

# Agreement Needed On Draft Inking

By HAROLD V. RATLIFF

Something needs to be done about these fiascos at bowl games where the pro football scouts move in and make the signing of players the top news.

It's gotten so the bowl game becomes quite secondary and the fans start wondering if it's a meeting of the pros or a college football spectacle.

All they hear is that the pros are going to sign tackle Bill Slocum at the goal posts when the game is over, with hints that he already has been signed sub rosa.

Take the Bluebonnet Bowl at Houston, a very fine operation

that came up this year with a top game—Tulsa University vs. Tennessee. It compared with any of the bowl games.

But Coach Dobbs of Tulsa spent almost as much time claiming Dallas had promised not to sign his star tackle, Willie Townes, as he did being interviewed on the game.

As soon as it was over the players had to be run down and asked if and with whom they had signed.

During the week of the game, about all the news concerned whether this or that player was going to sign a pro contract and it took ingenuity on the part of

the writers to put the bowl game itself in the headlines.

It's getting this way at all of the post season games and there really is no use for it. Why can't the pros wait until the game is over before making an approach?

Their answer, of course, will be that the other league is trying to steal the player from under their noses.

Then, why not work out a system of letters of intent at the colleges, whereby a boy signs a promise to play with one of the pro clubs. The pros ought to be able to agree among themselves to honor such a system—

especially if the colleges demanded it and enforced their demands.

Under the letter of intent in college, the player can not go to any other team without forfeiting a couple of years of eligibility.

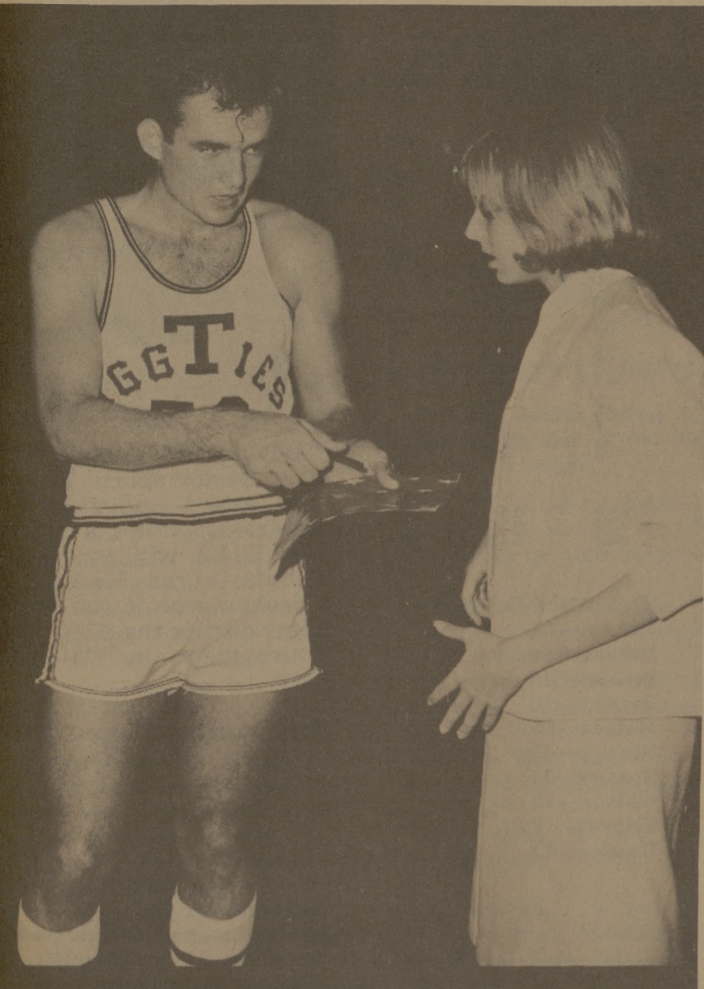
The pros could follow the same pattern. No player would jump one of the clubs if he knew he would have to lay out a couple of years for doing it.

There would be no violation of the amateur rule if a boy merely agreed to sign a pro contract after the bowl game. He's going to sign one anyway and he wouldn't be accepting any money to make him a pro before he

finished up in college.

Of course, the NCAA, which has its faults, too, would have to do away with its recently announced rule that says a boy can't even state a preference before he plays in the bowl game. This emerged before the Gator Bowl when Donny Anderson, Texas Tech's great back, seemed on the verge of saying whether he preferred Green Bay or Houston.

It actually would be better for the boy to state his preference and then get on with the business of playing football with his college.



