

Ratliff Defends His Column About Ags, Strikes at Simmen

BY HAROLD V. RATLIFF
Associated Press Sports Editor

A Couple of my esteemed contemporaries are taking cracks at me for saying Texas A&M didn't get top football material because of the trouble over hazing and over firing the coach several years back. We had advanced that as the cause for a big Aggie losing streak climaxed by the 35-0 licking from Villanova Sept. 17.

John Cliff of the Denison Herald uses an article from the Texas A&M publicity department citing the top players coming to Aggie-land this year, then he says Dub King, the Aggie sports publicity director, sent this out as a direct answer to me. John would cast King in the light of being highly incensed.

Citing the article that named such top schoolboy stars as Darrow Hooper of Fort Worth, Connie Magouirk of New London, Chuck O'Neal of Corpus Christi and Ray Graves of Stephenville, Cliff ends up with the line: "We think that Dub King has covered his point well. Wonder what Ratliff thinks?"

The latter statements are easily answered.

In the first place, the article sent out by Dub King was mailed the DAY BEFORE my column went out to Texas newspapers, Dub didn't even know it had been written.

In the second place our column wasn't talking about this year but of the past few years when Aggie-land didn't get many top athletes. The fine athletes coming in this year won't be eligible for the varsity until next season.

In our column we had said of the trouble that drove away athletes: "That may be changed since everything is operating smoothly at Aggie-land but it will take several years to get the job done."

Well, John, do you think A&M will be winning a championship this year?

The other sports writer to take exceptions was Frank Simmen, Jr., in the Battalion at Texas A&M College.

Frank concludes his treatise with this statement:

"It is plain to see, Harold, that your column took little or no forethought. In the first place a victory (over Villanova) was not expected; in the second place, you were definitely wrong when you said we do not get the top football candidates."

In our column we had invited a check of the Aggie football roster to see how many names of heralded high school stars were listed.

"What about Robert Schaffer, Sam Moses, Bull Lawson, Russel Hudeck, Jerry Crossman, not to mention Dick Gardinal and Robert Smith who were stars of the season before that? Look at the record of the Aggie Fish, Harold—they only lost one game the whole season after going into three as decided underdogs. And wasn't it the Texas sports writers who voted them the best freshman collegiate team in the state?"

O.K., what about Schaffer, Moses, et al? Check the All-State lists and see if you find any of those youngsters on them. Perhaps they were star high school football players but the word didn't get out—at least not as far enough for the Texas Sports Writers Association to put them on All-State squads.

Also when did the Texas Sports Writers Association vote A&M's freshmen the best in the state? As secretary of this organization we have attended all meetings and handled all correspondence. If this

Francis Quimet won his first U. S. amateur golf championship in 1914 at the age of 21 and his second 17 years later at the age of 38.

Bowlers Meet

The Aggie bowling team will hold its first business meeting of the year at the YMCA lounge, Wednesday, Sept. 26 at 7:30 p.m. All members of last year's team are requested to be present.

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action was taken somebody slipped it in while we weren't looking.

Out at Southern Methodist University you will find a unique coaching situation. S.M.U. is the only college in the country that has an "officialing coach."

E. O. (Doc) Hayes is the man. It is his duty to watch the squad in training and to remind the boys each time they violate a rule. The players jokingly call him "Our Offside coach." But they heed him.

Doc's eagle eye has paid off for instance, last year the opposition had almost three times as many penalties and yardage assessed as Southern Methodist. And S.M.U. won every game except one.

Then take last Saturday when S.M.U. beat Wake Forest 13-7. The Methodists drew 65 yards in penalties (a little higher than usual for S.M.U.) while Wake Forest was stuck for 110 yards.

It is reasonable to assume that Hayes is responsible for quite a few victories.

Hayes never played football and he also never coached it but he was one of the top high school basketball mentors in Texas. He also was a football and basketball official for more than a dozen years.

He wasn't hired to coach football at S.M.U. He was added to the staff for the express purpose of watching the players and teaching them the rules. Head Coach Matty Bell says Doc is a very valuable member of the staff. Hayes also is varsity basketball coach.

Everyone Smiling

All Cheer, No Gloom In Ag's Locker Room After 26-7 Win

BY FRANK SIMMEN, JR.

A great show was put on Saturday night in Alamo Stadium, but one just as interesting took place in the Aggie dressing room after the hard-fought win.

