

Stopped In Mid-Air

Aggie halfback Eddie VanDyke kept on going for a few yards gain in this from the 1962 Turkey Day clash in Austin. But sports photography.

'Easy Life' For Photogs?

BY RONNIE FANN
Battalion Photographer

Sports photographers may seem to have an easy life to some spectators, who envy their free entry into games, free meals and preferred seating in the press box and on the field.

Few realize that free entrance into a game is little compensation for one who has come there to work instead of enjoying the game.

It has often been said of the photographer that he is very lucky to be able to view the game from the sidelines, and move about freely, following the ball. Actually, one has a poor view of the game from the field, especially if he has to see it through the tiny view finder hole in his camera.

THE SPORTS photographer has other problems that the average spectator doesn't realize. Since he is there to do a job, he must get results, and there is no second chance. Editors expect spectacu-

lar results even if the game doesn't provide it.

Anyone who has ever used a simple box camera realizes the problems of motion and light in picture taking. Most action shots must be taken at speeds of 1/250 of a second or above. The average speed of a box camera is 1/60 of a second.

With an increase in speed, the photographer must increase the light getting to his film. Consequently if it is cloudy, he must use a high speed film and sacrifice quality, or shoot slower and risk the possibility of blurring the action.

ANOTHER FACTOR that must be taken into consideration is the distance the photographer is from his subject. No ordinary camera can be used because of the small image which would appear on the negative. This necessitates the use of a telephoto lens.

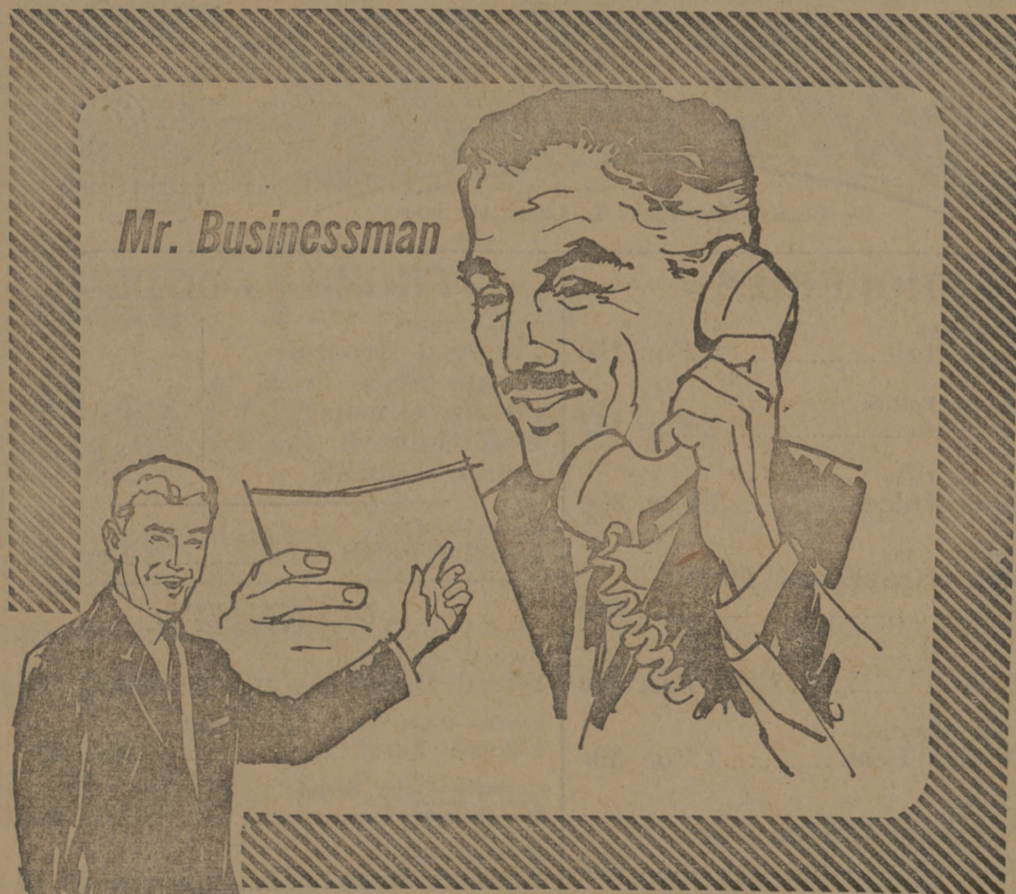
Even with a good, bright afternoon, a good reliable camera such as a Leica equipped with a 135mm

telephoto lens, the photographer has his problems. He must take an average of one role of film to get one picture his editor will like. This is one picture out of 20. He never knows what he's got until he gets the film developed.

To all this, add the fact that a photographer does not have complete freedom on the field. He can never step onto the playing field itself, and cannot step into the section reserved for the players, which is near the 50 yard line.

IT IS difficult for him to identify himself with one team since he must work both sides of the playing field, and sometimes even stand with the opposing team.

Besides all of his many woes, the photographer cannot even bring a date to a game since he must stay on the sidelines. When the touchdown is made he must be concentrating on the available light, the speed of his lens, the depth of field, and his camera angle, instead of his girl like the spectator.



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