

Texas Needs New Conference

By HAROLD V. RATLIFF
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Hardin-Simmons isn't going to de-emphasize football. All that talk about doing away with athletic scholarships has died down. The alumni moved in and helped the athletic program right itself. So Hardin-Simmons will be playing a major schedule again come fall. Which brings up the question of a new conference that will take in the schools that need such an alliance in order to get football on a paying basis.

There appears little doubt but that the Border Conference, of which Hardin-Simmons is a member, will break up finally at the spring meeting in May. There now are only three members of the league — Hardin-Simmons, Texas Western and West Texas State. Arizona State University and New Mexico State are leaving with the windup of spring sports. Arizona quit last year.

So what's to stand in the way of a brand new conference taking in Hardin-Simmons, West Texas State, Texas Western, Arlington State, Trinity, Tarleton State (which reaches four-year status next year), Abilene Christian and possibly Lamar Tech.

Lamar Tech already has been suspended by the NAIA and may get the same treatment from the Lone Star Conference. It's all because Lamar Tech went to the NCAA basketball playoffs instead of the NAIA.

Lamar Tech is a big school with an outstanding athletic program. It could enter the new conference to its advantage and the advantage of the other schools that might come into the proposed league.

Nothing officially has been done about such a conference but there are quite a few people who want

it. Claude Gilstrap, coach of Arlington State, thinks it would be a fine idea.

He says Arlington State, which is playing a tough independent schedule, has been hurting because it has to make long trips and play schools that do not have a natural rivalry.

This fall Arlington State will be playing Mississippi Southern at Hattiesburg and Memphis State at Memphis. Why wouldn't games with Texas Western and Abilene Christian College be better?

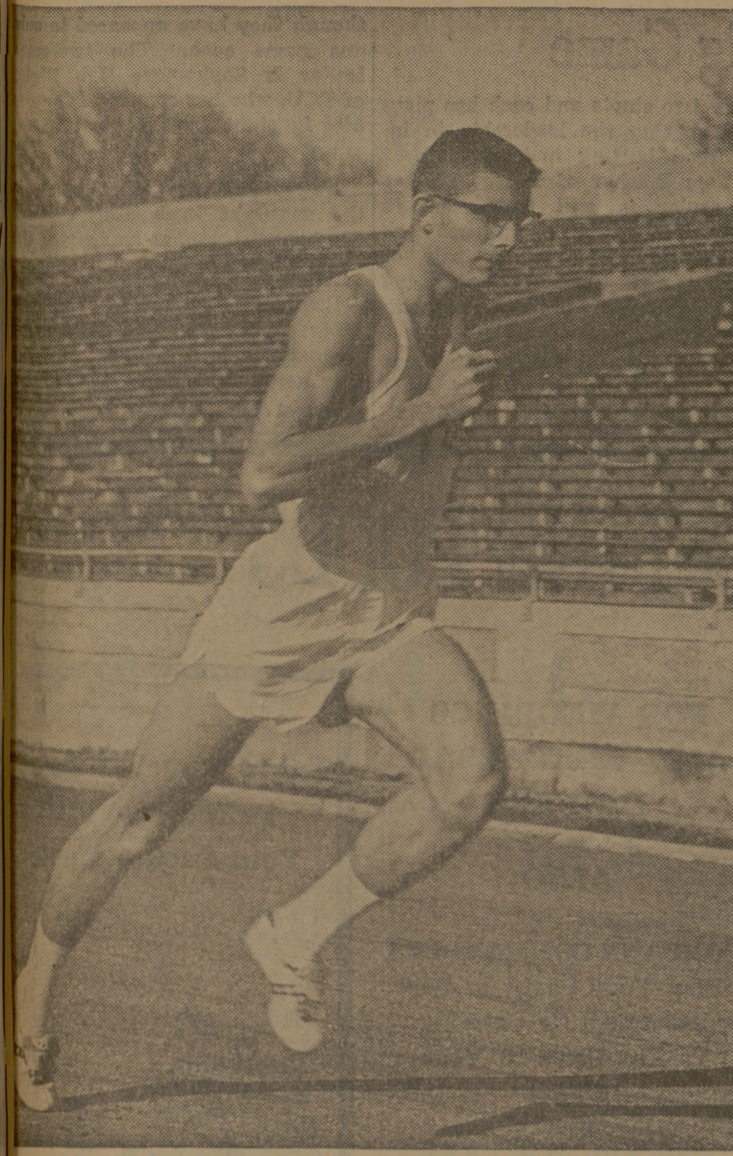
"There just isn't any interest in a game you play 600 miles away with some school that has no common interest," observes Gilstrap.

