

# Pre-season Favorite Texas To Face Stiff Competition

By TED BORISKIE  
The Southwest Conference has a reputation for being an incredibly tough conference. Upsets are almost the rule rather than the exception.

This year looks to be no different. Texas has won the conference for the last five years, ever since shifting to the wishbone formation. This year they are back with one of their strongest teams in recent years, so they are naturally favored to win the conference title once again.

Pre-season favorites in the SWC, however, have a strange habit of not being on top when the shouting is over. This will undoubtedly be an exciting year with Texas having a powerhouse and Rice, A&M and SMU featuring explosive teams capable of surprise. Here's how the teams stack up.

## ARKANSAS

Arkansas was pictured for big things last year but had a disappointing 6-5 season with an even more frustrating 3-4 record in the SWC. It is all in the past now with most of the team graduated. Arkansas is returning only six starters (two offensive, four defensive) with big guns QB Joe

Ferguson and SE Mike Reppond gone to the pros. However, one of their biggest guns, Dickey Morton, is back and with a runner like Morton on the squad, the problems may not be so big after all. Morton was a consensus all-SWC last year picking up 1188 yards in 242 carries for a 4.9 average. This was accomplished in an offense that featured mainly the aerial antics of Ferguson. This year, the offense will be geared a bit more toward Morton and if some of the young players give class performances, Arkansas could be awesome indeed.

The Razorbacks do have their problems at quarterback with Saturday's knee injury to Scott Bull which will put him out for the season. Bull was the hero of last year's win over Texas Tech and was heavily counted on for this season. Sophomore Mike Kirkland will have to carry the load as there is just nobody else around to even consider. Arkansas is also looking to line-backer Danny Rhodes and full-back Marsh White to re-instill the winning tradition in the Razorback squad.

## BAYLOR

Baylor is returning 14 starters from last year's 5-6 team. Eight

returning starters are on the offensive squad so Baylor needs only to fill a couple of holes to have a killer of an offense. They have more speed and more depth in the backfield than almost anyone else in the conference in returning players and to add to that the Bears recruited high school stars SE Aley Jackson and RB-LB Mike Ebow. Baylor may not have room for them with such class players as quarterback Neal Jeffrey and running backs Godfrey White, Brian Kilgore, Pat McNeil and Gary Lacy already occupying the backfield and top receivers Charles Dancer and Ken Howensherd at the ends.

Even though the Bears lost most heavily to graduation on the defensive squad, Head coach Grant Teaff said "Despite losing all-America Roger Goree, I think we will be as good or better defensively." Baylor is probably still a year away but their backfield could run them to a fine season.

## RICE

Rice lost all-star quarterback Bruce Gadd and nine other starters to graduation but they return their three starting running backs and all-America candidate safety Bruce Henley. Henley has thirteen interceptions in two years and needs only six more for a new conference record. Running Backs John Coleman,

Gary Ferguson, and Ron Arce-neaux and ends Edwin Collins and Carl Swiere could provide all the offensive punch anyone could need if the Owls can just find a quarterback.

Coach Al Conover expects to improve on last year's 5-5-1 record because his youth laden team of last year is one year older and wiser.

## SMU

Southern Methodist returns 33 lettermen, along with Rice the most in the conference. Their offensive strength is almost frightening returning eight starters. Alvin Maxson is a definite all-America candidate as he could become only the second collegian in history to rush for more than 1,000 yards three years in a row. He has 2,017 yards for the last two years and made all-SWC both times. He led SMU in scoring with 77 points.

Halfback Wayne Morris was the leading freshman rusher in the nation last year with 884 yards and a 5.1 average. He was named most outstanding offensive newcomer in the SWC last year.

End Kenny Harrison became the first freshman to make all-SWC since Doak Walker in 1945. He didn't start until the fifth game when he caught eight passes

for 172 yards and two touchdowns. He runs the 100 in 9.6.

DT Louie Kelcher made all-SWC last year and has been picked to several pre-season all-America teams this year. As a sophomore last year he made the Detroit Sports Extra all-America team.

All SMU has to do is fill the six holes left by graduation in the defense. If they can accomplish that, the Ponies could be smiling for the rest of the year.

## TEXAS

It is easy to see why Texas is so heavily favored. The Longhorns return 13 starters from last year's 10-1 team. They return the entire defensive line that gave up only seven touchdowns, just three by rushing, in 11 games last year. Standing behind them is line-backer Glenn Gaspard, all-American selection on several pre-season lists.

If Texas has a problem, it would have to be the offensive line where four members of last year's line are gone. With Texas' depth, however, the problem would have to be a small one. With running backs Tommy Landry and Roosevelt Leaks, an offensive line seems only incidental. Leaks is a crushing fullback who delights in running over defenders.