The players entered the dressing room with joy showing on their

Smith Is Among Top Ground Gainers Now

When Bob Smith of Texas A&M carried the football 214 yards in 31 tries last week against Texas Tech, he vaulted up among the nation's leading ground-gainers and established a single game record that other SWC ball carriers are going to have difficulty breaking.

In addition to his 214 yards gained on rushing plays, Smith completed for an additional 31 yards. Even Doak Walker of SMU and Lindy Berry of TCU are going to have their work cut out if they are to personally gain 225 yards in one football game.

If one of his four touchdowns runs had not been called back, Smith would have established another 1949 mark. As it was, he was credited with three touchdowns, raming the line twice for two yard TDs and later, streaking 80 yards for a fourth quarter score.

San Antonio fans were not surprised at the brilliant performance of the Aggie sophomore from Houston. They recalled that back in high school, Smith socked SMU's Kyle Rote so hard that the Jefferson star was slow in getting to his feet.

It's a little early yet to be talking of the all-conference backfield prospects, but if Smith stays sound of limb he will be among the contenders.

At 195 pounds, he hits the line with as much power as any other back in the league, and sports writers who saw his 80-yard run against Tech will vouch for the fact that Aggie Bob is faster than any other big back in the conference.

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S Battalion S SPORTS

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Johnny Christensen, 180 pound defensive halfback, was one of the Aggie's mainstays on defense against Texas Tech in San Antonio Saturday night. He is one of Coach Harry Stiteler's best pass defenders.

Hampton Not On 1949 CC Team

A&M's cross-country foes won't have to look at the back of Aggie distance star J. D. Hampton again this fall.

For the holder of the Southwest Conference mile and two-mile records won't be eligible to compete in the fall sport. It isn't that Hampton is falling down in his book-work. He's doing fine in the grades department.

But it turns out that Hampton ran on an Aggie cross-country team back before the war and has used up his eligibility in this sport. But the little smooth-striding blond from Brady has another season of varsity track eligibility and will be out to set new mile and two-mile marks next spring.

Hampton was unbeaten in 1948 cross-country competition.

Harry Stiteler, was standing over in the corner with a smile on his face. Bill DuBose, was walking around the dressing room trying to find his linemen to tell them they played a fine game, and Bones Irving, also happy over the triumph, was smiling and shaking hands.

In the midst of all the confusion, Stiteler strolled to the middle of the room holding a football in his hand. After quieting the bunch down, he said to the gang, "Boys, this is the ball; what are we going to do with it?" Right away somebody said, "Give it to Smith," then almost immediately someone else said, "What about Goff?" A split

(See LOCKER, Page 4)

MURAL NEWS

Beginning next week, a schedule of the intramural games for both corps and non-corps teams will be published in the Battalion two days in advance. Notices for intramural managers and Athletic officers will also be in this column.

There is still a need for Sophomore managers, both corps and non-corps. Any one interested in working this year see Barney Welch or Bill Thornton in the intramural office at 5 p. m. after school this week. There should be at least one manager for each outfit and dorm.

The Grove is now available from 1-5 p. m. daily for anyone interested in practicing basketball. Four new courts have been laid out. Basketballs may be checked out at the checkout room in the gym. Beginning Monday, October 3, the Grove will be used each day beginning at 5:10 p. m. for intramural basketball.

The equipment room in the southeast corner of the gym is now open. Students may check out sports equipment each afternoon from one until five p.m. All equipment must be returned the same day that it is obtained.

The Little Gym is now available for student's use. Mats, weights, and other equipment may be used any afternoon from one until five except when Physical Education classes are in session.

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Rough Sooners Next On Aggie Grid Schedule

BY HAROLD GANN

The Aggies, fresh from their convincing win over Texas Tech, began practice yesterday in preparation for the highly touted Oklahoma Sooners.

Oklahoma trounced Boston College, 46-0, Saturday night in a game which proved that it would be as strong as a year ago, when it took the Big Seven crown and went on to pound North Carolina in the Sugar Bowl.

True, Oklahoma lost the great Jack Mitchell, famous quarterback and engineer of the split T offense. True, they lost tenacious linemen Buddy Burris and Homer Payne, all conference stars. True, the Sooners lost Murie Greathouse, sedulous defensive linebacker. But—Coach Bud Wilkinson has plugged these places with men that have proven their ability of bridging the gap.

