

# Royal Says Longhorns Have More Offensive Punch

Editor's Note: Here is the first in a series of spring sizeups of Southwest Conference football teams. The first article deals with defending champion Texas which has won five consecutive titles: AUSTIN (AP)—Can No. 3 Texas be No. 2?

Southern California, the defending national champion in college football, generally is conceded the top spot again, but a national tabloid already has tabbed the Long-

horns for second.

"I wish I could buy that," comments Coach Darrell Royal, whose 1963 and 1969 teams won national titles. "I don't think we're any No. 2 team."

Texas whipped Alabama 17-13 in the Cotton Bowl to finish third this past season with a team Royal described last spring as being "as average as every day's wash."

Take note: this year, he says,

"We have something more solid offensively than we did last spring."

What he has is two strong, fast sophomore quarterbacks and possibly the best fullback in college football—Roosevelt Leaks—running from the Wishbone-T behind an agile, quick line that averages 230 pounds.

Leaks, a 209-pounder who churned for 1,099 yards as sophomore; center and co-captain Bill

Wyman, 6-foot-2 and 235; and the co-captain of the defense, linebacker Glen Gaspard, a 223-pounder as fast as many halfbacks, are being touted as all-Americans.

Marty Akins and Mike Presley are a step or two faster than the 1972 quarterback, Alan Lowry, and Royal often points out that Akins was strong enough as a high school senior to throw the 12-pound shot over 60 feet.

In Texas' final spring training

intrasquad game, Akins, 6-0 and 195, dashed for 156 yards on 22 carries and scored touchdowns on runs of 10, 10 and 12 yards before bruising his elbow midway of the third quarter. Presley, 6-2 and 200, completed seven of 12 passes for 204 yards, including scoring tosses of 67 and 86 yards to split receiver Jim Moore.

It is a paradox that Texas, which usually throws only on third and long yardage, is so deep at

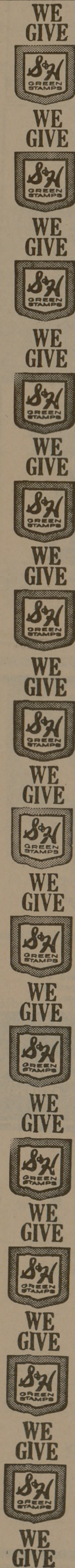
wide receiver that the third teamer, Chris Lemberg, was applauded after three acrobatic catches in the spring training finale.

Texas lost a chunk out of its defense when all-Southwest Conference linebacker Randy Cranford, who made the crucial fourth-down stop on Alabama's Wilbur Jackson in the Cotton Bowl, completed his eligibility. His replacement is Wade Johnston, 215, a high school shot put champion, and Royal says it is "pretty parent the defensive secondary not settled."

But eight defensive starters turn.

Possibly more revealing words, however, on the prospect of the '73 Longhorns was the agreement to televise the week of spring training in five cities.

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