called again by halftime to say the ad wouldn't run after all.

So Fishkin turned to another funding source, his mom, and bought a \$3,000 local ad on Tuesday during his girlfriend's favorite show, "Veronica Mars."

In his ad, Fishkin, CEO of SEOmooz, a Seattle Web search engine optimizing company, held up a picture of himself and Geraldine DeRuiter, 26.

"The whole world?" he says. "This is Geraldine. She is amazing in every way. For the last five years, we've spent the best parts of our lives together and made it through the tough times, too. I couldn't ask for anything more in my life than her love."

"And that's why I'm here today. Geraldine, will you marry me?"

Right after the ad aired, DeRuiter said yes.

Donations of \$10,000 raised by the site will go to Vanderbilt Children's Hospital in Nashville, Tenn.

# Cowboys pick veteran head coach

## Chargers defensive coordinator Phillips has led four other NFL teams

By STEPHEN HAWKINS  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### IRVING, Texas

Wade Phillips was hired Thursday to coach the Dallas Cowboys, providing the club with an experienced replacement for Bill Parcells and someone well-versed in the 3-4 defense.

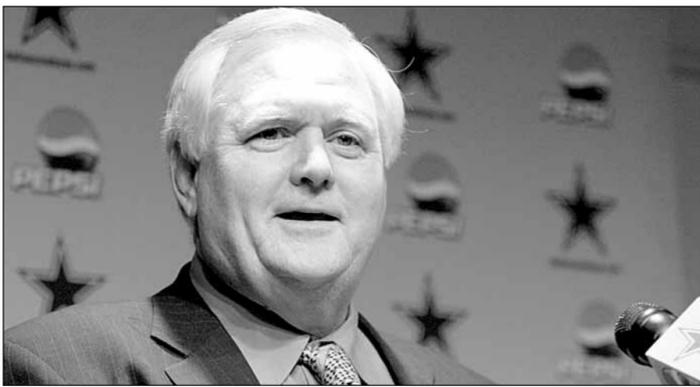
The seventh coach in team history, Phillips is only the second to arrive in Dallas with previous head coaching experience. The other was Parcells, who retired Jan. 22 after four seasons with the Cowboys.

Phillips, defensive coordinator at San Diego the past three seasons, has a 48-42 head coaching record in three seasons with Buffalo, two with Denver and season-ending interim stints with New Orleans and Atlanta. The 59-year-old son of longtime Oilers coach Bum Phillips has been in the NFL for 30 of the past 31 seasons.

Wade Phillips joins Tom Landry and Jimmy Johnson as the only Texas natives to be in charge of "America's Team." Landry and Johnson both won two Super Bowls in Dallas.

"It's great to have these cowboy boots back in Texas," Phillips said, showing his boots from the podium, where his father sat to his right. "I'm excited about it."

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones interviewed 10 candidates before hiring his sixth coach since buying the team in 1989. Phillips was interviewed two weeks ago, and his chances of getting the job seemed to be fading



Wade Phillips, shown during a news conference in Irving, Texas, on Thursday, was named the Dallas Cowboys' new head coach. He replaces Bill Parcells, who resigned last month.

when supposed favorite Norv Turner was among five more who followed him.

But Jones chose the defensive-minded Phillips over Turner, a two-time head coach who was the Cowboys' offensive coordinator for Super Bowl titles after the 1992 and 1993 seasons.

"We needed to get it right. In my mind we got it right," Jones said, getting emotional as he introduced Phillips.

After Jason Garrett interviewed for the head coaching vacancy Jan. 25, Jones hired him to an unspecified role on the coaching staff. It has been presumed that he will be the offensive coordinator, but Phillips said

he didn't want to discuss Garrett's role until he had a chance to talk to the former Cowboys backup quarterback.

Phillips' head coaching record includes 3-4 as a fill-in for the Saints and Falcons. He is 0-3 in the playoffs, most notably the "Music City Miracle," when Tennessee used a trick kick return for the winning touchdown in the closing seconds against the Bills in 2000.

