

# Texas To Remember Cobb For Schoolboy Sports Work

By HAROLD V. RATLIFF  
Associated Press Sports Writer

Texas schoolboy sports lost one of its greatest contributors the other day when P. C. Cobb died.

The Texas Interscholastic League says Cobb did more to promote championship football, basketball, baseball, track, tennis and golf in Texas than any other man.

He is the one who made baseball a part of the League program. Cobb had the Dallas schools, of which he was athletic director for 34 years, playing the game on an organized basis and he also promoted state tournaments.

The League finally recognized the fact that baseball could be handled as well as the other sports so it instituted the annual race in 1948.

But Cobb's influence was felt in many ways. He was the man who showed high school football could draw 40,000 fans for a game. He was the leader in bidding for the state championship football game each year back in the days when there was only one division.

The schools used to say they

could make more money playing their state championship game in Dallas than any other place.

Cobb was a great organizer. He built schoolboy football in Dallas until it drew 500,000 fans last fall. Gate receipts were \$350,000. This was for 152 games played by 16 senior high schools and 21 junior high schools.

When he got P. C. Cobb Stadium through WPA money he built high school basketball in Dallas from \$5,000 for a season to \$66,000. There was a field house at the stadium for basketball.

He had baseball drawing 50,000 fans, track 60,000.

Under his leadership Dallas built five stadiums with seating capacity from 4,000 to 22,000. Another is going up soon—this one seating 12,000 for football, 7,500 for basketball in the field house that will be part of the athletic plant.

Cobb came to Dallas from Maine where he had played baseball in the old Trolley League that spawned major league stars and was the setting for the Frank Merriwell books. Gilbert L. Patten, who wrote under the nom de plume

Burt L. Standish, got his material from the Trolley League, so called because the towns were so close

together the trip could be made by a nickle or dime trolley fee.

Cobb knew Standish and he knew many of the men Standish wrote about. He never was sure who Standish used as his model for the mythical Frank Merriwell, who always won the game in the ninth, but it might have been Cobb as part of a composite of the good ball players.

Cobb came to Dallas in 1921 just to look around. He got a job as

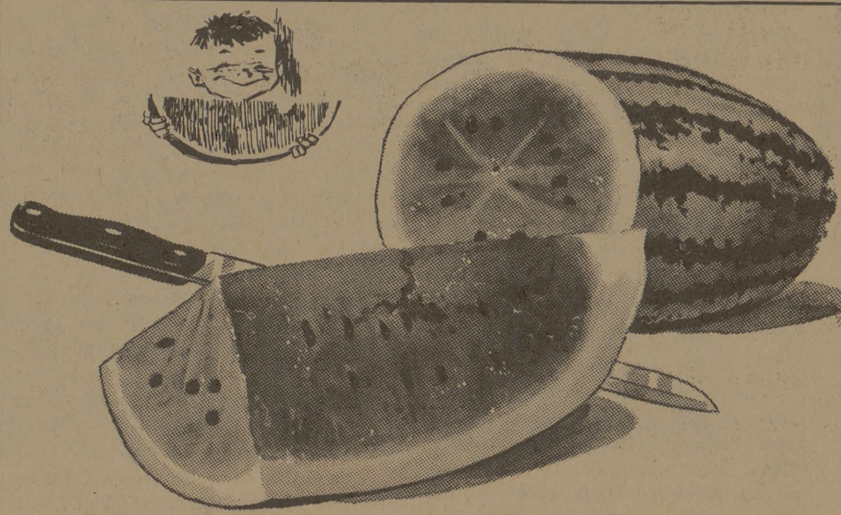
coach of old Bryan Street High School. In 1929 Cobb became athletic director of the Dallas schools. He served until a year ago when he retired but stayed on as consultant. In that way he gave the new administration his ideas on how to promote high school athletics.

Texas schoolboy sports won't soon forget the man or wander away from his influence. He was a genius.

## A&M Rodeo Team Competes In NIRA Finals In Wyoming

A six-man rodeo team from A&M University will compete in the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association finals in Douglas, Wyo., beginning Thursday. They are Bobby and Wesley Robinson of Bryan; Jack Taylor, Van Horn; Jay Jones, Waco; John Maxwell, Gainesville, and John South, Miami.

