

SPORTS SHORTS

By JERRY WIZIG
Battalion Sports Editor

Five of the Southwest Conference's seven teams open the season Saturday, and four of them figure to start the year right.

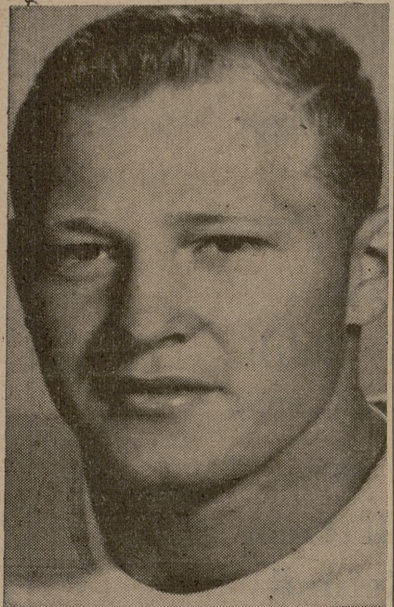
On the first big day of the 1954 season, we pick them this way, but advise you not to bet on them:

- Texas Tech over A&M, 28-14.
- Baylor over Houston, 21-7.
- Rice over Florida, 26-20.
- TCU over Kansas, 14-13.
- Texas over LSU, 28-13.

Paul (Bear) Bryant's debut in the conference figures to be a losing one, anyway you look at it. Tech has 24 lettermen back from last year's squad, including boys like Tackle Jerry Walker, Quarterback Jack Kirkpatrick, Guard Howard Hurt, Fullback Jim Sides and Halfback Rick Spinks.

However, the Raiders may show a marked decline at the halfbacks, where they lost their first five of last year, Bobby Cavazos among them.

Even with this big manpower difference between the two teams, A&M, probably the most intensively coached team in the SWC this



BENNIE SINCLAIR
Right End

Trade With LOU
T O D A Y

Student Body Stands Ready

Whether the Aggies win, lose, or draw, the whole state of Texas knows the 12th man on the team—the Texas A&M student body.

For each student gets on his feet at the opening kick-off and remains standing through the final whistle or gun as a symbol of readiness for duty should the 11 men on the gridiron need assistance and replacement.

The Twelfth Man tradition was born in Dallas, Jan. 2, 1922 in a game between the Texas Aggies and the famous Praying Colonels of Centre College.

Centre had electrified the football world in the 1921 season by turning up with a wonder team.

Talk grew and grew of matching a game between Centre and a team from the Southwest conference. That meant Texas A&M as the host team, as the Ags had won the SW title in the 1921 season.

As the game entered the fourth quarter the Aggie coach, Dana X. Bible, now athletic director at Texas University, saw his light but fast backs one by one being carried off the field. With some time left to play, Bible was down to one backfield substitute.

Then he remembered a sophomore back who had been working out with the squad all season, a boy named King Gill with plenty of heart but without the weight

and experience. Gill had not been taken to Dallas with the team but he had gone to the game and was in the stands with the Cadet Corps. Bible sent a yell leader into the stands to find Gill and to tell him to suit up and join the squad on the bench. Gill did not play in the game but since he was called upon from the stands and was ready he became the first "Twelfth Man."

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