Besides carrying on his family tradition, Phillips has handled the dubious task of replacing Super Bowl coaches Dan Reeves in Denver and Marv Levy in Buffalo. So following Parcells shouldn't bother him.

Parcells, who won two Super Bowls with the New York Giants, went 34-32 in four years in Dallas and lost twice in the playoffs. The Cowboys haven't won a post-season game in 10 seasons, the longest drought in club history.

Parcells, whose 19-year tenure included two Super Bowl titles with the New York Giants, implemented the 3-4 scheme two years ago. He has built a roster suited for it, highlighted by end-turned-linebacker DeMarcus Ware.

"I love the defense that San Diego plays, and I think our team has guys who could play great roles in it," Ware said Thursday from the Pro Bowl.

Yet the defense was the weak link last season when Dallas went 9-7 and lost in the first round of the playoffs. The Cowboys lost four of their final five games, including the last three, mainly because they couldn't stop teams.

Phillips, meanwhile, was helping the Chargers go 14-2. They allowed the seventh-fewest points in the NFL and were rated 10th in total defense.

Phillips was born in Orange, Texas, and played college ball at Houston. He joined his dad's staff with the Oilers as a linebackers coach in 1976 and has been in the NFL ever since, except for 2001.

He stayed with the Oilers through 1980, then followed his father to New Orleans and became defensive coordinator at age 34. He replaced his father as head coach the final four games of the 1985 season, his first experience as a head coach.

# Broncos still mourning loss of teammate

By GREG BEACHAM  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

### KAPOLEI, Hawaii

Champ Bailey and John Lynch had the same idea for their latest trip to the Pro Bowl: They both wanted to wear No. 27 in honor of slain Broncos teammate Darrent Williams.

Williams died from a gunshot wound to the neck on New Year's Eve when his stretch limousine was repeatedly shot while driving away from a Denver nightclub. He was 24.

Most of the Broncos have been in varying degrees of shock since that day, when an overtime loss to the San Francisco 49ers kept them out of the playoffs.

Hours later, Williams' murder rendered

such concerns trivial, and not even another trip to the Pro Bowl could stop his teammates from thinking about their fellow defensive back.

"I think about it every day, sometimes every hour," said Bailey, a seven-time Pro Bowl selection. "We still don't know what happened, who did it. It's just tough to think how quick it can all happen."

Bailey and Lynch will wear their regular uniform numbers in Saturday's game after the NFL decided to put No. 27 decals on the back of every player's helmet in tribute to the Broncos' rising young cornerback. The three Broncos had discussed someday coming to the Pro Bowl together, and Lynch thought Williams had a chance to develop into a star.

Lynch, an eight-time Pro Bowl selection in 14 NFL seasons, always enjoys the work-

ing vacation in Hawaii with his wife and children, who posed with him for photos during the AFC's picture day Thursday.

But Williams also wasn't far from Lynch's mind.

"There's no question it's made a big impact on me and my teammates," Lynch said. "He was a guy who I really respected as a teammate and a person. It still hasn't sunk in, I guess. It's hard to believe what happened."

### Colts hope to stick together

Peyton Manning knows it's tough to keep together a team as good as his Indianapolis Colts.

He's particularly worried about losing a key running back for the second straight season. But he has a warning for any

teams circling around free-agent-to-be Dominic Rhodes.

"If anybody wants to sign him as a free agent, he's not a good starter is what I'm telling them," Manning said. "They don't want to pay him a lot of money."

Manning's tongue was firmly in his cheek, of course.

Rhodes, Edgerrin James' former backup who started 16 games during the regular season, did excel when the club moved Joseph Addai into the starting lineup during the playoffs. But the Colts needed contributions from both to win the NFL title.

"We decided to make the switch, and Dominic was even better coming off the bench," Manning said. "It wasn't a demotion, but he took the change in stride. I think that was just what he was most comfortable with."

## Bears' Johnson enters guilty plea

The Associated Press

### SKOKIE, Ill.

Bears defensive lineman Terry "Tank" Johnson pleaded guilty Thursday to violating probation in a 2005 gun case.

