

Texas Schoolboy Football Race Opens with 890 Teams Entered

By Harold V. Ratliff
Associated Press Sports Editor

The world's greatest football campaign—the Texas schoolboy marathon that covers four months and draws more than 6,000,000 fans—is inaugurated this week.

It's a far cry from 1920 when the Texas Interscholastic League started its gridiron race. Fewer than 200 schools played football that first year. Now there are 890.

They had no districts or classes then—everybody got into the swim. In December the teams with the best records were picked and pitted against each other. Today a team to play for the State title must have beaten all other teams in its district.

Now there are six divisions—class AAAAA, AAA, AA and A, which play through to State championships; class B and Six-Man football, which decide regional titles only.

High School football starts the first week in September. Some of the teams play games before the school term has opened. Into the

State playoffs in December go eight district champions from classes AAAAA and AAA and 32 district champions in classes AA and A.

This year there are 49 schools in class AAAAA, 48 in class AAA, 174 in class AA and 197 in class A, meaning 478 schools that play for state titles.

Defending champions are Lubbock, Breckenridge, Terrell and Wink in the respective classes, each rated a good chance of repeating. Lubbock has the best record in the State at this time—26 consecutive victories and two straight championships.

If Lubbock wins it again, it will tie the record for consecutive championships in the 34 years of Texas schoolboy football. Waco won three championships in a row in the 1920's. Amarillo did the same in the 1930's. And Breckenridge can also tie the record for consecutive championships if it repeats this year.

The all time record for state championships is four and a tie, held by Waco. Amarillo is second with four.

The longest winning streak was set by Hull-Daisetta back in the early forties when that school took more than 40 in a row. Hull-Daisetta was a class B school then. It's now class A.

Class AAAAA has probably the toughest district in the state—that one in which Lubbock plays. Abilene, Amarillo, Borger, Midland, Odessa, Pampa and San Angelo are in it. They call it "the little Southwest Conference."

Class AAAAA will have these districts this year

1—Abilene, Amarillo, Borger, Lubbock, Midland, Odessa, Pampa, San Angelo.

2—Austin (El Paso), Bowie (El Paso), El Paso High, Jefferson (El Paso), Ysleta.

3—Fort Worth: Arlington Heights, Amon Carter, Riverside, Fort Worth Tech, North Side, Paschal, Poly.

4—Dallas: Adamson, Crozier Tech, Forest, North Dallas, South Oak Cliff, Sunset, Woodrow Wilson.

5—Highland Park (Dallas), Tyler, Waco, Wichita Falls.

6—Breckenridge (San Antonio), Laredo, Miller (Corpus Christi) Ray (Corpus Christi), San Antonio Tech, Austin (Austin), Jefferson (San Antonio).

7—Houston: Jeff Davis, Lamar, Milby, Reagan, San Jacinto, Stephen F. Austin.

8—Beaumont, Galveston, Orange, Pasadena, Port Arthur, Baytown.

Class AAA will have these districts:

1—Big Spring, Breckenridge, Lamesa, Plainview, Snyder, Sweetwater, Vernon.

2—Arlington, Brownwood, Cleburne, Garland, Grand Prairie, Irving, Pleasant Grove (Dallas).

3—Denison, Denton, Gainesville, Greenville, McKinney, Paris, Sherman.

4—Gladewater, Kilgore, Longview, Lufkin, Marshall, Nacogdoches, Texarkana.

5—Bryan, Corsicana, McCallum (Austin), Palestine, Temple Travis (Austin).

6—Aldine (Houston), Conroe, Freeport, Galena Park, Port Neches, South Park (Beaumont), Texas City.

7—Alamo Heights (San Antonio), Burbank (San Antonio), Harlandale (San Antonio), Kerrville, New Braunfels, Seguin, Lanier (San Antonio), Edison (San Antonio), Victoria.

8—Alice, Brownsville, Edinburg, Harlingen, Kingsville, McAllen, Pharr-San Juan-Alamo, San Benito.

Footballer Can't Take 'Old Army'

SAN JOSE, Calif., Sept. 2.—San Jose State lost a promising football player to a whistle. The whistle signalled players to run from blocking bag to tackling dummy.

It blew . . . and blew . . . and blew . . .