He ran over them for 1,099 yards with six games of more than 100 yards. Marty Akins should fit into the quarterback spot quite nicely.

Texas is going to play tough football for the entire season and it will take a super effort to unseat them.

## TCU

Texas Christian will return 13 starters with eight coming back on offense. The Horned Frogs could have trouble on offense as they will have to almost completely rebuild the offensive line. They have plenty of stars, the brightest being DT Charlie Davis. Davis made the AP third-team all-America team last year and was picked on the Football Writer's pre-season first team this year.

QB Kent Marshall was off to a great start last year before he broke his collar bone and missed the last seven games. He ran for 115 yards in the opening game victory over Indiana last year and was completing 59% of his passes when injury took him out.

Mike Luttrell was the fourth leading rusher in the SWC last year and if the Frogs can build a good line, he could better his output this year.

It will be hard to score on the Frogs this year, so to beat them,

it will take a good defensive stand. With Marshall and Luttrell banging against it, a good defensive stand will be hard to come by.

## TEXAS TECH

Tech is returning 13 starters but has a serious problem of rebuilding both lines. The backfields will have relatively the same faces as last year.

QB Joe Barnes is a big play artist and master of the option. He ran for 510 yards and four touchdowns while passing for 1,148 yards and another four TD's. His two favorite targets, Calvin Jones and Andre Tillman, are both returning.

Also returning will be tailback George Smith who ran for 740 yards and an incredible 6.7 average. He had 174 yards and three touchdowns against North Carolina in last year's Sun Bowl.

In rebuilding the defensive line, the Red Raiders are looking to Ecomet Burley for help. Used primarily in reserve, he still was the only Tech freshman to earn a varsity letter last year. He was voted the outstanding lineman in the Sun Bowl.

Both lines will be young but Tech could develop into a powerhouse toward the end of the season.

## A&M Trainer Pickard Receives Top Honors at State Meeting

Billy Pickard, in his ninth season as athletic trainer of the Texas Aggies, recently received the Southwest Athletic Trainers Association's top award at its 19th annual state meeting in Waco.

Pickard received the Eddie Wojeki award as the trainer doing the most for the SWATA.

A native of San Antonio and a 1956 A&M graduate, Pickard is the only member who has not missed a state meeting in the SWATA's 19-year history.

Exhibits chairman of the group for several years now, Pickard is a past president of the organiza-

tion. Following his graduation from A&M, Pickard served as athletic trainer at Port Arthur Jefferson High one year and then was at Brazosport High in Freeport for seven and a half years before joining the A&M staff in January of 1965.

One SWATA official said: "Billy Pickard is the hardest working member of our organization and is very deserving of our top award."

Pickard now is in his second season of handling the dual role of trainer and equipment manager at A&M.



Billy Pickard

## 1973 SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE FOOTBALL SCHEDULE.

N-Night Game  
Shaded areas indicate conference games.

PLAYING DATE	ARKANSAS	BAYLOR	HOUSTON*	RICE	S.M.U.	TEXAS	TEXAS A&M	T.C.U.	TEXAS TECH
September 15	So. California Los Angeles-N	Oklahoma Baylor-N	Rice Houston-N	Houston Houston-N	Santa Clara Dallas-N		Wichita St. College Station-N		Utah Lubbock-N
September 21			South Carolina Houston-N			Miami Miami-N			
September 22	Oklahoma St. Little Rock	Pittsburgh Pittsburgh		Montana Houston-N	Oregon St. Corvallis		LSU Baton Rouge-N	UTA Ft. Worth-N	New Mexico Lubbock
September 29	Iowa St. Fayetteville	Colorado Boulder	Memphis St. Memphis-N	LSU Baton Rouge-N	Virginia Tech Dallas	Texas Tech Austin-N	Boston College College Station-N	Ohio St. Columbus	Texas Austin-N
October 6	TCU Little Rock-N	Florida St. Waco-N	San Diego St. San Diego-N		Missouri Dallas	Wake Forest Austin-N	Clemson Clemson, S.C.	Arkansas Little Rock-N	Oklahoma St. Stillwater
October 12			Virginia Tech Houston-N						
October 13	Baylor Waco-N	Arkansas Waco-N		Notre Dame Houston-N		Oklahoma Dallas	Texas Tech Lubbock-N	Idaho Ft. Worth-N	A&M Lubbock-N
October 19			Miami Miami-N						
October 20	Texas Fayetteville			SMU Houston-N	Rice Houston-N	Arkansas Fayetteville	TCU Ft. Worth	A&M Ft. Worth	Arizona Tucson-N
October 27	Tulsa Little Rock-N	Texas A&M College Station	Auburn Auburn	Texas Austin-N	Texas Tech Lubbock	Rice Austin-N	Baylor College Station	Tennessee Knoxville	SMU Lubbock
November 3	Texas A&M Fayetteville	TCU Waco	Florida St. Houston-N	Texas Tech Lubbock	Texas Dallas	SMU Dallas	Arkansas Fayetteville	Baylor Waco	Rice Lubbock
November 10	Rice Houston	Texas Austin	Colorado St. Fort Collins	Arkansas Houston	A&M College Station	Baylor Austin	SMU College Station	Texas Tech Ft. Worth	TCU Ft. Worth
November 17	SMU Dallas	Texas Tech Lubbock		Texas A&M Houston	Arkansas Dallas	TCU Austin	Rice Houston	Texas Austin	Baylor Lubbock
November 22 (Thanksgiving Day)						A&M College Station	Texas College Station		
November 24	Texas Tech Little Rock	SMU Waco	Wyoming Houston-N	TCU Ft. Worth	Baylor Waco			Rice Ft. Worth	Arkansas Little Rock
December 1		Rice Houston	Tulsa Houston-N	Baylor Houston	TCU Dallas			SMU Dallas	

