



BY BILL POTTS

SMU's great game against the No. 1 team of the nation Saturday will make the nation's sports writers wake up and take a very close look again at the Southwest Conference.

For Notre Dame, the nation's number one powerhouse, and rated by its coach and many others as the greatest in the history of the school, had to break a four-quarter tie to defeat the fifth ranking team in the Conference, Southern Methodist.

Mustangs "Up"

The Mustangs were "up" for the Irish Saturday. There was no doubt of that. And the most outstanding back of the game didn't play for the Micks Saturday. The most outstanding player of the day was Killer Kyle Rote, the Methodist back who stepped into the shoes of the great Doak Walker and did a marvelous job.

Walker was on the sidelines in civilian clothes nursing an injured leg which he received in the TCU game last Saturday. His only appearance on the playing field was when the captains of the two teams met just before the kickoff to call the referee's coin toss. Walker represented SMU with the Mustangs' two other co-captains, Bobby Folsom and Dick McKissack.

The one thing that can be said again and again about the play of the Ponies Saturday is that they were great. The way they played for 60 minutes in their ball game, you would have thought that no one had bothered to tell them that they were 28 point underdogs.

There were others on the SMU team that deserve and have gotten much praise from sports writers. Little Johnny Champion, the mized-sized scabbard from Houston was

another star. Even the ponderous linemen and backs of Notre Dame had to get a good hold on him before they could drag him down. Champion wasn't awed by the Irish's enormous All-American end Leon Hart either.

Around Hart's End

It may sound unbelievable but most of the yardage Rote gained was around Hart's end, and who was part of the interference which led him? Johnny Champion. And the Mighty Mite and his teammates cut down the big boy time and again and allowed Rote the running room that he needed.

H. N. "Rusty" Russell, Jr., the sophomore Methodist back who is son of the SMU backfield coach H. N. Russell, took over another part of the duties of the missing Walker. He called the signals throughout the game and did a fine job.

The Methodist line, which should have been pushed all over the field Saturday, rose amid its injuries and gaps where its number one men were out and played the Irish a whole of a game. Tackle Neal Franklin was one of the outstanding men on the Mustang forward wall as were the ends, Co-Captain Bobby Folsom and converted back Pat Knight.

Rote Shines

But it was still the San Antonio bruiser, Kyle Rote, who was the player of the game. Of the 128 yards rushing that the Mustangs made against the South Bend team, (26 yards were lost, mostly on unsuccessful pass attempts), Rote accounted for 115 in 24 tries. Johnny Champion made the other 13 yards in two tries.

In the passing department, Rote held down most of the passing duties but at times gave them to sophomore passer Fred Benners of Dallas. With these two passing, it could be easily seen that the Irish were lacking in one thing—they didn't have a pass defense.

On the other side of the scrimmage line was the Notre Dame team, with its three All-Americans, Leon Hart, tackle Jim Martin, and fullback Emil Sitko.

Sitko was leading rusher for the Micks—he bruised 84 yards in 14 carries and did not lose a yard while doing it. He easily lived up to his title of "Six-yard Sitko."

Tackle Jim Martin of the Irish forward wall lived up to his ratings but end Leon Hart did not. Time and again the Methodists clobbered off yardage around his end and at times he was made to look like a schoolboy player by the Mustangs' lighter interference runners.

At other times Hart played the kind of ball for which he was noted and managed to take out the Methodists' backfield men when it seemed necessary to do so.

Knocks Out Rote

It was because of a particularly hard tackle laid on him by Hart that Rote was not in the game when the Ponies were threatening on the Notre Dame four yard line in the waning minutes of the game. His absence on two plays caused the Mustangs' scoring effort to fail.

