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They Can't Be Wrong All The Time!

By GARY SHERER
Prognostication is defined in the dictionary as being the act of prognosticating or a forecast or prophecy. Every August, experts, both regional and nationwide, begin some college football 'prognosticating' on the upcoming gridiron season.

This past August, Southwest Conference experts or prognosticators picked Southern Methodist to be the doormat of the Southwest Conference. The Texas Aggies, on the other hand, were picked as a contender for the SWC football crown along with Texas and Arkansas.

The two teams met on Kyle Field Saturday afternoon before 34,000 in-person fans and an uncountable number of television watchers. The result is new SWC history. SMU topped the Aggies 20-17.

There are two sure things about pre-season predicting: 1—There will always be pre-season predicting; 2—The predictions some-

times will be wrong. In this case, as far as the game result is concerned, the predictions about the Aggies and SMU were wrong.

Both A&M Coach Gene Stallings and his SMU counterpart, Hayden Fry, had said prior to the game that regardless of the predictions, the real truth would be brought out on the "field of battle."

The real test then lies with the players themselves and their performances in 60 minutes of action.

The players can be inspired and disappointed by the things they read in the pre-season ramblings. The chant in the SMU dressing room after the game of "We're still No. 1" proved that the Mustang players were inspired.

The Aggie dressing room was just the opposite of SMU's as nothing really had to be said. This is not to say the players weren't inspired by the things written about them, but that they had been beaten by a team that was defending its conference championship.

The reason for the difference in the dressing room atmospheres was a 5-10 football player named Jerry Levias. As the Beaumont junior had been the difference a little over a year ago in Dallas' Cotton Bowl, he retained his position Saturday.

Levias, last year's SWC player-of-the-year, slumped on the bench in front of his locker, telling writers he had played the last few seconds by instinct. Levias had struck the SMU bench after being tackled on his return of the final kickoff of the day with just 36 seconds remaining.

His instinct really came alive 32 seconds later as he hauled in a pass with just one foot of end zone between his flying feet and the backline of the touchdown area. Aggie defensive back Jack Whitmore's tackle came too late

and Levias fell to the ground clutching the football.

He had taken the pass from a passer that hadn't completed a pass all of last season but nevertheless had become the Ponies No. 2 quarterback this season. Ines Perez, all 5-4 of him, was that player.

Perez and Levias prove that even though predictors pick a team for last, it still must be up to the players' performance for the real answer.

Aggie quarterback Edd Hargett had been picked by the experts to lead the A&M team to a successful season. The junior passer was doing just that, although the SMU line caused him misery all day. Finally with 3:29 remaining Hargett took to the air and with 43 seconds left on the clock the Aggies had 17-13 lead.

Hargett's 29-yard strike to Long had sent the home fans into a frenzy as it looked like the leg of the Aggies' march back had begun.

This set the stage for the final act and Jerry Levias emerged with the biggest part.

The Aggies' next game is with the Purdue Boilermakers at the Cotton Bowl. Those predictors have had things to say about the Big Ten representative, too. They were picked as co-favorite with Michigan State for the conference title.

With this in mind, and Aggies with an 0-1 record, prophets will undoubtedly look for a Purdue win. It is hoped that although they were wrong about SMU, they still could be right about Texas A&M.

Strength Keynotes The Boilermakers

By JERRY GRISHAM
Saturday it was Southern Methodist, veteran of the 1967 Cotton Bowl Classic. This week the Aggies take on the Purdue Boilermakers, this year's Rose Bowl champions, in the Cotton Bowl at Dallas.

From a team that posted a 9-2 mark last season, the Indiana club returns a solid core of 32 lettermen, including 14 starters in the 14-13 victory over Southern Cal in the Rose Bowl.

Among the 26 lettermen lost by graduation was All-America quarterback Bob Griese who literally rewrote the Purdue record books as one of the nation's prime offensive threats for three seasons.

Offensively for the Boilermakers, the loss of Griese is the only dark spot. Four of the five top rushing leaders from 1966 return. Junior tailback Perry Williams will again be in the backfield, trying to duplicate as a junior last year's feat of being the top sophomore ground gainer in the Big Ten.

Split-end Jim Beirne, a top candidate for All-America honors, is expected to shine this year as the top receiver in the Big Ten. He has set three Purdue school records and is the all-time single season Boilermaker pass catcher. The big question for the Rivet-

ers is who will hand off to such backs as Williams and who will be tossing passes to Beirne?

