

# Sports Writers Choose Texas To Win Southwest Conference

FORT WORTH, Sept. 7—The numerous and talented University of Texas Longhorns are the most prohibitive favorites in modern history to win the Southwest Conference football title in 1954.

In the 21st annual poll of the Texas Christian University sports service just completed, the charges of Coach Ed Price were picked to win by 68 of the 78 sports writers and newscasters who marked ballots. Six others gave the Steers a title tie and only four guessers placed them in the No. 2 spot. Nobody picked them lower than that.

Rating the teams one point for a first-place ballot, two points for a second, three for a third, and so on, the Longhorns rated a total of only 86, the best percentage-wise in the history of the poll.

The Rice Owls, defending co-champs with Texas last season, drew the No. 2 spot with 185 points and the Baylor Bears were third with 215. Each of these teams got two first-place votes and three ties for the top.

None of the other four teams rate a first-place vote and, in fact, they received very few ballots above the No. 4 spot.

The SMU Mustangs were fourth with 313 points; TCU fifth with 411; Arkansas sixth with 471; and A&M last with 479. However, the Mustangs got two votes for second, Arkansas rated two thirds, A&M one third as did TCU.

On the balloting, it appears that Texas is the wide choice to win easily, with Rice and Baylor rated some chance at an upset. SMU and TCU ranged in the middle area with Arkansas and A&M ticketed to fight it out for the cellar.

But it should be pointed out that in the previous 20 polls, the "experts" have been exactly right on only four occasions (1938, 1943, 1945, and 1950) and twice their champion got a tie (1940 and 1953). So anything can happen.

The complete prediction was as follows:

U.T.	86	68	6T's
Rice	185	2	3T's
Baylor	215	2	3T's
SMU	313	0	0
TCU	411	0	0
Arkansas	471	0	0
A&M	479	0	0

There was a tendency on the part of some to eye the Texas Aggies, under new coach Bear Bryant, as a possible upsetter. Others saw SMU as a possible darkhorse and one or two Arkansas writers predicted the Razorbacks would do a lot better than Texas experts predict.

The four "brave" pickers who went against John Brandon of Station KCYL at Lampasas, Spec Gammon of the Odessa American, Robbie Robinson of the Alice Echo, and Harold Scherwitz, veteran of the San Antonio Light. All placed Texas second.

Some of the comments were enlightening. One of the best was by Jack Bell of KDET, Center, who wrote in the comment space: "I wouldn't dare!"

Tommy O'Brien of KTRM, Beaumont, saw the Aggies as "the big surprise this year with best balanced returning material in the Conference excepting Texas." Orville Henry of the Arkansas Gazette called it the easiest pick in years. "No one would be more than one notch out of the place picked," he said.

Wallie Ingalls, KGRH in Fayetteville, tabbed Arkansas third with the defiant comment: "O.K.—so I'm a rugged individualist and have been doing a powerful lot of wishful thinking." Blackie Sherrod of the Fort Worth Press observed: "If permissible, I would vote for Texas 1st and 2nd!"

Mark Batterson, Austin American-Statesman, sounded a note of warning: "I wouldn't worry but for one thing: Why aren't Jess Neely and George Sauer looking more worried?"

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## Golfrest Tourney To Pull Players From South Texas

A sparkling field of club players from the Gulf Coast area and East and Central Texas is expected to compete in Houston's Golfrest Country Club first annual four-ball invitation tournament over an improved course September 18-19.

Tournament Chairman Bill Behrman announced names of some of the leading contenders from among

the early entries. They include Jack Sellman and John Anderson, Ray Hadden and Lt. Orin Hitt, the par-cracking policeman; Frank Chilson and Ozzie Newall, Cecil H. Huey and Loyd E. Ellis, Chick McCarthy and Dub Geiselman, Dick McCreary and Lavourdes Kluppel, Spiz Berg and Don Stone, Jack Delmar and Bobby Riegel.

## Texas Rests Winning Hopes On Standout End Play

AUSTIN, Texas, Sept. 7—All's well when ends are swell.

That's not exactly like the playwright wrote it, yet that paraphrasing reveals the important role that ends have played in The University of Texas football success.