The final events will be carried over nationwide television Sunday afternoon.



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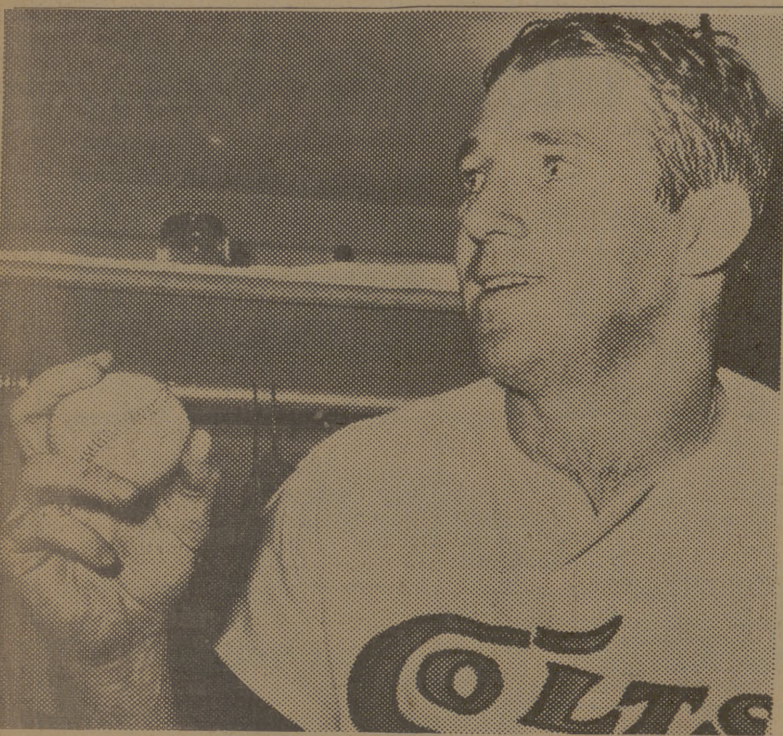
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Top Pitcher in Baseball Today

Dick Farrell, Houston Colt .45 pitcher, holds the game ball in the dressing room after beating the St. Louis Cardinals, 4-1, in Houston. The win was the 10th this season for Farrell, his 7th straight and makes him the winningest pitcher in major league baseball. His season record thus far, 10 wins, 1 loss. (AP Wirephoto)

## Outdoors In Texas

By VERN SANFORD

Nature has a way of taking care of her own problems.

If you take a tract of land and never touch it, the balance of nature to available habitat will remain fairly stable all the time. Nature has many devices for such control—predators, disease, starvation. None of them are very pretty, but nonetheless they are quite effective.

The real trouble starts when someone begins tinkering with this delicate balance of nature.

As things now stand in Texas, there are no lands left which haven't, in one way or another, felt the presence of civilization.

This, of course, compounds the problem. When a rancher chains the brush off his land, he destroys much of the wildlife habitat. As some of the predators are killed, it also knocks the balance out of proportion.

The more this balance is altered, the bigger the need for competent wildlife biologists to try and get things back in some semblance of order again. Perhaps heavier hunting pressure is desired, to compensate for the lack of natural predators.

But despite all the work of man,

nature still makes her presence felt, quite dramatically at times. Experience has shown us that there are cycles of wildlife, diminishing populations in lean years, booming populations in years of plenty. Nothing we can do will alter this natural cycle.

A drastic die-off of deer in Llano County a couple of years back was a dramatic example of this. It was, simply, nature's way of balancing the deer herd to the available habitat.

Contrary to popular belief, game can not be stockpiled. Only so much wildlife can survive on any given number of acres.

### Roberts, Nelson At Oregon Meet

Danny Roberts and Ted Nelson are competing in track action at Eugene, Ore., in the NCAA championships Thursday and Friday.

Roberts, leading shot put among the nation's collegians this year with a throw of 60 feet, 7 inches, has concentrated on lifting weights in preparation for the event.

Nelson leads the nation's collegians in the 440-yard dash with 46.6.



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