

Schoolboys Given Credit For SWC Football Prowess

By HAROLD V. RATLIFF
Associated Press Sports Writer

The Southwest Conference has dominated the nation's football for the past two years.

Texas was national champion in 1963 with an undefeated, untied team that won the big bowl game, beating Navy to confirm that it was the best.

Arkansas was undefeated and untied in 1964, the only major college team with that distinction, other than Princeton. The latter does not play in bowl games or even an inter-sectional schedule.

Arkansas beat Texas in the only game that latter lost, and Texas beat the national champion, Alabama, in the Orange Bowl. The Football Writers, who wait until after the bowl games, chose Arkansas.

Regardless of whether Arkansas was national champion, it still finished with the finest record and as far as the Southwest Conference was concerned was the best team in the nation.

The victories of a Texas all-star schoolboy squad over Pennsylvania and Oklahoma — 26-10 over Pennsylvania in the Big 33 game and 21-13 over Oklahoma in the Oil Bowl — serves to illustrate why Southwest Conference football has become the best in the country.

Texas schoolboy football is the major reason. And behind the whole thing stands the Texas High School Coaches Association.

This organization, growing steadily, has brought high school coaching to its peak. Thereby it strengthened the competition and better players are being produced.

Until a decade ago, Texas schoolboy football didn't do too well against outsiders. The obvious reasons was that it wasn't aimed in that direction in the first place. The age limit was low, the rules were stringent, the semester rule kept experience at a minimum.

But the coaches wanted football to be as good or better than other sections. They fought for spring training and still have it in the larger schools. They really worked at coaching. They took advantage of the opportunities to better themselves through the largest coaching school in the world.

So what might have been lacked in ability was made up with good coaching.

The team that played at Hershey, Pa., was fine one indeed. It also had some top-flight coaching from Bobby Lane, Doak Walker and Harley Sewell, products of Texas schoolboy football themselves. All became stars in college and pro football.

The team that beat Oklahoma in the Oil Bowl had a good nucleus from the team that played at Hershey. It had a tough defense, it had speed in the right places, it had a versatile of-

fense, it was a football team that could beat anybody.

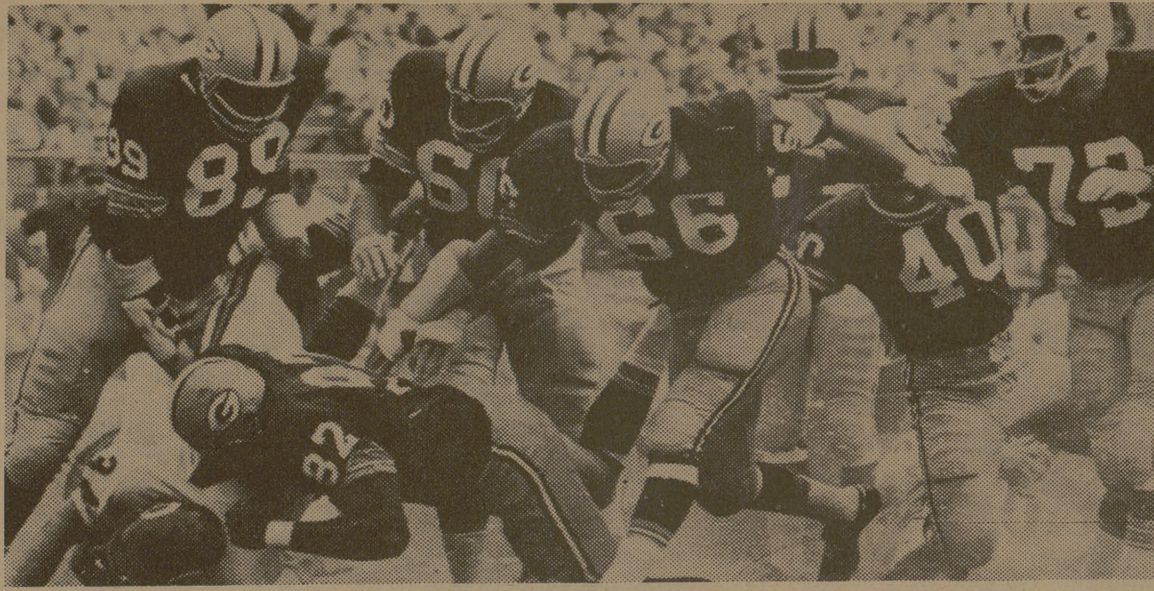
Texas, with its best team possible, beat Pennsylvania decisively. Pennsylvania undoubtedly had as good high school football as anywhere in the nation. It has itself claimed to be tops.

