

Vast Schoolboy Grid League Gives Trouble

By HAROLD V. RATLIFF
Associated Press Sports Writer
The Texas Interscholastic League has added seven schools for 1966 and that news will

bring groans from sports departments of newspapers and wire services that deal with the huge football race on a state-wide basis.

Now there will be a score of games on Saturday night, some showing on the inaccurate schedules to be Friday night. If the results are obtained they are buried under the voluminous report of the college games.

There are 950 schools this year and it's a virtual impossibility to get all the results of the games on a Friday night.

In the first place, a sizable number of coaches won't give out accurate schedules and the papers and wire services never know when and where all of the teams are playing.

Why a coach can't produce an accurate schedule is a mystery. Of all people, he should know when and where his team is to appear for competition.

In the second place, some of the schools think nothing of changing the date of a game the week of the game, some times without notifying anybody.

It becomes embarrassing to have games scheduled for Friday, check on them and find they have been played Thursday.

One schedule is recalled in which the coach didn't list the day of the week but did have "night" written in opposite each date. You didn't know what night.

In the third place, the high schools seem to be moving more and more toward Saturday play.

It hasn't been long since the colleges went to bat with the pros when the latter revealed plans to play on Friday night in competition with the colleges. Perhaps the pros should go to bat for the colleges.

The school week that ends on Friday should be the correct time for the high schools to play their games. Saturday, of course, is reserved by the colleges and the pros play on Sunday.

With uncertain schedules it's most difficult to get all the results of the 300 to 400 games played each week. But when there are not even telephones to get some of the scores, then the task is made doubly tough.

There seems to be a trend developing this year whereby coaches have their telephones disconnected after the season starts. Obviously it's to prevent crank calls or the rantings of embittered fans. But it also prevents the sports writers from getting valuable information from the coaches, thus reducing the publicity that could bring more fans

into the stands. There have been instances where the fire department, police department or an all-night cafe had to be called to get the score of a football game. In some instances it's difficult to even get them that way.

Many of the towns that have high school football teams do not have telephone exchanges and

have to be dialed from the nearest town with one. If you don't have the name of the coach or the school superintendent, you can't put the call through.

Once an all-night garage was called in a town—it was the only place open—and asked how the local team came out in its football game. "I didn't even know they were playing," said the

garage man, who couldn't have cared less anyway.

Once the home of the coach was called and only the wife was there. She didn't know the score, she said apologetically. "But I imagine we lost," she said while trying to get the baby to shut up long enough for her to talk. He'd have called me if we won."

la-de-da snooty affairs



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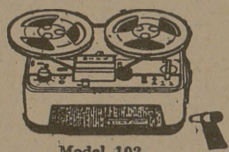
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SUPERSCOPE

Aggie, Allen Military Soccer Teams Head For Kicks At TU Saturday

A&M and Allen Military Academy soccer teams toe into the University of Texas' open tournament Saturday in Austin.

Eight teams are to battle for three trophies in what is believed to be the largest college-level soccer tourney in the state.

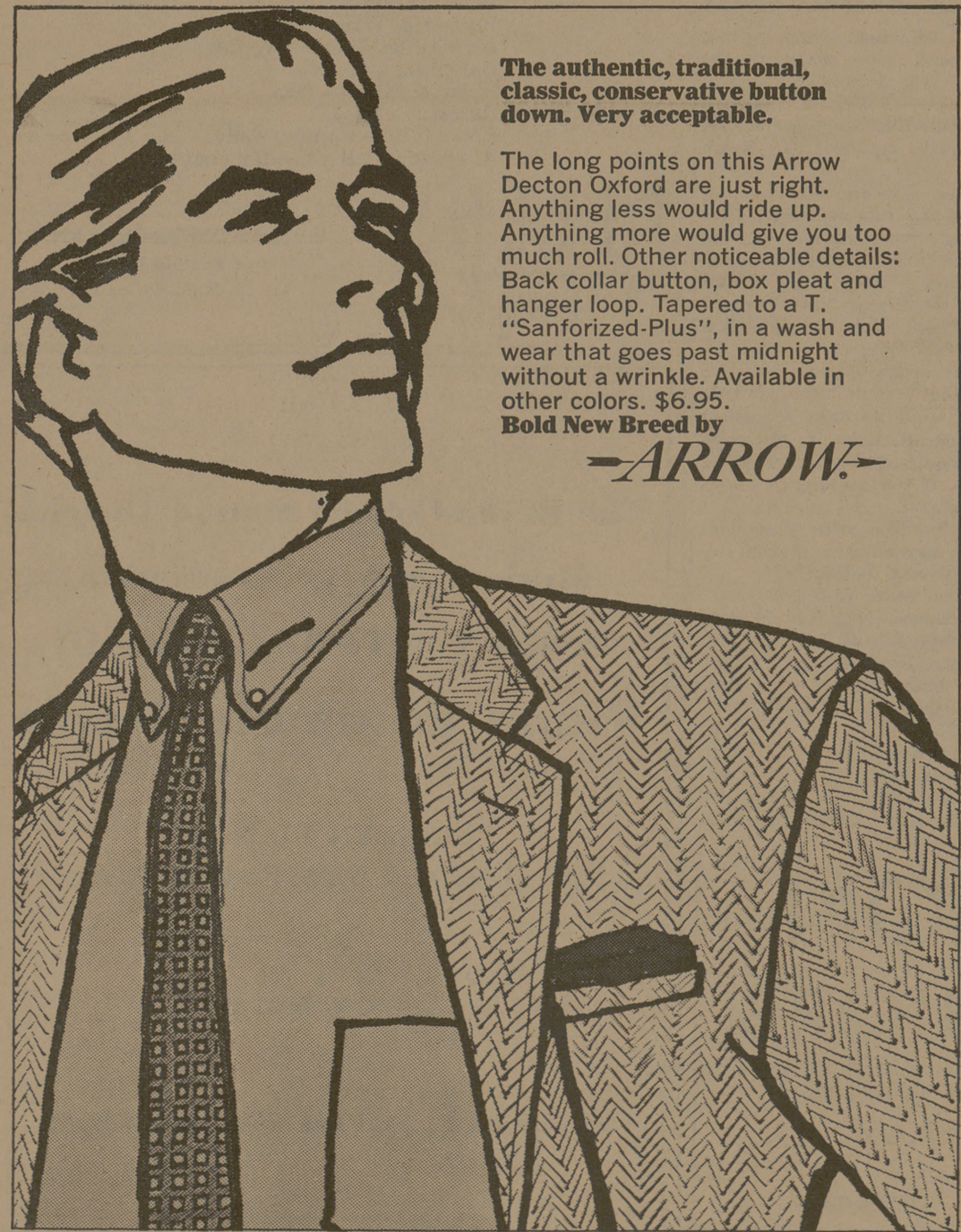
A&M meets Florida State University and Allen engages St. Mary's University in opening games Saturday morning. Both are at 11:30 a.m. Games are to be played on two Men's Intramural Fields south of Gregory Gym on the Texas campus.

Other first round games match TCU and Trinity, Houston and Texas at 10 a.m. Semi-finals in the championship and consolation bracket are Saturday afternoon, championship and consolation playoffs Sunday.



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