Battalion
SPORTS
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 1947 Page 3

Toughest Yet . . .

Big Rugged Sooner Line Plus Fast Backs Present Aggies Next Problem

Aggie fans remember the Oklahoma-A&M game of last year very well. The Sooners won the game 10 to 7 but there were plenty of people who disagreed with the score. Early in the third quarter, a spirited Aggie eleven drove all the way to the Sooner goal line. With the downs running out, big Willie Zapalac hit the line like a clash of thunder but the Sooners held . . . so the officials said, though the photographers and newsmen disagreed.

This coming Saturday, the Aggies go back up to Norman to try and crack that stout Sooner line again. They won't find the faces so differenet in the red and white lineup. Plato Andros, the Oklahoma guard that mauled Army's offense last year and played a stellar game in this year's All-Star game, will be gone to post graduate work for the Chicago Cardinals. Right end Warren Giese won't be around to plague the Aggie backfield; Giese was a Big Six all-conference end. Neither will halfback Joe Golding, the nations top scoring back of last year.

But that's all who won't be there. Oklahoma now has a new coach. When Jim Tatum left last year for Maryland, his young, first rate assistant, Charles Wilkinson stepped into his shoes. 'Bud' Wilkinson is young, only 32, but experienced. He played guard for Bernie Bierman's bone crushing brusiers of Minnesota in '34, '35, and '36. A navy officer in the war, Wilkinson got good training as assistant at Iowa Pre-Flight. Besides playing football he gained a Master's degree in English from Syracuse.

Wilkinson's ball club boasts of power and brains this year also. Here's what they look like, reading from left to right.

Jim Tyree handles the left end slot. A 206 lb. boy, he played for the Sooners in '41 and '42 before entering service. Next to him is Wade Walker at left tackle, a possible All-America. Standing six feet and weighing 210 lbs., his specialty is blocking for the T formation. Paul Burris is another All-America prospect at left guard. He played guard for Tulsa's great 1942 team. At the center of the Oklahoma line is John Rapacz, a 6 feet 3 lad, who at 213 lbs. is the smallest of five brothers.

Looking at the right side of the line, we find a man the Aggies should remember. He is 6 foot, 194 lb. guard Norman McNab. Reason for remembering McNab; he was in the A&M backfield for quite a while last year and blocked one of our punts. He must have made a practice of that since he blocked one of Army's also that was good for a TD. It will be either Bill Morris or Homer Paine at right tackle. Morris was outstanding against Army last year while Pains gave the Texas line a hard time in their game last season. Pass snatching Merle Dinkins is the Sooner's right end. A war time product, he boostered the score of the Sooners in the Gator Bowl last January 1.

Here's what the red and white backfield will carry this year. Quarterback is Jack Mitchell, whose specialty is broken field running. He excels at running back punts. At halfback is a little Dave Wallace, a man the Aggies should be out for. He kicked the field goal that beat the Maroon and White last fall. Charles Sarrett is Wallace's running mate. A 170 lb. boy, he's a whiz at catching passes. Eddy Davis is the Sooner fullback and well he fits the part. He stands at 6 feet 1 and weighs 195 lbs. but averaged 6.5 yards per carry in last seasons regular standings.

That's what the Aggies have to contend with at Norman come Saturday. Figuring it all out, the Sooners boast a line that averages 205 lbs. and sport a backfield that is versatile, fast, and powerful. It's about the same team that set powerful Army back on its heels and knocked some of the wind out of Texas University's sails, a year ago.

With that in mind, don't look for an Aggie victory Saturday but do look for a good ball game.

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Lamesa, Texas, is claiming the title of "Biggest Little City in Baseball" after drawing 66,124 cash customers with a fourth-place club. The town's population is about 8,000, or one eighth the attendance total. Twin Falls, Idaho only outdrew its population about 6½ times.

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SWC Teams Face More Tough Intersectional Foes This Week

Four tough intersectional games overshadow the opening of play for keeps in the Southwest Conference this week.

TCU and Arkansas kick off conference activity, but the national grid spotlight shifts to Austin for North Carolina and the University of Texas. Three other games are bunched in the glare.

Rice's Owls nurse comeback hopes against Southern California in Los Angeles Saturday, while high riding Southern Methodist University plays host to Missouri at Dallas and Texas A. & M. journeys to Norman, Okla., to take on Oklahoma.

The North Carolina-Texas tilt is expected to fill 40,000-plus Memorial Stadium for a showdown between two of the nation's most touted backs: Charlie Justice of the Tarheels and Bobby Layne of Texas.

Conference teams came out of a bruising intersectional schedule last week with four victories against two defeats, but two of the decisions could be classed as surprises.