Cook County Judge John Moran denied a request to lift the player's home confinement but said Johnson could leave his house to attend practices. Moran delayed sentencing until March 15 so that a presentencing investigation can be done.

The same judge had allowed Johnson to travel to Miami for Sunday's Super Bowl XLI against the Indianapolis Colts.

## • Frazier

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE B1)

the run and preventing big gains.

Lewis presided over some of the league's best defenses as a coordinator, so it was difficult, according to Frazier, for him to hand over some decision-making go and give Frazier room to make his own impact.

"If you hire me, let me do my thing," Frazier said.

The Vikings went 6-10 because of offensive struggles and a pass defense exploited by opposing quarterbacks Tom Brady, Brett Favre and Chad Pennington.

Frazier, a cornerback in his playing days, helped Indianapolis improve its pass coverage during his two seasons with the Colts.

# Super Bowl win proves Bucs made mistake

By SID HARTMAN

MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL (MINN.) STAR TRIBUNE

Indianapolis coach Tony Dungy is riding high today after winning a Super Bowl with the Colts, but there were some bumps along the road.

The first one occurred in 1988, when Dungy was demoted from his position as defensive coordinator of the Steelers to secondary coach.

Dungy refused to accept the demotion, and in 1989 he joined the Kansas City Chiefs as secondary coach.

Denny Green was named head coach of the Minnesota Vikings in 1992, and one of his first

## COLUMN

moves was to hire Dungy as defensive coordinator.

The promotion that Green gave to Dungy set the stage for Dungy to receive a number of head coaching interviews, and in 1996 he was hired as coach of the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Then there was a time when the Vikings owners were unhappy with assistant coach Rich Solomon and wanted Green to fire him. When Green refused, there was a move to fire Green and move Dungy in as head coach. That never happened, but

the board of directors came close to making the move.

The low point for Dungy came after the 2001 season, when the Glazer family fired Dungy and sent draft choices to the Oakland Raiders for the right to hire Jon Gruden as coach.

It was one of the most unpopular firings in NFL history, and Dungy now has shown it was a big mistake.

Dungy became the Colts' coach in 2002, the same year Gruden won a Super Bowl in Tampa Bay. But it has been a downward slide for the Bucs since then.

In five years Gruden has a 39-41 regular-season record, has won two division titles and has

gone 3-1 in the playoffs. Dungy has gone 60-20 in the regular season, won four division titles and gone 7-4 in the playoffs.

Nothing against Gruden, but it was just bush the way the Tampa ownership dumped Dungy.

I can't recall as many media people pulling for a coach to win a Super Bowl as there were rooting for Dungy in Miami.

After the raw deal Dungy got in Tampa Bay and the class he displayed in accepting the firing, you had to be happy to see Dungy prove the firing was a mistake.

Sid Hartman writes for the Minneapolis-St. Paul (Minn.) Star Tribune. Send comments to shartman@startribune.com.



**AUTHORIZED TAURUS SALE**  
2007 Models  
5 Star Safety Rating & Great Fuel Economy



**35 In Stock**

Many colors & equipment  
From \$12,025  
**Matlock Ford**  
2140 N Morton St • Franklin, Indiana  
736-5185

**amazing.**

The money-saving, feature-packed Mutual Mastercard

Compare, and you'll see why we say it's the area's best credit card value:

- 9.9% fixed rate (APR)!
- No annual fee!
- Cash advances just \$5!
- Worldwide acceptance!

Apply for yours today at any Mutual Savings Bank location!



Amanda Tearman  
Trafalgar  
878-9484

**Mutual SAVINGS BANK**  
A friendly place to bank

736-7151 • www.mutualsavingsbank.net  
Franklin (3 locations) • Trafalgar • Nineveh • Franklin Township



©2006 MSB. Credit approval required. Minimum monthly payment of 3% of outstanding balance or \$20, whichever is greater. As of 11/29/06, standard fixed rate for purchases and cash advances was 9.9%. \$5 cash advance and balance transfer fee. \$15 late and over-limit fees. Rates and fees subject to change.

Member FDIC