Men like Quarterback Darrel Royal, 170 pound converted halfback, who ran the club against Boston like an expert as he teamed with flashy halfbacks, George Thomas and Lindell Pearson, and a potential all conference fullback, Leon Heath. Thomas scored three of the seven Oklahoma touchdowns, one of them on a 95-yard return of the opening kickoff.

As usual, the Sooners line that works in units as Oklahoma performs in the split T. Bobby Goad and Jim Owens, sticky fingered receivers of Royals aerials, will hold down the end positions.

Lon Manley and Fede Walker more than fill the tackle slots. Expected to see lots of action at guards are Norman McNabb and Stan West. Charley Dowell will be the anchor man.

The Sooner forward wall averages 195 pounds per man while the average backfield weight is 182.

Last season the Okies set two scoring records. They averaged forty-eight and four-tenths points a game in Big Seven competition and had a thirty-six point average for the season.

Bud Wilkinson is now serving his third year as head mentor. During this time, his teams have won

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Cadets Rank 38th in Weekly Williamson Gridiron Ratings

BY HAROLD GANN

A&M lost ground in Paul Williamson's weekly Scientific Football Ratings, dropping from the eighth spot nationally to the thirty-eighth spot.

Actually, the only reason the Cadets were so high last week was that only a few teams had played games and could be rated by the Williamson system. Ever though the local eleven dropped in the rankings, it improved upon its rating which "indicates earned comparison of team strengths."

The Aggies' rating on September 20 was 85.0 and this week the rating is up to 88.0, an increase of three points.

Texas Ranked First

Texas retained its number one national ranking in the ratings and figure from 98.0 to 98.5. TCU, the only other Southwest Conference team to see action before this weekend and gain a rating, fell from fifth to twenty-fifth. The TCU "earned comparison" showed a corresponding fall from 94.5 to 92.0.

Rice took over the seventh spot in the latest ratings with a 96.5 mark. The defending conference champion Mustangs could do no better than sixteenth with a rating of 93.5.

Among the other conference teams, Baylor moved in to the twenty-eighth slot by virtue of a 91.5 rating and Arkansas appeared well down the rolls at its 85.5 mark was only good for the fifty-sixth position.

Opponents Rated High

The Villanova Wildcats slipped slightly from number two to the third spot, yet stepped their rating up from 96.5 to 97.5. This increase in the Wildcat prestige was caused by the 27-6 defeat of Penn State by the Main Liners.

None other than the Aggie opponents of the coming weekend, Oklahoma, replaced the Wildcats as national runner-up. The Sooners played their first game, and played havoc with the authorities' "close game" predictions, when they dumped the Boston College Eagles 46-0.

LSU's Tigers were ranked forty-eighth with an 86.5 rating. The Bayou Felines will be the Cadet adversary the week following the A&M tussle in Norman.

Tech Tumbles

The 26-7 defeat the Ags pinned on the Raiders showed up in Wil-

The Texas Aggies didn't kick a field goal or have one scored against them during the entire 1948 season.

Williamson's rating of the Lubbock team as it fell from 84.5 to 81.5 in the "earned comparison" figures and slid from the twenty-eighth position to number 102 in the rankings.

The top teams in the ratings were ranked as follows:

1. Texas 98.5
2. Oklahoma 98.0
3. Villanova 97.5
4. Minnesota 97.0
5. So. Calif. 97.0
6. Notre Dame 96.5
7. Rice 96.5
8. No. Carolina 96.0
9. Stanford 96.0
10. Tulane 95.5
11. Mississippi 95.5

Sooners Are Favored

From the information already given on the Aggies and the Big Red team from OU, one can easily figure out that the Sooners are the favorites in the tilt between

the two teams Saturday. The Williamson figures give the Okies only a 10 point edge, but other authorities will probably consider such a margin of victory a moral victory for the sophomore-laden Cadet crew.

TCU will be given a 6.5 point bulge over the Ruborbacks in their Little Rock contest. Rice holds an even 10 point margin in its night tilt with LSU in Baton Rouge.

Baylor's Bears will enter their fray with Mississippi State at Starkville favored by 5.5 points since the Maroons are given an 86.0 mark.

SMU hits the field with the barest of edges over the Missouri Tigers who are only 1.5 of a point behind the Methodists. The Show-Me-Staters are rated at 93.5. Texas naturally has a big point advantage compared to the Steers' 98.5.



Bill Rives, Sports Editor of The Dallas Morning News, was the featured speaker Thursday night on The Battalion's Quarterback Club program. He spoke on Southwest Conference football teams.

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