This is not declaring that Texas high school football is the best in the nation, because there are many other states that have not been played. But it is reasonable to believe that Texas is as good as the best.

The Oil Bowl game in Wichita Falls actually is the pioneer of inter-state rivalry, not the Big 33. Texas and Oklahoma boys have been playing each other for 20 years. Texas leads by a wide margin but the competition has been very strong in recent years.

This treatise is not, however, on the relative merits of the states in high school football; it's just to show why the Southwest Conference has reached its high place in the nation's football.

Even Arkansas, the only out-of-state members of the conference, has found good use for Texas schoolboy players. Some of Arkansas' finest have come from Texas. And rightfully so — Arkansas has as much right to Texas schoolboys as the schools in Texas. Arkansas also has been doing a pretty good job of producing top-flight boys itself.



LINE OF DEFENSE
Fullback Joe Marconi of the Chicago Bears makes the tackle with backing up from Dave Robinson (89), Lee Roy Caffey (60), Ray Nitschke (66), Tom Brown (40) and John McDowell (73). Green Bay won, 31 to 14. (AP Wirephoto)

Benching Gave Hodges Top Thrill

By GIL HODGES
Washington Senators Manager

By greatest thrill in baseball came not from something I did but from something that was done for me.

It happened in 1953. To tell the story straight I must go back to the 1952 World Series between the Dodgers and Yankees.

The Yankees won the Series, four games to three. One of the reasons, probably the biggest reason for the Yankee victory was that I did not make a single base hit in the Series. Oh for 21! No player in World Series history, has ever suffered through such a miserable Series.

Not only for myself but because I had let down the loyal Brooklyn fans.

They say a new year means a fresh start. It wasn't for me. When the 1953 National League season opened I went hitless and from them on it was a struggle. After six weeks by batting average was under my weight which, incidentally, was steadily going down from worry.

It got so bad that Charlie Drennon, our manager, finally had to bench me. "Maybe a week's rest will be just what the doctor ordered," said Charlie sympathetically. Frankly, I welcomed the "rest."

Then something happened that will remain with me as long as

I live... something for which I will be eternally grateful.

I had been getting occasional letters from people expressing sympathy and wishing me luck. But during the week of my benching, the letters came in like an avalanche... They came by the hundreds daily. All of them were kindly, sympathetic, encouraging letters. Envelopes containing good luck charms, trinkets, religious medals, even lucky coins, came in the mail. The telephone rarely stopped ringing.

It was wonderful. I was overcome by the fans treatment which I felt I didn't deserve. Because I wasn't doing anything to help the club. The expression of

Meet The Grid Staff Ralph Smith

Ralph Smith, who knows the position well from having played and coached it, works with Aggie ends on the A&M football staff headed by Gene Stallings.

Smith was an outstanding end for Phillips High under Coach Chesty Walker, and the Black-hawks lost two games during the three years that Ralph played.

Smith came to A&M in the fall of 1957, following in the footsteps of his brother, Don, also an end. In his sophomore season, 1958, he battled Don for the same end post and started two games. He started every game his junior and senior seasons.

His first coaching experience was with the A&M freshmen in 1961. He was end coach at Orange, Texas in 1962-63 and was line coach at Odessa High

last year. Smith played both ways for the Aggies but preferred defense to offense. One of his top performances came in a 14-0 loss to Baylor his senior season. The Bear boasted three of the fastest backs in the nation that year, but Ralph as the corner man in the Aggie defense, turned the Bear's speedsters inside and it took two big pass plays for Baylor to win. A&M out-gained the Bears at the ground that day.

The 26-year-old Smith is a bachelor.

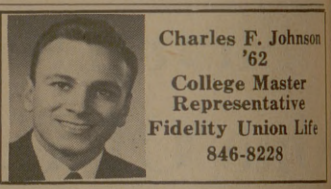
College View Wins Softball

Tuesday night in the rain College View won the intramural softball championship for the second summer session.

Until the bottom half of the seventh inning the Chemistry Majors led College View 5-3, but then College View scored three runs to take the lead and the game.

In earlier action College View defeated the PE Majors, champions of League B, and the Chem Majors won out over Dorm 14.

Dorm 22 had already claimed the bowling championship the week before, so golf is the only sport with its competition completed.



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