Standout end play has become traditional at Texas. The Longhorns have been blessed with an all-America performer at end of the past ten years, and championships came during four of those seasons. And there has been an all-Southwest Conference end in the ranks for each of the past four seasons, as many as two twice during the two-platoon days.

That may explain why some say: "As its ends go, so goes Texas."

Which is another way of saying that one can not justify the Longhorns' current high ranking on the basis of the end situation. It isn't that Coach Ed Price and his staff expect inferior end play, but there may not be enough experience to maintain the high standard of recent seasons.

Missing from the scene are the two starting ends from last season. Carlton Massey was an all-America performer last year, and both he and Gilmer Spring made the conversion from two-platoon to double duty sufficiently to gain all-conference recognition.

Lost along with them, temporarily at least, is Malcolm Kitchens, a senior from San Antonio who might have been a starter this fall. Kitchens is sitting out this campaign through ineligibility.

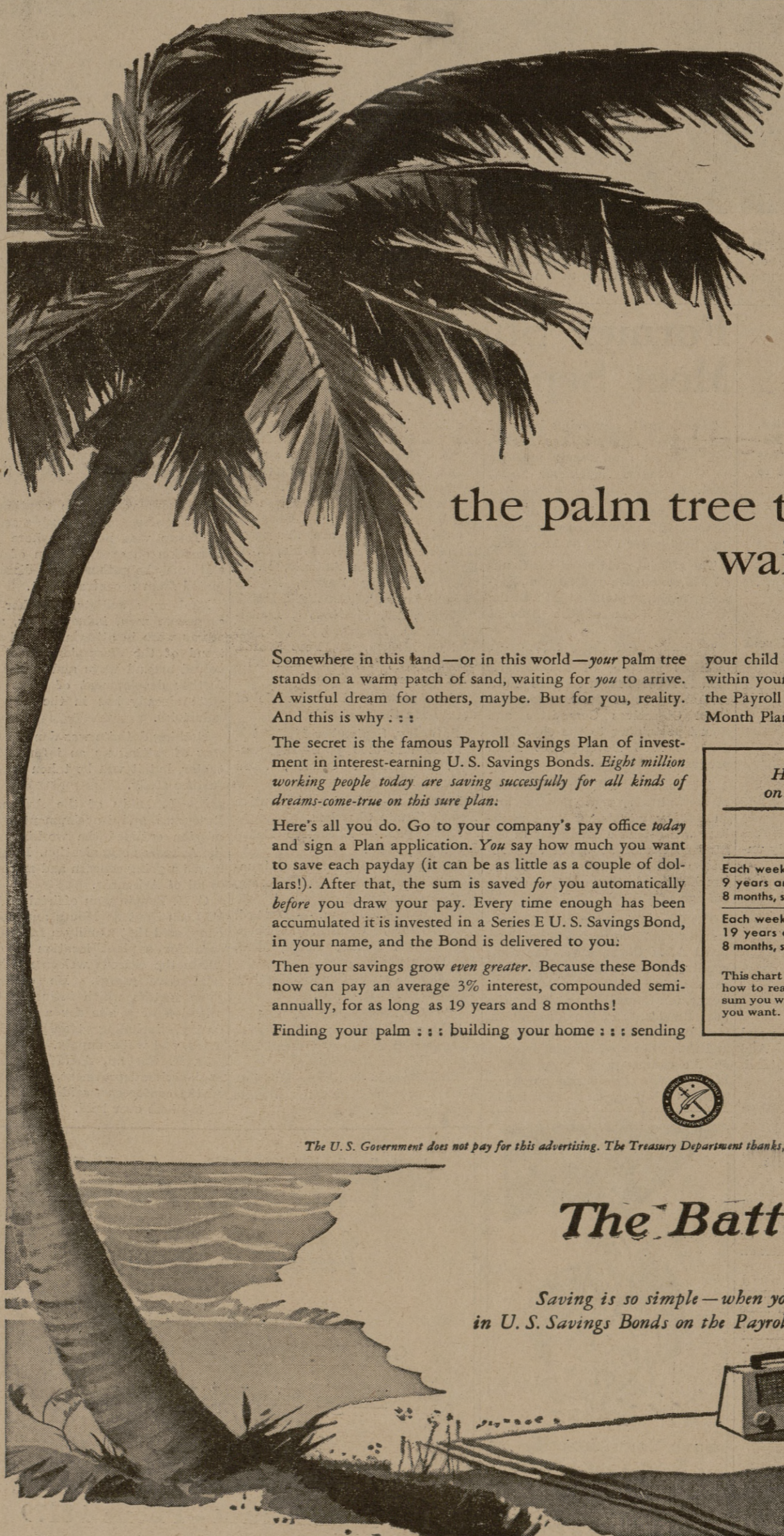
Only three of the ten end candidates are experienced, and one of them may not be sound of limb. Menan Schriever of New Braunfels and Don Jones of Lubbock, both juniors, are likely starters, while Senior Howard Moon of Houston is a question mark because of an ailing arm that cost him more than half of last season.

