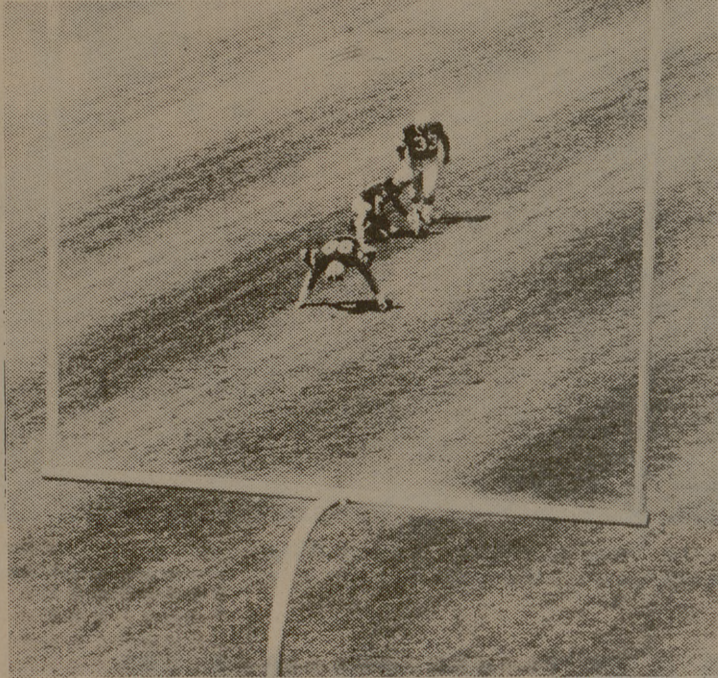


Mustangs' Chances Better Than The Forecasts Say



By the Associated Press
Southern Methodist hardly could be expected to have a football team as good this fall as last but prospects don't appear to be quite as poor as pre-season forecasts relegating the defending Southwest Conference champions to the very depths.

It is true that the Mustangs lost heavily in both the offensive and defensive lines and also had the two-all conference linebackers graduate.

ALL TOLD there were 15 seniors passing on and that's losing a lot of veteran strength. Also, Donnie Benbow, slated to move into an end position, with Jerry Levias being shifted to halfback, signed a pro contract.

But the Mustangs won't roll

over and play dead and they have the material for some exciting offensive football. In fact, the offensive backfield could be better although talented quarterback Mac White is gone.

The reason is that Levias has been put in at halfback and Mike Livingston is capable of replacing White now that he doesn't have to operate in Mac's shadow.

But of all the players in the league Levias faces the toughest task. He has been shifted from split end to halfback so he will be in position to do more things. The expectation naturally is that he will accomplish more than he did as a sophomore last season.

DOING MORE than he did in 1966 would be expecting the fleet Negro star to have one of the most fantastic seasons in football history. Certainly, it should entitle him to all-America, something many think he should have gotten last year.

Levias did more, time considered, than even the fabulous Gil Johnson of 20 years ago. Johnson it was who accomplished more than anybody else in the league although averaging only about eight minutes per game. He was a passer.

Consider these facts: Levias handled the ball only 66 times but gained 1167 yards—an average of 17.6 yards every time he touched the pigskin—and scored nine touchdowns, while passing

for another one. He had a 100-yard kickoff return, an 85-yard punt return and he was credited with doing the most to win six of Southern Methodist's eight victories.

HE CARRIED the ball eight times on the end-round and averaged 5.3 yards; he completed five of eight passes for 89 yards and a touchdown; he caught 18 passes for 420 yards and seven touchdowns, twice taking 68-yard throws for scores; he ran 15 kick-offs back 393 yards and scored one touchdown, and he returned 17 punts for 222 yards and one touchdown.

So the question arises: if Levias could do that and be in only an average of about seven plays per game, what can he do if he's in there all the time on offense and in a position where he can either carry or catch the ball on every offensive play.

THE ANSWER is that he faces the prospect of being able to do less because the team he's playing with will be weaker and he'll be in a spot to encounter injury more since he will be in the line of fire on every down. Running back is the toughest job physically on the team.

One thing in his favor is that he isn't likely to have to endure the harassment of 1966 when he got telephone calls and letters on the racial issue.

NEW GOAL POSTS
Center Ken Bowman, holder Bart Starr and kicker Don Chandler, the place kicking team of the Green Bay Packers, practice on the new goal post at Lambeau Field, Green Bay, Wisconsin. The arched single support, designed principally as a safety factor, will be used in all National Football League games this season. (AP Wirephoto)

Astro Facts

The Houston Astros baseball radio network has added station WAOI of San Antonio to their extensive radio coverage, it was announced by Astros vice president Fred Hofheinz.

WAOI is a 50,000 watt 24-hour station that covers all of Texas and parts of Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arkansas, and it is one of the largest stations in the Southwest.

"This extends our coverage into every possible section of the Southwest," Hofheinz said.

Boxing Tourney To Begin Saturday

They start separating the men from the boys, the "doers" from the "talkers," in a unique double-header of the World's Heavyweight Championship Eliminations tournament Saturday afternoon in the Astrodome.

The two 12-round quarterfinal bouts will pit former World Boxing Association champ Ernie Terrell against Thad Spencer and Jimmy Ellis against Leotis Martin.

Others in the eight-man tourney, promoted by Sports Action Inc., and sanctioned by the WBA, are No. 1 ranked Karl Mildener of Germany and No. 3 rated Oscar Bonavena of Argentina who'll fight September 16 in Frankfurt, and former world champ Floyd Patterson (No. 6) and young Jerry Quarry (No. 7) who'll fight October 28 in Los Angeles.

The "do-or-die" fights in this tourney to establish a successor to former champ Cassius Clay, will be the third heavyweight card in the Astrodome in less than a year. The other two were the Clay-Cleveland Williams fight last November 14, and the Terrell-Clay fight last February 6.

The fights will be carried live nationwide on ABC's "Wide World of Sports" except in the Houston area. And again, the fights will be carried by live home television to Mexico and closed circuit TV via Early Bird Satellite to Great Britain and via Lani Bird Satellite to Japan.

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