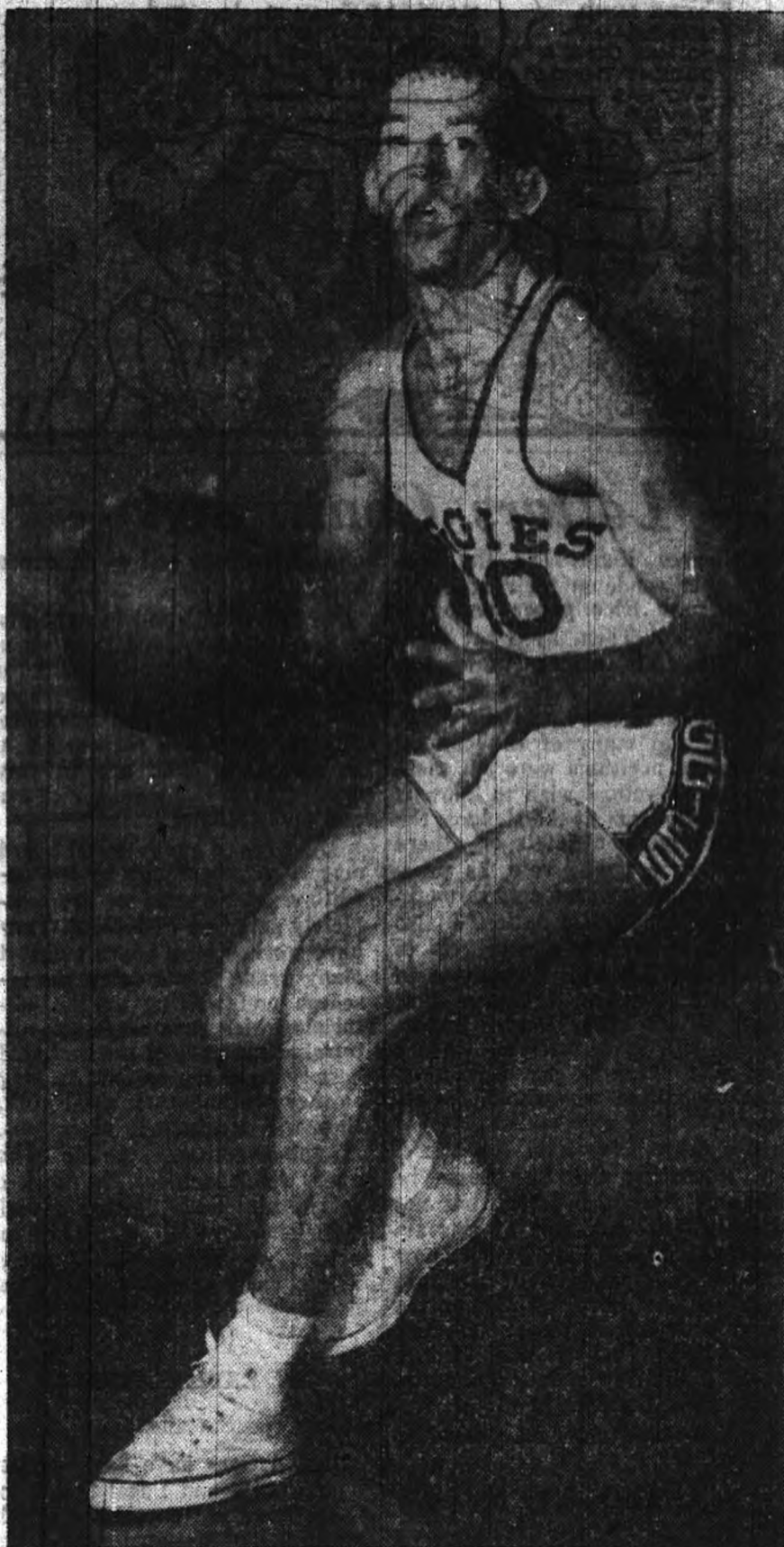
Coach Frank Leahy of Notre Dame was quoted as saying that, "SMU is undoubtedly the best team we've seen all year," and that Kyle Rote was "the most under-rated player in America."

After Saturday's game, both statements are undoubtedly true.

Ex Visits Manager Meet in Fort Worth

J. M. Tacker, district manager of the National Farm Life Insurance Company, left today for Ft. Worth, where he will attend the Fall Quarter managers meeting. Tacker was graduated from A&M last January and since that time, he has been employed as a district manager by the National Farm Life Insurance Company.

'Watch-charm Guard'



Jewell McDowell, 5' 9 1/2" letterman guard from Amarillo, is currently pacing the Cadets as they head for a rendezvous with the St. Louis Billikens in Missouri. The former all-stater has tallied 32 points in his first two contests.

Weight Men Vie For Shamrock Trophy, Medals

The A&M Weight Lifting Team will journey to Houston to attend a weight lifting meet in the Shamrock Hotel, January 13, according to Frank C. Dees, president of the Weight Lifting Club.

This meet will serve as a supplement to the annual Gulf A.A.U. event, the president explained. Prizes include a team trophy for the winning team and medals for outstanding individuals.

An added attraction will be a physique contest for men and women. The winners of this event will be named Mr. and Miss Golden Coast.

At present the traveling team is not complete since there are no team members who qualify for the light weight division of 132 pounds and under and the heavy weight division of 181 pounds and over, the club head added.

