

'Winning Is The Only Thing'

SMU Goes From Top To Bottom

By HAROLD RATLIFF
Associated Press Sports Writer

It's wonderful to have a winning football team. Red Sanders, the late coach of UCLA, said "Winning isn't everything; it is the only thing."

But the reaction from falling off the pedestal and trying to fight your way back sometimes is worse than having never been there at all.

In the late forties Southern Methodist rode high with golden boy Doak Walker, the mighty Kyle Rote and others who made statistics on the field and records in the stands.

There was a year when SMU drew almost a half-million fans. The athletic department made so much money it gave a sizable chunk to the fine arts department.

But the descent started in 1950 and reached the absolute low in 1962 when the average was 21,000 fans per game. There had to be cutbacks in other sports.

Hayden Fry came along to win four games in 1963 and bring the average up to 34,718. Included was an upset of Navy and some good games that were lost but with a flourish. It seemed SMU was at last on the way back.

Prospects for 1964 were excellent. Some writers thought SMU would make it to the first division of the Southwest Conference, maybe even fight for the title.

But a lot of things happened to ruin SMU's hopes. First the school was put on probation for recruiting violations. There was chagrin and humiliation but this didn't seem likely to damage any ability on the field of play.

That, though, was taken care of in other ways.

John Roderick, the speedy young man who ran Navy into defeat, became scholastically ineligible. Mac White, a top quarterback, had to forego football because of a ruptured disc. Larry Jernigan, who might have been the best tailback in the conference, got acute arthritis and couldn't play a down.

Tom Hillary, a fine end, signed a professional baseball contract. David Wilson, an excellent line-backer, dropped out of school to work. Buddy Miller chose to graduate rather than take his last year of eligibility.

In the first game Danny Thomas, a senior quarterback, injured his knee. He played all season virtually on one leg.

Donnie Oefinger, a sophomore, stepped in at quarterback and was doing a fine job when he got a broken jaw in the third game of the season—the only game SMU won. He didn't get back until five games later.

Southern Methodist lost and lost. Frustration and humiliation hit simultaneously when the Methodists took a 44-0 licking from Arkansas.

But there was no clamor to fire the coach—something that would have been evident no more than three years ago.

The fans and alumni, for once

at least, were understanding. They didn't go out much to see the games because they didn't want to watch the Mustang's lose. But they didn't criticize the coach or the school for its troubles.

Fry was probably a little

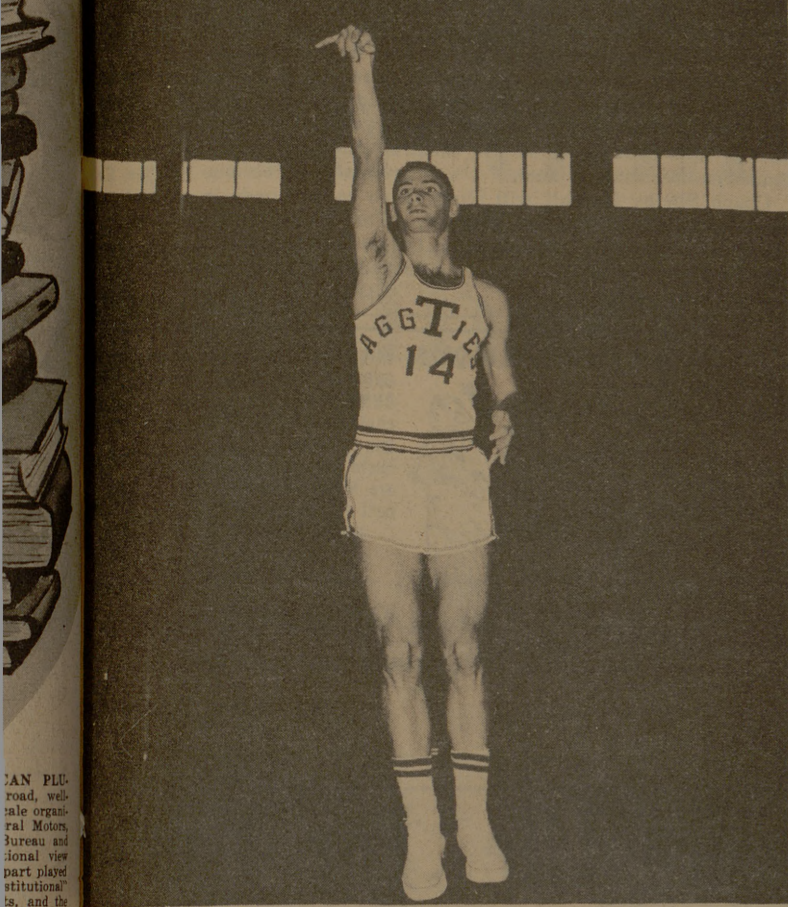
amazed but he certainly felt better about the situation. "The people have been wonderful," he said. "There's a different attitude in football these days anyway."

Fry could even get a little enthusiastic about next year's prospects with one of the finest fresh-

man teams coming up. And he's hopeful that some of those good football players lost by injury and scholastic trouble will be back. "We could have a good team," he said.

Losing has hurt Fry more than the fans and alumni but he has

found that losing isn't so bad if the people understand and are willing to make allowances. One thing that brought this about came from the fact that Fry and his Mustangs didn't quit. They tried just as hard whether the score was 44-0 or 16-13.



PAUL TIMMINS
... Ag defensive standout

Texas Schoolboy Semifinals Set

Sixteen games Friday and Saturday bring the long Texas schoolboy football campaign to its semifinals and if things continue to have, some faces not expected to be there will show up for the penultimate round.

Eleven unbeaten teams remain, with two of them having suffered losses. None clash with each other but that merely means there is more chance of an upset here or there.

Amarillo-Tasosa, the highest rated of Class AAAA, gets two more losses Ysleta at Amarillo Saturday and will be expected to win easily enough.

Andrews and Vidor, the only undefeated, untied teams, play Wichita Falls Hirschi and Lamar Consolidated respectively in the Class AAA race and both will be favored to come through.

Denver City, a favorite in Class AA, plays Stamford in a feature game.

Hull-Daisetta, the No. 1 team in Class A, tangles with dangerous Eggleston.

Tasosa, Andrews, Denver City and Hull-Daisetta are championship favorites but chances are that only half of them will make it.

The schedule this week:

Class AAAA — Friday night,

Garland at Fort Worth Paschal, McAllen at San Antonio Highlands, Houston Jones vs. Galena Park; Saturday, Ysleta at Amarillo-Tasosa.

Class AAA — Friday night, Bonham vs. Palestine at Mesquite, Vidor vs. Lamar Consolidated at Spring Branch, San Marcos at Kerrville; Saturday, Andrews vs. Wichita Falls Hirschi at Abilene.

Class AA—Friday night, Denver City vs. Stamford at Snyder, Atlanta vs. Marlin at Nacogdoches, Palacios vs. Los Fresnos at Brownsville; Saturday, Taylor vs. Port Acres at Houston night.

Class A — Friday night, Archer City vs. Clifton at Arlington, Jefferson vs. Rosebud at Athens, Hull-Daisetta vs. Ingleside at El Campo; Saturday, Stratford vs. Big Lake at Lubbock.

Aggie Soccer Team To Host Houston

The University of Houston soccer team invades Aggieland Saturday for a 2 p.m. game.

The Aggies although hampered by small injuries feel that they will be ready for the game.

Houston will be seeking revenge, as they have never beaten the Class AAAA — Friday night,

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