

SPORTS SLANTS

By BARRY HART
Battalion Sports Editor

The NCAA refusal to lift our probation is felt with varied reactions around the Southwest Conference. There are many so-called "sympathizers", but are they? Let us not forget who put it to us in the first place—our own "friends" in the SWC. I, for one, will never believe that the SWC would have lifted their probation, if the NCAA hadn't placed one of their own on us last May.

Only Texas, of all the league schools, has nothing to lose by our getting off the ban and playing in the 1957 Cotton Bowl. SMU, TCU, Rice, Arkansas and Baylor all have a chance to be the host team on Jan. 1. The Longhorns are already out of it, so what do they care? As it looks now, unless Baylor goes unbeaten the rest of the season, any of the possibilities will have lost at least three games. The Bears have lost a pair.

The hoped-for outlook around the conference is that the Aggie team will fall apart, lose the next two games against Rice and Texas, and finish in a tie or worse for the crown.

"Some expect them (the A&M team) to fold," observed Coach Paul (Bear) Bryant Wednesday morning. "Others think they have more to 'em than that and I'm in the latter category. We'll get the answer Saturday."

I'll go along with The Bear on that count. If anything, this latest action on the part of the NCAA will make the Aggies a better team. If they are the type of boys I think they are, they'll be harder, tougher and meaner from here on out. It's a bitter pill for Jack Pardee, Lloyd Hale, Bebes Stallings, Bobby Lockett, Bobby Drake Keith, Dee Powell, Don Watson, Dennis Goehring, George Gillar and Bob Clendennon to swallow. The seniors will be the hardest hit, for the rest of the squad has at least another year left.

I can't see the 10 seniors giving up at this point. They've come a long way since the Thin 30 of 1954. They've given their all for three seasons—they won't quit now when the going is roughest. Look for near mass murder on Kyle Field and Memorial Stadium this Saturday and on the 29th. The Aggies are mad and they'll prove who deserves to go to the Cotton Bowl. Let the also-rans fight among themselves.

Aggies Work on Pass Defense; Osborne Hurt

By BARRY HART
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A&M's grim-faced warriors forgot their disappointment at being refused by the NCAA and concentrated on the Rice Owls' passing attack Wednesday.

"We didn't look good on pass defense," observed Coach Paul (Bear) Bryant. "We looked like it was something new to us. Only (Gene) Stallings did any good."

The Aggie first two units worked out only an hour and 10 minutes before Bryant sent them in. The A&M head man planned no hard practices or contact work the rest of the week in order that his team

be fresh for the Owl invasion Saturday.

Quarterback Roddy Osborne, leading candidate for all-SWC honors at quarterback, missed the workout with an injured neck and may not see any action against Rice. Junior Bobby Conrad moved into the number one man-under position and will probably open there at 2 p. m. Saturday on Kyle Field.

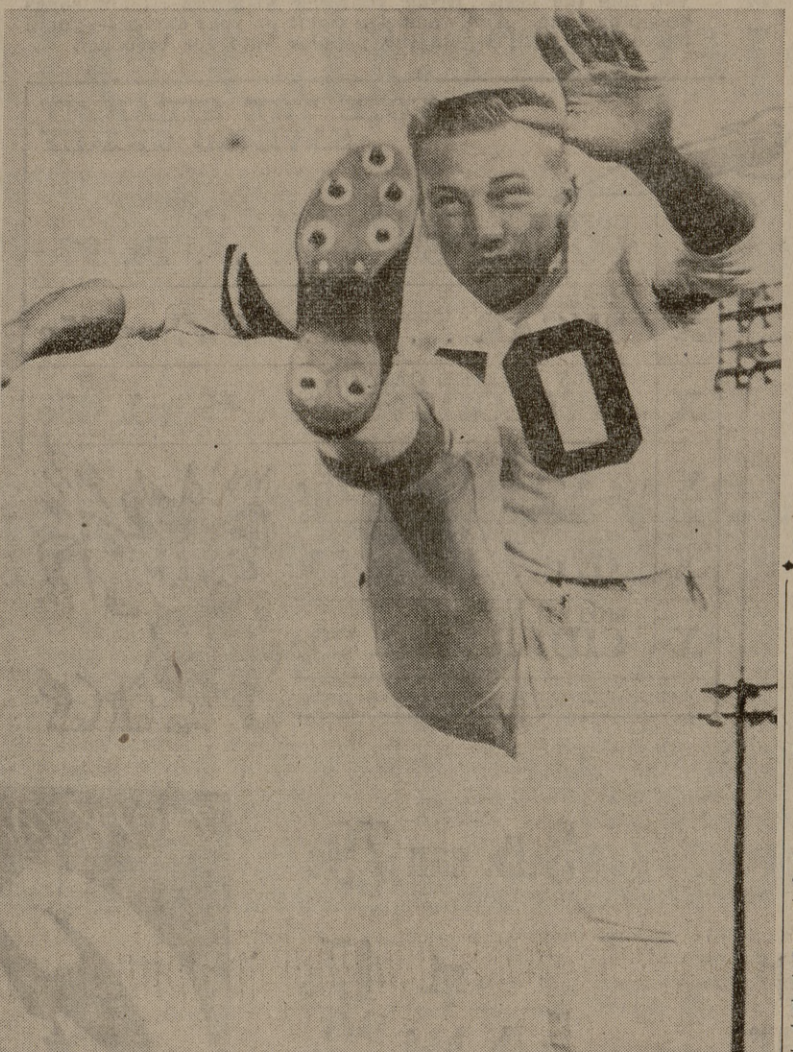
"I doubt very seriously if Osborne will be able to play," said Bryant.

