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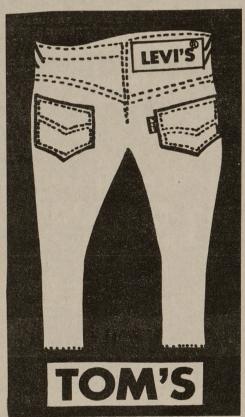


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Thursday, December 7, 1972

ho-hum approach to playing Ohio State in the Rose Bowl and Coach John McKay thinks the Trojans are No. 1 win or lose.

even then?"

USC's silver-haired coach came to New York for a joint news conference with Ohio State bossman Woody Hayes. Only Woody didn't show up.

"It's tough to get a flight here from Columbus," joked McKay.

in Pasadena gives the Big Ten champions, 9-1, a shot — with a victory - at convincing voters in The Associated Press poll that

Final voting comes after the

"Now, if we were playing an undefeated Ohio State or Michigan team in the Rose Bowl," Mc-Kay said, "I would be in favor of

putting the chips on the table. But not against teams that can't be better than you anyway."

McKay said the 1972 USC team is superior to his national champions of 1962 and 1967. "Those other teams had off days now and then, but this one never has," he said.

The polls, McKay said, are the "greatest things that ever happened to college football. They turn it from a regional game to a national. It makes people in Alabama or Nebraska root like hell against us. Without the polls, they wouldn't care."

Still, puffing on a cigar at New York's fashionable "21" restaurant, McKay said, "Being No. 1 isn't the ultimate thing for us at USC. Going to the Rose Bowl is the biggest goal of all."

While not planning to overwork his squad, McKay said, "We still want to win against Ohio State and plan on winning. But, we're not going to ask our kids to win, win, win and then ask them to bust their hides a month later and win one more for us."



Last Friday night's crowd in G. Rollie White was the largest ever to watch a non-conference A&M basketball game. The crowd, nearly 4,000 students, was highly praised by coach Shelby Metcalf and his

After the contest, the players couldn't believe that so many people were interested and excited over their team. It was just a great night for

Everyone got involved. The fans, yell leaders and the team got caught up in what turned out to be a fine contest. Only one game remains at home for this semester when George

Washington University comes to town on Monday but beginning Jan. 13th, Southwest Conference action begins which should really prove

SMU and Texas have been picked to cop the crown this year with A&M and Arkansas tied for third. So far this year the Aggies stand in at 4-0 while SMU and Texas stand in at 1-2.

Only other league teams standing unblemished are Baylor and Arkansas. Arkansas has defeated Rockhurst and Missouri Western while Baylor has defeated St. Mary's and Abilene Christian.

A&M's first SWC tilt will be in Arkansas on Jan. 13 and it may turn out to be a much bigger game than it now stands.

Maybe next semester we can get the band at some games and not have to play "The Aggie War Hymn" over the public address system from a cassette recorder.

Speaking of preseason picks, this year's football prognostications were quite a blunder.

Arkansas was a unanimous choice for the crown followed by Texas, A&M, TCU, SMU, Tech, Rice and Baylor.

It ended up with Texas winning an unprecedented fifth straight

crown while Arkansas finished as the cellar runner-up. A&M and TCU tied for last, while SMU and Tech tied for second. Baylor and Rice tied with Arkansas.

Speaking of blunders. SMU made a pretty big one dismissing coach Hayden Fry. Mustang boosters should have been pretty excited with their second place finish considering that they have only given Fry 24 full scholarships to work with compared to 40 by most schools.

His recruiting prowess has enabled him to pick some of the most exciting players ever to hit SWC football ranks. Remember Jerry Levias, Gary Hammond, Chuck Hixson and Mike Richardson? He never had a wealth of talent but his teams were always enjoyable to watch.

Johnny Majors, Iowa State's young coach, is today interviewing for the job and has the inside track as he does for head jobs at Michigan State and Kentucky.

In all, ten jobs are open in collegiate football so don't be surprised some of the top SWC assistants are mentioned.

For the first time in SWC history, three players picked up over 1,000 yards rushing in one season. Along with Texas' Roosevelt Leaks are Dickey Morton of Arkansas and Alvin Maxson (again) from Also for the first time, the conference has had five clubs with over 3,000 yards total offense in one season as well as only the third time that five teams have scored more than 200 points in a campaign.

NEW YORK (A)_Top-ranked Southern California is taking a

College Station, Texas

"Losing to Ohio State certainly won't make us No. 2," McKay said Wednesday. "We're 11-0 now. If we lose and are 11-1, now who is going to be better

The Trojan-Buckeye matchup

Ohio State is No. 1.

McKay said the cross-Los An geles trip to the Rose Bowl is "a reward for a great season. Since we don't practice as hard for the bowl, we often don't play as well as we have in the regular season. But, that's my approach."

THE BATTALION

Oilers Won't Pick Rodgers

HOUSTON (A)-Heisman trophy winner Johnny Rodgers of Nebraska doesn't figure in the Houston Oilers' first round selection plans if the Oilers follow their present trend and earn the first choice in the 1973 pro draft, Coach Bill Peterson said Wed-

"We need a bigger back to go with what we have," said Peterson, who improved his running back corps by trading with Cincinnati for Fred Willis and Paul

"In building a program we are looking for the guy who can come in and play for us the first year and stay around for a long time. You take a guy of Rodgers' size and the length of his career is questionable."

"I think Rodgers is a great athlete," Peterson said. "But when you're building a program you have to look at your needs. If we had an established program we might go after an allaround performer like Rodgers. But to have a great football team you've got to have a great de-



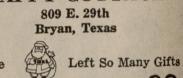
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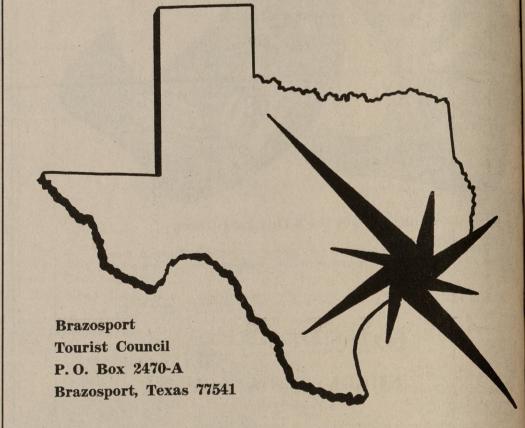
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