Also, all colleges need to be in a conference of some sort so there'll be something to play for and some good strong rivalries. A college can't even get publicity on its athletics unless it's in a conference of some kind. Its games mean nothing.

Texas is big enough to support two conferences for its small colleges. The Lone Star Conference is a good one but it is so large no other schools can be admitted.

Therefore, another conference is needed to take in the excellent athletic program carried on by the schools now having to play it independent.

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George Tedford

George Tedford, junior sprinter from Shreveport, La., will be carrying even more of the load now that A&M's ace quartermiler R. E. Merritt has come down with infectious mononucleosis. Tedford will run on sprint relay, mile relay and 440-yard relay at the San Angelo Relays this Saturday. He ran a fine 49.0 off the blocks at the Abilene cinder meet last weekend.

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Thinclads Travel To San Angelo

Capt. Thad Crooks and weight man Danny Roberts will head a 7-man Aggie track squad into the San Angelo Relays Saturday. Owing a sprint relay victory in the West Texas Relays and an upset mile relay triumph over ACC at Abilene last week, A&M is expected to be a strong contender in both those events.

The Aggies fashioned their one-mile win over previously unbeaten Abilene Christian College without the services of ace anchor man R. E. Merritt who has been sidelined with influenza.

Thomas found needed depth last week in Crooks, who ran a 48.7 leg with the mile relay team. George Tedford, who has run a 49.0 flat out of the blocks and Jerry Anderson (49.1) will round out the foursome.

"We have balance on all legs with this group and good alternatives in James King who has done a 50.5 and Eugene Dornak with the same time," Thomas said.

Merritt or Tedford will handle the 440 duties in the sprint medley, Anderson and Merritt or Ted-

ford the two 220s and Crooks the 880 anchor. Crooks was clocked in 1:50.9 on the 880 leg last season.

Sprinter Curtis Roberts has returned to duty following a leg injury and the Aggie 440-yard relay team should be at its best for this year. Running the legs, in order, will be Tedford, Merritt, Roberts and Anderson. Thomas expects this quartet to run the race in under 42.0 seconds.

Danny Roberts, the sensational sophomore, is still unbeaten this spring in the shot put and will also seek points in the discus.

The A&M entries in addition to the relay groups: hurles, Thomas Burns; one-mile run, E. L. Ener; shot put, Charlie Tiemann and Charles Hoppe (also discuss); high jump, Don Deaver and James Daniel; broad jump, Leo Holub and Bill Parks; javelin, John Long.

Syracuse will make one of its infrequent trips to New York to play Army in a football game at the Polo Grounds on Sept. 29.

2 Tragedies Hit Ag Track Team

Illness and a broken leg have dealt the A&M Track team a severe blow.

R. E. Merritt of Andrews, Coach Charlie Thomas' top-ranked quartermiler, is sidelined with what has been diagnosed as infectious mononucleosis.

The diagnosis came just a few hours before sprinter Pat Mitchell of Columbus suffered a hairline fracture of the fibula bone in his left leg striding through a 440 on the Kyle Field track.

A&M team physician Dr. Henry C. McQuaide said Merritt will be out of action for at least two weeks and Mitchell for the season. Both are hospitalized.

Merritt sat out a quadrangular meet at Abilene last Saturday with what was thought to be influenza. His accomplishments this spring had included a 48.1 quartermile, 9.9 seconds one-hundred yard dash and legs on the Aggie 440-yard and one-mile relay teams clocked in best times of 42.0 and 3:16.8, respectively.

Dr. McQuaide said Merritt will not be running in meets for at least two weeks and it could be even longer depending on the severity of the illness.

Mitchell has had leg trouble since he ruled the schoolboy sprinters while a junior in high school at Gainesville. He missed most of last season with a pulled muscle.

Red Schoendienst May Turn Active

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — Red Schoendienst, who retired as an active player at the end of the 1961 season, probably will be reactivated as a utility infielder with the St. Louis Cardinals, Manager Johnny Keane said Wednesday.

Schoendienst, 39, is listed as a nonplaying coach but he has been used in a pinch-hitting capacity and as a late-inning replacement as second base in exhibition games this spring.

Schoendienst appeared in 72 games last year, mostly as a pinch hitter, and batted .300.

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