



QUARTERBACK LEX James turns to pitch out to Brad Dusek (44) while an unidentified member of the Aggie defense and Dan Peoples (91) pursue during controlled scrimmage last week, as the Aggies continued to prepare for their season's opener Saturday against the Wheatshockers of Wichita State University. (Photo by Steve Bryant)

Six SWC schools slate openers this weekend

By BILL O'CONNOR
Battalion Sports Writer

The six Southwest Conference teams that chose to play an extra eleventh game allowed them by the NCAA this year will open their seasons this weekend. The University of Texas at Austin and Rice University, the only two conference teams who chose not to play the extra game, will not start their seasons until Sept. 19.

Besides the Texas A&M-Wichita State game, Baylor will play Missouri, SMU will play Oklahoma, Texas Tech will play Tulane, TCU will play the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA), and Arkansas will host Stanford.

Baylor will play Missouri in their first meeting ever, with Missouri expected to come out on top. Unless Baylor can produce a miracle, and experience has been the teacher to their thirty returning lettermen, (returning from a 0-10 season). They should be easy pickings for the Missouri Tigers who are off from a 9-2 season with 25 returning lettermen.

"We've had a No. 1 guy at Missouri as far back as I can remember," Coach Dan Devine said, "that is not the case this year."

Missouri has been picked by many critics as the number one contender for the Big Eight Conference crown. Missouri will play one of two new quarterbacks this year, either Chuck Roper or Mike Farmer, neither which have let-

tered.

Talent seems to be abundant on the Missouri bench however, as these young quarterbacks beat their own second team in a recent scrimmage by a score of 63-7.

Joe Moore of Missouri seems to be the man Baylor must contain to cage the Tigers, as Moore scrambled 1312 yards in 260 carries, including 5 touchdowns last season.

Game time is 8:00 p.m., Friday night in St. Louis.

SMU faces Oklahoma in the fourth game of what has proved to be an interesting series over the years. In 1925, SMU lost to OU by a 9-7 score, tied in 1939 with a 7-7, and beat them 28-27 in the Astro-Bluebonnet Bowl of 1968.

Chuck Hixson of SMU handled the ball in that classic when he was a sophomore. This year, Hixson returns as a senior to attempt a repeat performance. Hixson's 1969 season shows him to be one of the best in the game, completing 217 of 362 pass attempts for 2,313 yards. Returning with Hixson is one of his favorite targets, Ken Fleming, whose two-year record is a stunning 94 receptions for 1,048 yards and 10 touchdowns.

Hixson needs only 10 more completions to break the all time NCAA record.

Coach Hayden Fry believes SMU's biggest worry is the speed of Oklahoma, which he qualifies by saying they have as much speed as any SMU will play this year.

A crowd of 55-60,000 is expected to be on hand for the kickoff Saturday at 7:30 p.m. in Dallas.

A fired-up Red Raider squad will meet the Tulane Green Wave Saturday at 7:30 p.m. on the astroturf at Texas Tech's Jones Stadium. Tulane is returning from a 3-7 season with 43 of 53

lettermen and finding a tough veteran Tech team returning from a 5-5 season with their triple option offense. The Raiders, a well balanced team with a young coach have set their conference aims high, and this one should be an excellent preview of the performance the rest of the conference can expect for the season.

The game probably most up for grabs this weekend should prove to be the TCU-UTA game in Ft. Worth Saturday night. Appearing will be two very young teams peppered with a few outstanding veterans. They both seem tough, and will no doubt be looking for an early season win which has sent many young teams to the top of the conferences. The Frogs are returning with quarterback Steve Judy who broke or tied 12 records in his 1969 season, including: most yards total offense for a ten game season (2019), most yards passing (1677), and most passes completed (144). Judy is one to watch the season as he takes the helm of the fresh talent TCU will field.

Arkansas hosts the Stanford Indians in Little Rock Saturday, in what should prove to be another very interesting "game of the week." Stanford, narrowly missing out on a chance in last year's Rose Bowl, and turning out a 7-2-1 season, averaged 196 yards rushing per game, and an offense total of 4,946 yards. Stanford is returning a record 34 lettermen this year, including All-America quarterback Jim Plunkett. Another man to watch is tight end Bob Moore, who made 38 receptions last year for 476 yards. As per usual, in an Arkansas game, you will see an outstanding team on a field where anything can happen.

The game will be the opening broadcast of the season for the NCAA on TV with the kickoff slated for 5:05 p.m.

Arkansas, USC favored to win

NEW YORK (AP)—Heisman Trophy candidate Jim Plunkett of Stanford makes his season's debut against an Arkansas team that came within a finger-tip of winning the national championship in 1969.

That's an indication of the toughness of the opening games on the college schedule.

Arkansas, Southern California, Oklahoma and Missouri should get away to fast starts.

Arkansas 28, Stanford 18: passer Bill Montgomery and runner Bill Burnett should offset the great Plunkett.

Southern California 23, Alabama 13: Bear Bryant's "pore little boys" just don't have the size but Fristle makes it closer.

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