When it was over, end Ralph Zachary, a Chicago junior college transfer, turned in his suit. "It's too much like the Army," he told Coach Bob Bronzan. "All those whistles and lining up every five minutes for some new activity. I'm going home."

Air Force Orders Billion-Dollar Cut

WASHINGTON, Sept. 2.—(AP)—The Washington Post said today the Air Force has notified plane producers of a new billion-dollar cutback that would trim nearly 1,000 aircraft off previous buying plans.

Three quarters of the cutback was said to apply to combat-type planes.

The Post said word of the move came from "reliable sources" following a meeting yesterday between Roger Lewis assistant secretary of the Air Force, and representatives of the aircraft manufacturers involved.

The cut would be in addition to the controversial five billion dollar reduction in Air Force funds programmed this fiscal year.

Marine Flyer Sets New Speed Record

(AP)—A Marine Corps speed pilot who flew the Douglas D558-2 Skyrocket to a record altitude of 83,235 feet now has piloted the rocket plane at a speed faster than any other military flyer.

In an attempt to crack the 1,238 m.p.h. record set in the same aircraft by Douglas test pilot Bill Bridgeman, Lt. Col. Marion E. Carl, 37, of Quantico, Va., flew it at 1,143 m.p.h. yesterday high above Edwards Air Force Base.

The Skyrocket was dropped from the bomb bay of a Superfortress at 32,000 feet. Carl ignited his rockets and roared upward. He leveled off at 68,000 feet and started into a downslide. The peak speed was reached at 48,000 feet.

Aggie Signed By St. Louis Browns

ST. LOUIS, Sept. 3.—(AP)—The St. Louis Browns today announced the signing of Claude R. Piller, 18, of Longview, right-handed pitcher and a freshman student at A&M last year. He was signed to a York, Pa., contract in the Class B Piedmont League.

While at A&M Piller was a member of the freshman football team.

Owl-Bear Game To Decide

Football Poll Predicts Rice Will Take Title From Texas

FORT WORTH, Sept. 3.—(Spl.)—The Rice Owls to win their fourth Southwest Conference championship after a close and bitter battle with the Texas Longhorns and the Baylor Bears. The Owl-Bear game in Houston on Nov. 28 almost certain to decide.

Such were the predictions of the sector's sports writers and broadcasters in the 20th annual poll of the TCU Sports News Service. Eighty-seven ballots were cast.

Only four times in the previous 19 polls have the pickers "had" the champion. On another occasion, the team they selected got a tie (SMU in 1940).

In the 1953 voting, the predictions followed a pattern from the start. With very few exceptions, the experts placed Rice, Texas and Baylor in the top flight—several notches above SMU and TCU who got most of their ballots for fourth and fifth.

Texas A&M and the University of Arkansas were voted into the lower echelon with very few points separating them.

Giving one point for a first-place selection, two for a second and so on down the list, Jess Neely's Owls were low with 138 points. They also received 37 first-place votes and only six selectors placed them below third.

Texas got 173 points with 29 top-spot votes and only 7 pickers saw them below third. Baylor had 207 points, 16 first-place ballots and 12 votes below third. Nobody picked any of the "big three" for last place.

There was a definite tendency

to take a close, hard look at the SMU Mustangs. The Ponies got 2 first place votes and many observers predicted that the Dallas outfit could be the season's surprise. The Horses got only one last-place nod.

TCU, the favorite in 1952 after surprising everybody with a title in 1951, were delegated to fifth spot. The Christians got no votes for first or second and only 4 for third. But only 10 pickers placed them lower than fifth and only 2 in last place.

One interesting aspect was the fact that most Arkansas experts placed the Razorbacks far down the list. In the past, they have rated their team fairly well up in the chase.

The guessers sent along some interesting comments: "You don't comment when you guess on this race. You hunt cover," said Bill Scurlock, Beaumont veteran.

"I reserve the right to change my opinion after the annual tour of ten camps," Bill Rives of the Dallas News. "Don't know why I should. I'll be wrong anyway!"

"You owe me \$5 for hair I lost scratching my head over this thing," stated John Lovelace of the Sherman Democrat.

"The Aggies could fool some top bracket team on any Saturday afternoon," warned Louis Hartley of the Mart Herald.