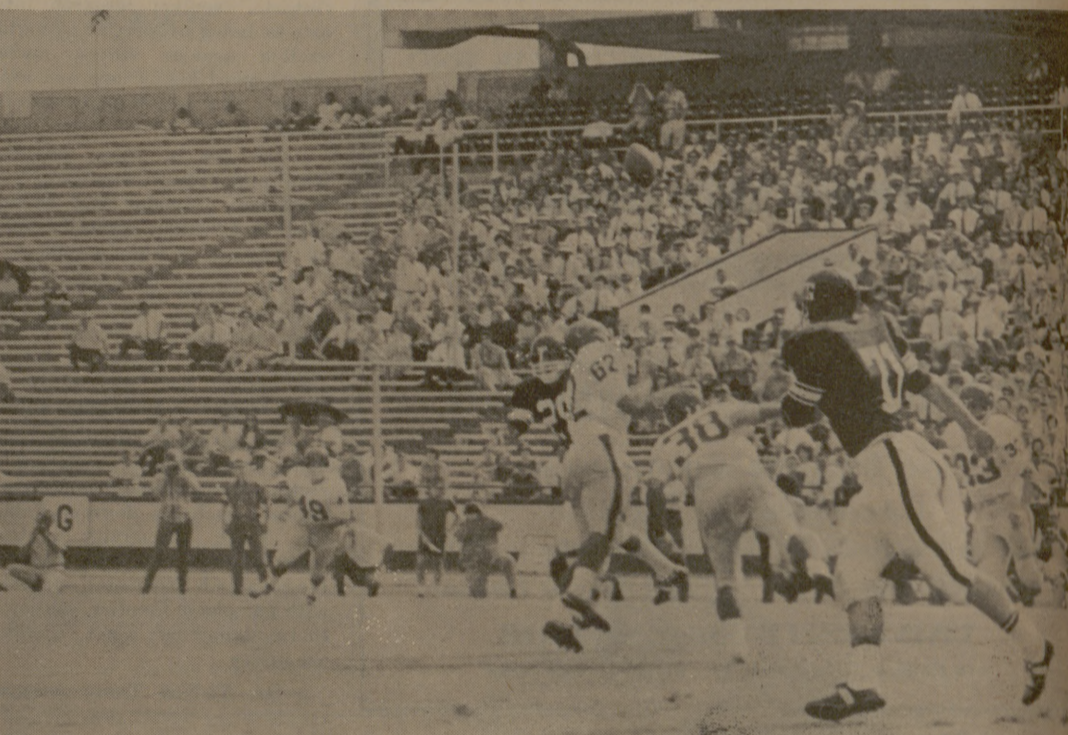
Three junior lettermen with a total varsity playing time of 49 minutes are vying for the quarterback slot vacated by Griese. Of the three, Mike Engelbrecht seems to be the best bet to start in the opener.

For the Boilermaker defense it couldn't be rosier. The entire starting defensive line and linebackers return for another go at it led by defensive tackle Lance Olssen. The 6-5, 257 pound giant was selected 1966 All-Big Ten defensive tackle by both wire services.

Two of the defensive starters are slated to go both ways. Linebacker Clanton King can be expected to play in the offensive guard position and defensive back Leroy Keyes will more than likely see duty as an offensive flanker.

The defensive secondary will start with two sophomores combining talents with three veterans, Dennis Cirbes, Bob Corby and Keyes.

For the Aggies it's the second bowl team in a row. A win against the Big Ten power would be a bolster to Aggie spirits because the next weekend, you guessed it, another bowl team, Florida State, last year's Sun Bowl team, invades College Station.



NOBODY GOT IT

Aggie guard Mo Moorman, right, and fullback Bill Sallee watch an Ed Hargett pass clear SMU defenders Mike Blaine (38) and R. D. Crenshaw. The play went incomplete.

Starr Falts Against Lions

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—Bart Starr, the cool and impeccable quarterback of the world champion Green Bay Packers, was unsure Monday just what went wrong the day before against the Detroit Lions.

Starr, the National Football League's Most Valuable Player last season, threw the ball away on interceptions four times in the first half with three of his errant heaves coming in a row.

Football Highlights

Southwest Conference football highlights of 1966 will be screened Wednesday at the Brazos County A&M Club meeting.

President Ed Cooper said fellowship starts at 6 p.m. and a barbecue supper at 7 p.m. at the Ehlinger Drive clubhouse.

The 1966 Humble football highlights film will be the program.

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