

BATT PICKS

SWC Roundup

By JERRY GRISHAM
Every team in the Southwest Conference except Rice has now met one of its fellow members on the gridiron and the league standings do not remotely resemble any of the preseason predictions.

By dint of its win over the Aggies in the Sept. 16 opener, SMU has occupied the top spot in the conference for five weeks. That may end Saturday when the Mustangs go to Houston to visit the Owls to jump into the fray with the rest of the teams and if the Owls play like they have in the earlier part of the season they should make quite a splash.

RICE IS the only SWC team with a decent record, 2-1, with two victories coming over Navy and Northwestern. The Owls are currently second in the nation in total offense and first in the conference with a total of 1316 yards for an average of 439 yards per game. They must be rated the surprise team of the league so far. The Arkansas Razorbacks passed the chance to slip into the top slot last week when they were managed to salvage a 10-9 tie in a game against the Baylor Bears and as a result are in second place.

This week, in a nationally televised game, they play host in Little Rock to the last place Texas Longhorns. Both teams have lost two games. The Hogs' one victory was over a weak TCU squad while the Longhorns defeated Oklahoma St. 19-0 and edged the tough Oklahoma Sooners 9-7 last Saturday.

THE RAZORBACKS have stumbled through their first games only showing at times the brilliance of previous Frank

Broyles' teams while the Longhorns have improved with each performance and could be just now approaching their stride.

One thing is certain, however. Saturday's contest in the Ozarks will not, as preseason experts forecast, automatically determine the SWC champion.

Things are looking up in Aggie land this week as Baron Von Hargett's Flying Circus, now in third place after their amazing last-second victory over Texas Tech last weekend, take off for Cowtown to try and strafe the TCU Horned Frogs.

THE FROGS, this season, have shown a marked inability to cross their opponents' goal, scoring only 16 points in three games while permitting the opposition 74. They currently occupy the cellar with Texas.

Unfortunately for the Frogs the Razorbacks uncovered one of TCU's most glaring weaknesses, their pass defense. The Hogs don't have an Edd Hargett but their quarterback John Eichler picked the Frog secondary apart. And it's a fact they can expect much more of the same Saturday night.

Speaking of passing. The fourth place Red Raiders were devastated by the Aggie aerial barrage last week and in Tallahassee, Fla. Saturday they play the Florida St. Seminoles who as the Aggies can testify would rather pass than eat.

THE RAIDERS will more than likely take the low road trusting in their ground game while the Seminoles keep the ether hot.

So, believe it or not, this is the rankings as of now: 1. SMU, 1-0-0; 2. Arkansas, 1-0-1; 3. A&M, 1-1-0; 3. Texas Tech, 1-1-0; 4. Baylor, 0-0-1; 5. TCU, 0-1-0; 5. Texas, 0-1-0.

Games	Sherer	Rowton	Grisham	Fuller	Mr. X
A&M at TCU	A&M by 18	A&M by 17	A&M by 14	A&M by 10	A&M by 72
Texas at Arkansas	Arkansas by 2	Texas by 10	Texas by 8	Texas by 7	Arkansas by 1
Rice at SMU	Rice by 10	Rice by 24	Rice by 21	Rice by 7	Rice by 14
Tech at Fla. St.	Fla. St. by 6	Tech by 7	Fla. St. by 10	Fla. St. by 4	Tech by 4
Tennessee at Alabama	Tenn. by 5	Ala. by 3	Ala. by 1	Ala. by 1	Ala. by 36
USC at Washington	Wash. by 3	USC by 14	USC by 7	USC by 14	USC by 12
Mich. St. at Minnesota	MSU by 7	MSU by 7	MSU by 5	MSU by 10	MSU by 6
Colorado at Nebraska	Colo. by 9	Colo. by 7	Neb. by 7	Colo. by 1	Neb. by 71
Ohio State at Northwestern	N'western by 4	Ohio St. by 10	N'western by 4	Ohio St. by 3	N'western by 2
Houston at Miss. St.	UofH by 23	UofH by 24	UofH by 15	UofH by 10	UofH by 26
Last Week	5-2-1	3-4-1	4-3-1	6-1-1	5-3-0
Season	14-18-1	16-12-1	21-15-1	21-15-1	5-3-0

Lots Of Determination Helped Kovar Win Job

Football people insist, and rightly so, that recruiting may be the most important phase of their business. But Jack Kovar, Texas A&M's center, could be a case in point that proves one is never certain and recruiters always overlook a good bet.

Kovar, younger brother of A&M's all-SWC guard of last year, Gary Kovar, came to A&M without an athletic scholarship. He had played guard at Houston Jones High and was a mid-term graduate. He had a couple of tentative offers from other schools but decided to attend A&M and win a scholarship on his own.

He went through spring drills, played freshman ball and started spring drills last April with the Aggies and all the time he was second-team guard. Then, one day he was notified that he had been switched to center, a position he'd never played.

Kovar went to work and learned the new assignments and when the Aggies played their final spring game he was first-team center.

Coach Gene Stallings said afterwards, "We had five centers on the squad and the one without a scholarship finished number one in spring drills." Kovar was put on scholarship immediately and he's been the number one center ever since.

He is the only sophomore on the starting offensive line although redshirt Carl Gough has been making a strong bid for the strong guard slot in recent weeks.

At the season's start Stallings was skeptical about Kovar because of his lack of experience. After a few games, the Aggie coach admitted that Jack was "playing a lot better than I had anticipated."

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Kovar of Houston. His major at A&M is mechanical engineering.

Kovar is a good example for youngsters who are overlooked by college recruiters. If they have the incentive they can work their way to the first-team, too.

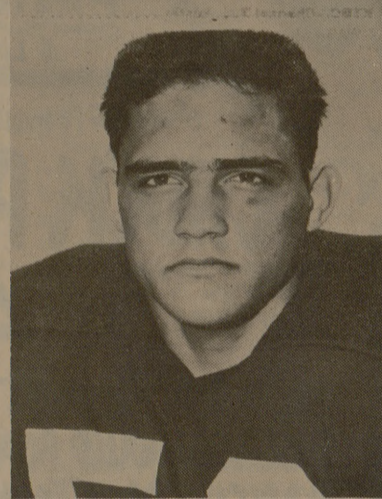
On Oct. 5 the young team opened the 1967 season as they dropped a 17-15 thriller to the Texas Christian Wogs at Kyle Field.

In order to keep in contention for the SWC lead it will be imperative that the Fish gain their fish win tonight. The Fish have three games remaining after tonight's encounter.

Coach Helms used most of his personnel in the TCU game and probably will experiment some more in the Baylor game. Bryan's Billy Hodge and Rocky Self split the quarterback job in the last game with Dave Elmendorf and Johnny Weaver doing yeoman duty at the running back slots.

The cubs are smarting from last week's 35-14 loss to the Texas Shorthorns. In that game, the Bridge City legend, Steve Worster racked up 182 yards rushing for Texas after getting out of a hospital bed earlier in the day.

The Fish topped the Cubs last season 34-20 at Waco.



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BY GARY SHERER
Coach Jake Helm's talented basket of Fish take Kyle Field tonight at 7:30 and host the Baylor Cubs in a Southwest Conference freshman football game.

Everyone is asked to sit on the west side of the stadium under the press box. All Fish students will occupy the B and C sections from the field level on back. The reserved section will be sections F and D while upperclassmen will sit in the F and G sections.

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