Five sophomores and two juniors, a transfer and a squadman, complete the cast. The juniors are Allen Dockery of Carrizo Springs, a transfer from Southwest Texas Junior College at Uvalde, and Carl Anlund of Houston.

The sophomores appear to have clas. The most promising appear to be Morton Moriarty of Dallas, who has been in military service and Mike Trant of Tyler, both of

whom impressed as freshmen and in spring drills. Competing for the first time along with them are Al-

len Ernst and Roy Chapman of Temple and Don Bunn of McAllen.



## Razorbacks To Concentrate On Winning The Close Ones

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark., Sept. 7 No matter what the sport, the old saying—"It's the close ones that really count"—has been time-tested to ring true at the end of the season. Whether the championship is at stake or just a .500 season—

the close games are the ones which usually spell success or failure.

And, with the Arkansas Razorbacks, the inability to take even a fair share of the close games over the past five years has cost them 14 victories—nine of them with

Southwest Conference rivals. The Arkansas Razorbacks of 1954 might well keep this in mind as they conclude their first abbreviated week of practice.

The 1950 Porkers set some sort of record for their inability to win the tight games—though it must be said in their defense that getting close at all was creditable in several cases. The Razorbacks that year dropped six games in a 2-8 season by seven points or less. The record read 7-12 to Oklahoma A&M, 6-13 to TCU, 14-19 to Texas, 13-14 to Vanderbilt, 6-9 to Rice, and 7-14 to SMU. There's no doubt but that the morale of any ball club is shaken by such a series of narrow losses.

Even closer to the scene, however, is the 1953 season that saw an outmanned Razorback team drop four out of five close games. The four losses were by a total of only 15 points, while still another defeat was by nine points. The record had Oklahoma A&M winning 7-6, Baylor by 14-7, SMU by 13-7, and LSU by 9-8. Texas defeated Arkansas, 16-7.

## Five Aggie Squad Members Drop From 1954 Football Roster

JUNCTION—(AP)—Five members of the Texas A&M football squad—including lettermen Joe Boring and Foster Teague—quit Friday in what was described as a natural development.

"We have boys quitting all the time," explained Jones Ramsey, college sports news director. "They drop out when they figure they can't make the team."

Boring, a back from Dallas, had lettered for two years, playing mostly on defense. Teague is a junior tackle from Bossier City, La.

Others giving up football were Ivan Greenhaw, junior squadman from Dallas, a center; Barton Griffith, sophomore center from Humble, and Charles Moore, sophomore tackle from Texarkana.

The departure of these five cut the A&M squad to 40 as Paul (Bear) Bryant, new Aggie coach, sent his gridders through fall practice here. A&M is the only Southwest Conference squad training away from home.

Ramsey stressed the fact that there was no discord and that the boys quit the squad for personal reasons.

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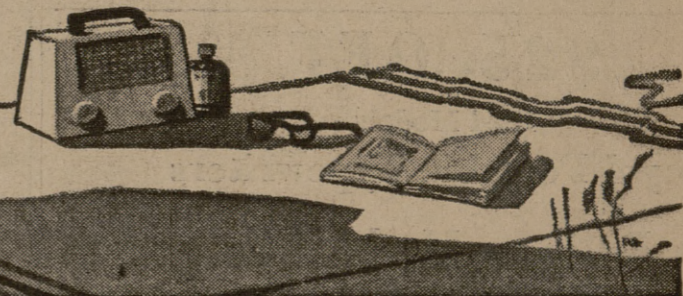
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