Baylor's Bouncing Bears kept rolling uphill with an upset 18-7 win over Miami and TCU dropped one to Oklahoma A. & M. 14-7 in a definite reversal of form.

Blair Cherry's fast-breaking Texas T ran heavy Oregon ragged in what was supposed to have been a game for revenge for the web-feet. The Oregon boys couldn't catch fleet Longhorn backs and went down, 38-13.

It will be this speed and the passing of Layne which the Longhorns hope will offset the ground power of North Carolina and the line thrusts of justice.

SMU's 22-6 victory over Santa Clara at San Francisco jumped Doak Walker back into the limelight he left in 1945 to enter the Army. His 97-yard kickoff return stamped him as one of the better broken field runners in the conference.

A. & M. had no trouble in winning its seventh game from Texas Tech 29-7.

Arkansas' Razorbacks, co-defending champion, will be favored over TCU Saturday, but North Texas State stopped the Porkers' offensive power on all but two occasions. The 12-0 score largely resulted from Arkansas' stone-wall defense of its goal.

LSU's Tigers rolled from behind in the final period to nip Rice, 21-14. Nobody could claim surprise. Both teams are pre-season favorites to win their conference titles.

Byron Gillory, Layne's favorite target, stayed on top of the scoring parade with a pair of touchdowns. His total for two games is now four.

Score-happy conference teams have piled up 319 points in an even dozen games against 68 for tthe opposition.

Home Town Sports . . .

Highschool Teams With Clear Record Remain Few

By HAROLD V. RATLIFF
Associated Press Sports Editor

The Texas Schoolboy Football Race slips into October with only 24 undefeated, untied teams of the original field of 103 and with some sharp changes in the assessment of sectional strength.

Odessa's Mighty Broncs remain the No. 1 team of the state with Wichita Falls next in line and with the Austin Maroons shoving their way into the big four alongside Corpus Christi.

Highland Park's Scotties, perennial powers, tumbled out of the class of top title contenders last week as they fell 7-6 before a Paschal (Fort Worth) team that couldn't beat Breckenridge. There had been a suspicion the week before that Highland Park wasn't as good as rated when Sunset of Dallas gave the Scots a teriffic battle before losing 14-7.

You seldom hear about Lufkin these days either. The Panthers were mentioned with the top four of the state before the season started. Waxahachie took care of that, however, by licking Lufkin 12-0.

Goose Creek shoved ahead of Port Arthur in District 14 eliminations by playing highly-ranked Thomas Jefferson (San Antonio) to a 7-7 tie. However, this appears to indicate that Jefferson isn't as good as expected more than that Goose Creek is so much stronger.

Longview is definitely among the better teams. The Lobos last week beat Paris 13-0 to show they are good bets to win the district 11 title despite the presence of Marshall and Tyler and the unexpected strength of Texarkana.

Feature game of this week matches Austin (El Paso) with Ysleta. It is the only game in which the result will go a long way toward determining the district 4 title although Bowie (El Paso) looks as good or better than either.

Other stand-out tilts have Sherman playing Highland Park, Galveston tackling North Side at Fort Worth, Sunset (Dallas) meeting Waco, Marshall taking on Milby (Houston), Forest (Dallas) Playing Tyler and Arlington Heights (Fort Worth) engaging John Reagan (Houston).

Sunset pulled something of a surprise last week in edging John Reagan, the Houston favorite, 7-6. Another Dallas team also turned in an upset as North Dallas licked highly-regarded Tyler 7-0.

Still another surprise was the 21-14 defeat by Harlingen at the hands of Class A Weslaco. Harlingen has been the favorite for the District 16 title but it now appears Brownsville should get that rating.

Wichita Falls showed power to burn in beating tough Breckenridge 21-0 while Odessa continued on its blithe, happy way by blasting Plainview 59-14. Austin was impressive in walloping Temple 33-14.

Undefeated, untied teams left are: Amarillo, Pampa, Wichita Falls, Odessa, Austin (El Paso), Bowie (El Paso), Ysleta, Sherman, Arlington Heights (Fort Worth), Poly (Fort Worth), North Dallas, Corsicana, Waxahachie, Kilgore, Longview, Marshall, Texarkana, Austin, Breckenridge (San Antonio), Corpus Christi, Brownsville, Weatherford, Galveston and McAllen.

Undefeated but tied are Forest, Gladewater, Goose Creek and Thomas Jefferson.

Intramurals To Have Club League

Representatives of the clubs which intend to enter the new Intramural Club league are meeting this afternoon at 5:00 p.m. in room 301 Goodwin Hall.

Tuesday, September 30, Athletic Officers and Team Managers meeting.

Wednesday, October 1, Meeting to organize new Club League. Entries close for flag football and volleyball. Called meeting of Intramural Club.