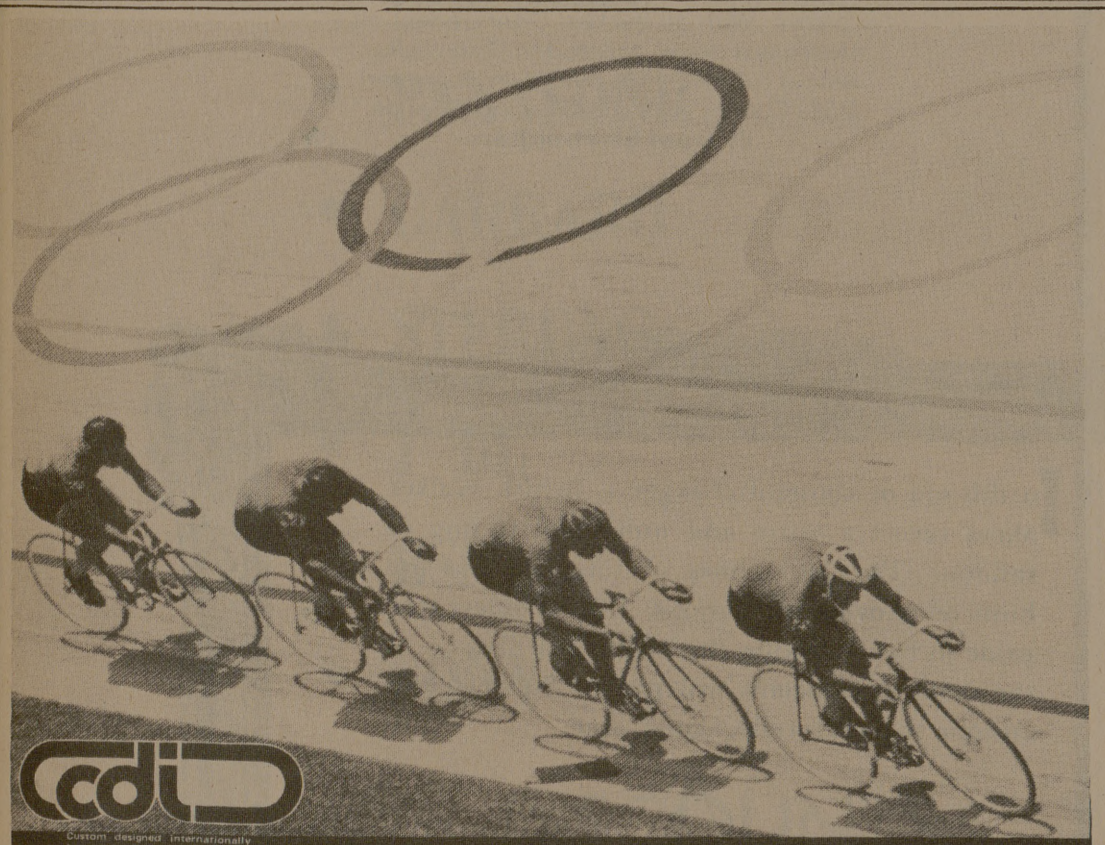
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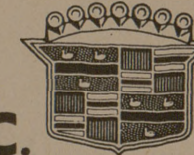
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