Anyone wishing to try out for the weight lifting team is urged to attend a meeting which will be held Wednesday, December 7, in the Little Gym, Dees said.

Schedule for Ag Cagers Reported

This week's schedule for the Aggies is as follows: December 6: St. Louis Billikens at St. Louis, Missouri. December 7: Oklahoma Aggies at Stillwater, Oklahoma. The Cadets' first home game will be Monday, December 12, against Abilene Christian College.

Battalion SPORTS

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Southwest Hardwood Highlights

During the past week every Southwest Conference cage team except Baylor opened its 1949-50 season.

Baylor makes its initial start tonight with a home tilt with the North Texas State Eagles.

The Aggies opened Thursday night in Madison Square Garden and were the victims of the Long Island U. Blackbirds, losing 52-66. Buddy Davis scored 16 points and Jewell McDowell 14 for the Cadets. John DeWitt was right behind with 13.

With the three Farmers who took high point honors two nights before once again leading the way, the Maroons took an early lead Saturday, but were caught in the last half, and lost to Niagara in a Buffalo tilt, 50-53.

Porkers Win, Lose

Arkansas took its season opener by dropping easily the Kansas State Teachers of Pittsburg, Kansas, 59-41. Again Saturday night the Porkers took to the courts, but in their second tilt they were edged by the Oklahoma Aggies in Stillwater, Okla. A field goal from far out by Gabe McArthur of the Cowpokes with nine seconds to play gave the Aggies a 43-41 win. (See HIGHLIGHTS, Page 4)

Ags Entrain for St. Louis After Dropping Tilt to Niagara, 50-53

BY GLENN WILLIAMS
Special Eastern Correspondent

Nat'l Champs Edge Rote-Led Mustangs

BY HAROLD RATLIFF
Associated Press Sports Editor

Dallas, Dec. 5. (AP)—Notre Dame's Fighting Irish pulled back from the shock of a thundering Southern Methodist offense that had them on the brink of defeat Saturday to drive 67 magnificent yards for a touchdown that gave them an undefeated, untied, season, 27-20, before 75,457 fans in the Cotton Bowl.

In one of the all-time thrillers of Southwestern football history, the men of Notre Dame stopped a great SMU drive on the seven-yard line with less than four minutes to go to finish four years unbeaten—the first time Notre Dame ever accomplished such a glittering feat. It includes 36 victories and two ties.

Southern Methodist, picked to lose by at least 25 points, battered, crippled, and weary, put its greatest game into this battle Saturday, latching onto the flying shirtdoll of Killer Kyle Rote, the greatest player on the field, to play Notre Dame its closest game of the season.

Southern Methodist battled without its great back, All-American Doak Walker, who was on the sidelines in civilian clothes because of a leg injury, but Walker, in his palmy days, never played a greater game than Rote.

Rote Individual Star

Kyle smashed and crashed for 115 yards and he passed 24 times and connected on 10 for 146 yards.

Bob Williams, the great Notre Dame quarterback, bested Rote in passing with 11 completions in 18 throws for 166 yards, and included in his throws two for touchdowns. But no one could match Kyle running with the ball.

Notre Dame, as a result of its ground power, led in yards with 442, with 277 of it rushing. But SMU got 307 passing. The SMU total was 409 as a result of a net 102 running. Rote actually out-gained the entire SMU team, since the other Mustang backs lost yardage.

It was a rough battering ball game with players being carried off the field in a stream.

Notre Dame Better

There appeared little doubt but that Notre Dame had the better team, but the great Rote, the mightiest runner seen in the Cotton Bowl this year—and possibly for any other year—almost beat the Fighting Irish.

It was the first time this year for Notre Dame to be held on even terms in the last half. In fact, the Methodists had the better of it in

the final two periods. And as the game ended, the mighty Rote was battering to the Notre Dame 41-yard line in another great SMU surge.

Notre Dame thus finished the season as national champion for the seventh time and the tenth time in 61 years of football to be undefeated and untied.

Crowd Overwhelmed

The huge crowd jarred the giant Cotton Bowl to its foundations, rocking and swaying and going mad at the gridiron drama being unfolded before them.

Notre Dame thus found Southern Methodist its toughest foe. Three times the teams have met and today was the widest margin the Irish ever have been able to win by.

The score was tied 20-20 early in the fourth period as Notre Dame gathered its green-shirted legions for that one great drive that paid off. Emil Sitko, Francis Spaniel, Leon Hart (the All-America end who went to fullback in the clinches) and Bill Barrett ripped and tore the SMU line. From the Methodist six, the fleet, driving Barrett whirled around left end for a touchdown.