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Reluctant Managers Handle 1947 World Series Rivals

By FRANK ECK
AP Newsfeatures Sports Editor

NEW YORK—The list of men who would like to manage a team in the World Series probably stretches right through every organized league in baseball. Yet the all-New York World Series—Brooklyn is part of New York, you know—finds two managers who a few months back wanted no part of running a big league team.

Bucky Harris of the New York Yankees and Burt (Barney) Shotton of the Brooklyn Dodgers had managed teams before and they said they had had enough.

However, the picture changed when both President Larry MacPhail of the Yanks and Branch Rickey of the Dodgers earlier this year found themselves with teams and no one to manage them.

MacPhail hired Harris last season "to see what was wrong with the Yankees." Bucky had no title. "Just call him a sort of trouble shooter," said MacPhail.

Meanwhile, it was felt by veteran observers that MacPhail figured he could lure Leo Durocher away from Brooklyn where MacPhail, when he was Brooklyn boss, installed stormy Lippy as manager in 1939. Harris ultimately was appointed manager against his better judgment. MacPhail talked him into the job which today Bucky says it is the best job he ever had in baseball. Harris now makes it emphatic that he expects to be back again in 1948.

Shotton's case is almost similar, with a few important variations. Barney was living in Florida practically as a semi-retired scout. He was on the Brooklyn payroll but didn't have too much to do.

He read with interest the Friday before the season opened that Commissioner Chandler had suspended Durocher for one year "for conduct detrimental to baseball." The following Thursday, after the Dodgers, under interim manager Clyde Sukeforth, had won their first two National League games of the season, Rickey wired Shotton to come to New York.

Shotton hopped an early plane the following morning and Rickey met him at LaGuardia Field around 11 o'clock. Three hours later Rickey had talked Shotton, 63 and with no managerial intentions, into running the Dodgers for 1947.

Shotton, like Harris, has said "this is the best job I ever had." However, Shotton claims he isn't interested in managing again. But unless Rickey rehires Durocher, his $50,000 stormy petrel pilot of 1946, the Brooklyn boss can always give Shotton, one of his lifelong friends, another sales talk about managing "for just one more year."

Shotton handled the once hapless Phillies from 1928 through 1933 with little success. The best Barney's futile Phils could do under his leadership was fourth in 1932.

The Yankee team is the fifth managed by Harris. Only Connie Mack, 84, has more years of service as a pilot. Harris, however, is only 50. Bucky won pennants his first two years as the "Boy Wonder" player - manager with Washington in 1924 and '25. In '24, at the age of 28, he led the Senators to a World Series victory over John McGraw and the New York Giants.

Harris has the pitching and batting strength to whip Brooklyn in the World Series but it must be remembered that the St. Louis Cardinals are world's champions and recently the Dodgers beat the Cards two games out of three to virtually clinch the title.

Intramural Notes . . .

Tennis Shoes Are Required of All Intramural Men

By CLIFF ACKERMAN

All players are required to wear tennis shoes when participating in an intramural game. This ruling by the Intramural program is in the interest of the boys. How would you like to run into a fellow or get kicked by a man wearing leather shoes? The Intramural program attempts to make all games as safe as possible, and so far has had no serious accidents resulting from Intramural play. So lets cooperate to the fullest extent.

This week marks the beginning for the 1947-48 Intramural season. It also marks the beginning for another season of games scheduled for all sports both in team matches and open tournaments. To start the program off team sports are being offered in tennis, basketball, flag football, and volleyball. The open tournament will be handball in both singles and doubles. Coming up then in December will be the Cross Country meet.

Following are the results of the first two days of the fall semester program:

Thursday—Basketball

A Field 19, Senior Co. 18; Burnett 7 points for A Field and Hudman 7 points for Senior Co.

C Field 21, C Calvary 18.

A Field 24, B Field 14; Miller scored 8 points for A Field.

B Eng. 23, B Inf. 15.

Friday—Basketball

C Comp. 24, A Eng. 21; James 12 points for C Comp.

Senior Co. 10, E Field 9.

C Field 19, C Air Force 9; Southall scored 6 points for C Field.

Tennis—

A Comp. over A Inf. 2 to 1.

C Field over B Air Force 2 to 1.

MONDAY'S RESULTS

Basketball

A Infantry 34, Senior Co. 16; Fergus scored 9 points for A Infantry, Rippetoe 6 for Senior Co.

E Field 12, A Air Force 10.

A Field 16, A Cavalry 7; Baber 6 points for A Field, Harkrider 6 points for A Cavalry.

Tennis

C Comp. over B Infantry 3 to 0.

B Vet. over B Field 2 to 1.

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