

Pennsylvania Site Of Early Football

By HAROLD V. RATLIFF
Associated Press Sports Writer
...A squad of Texas schoolboy football players is going up to Hershey, Pa., to challenge the schoolboys of Pennsylvania. Or rather, they were invited by Pennsylvania to challenge them. The game is Saturday.

Despite the fact that they had to be boys that were not selected for the Texas coaching school all-star game, the squad looks capable of representing the State very well.

Whereas there are 15 all-Staters at the coaching school, there are 16 with this distinction on the Texas squad that shows its wares in the east.

It is nothing new for Texas to send an all-star squad against another state. The Oil Bowl at Wichita Falls has been doing it for years, as Texas clashes with Oklahoma.

The Texas squad may not win in Pennsylvania but then Texas never has claimed its schoolboy football is the best in the country. It does, however, claim that it's the biggest not only in the United States but in the world.

The game in Hershey will come just one month before the season begins in Texas—when Autumn's Mightiest Legions hold their biggest football campaign yet.

There will be 946 schools playing the game in Texas come September. It is 10 more than ever appeared in the big gridiron race before and the way new schools are being born these days there is no way to foresee what it might be when the Texas Interscholastic League observes its 50th year of football.

The race this season will be the 45th. The first one—in 1920—had 198 schools. It actually wasn't schoolboy football then. The age limit was 21 years but there was little machinery set up to enforce it. Thus grown men were playing high school football. Veterans of World War I were in the lineups of 1919 and 1920.

The age limit was out to 20 in 1926, to 19 in 1936, to 18 in 1940 and now it is 19. But you'll find few 19-year-old boys playing schoolboy football. Most of the seniors are 17 or 18.

But despite the fact that the boys are much younger today than they were in the twenties, when the Interscholastic League was making its start, the quality hasn't dropped off.

There have been 28 authentic all-Americans produced by Texas high schools under the aegis of the Interscholastic League. The first was in 1930 when Botchey

Koch of Baylor was a consensus choice. Koch came from Temple High School.

There have been twice as many made this or that all-America but a boy has to be on most of the major teams to be considered an

authentic all-America. Until 1930 there were no all-Americans from the Southwest Conference who came from the Texas Interscholastic League. But there certainly were some who deserved it, like Joel Hunt, who was all-

America at Texas A&M if ever there was one but couldn't get the recognition, and Rags Matthews and Jack Sisco, who also came along too soon.

Texas has had more all-Americans than any other state simply

because there are many more players than any other state. But take a select squad and send it against a like number from any other state and Texas probably wouldn't dominate. In fact, it would have a tough time break-

ing even in a given period. Its intersectional record bears out that statement.

As said before, Texas doesn't claim to have the best but to have the most. There just isn't any question about that.

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WE GIVE S&H GREEN STAMPS

FROM THE
Sidelines
By JIM BUTLER

Extremism in the defense of something or other is no vice, at least by the standards of one political aspirant and apparently by the standards of the peculiar, twisted minds that inhabit the offices of UT's student newspaper The Summer Texan, or maybe The Some Are Texan. The latter comment gives more credit than is deserved to the person or persons responsible for a pair of articles that appeared in the July 28 issue of the Texan.

The unkindest cut of all came in a story about the U-Russian track meet last weekend, reporting specifically on the feats of TEXANS Fred Hansen and Randy Matson. That Hansen attended Rice and Matson attends A&M would seem to be secondary information to the fact that the pair were representing the United States in the most important international duel in sports, and will probably be in Tokyo trying to win points for America in the Olympic Games. Yet the headline read "Aggie Chokes."

The story, obviously a rewrite of a wire service report and a poor rewrite at that, had this to say about 19-year old A&M sophomore who holds the national freshman record for throwing the shot and has beaten all the top U. S. shot putters at one time or another. "A&M's Randy Matson was just another shotputter . . . Matson couldn't even defeat the Russians . . . Matson couldn't reach 63 feet and slipped to third place."

All these cracks for a boy who threw 61-11 1/2 under pressure that easily rivals that of the Olympics, and a boy born and raised in Texas, too.

With this kind of prejudice and hatred coming from minds that are supposed to hold the future of America, it is not hard to see how the Ku Klux Klan has risen to such influence in a historically free and peace loving nation. The radical violence in Rochester, Harlem and Mississippi is but a short extension of the prejudice that exists in the minds of these so called Orange (deep yellow) journalists who search their tiny minds to produce criticism of a young Texan and American of whom sane and decent Texans and Americans are proud.

Some time back, this same publication issued a plea to abolish Texas A&M. I would like to return their plea three-fold in a slightly different manner. I don't think the University of Texas should be abolished. Possibly there is something of value at the Austin school. But if the other Teasips are in any way afflicted with the same mental voids that their reporters have contracted, the name of the school should certainly be changed so that the state of Texas will not have to wince when "I've Been Working On The Railroad" is played.

The other piece of journalistic claptrap that ran beside the track meet story dealt with A&M's football prospects for 1964. It was refreshing in that it is offensive to Aggies only and no reflections upon the state or nation was evidenced. The writer, a pseudo-Sip who spent his undergraduate days at Rice, obviously knew very little about his subject from first hand observation. In all likelihood, his material was borrowed from the magazine Texas Football, which picked the Aggies to finish last. He evidently decided that the objective unbiased views of TF Editor Dave Campbell weren't fit for use in an anti-Aggie newspaper. So he added his own color which consisted of remarks like "Aggies die hard, but they always die . . . quality football players generally help eliminate mistakes. With the Aggies this is merely a hypothesis: quality players are so few and far between that proof will be lacking."

I acknowledge the right of any sports scribe to make forecasts, but only if the writer is knowledgeable and qualified to do so. He obviously is not.

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