Ponies Threaten Again

Back came the Methodist horde to drive with the kick-off from its 29 down to the Notre Dame four with Rote passing and running until he reached the 28. Here he was hit hard by the giant Hart while attempting to pass and had to leave the game.

Sophomore Fred Benners stepped in and passed to H. N. Russell on the Notre Dame five. Russell lost one at center and Benners was hurt attempting to pass when rushed by Hart. Rote then came back in to the game and circled left end for two. Then Kyle tried a jump pass over the line that Jerry Groom and Bob Lally intercepted in a snip.

That was the ball game.

Aerial Attack Used
SMU tried 35 passes and completed 17, getting five intercepted by the Notre Dames. The Methodists did just what they were expected to do—fill the air with footballs.

SMU and Notre Dame traded drives through half of the first period, but finally the Irish got one under way that carried 73 yards for a score. The pay-off was a pass from Williams to Wightkin that ate up 42 yards and brought a touchdown. Steve Oracko kicked the extra point.

Shortly afterward came the most sensational play of the game. It (See SMU, Page 4)

Buffalo, N. Y. Dec. 4.—The Texas Aggies, still seeking their first win of the recently inaugurated basketball season, entrained here Sunday night for St. Louis where they will play the strong University of St. Louis Billikens Tuesday night.

They came close to hanging up that initial cage victory Saturday night in Buffalo's spacious Municipal Auditorium against the short and speedy University of Niagara five.

The Cadets were out in front from Jewell McDowell's free pitch that was the first mark on the scoreboard until Niagara's James Moran sank a charity toss only one minute and 30 seconds before the final whistle.

Niagara Nooks Count

Moran's flip knotted the count at 47-47. Then J. Smyth tossed in a crib short back over his head and was fouled in the process by the Ag's Walter "Buddy" Davis. He made good on his free shot effort to make the scoreboard read 50-47 with just over one minute remaining.

A one-pointer by Raymond Walker and McDowell's field goal on a fast-break was matched by Tom Birch and William Smyth respectively to make the final score of 53-50.

Coach Marty Karow's Texas hoopsters enjoyed their largest lead of the tilt with nine minutes left when they were out in front 43-27. The visitors were ahead 27-20 at halftime.

McDowell Paces Ags

McDowell again paced the Aggie scoring with seven field goals and four free tosses for a total of 18 points. The Cadet sophomore whom Buffalo newspapers described as "a watchcharm guard with a deadly eye," also turned in an impressive defensive job on Zeke Siniola who has been publicized in many basketball magazines as one of the outstanding eastern candidates for All-American honors.

Birch led the Eagle point-makers with 13 points, trailed by Joe Smyth with 11. Davis, whose 6'8" frame towered above all of his

opponents, poured in three field goals and five charity pitches for 11 points.

The Aggies pumped in 11 of 81 field goal attempts in the first half and boasted a similar average in the second period but cut their shot total nearly in half. They shot 66 of 138 in that half.

Most noted improvement in the A&M shooting department was at the free throw line where they dropped in five shots out of six in the first half and 11 out of 19 in the second. Niagara canned 18 of 61 attempts from the floor and 17 of 35 one-point chances.

Box Score	FG	FT	PF	TP
Texas A&M (50)—	17	16	28	50
DeWitt, f.	5	0	5	10
Garcia, f.	0	0	4	0
Turnbow, f.	0	1	5	1
Houser, f.	0	0	0	0
Davis, c.	3	5	5	11
Sutton, c.	0	0	1	0
Martin, c.	0	0	0	0
McDowell, g.	7	4	4	18
Miller, g.	0	0	0	0
Walker, g.	0	1	1	1
Moon, g.	2	5	3	9
Totals	17	16	28	50

Niagara U. (53)—	FG	FT	PF	TP
Moran, f.	3	3	1	9
Hudson, f.	1	0	2	2
W. Smyth, f.	0	2	3	2
Stanbauer, f.	1	0	1	2
Foley, c.	1	5	7	7
J. Smyth, c.	5	1	1	11
Siniola, g.	3	1	5	7
Birch, g.	4	5	4	13
Murphy, g.	0	0	2	0
Totals	18	17	22	53

Half-time score: A&M 27, Niagara 20.

Free throws missed: A&M—Turnbow 2; Davis 3; McDowell 2; Moon 2; Niagara—Moran 6; W. Smyth 1; J. Smyth, Siniola 4; Birch 5.

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