MEETING THE FANS

Sophomore standout Terry Trippet obliges an Aggie cage fan with an autographed program following the Aggs' come-behind victory over SMU Tuesday night.

FROM THE

## Sidelines

By Larry R. Jerden

Aggie gridders continue to appear in the news as the post-season rash of all-things and all-teams appear and the pro sign-up continues.

Dude McLean, the talented end that will appear on the Buffalo roster next year, and guard Gary Kovar were named to Georgia Tech's all-opponent squad.

Another note on that game who comes from a friend-of-a-friend—mine who is a fullback for the Yellow Jackets. It seems they haven't forgotten the last Aggie game, and this isn't surprising since it was a 14-10 A&M victory. But this player goes on to say that the Aggies are about the number one point of discussion among the Tech gridders because of the loss, and they plan to fight back in full fury in next year's opener.

But then the Gator Bowl champs will be facing an even tougher Aggie squad, and one with just as much determination as the last!

Linebacker Joe Wellborn, who many considered as All-SWC material, has signed with the New York Giants for an undisclosed sum. He's definitely the hard-hitting type pros are made of.

"I received a bonus," Wellborn said, "but I didn't get a no-out contract."

But the big game now is played with a bouncing ball thrown through a loop, and A&M's squad of cagers is currently dribbling along with a 6-4 record, including Tuesday night's victory over SMU in their first SWC match.

A large part of this win was the result of the rebounding situation. The Aggies dominated the boards 48-23, following true form.

Even though they came out on the short end of the score in the All-College Tournament in Oklahoma City, the Ags claimed the boards all the way. They went down to Virginia Tech 101-84, but out-grabbed the victorious Gobblers 70-54. The chief contributors to this collection of nose-ball snagging are Big John Beasley and Randy Matson, with support from Dick Stringfellow, Terry Trippet, Tim Timmerman and scrappy Dick Rector.

Eddie Dominguez has had the fewest fouls of any team member after ten games with three, while Randy Matson has been whistled down 42 times and fouled out four times. Rector has been the sharpest shooter with 57.6 per cent from the floor. He's hit 38 of 66 attempts.

Sportsmanship has again become something on an issue, since no less than 9,000 Aggies "squeezed" through the halftime of the Cotton Bowl only to see Baylor get the trophy. The student body received the challenge to win the cup well, and conducted themselves in what could be said a courageous manner in the face of some rather degrading treatment by others, including members of the prize-winning school.

Though the A&M campus was smeared with paint three times during the football season, not one Aggie car left on a midnight mission similar to last year's caravan to Waco to set off their bonfire.

The students in Aggeland are justly disappointed, and more than a few are bitter at what they feel an unfair decision by the sportmanship committee. Its a hard pill to swallow, but all we can do is continue to display the good conduct and respect that have become noticeable during the last semester.

And while some recent officiating was probably less perfect than would be desired, under no circumstances should the referees be bombarded with paper or boos. The action comes fast in basketball, and the decisions are just as tough to make as in any other sport.

The Ags have only one more home game this semester, the January 11 contest with Arkansas. The Hogs came on strong in the pre-SWC season, and may hold surprises for the "experts." Saturday the Cadets meet the Owls in Houston, return for the Porker game, then hit the road for four straight against Baylor, Texas, Houston and TCU. The Baylor game January 15 and the February 5 match with TCU are both to be televised at 2 p.m.

The Aggie fish will begin their quest for the SWC Frosh title in the early game with Rice, then accompany the varsity on their road tour. Both squads will then return to G. Rollie White February in action against Texas Tech.

In the "information everybody wants to know" department: 404,121 people watched SWC basketball last season with an average of 4,592 . . . about the same size crowd as was in G. Rollie White Tuesday night.

Another hot tip: A&M has had five SWC scoring leaders since 1915. The first was A. C. Forbes in 1920 with 123 points in 16 games. He was followed four years later by Ox Darby who tallied 184 points in 20 games. It was a long stretch till the next Aggie champ scorer: 37 years.

By 1961 the season was 14 games when Carroll Broussard pumped in 339 points, and two years later Bennie Lenox tied with Kendall Rhine, the Dupo Dipper from Rice, for the high-point mark with 352 points.

Last year marked the fifth Aggie SWC scoring leader as Big John Beasley broke all records with 395 points.

In all-time marks, the Aggies hold the dubious honor of having the most free throws scored against them by a single player in a game. First place in this hotly-contested division of statistics came in 1955 when Raymond Downs of TU hit 23. Dick O'Neal of TCU is second on the list with 22 in 1956, also against the Aggies, but I'll bet it wasn't in G. Rollie White.

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