"I picked TCU last year. I am one who can neither forget nor forgive," said Harold Scherwitz, veteran of the San Antonio Light. He placed the Frogs last.

"This could be Baylor's season," said Bill Bogart of the Tyler Courier. "It's been so long!"

Reported Orville Henry of the Arkansas Gazette, Little Rock: "I know considerable about Arkansas in a general way—but less specifically than about any other team in the race."

Joe Milner of the Greenville Herald voiced the sentiments of many when he said: "SMU, under a new coach and new formation, could finish anywhere from 1st to 7th. With that material, I believe the Mustangs will be in the top three."

"It's difficult to go against Texas as but Jess Neely appears to have the horses," said Tommy Hart of the Big Spring Herald.

"Texas lost too much but has the material (as always). Baylor is the perennial bridesmaid—and they won't let Abe Martin play end for TCU," opined Ted Allen, Kilgore News.

A half dozen observers cast doubt on Baylor's defensive ability but thought the Bruin's fine backfield and speed would offset anything in that direction.

In summation, Bob Rule of the Houston Press said simply: "Will I love 'em in December as I do today?"

Team	Total Points	1st-Place Votes
Rice Institute	138	37
Texas Univ.	173	29
SMU	346	2
Texas Christian	420	0
Texas A&M	525	0
Arkansas U.	550	0

Hunter Hopes To Bag Limit Off Wasp Nest

You're probably heard of going bear-hunting with a switch—but have you heard of hunting wasps with a 20-gauge shotgun?

E. R. Alexander, retired head of the agricultural education department at A&M, is stocking up on shells for just that purpose.

Alexander was clearing a bridle path across a creek just northwest of Bryan recently when he stirred up a wasp-nest and the little pests launched a mass attack.

Dropping his ax, he took to the timber. A little later the airborne scouts sighted him creeping back and attacked in formation. Before he could get away they had him surrounded.

"I started swatting at them with my hands and the first thing I knew, one glove was flying across the creek and I'd knocked off my hat and glasses. There I was, hatless, gloves and almost blind. I ran!"

"The nest is too high to knock down with a stick, so I'm going to take my 20-gauge shotgun and shoot it down," Alexander says.

He'll give them a sporting chance, though—he'll be using a single-shot.

Laboratory Bugs Are Hard To Raise

Growing various types of bugs and worms in captivity proves to be quite a problem, according to Dan Timmermann, student worker at the entomology laboratory.

"Most of our present work is in connection with raising cotton boll worms, leaf worms, and cotton boll weevils," Timmermann said.

The insects are raised to later be used to test new types of cotton poison prepared by various chemical companies. The insects, when in captivity, contact various diseases and are extremely hard to keep alive, Timmermann said.

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ST. THOMAS EPISCOPAL CHURCH 9:30 A.M.—Church School 9:30 A.M.—Morning Prayer and Sermon	OUR SAVIOUR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH 9:30 A.M.—Church School, Bible Classes 10:45 A.M.—Morning Worship
COLLEGE STATION BAPTIST CHURCH 9:45 A.M.—Sunday School 10:50 A.M.—Morning Worship 6:15 P.M.—Training Union 7:15 P.M.—Evening Worship	ST. MARY'S CHAPEL Masses at 9:30 and 10 a.m.
BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH (Missouri Synod) 800 S. College Ave. Bryan, Texas 9:30 A.M.—Sunday School and Bible Classes 10:45 A.M.—Morning Worship	A&M PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 9:45 A.M.—Sunday School 11:00 A.M.—Morning Worship Service 6:30 P.M.—Student League and Fellowship
COLLEGE HEIGHTS' ASSEMBLY OF GOD 9:45 A.M.—Sunday School 11:00 A.M.—Morning Worship 7:00 P.M.—Young Peoples Service 8:00 P.M.—Evening Worship	CHRISTIAN SCIENCE SOCIETY Memorial Student Center 11:00 A.M.—Morning Worship A&M METHODIST CHURCH 9:30 A.M.—Sunday School 10:30 A.M.—Morning Worship 6:30 P.M.—Evening Fellowship HILLEL FOUNDATION 7:30 P.M.—Friday night.

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