

TCU Poll Picks Texas Press Tour Comes To A&M Saturday

The University of Texas is an overwhelming favorite to win the 1967 Southwest Conference football championship as voted by the news media in the 34th annual TCU Sports News Poll.

The Longhorns, a popular choice in the poll for years, had a staggering total of 82 first place votes from the 117 members of the press-radio-TV. And with only six picking the Orange lower than third, the Austin school wound up with a total of 168 points (1 for 1st, 2 for 2nd, 3 for 3rd, etc.) Arkansas, having the writers' tag last year, was next with 318 1/2, with seven seeing a Hog title; and Texas A&M picked up 13 championship votes and is third with 396.

TCU is a surprise but a distant fourth, and had a total of 583 1/2 points, and four writers had the Frogs in the Cotton Bowl. Texas Tech is fifth with 620; Baylor, sixth, with 631 1/2; SMU, seventh, with 665; and Rice was tabbed for the basement with 815. Tech had two first-place votes; SMU and Rice got one each, while one man had Baylor in a first-place tie.

Coach Darrell Royal's Longhorns have been selected for the title on 13 other occasions, and now six of the last eight polls, being the choice each year since 1960 but 1963 and last fall. Ironically, the Horns went on to the national title in 1963, and last year was named for second, and they did tie Arkansas for the runner-up slot behind Champion SMU.

Of those five previous years since 1960 when Texas was the choice, the Royalmen only won it once, in 1962, and then they tied for the flag in 1961. In the other polls, Texas tied for second in 1960; was second in 1964; and then tied for 4th in 1962, the worst actual finish for UT since 1958.

And here is how some who like the Year of the Horns say it: "It's time for Texas to turn the corner back to championship row."—Sam Blair, Dallas News.

"Bill Bradley, Chris Gilbert and company should prove that '67 is truly the year of the Horns."—Hank Hollingsworth, KFOR, Brownsville.

"Texas and A&M to meet for the title Thanksgiving! Texas wins, 21-17."—Bill Enis, WBAP-TV, Fort Worth, who listed A&M next at 6-1.

"Texas will not go unbeaten in SWC; Aggies and Owls are the surprises."—Joe McLaughlin, Houston Chronicle.

"Year of the Horns is coming true—but watch out for Turkey

Day."—Mose Martin, Terrell Tribune, who had A&M second.

The Aggies have their backers, too.

"Aggie football is not a joke."—Putt Powell, Amarillo News Globe.

"Texas will whomp a bunch of people; Arkansas could take it all; but this will be the year the Aggies have awaited since the Bear."—Pat Truly, Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

The Aggies looked more fundamentally sound in their spring windup than any other Confer-

ence schools I saw."—Frank Falton, KWTX, Waco.

"Since SMU won in '66, there is no reason the Aggies can't in '67."—W. H. Byrd, Marlin Daily Democrat.

"The title-hungry Texas A&M Aggies' bugles blow loud and clear for their 1967 reveille. School spirit keeps A&M in front."—Terry Holman, Valley Evening Monitor.

"The long drought finally ends for the Brazos bottom Farmers."—F. D. Smith, El Campo Leader-News.

The Texas sportswriters press tour of Southwest Conference football teams will be at College Station Saturday to take a look at the Texas Aggies.

The writers will interview the coaches, players and any other individuals who can shed light on the Aggies' chances this year.

But the Gene Stallings crew is expected to play their cards close to their chest and about

all any writers will be able to determine is a definite feeling of optimism in the Aggie camp.

The writers' reports on the visit will appear in the Sunday editions of the state's papers.

The tour began last Monday with a visit to the camp of the Southern Methodist Mustangs where Coach Hayden Fry gave them a pessimistic outlook for the coming season.

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