Bryant stated he had noticed no change in the attitude of his fifth-ranked eleven as to the NCAA action.

"We won't be making any excuses along that line," said Bryant. "If we get beat, we just get beat."

The remainder of the Aggie squad is in good shape, including all-American fullback candidate Jack Pardee, who hasn't been at full strength since the Houston game.

"Pardee is beginning to look a little more like himself," commented Coach Bryant.



PROBABLE STARTER SATURDAY—will be Bobby Conrad at quarterback in place of the injured Roddy Osborne.

Osborne Finalist In AF Talk Meet

A&M Quarterback Roddy Osborne, the Southwest Conference's leading candidate for all-league honors, is one of the three finalists in the A&M Air Force ROTC public speaking contest, to be held today on the campus.

The Gainesville Junior will speak on "Flying Safety."

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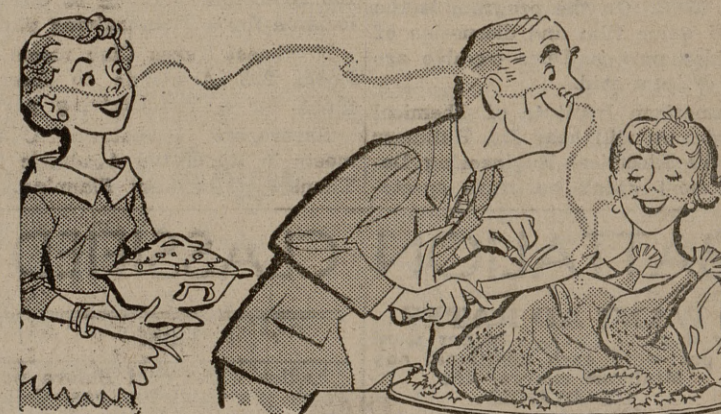
LOUPOT

Rice Working Harder Trying To Stop Aggies

HOUSTON, (AP)—A heavy mid-afternoon rain did not stop a long defensive workout Wednesday for the Rice Owls.

Coach Jess Neely, preparing the Owls for Saturday's College Station game with A&M, switched the session to the Freshman Field where footing was firmer. The workout then continued until dark, the varsity scrimmaging against Aggie plays run by reserves.

Three players missed the rough work because of injuries but tackles Jim Cauley and Claude White and center Jerry Harris are expected to be ready Saturday.



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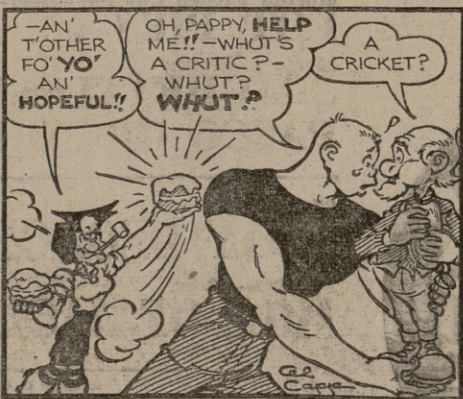
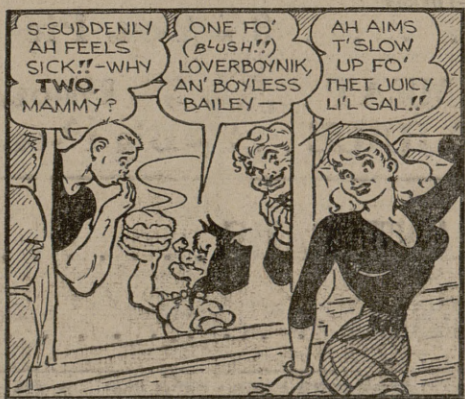
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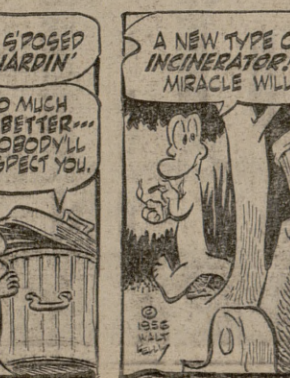
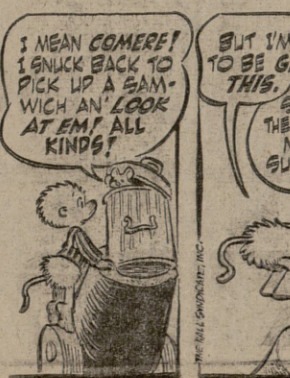
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By AL CAPP

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By Walt Kelly

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