



**Sports Aplenty
Of Ties
And Things**
By GARY SHERER

The hectic Southwest Conference race has narrowed down to (maybe) four teams after Tuesday night's action. The four are three-way ties that had existed for second place in the past two weeks exist no longer. Now, Texas Christian sits all alone in second place at 6-5 while a three-way deadlock has formed for the lead spot.

Baylor's loss to Southern Methodist, coupled with the Aggies and Texas wins, puts the Bears, Aggies and Texas at 7-4. We took a quick look at the SWC history book and found that never in conference history has a team won the conference outright with more than three losses.

There have been ties for the title with four and five losses. The last tie for the title occurred in 1965 when SMU and Texas finished at 10-4 (this is technical as Texas Tech finished 12-2 but were disqualified because of an ineligible player).

In 1958, Arkansas and SMU deadlocked with 9-5 records while in 1950 and 1951 there were final ties with four losses.

So, a tie looks like a distinct possibility. And, included in these possibilities is a four, three or two-way tie. The basketball season has come down to the same predicament that the football race was at after eight games had been played.

The Aggies eliminated any chance of ties by winning the rest of their games and not relying on someone beating somebody else.

Now, what the the Aggie basketballers chances to repeat the football teams performance. Simple, win all of their games.

A comparison of schedules really doesn't favor any of the four contenders. The Aggies have two tough road trips coming up, at TCU and Tech. They finish the season at home with SMU.

TCU though having five losses still has a chance and after a closer look it becomes a good chance, as two out of three of their remaining games are at home. The Frogs finish the season at Baylor. However, home advantage or not, the eFrogs have to play the other three contenders. The leaders however, have only one contender to play (TCU).

Baylor, who had a good lead a couple of weeks ago, now looks the least likely to make a title tie. Their next two games will be on the road, at Tech and Arkansas. They then finish at home against TCU. The Frogs can tell the Bears that back-to-back trips to Lubbock and Fayetteville are tough. The nights of Jan. 30 and Feb. 3 will attest to the Frogs knowledge (TCU lost road games to Tech and Arkansas on those dates).

Texas had two straight road games (SMU and TCU) and then they also finish at home with Arkansas.

Now, if TCU were to win all their remaining games and the three leaders two out of three, a four-way tie would develop.

The 1966 SWC baseball season did end in a four-way tie. The same teams that are involved in this season's basketball race all had their baseball teams end in a four-way-deadlock for the title. What happened? Texas went to the NCAA Regional because they won of all things, a coin flip.

The reason for the decision was an academic one. A SWC rule says no contest can be scheduled after final examinations had started, thus the hurry up coin flip. Fortunately, this system has been changed.

In the event that the basketball race ends up in a three or four-way tie, a playoff would be scheduled. The SWC conference representative does not play its first game in the NCAA Regionals until March 15 (the tourney begins March 9.), so there would be enough time for a playoff.

If a two-way tie develops, a playoff would be held if the teams involved had split their two games. If one of the two had won both the games against the other, that team would automatically qualify.

If the Aggies tie with Texas for the title, a bid would go to the Maroon and White as they beat Texas twice this season. If Baylor is tied with the Aggies there would have to be a playoff.

So, this is how it stands in the latest chapter of the zany SWC. Coach Metcalf said after the game Tuesday night, that anything can happen.

He's right.

Aggie Nine Starts Season Friday

By GARY SHERER
As George Washington couldn't tell a lie, neither can Aggie Head Baseball Coach Tom Chandler.

"We haven't had a chance to work much outdoors so it's hard to say where we are right now," Chandler says in discussing the status of his team.

THE AGGIES open their season Friday afternoon with a doubleheader with Pan-American at Edinburg. They will follow up with a single game with the same team on Saturday.

The name of the game in baseball is pitching, and Chandler, starting his ninth year at the baseball helm, has a nucleus of three mound returnees.

Senior Rocky Thompson from Houston was the workhorse of last year's 17-11 squad. Thompson, who transferred here from Kilgore JC, appeared in 14 out of 15 conference games.

The other two seasoned arms are righthanders Bob Sanders from Houston and Walter Varvel from College Station. Varvel, though appearing in spots last season, showed good control and should step into a full time starting role. Sanders was the top reliever on the team last season and towards the end of the year, the Bellaire product got a few starting calls.

"WE DON'T know how the pitchers have developed because of our practice problem," Chandler said. He hopes that three pitchers up from the Fish squad can help the mound corps. Two righthanders, Dave Larson and Dave Bemish, along with southpaw Boyd Hadaway, will get a good look this season.

Chandler isn't worried about the other half of the battery, catching, as last season's All-SWC catcher Joe Staples is back. Staples, another Houston prod-

uct, has made all conference in his two years on the Aggie varsity and Chandler is counting on a third.

Two junior college transfers will lineup at first and third. Eddie Vaughn, a JC All-America from Odessa JC, will start at first Friday. At third will be Terry Daley, a transfer from Blinn JC. Shortstop is between Jim Raley and Joey Robbins while last year's second baseman, Richard Backest, returns.

THE STRONG point of the team, along with catching, should be the outfield. The first three fly-chasers look good. Footballer

Bob Long returns to start in centerfield. Long started off slowly last year but came on strong in the last half of the season. Junior Pete Maida will be the leftfielder. The Beaumont product had some good games last season. Now with one season under his belt, he should perform well.

The other spot, right field, will go to first year man Dave Elmendorf. With the new SWC ruling, a freshman can compete in every varsity sport except football and basketball. Elmendorf, here on a football scholarship and one of the top performers on last sea-

son's Fish grid squad, is also a fine baseball player. Chandler hopes he can come through in his first season of college varsity play.

PROSPECTS for the team right now are unknown with the

lack of outdoor workouts. The keys of course are pitching and hitting. Chandler hopes they will be adequate and come on fast, as the first conference game will be March 2 against Texas here at Kyle Field.

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Cowboys Inks Ivy Leaguer
DALLAS. (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys of the National Football League signed their second free agent quarterback of the current recruiting season Wednesday.
He is 6-1 Bill Creeden of the University of Pennsylvania.
A Cowboy spokesman said Creeden was the Ivy League's leader in total offense during his junior year.
Creeden weighs 190 pounds.

AstroFacts
Spring training for the Houston Astros, which officially opened last week at Cocoa, Fla., will be a little like the regular season—the Astros will be working indoors as well as outdoors.
To help assure that time won't be lost if the Florida weather should happen to go bad, the "indoors" motif has been developed.
Two batting machines have been completely enclosed, so that the hitters can work even in case of rain. And the training camp's recreation room has been covered with Astroturf, so that the pitchers can still throw even if the weather is inclement.

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