

SWC Roundup

Martin Says Tohill 'Good as Anyone'

FORT WORTH—Texas Christian Athletic Director Abe Martin said Wednesday he thought Coach Billy Tohill had "been doing as good as anyone can do" considering the injuries which have beset the horned Frog football team this autumn.

Martin said "When you lose a

few games the rumors start to flying . . . it's been that way since I can remember."

Tohill said Tuesday he had heard rumors that he would be fired at the end of the season but added "If I'm being fired, they're not telling me yet."

Martin, asked why Tohill hadn't been given a vote of confidence, said "I never got a vote of confidence in mid-season no matter what I was doing. You'd have to call a meeting of some kind to do something like that."

TCU is 2-4 for the year and 0-2 in Southwest Conference play under Tohill, who shared SWC Coach of the Year honors in 1971 with the late Jim Pittman.

Martin said "We've had no meeting on the coaching situation. We're just trying to win

football games. It's a little premature for anybody to get all excited about the thing."

Martin is in his 10th year as TCU athletic director after 15 years as coach of the Horned Frogs.

Tohill has two years left on his contract and says "I plan on fulfilling it."

Rumors about a replacement are rampant.

John Anders of the Dallas Morning News quoted a TCU source Wednesday as saying "Nothing short of a miracle can save Tohill now."

The same source named Jim Shofner, 37, an assistant to Dick Nolan of the San Francisco 49ers of the National Football League, as a possible successor.

Another name tossed about is

Gil Bartosh, a former Frog star who is now an assistant under Emory Bellard at A&M.

Tohill suffered a near-fatal automobile accident in the spring in which he lost a foot, but made a gutsy comeback to be on the field with his team this fall.

Martin said, "The kind of speculation that has been going on doesn't do anybody any good. Lordy, we just want to beat Baylor Saturday."

Texas

AUSTIN—Texas will be missing its two top inside linebackers Saturday when it plays SMU, the nation's second-ranked rushing team.

Sherman Lee broke an ankle against Arkansas, and Glen Gaspard, 225-pound co-captain and the man around whom the Longhorn defense is built, reinjured a knee in practice Tuesday.

"I really think he's out of the contest," coach Darrell Royal told the Longhorn Club Wednesday. "The knee has not responded."

Gaspard suffered the injury after Royal told a sportswriter it was "real important for Gaspard to be 100 per cent." It was the same knee he hurt in a pre-season workout and did not fully recover from until the Arkansas game.

Sophomore Rick Fenlaw will start for Gaspard.

Offensive halfback Tommy Landry may miss the SMU game because of a bruised knee, Royal said, and center Bill Wyman is not working out.

Wyman sustained a severely jammed toe in the Arkansas game, and Royal said he considered keeping him out of the Rice game, but got worried at the last minute and started him. Wyman had to have the toe deaddened with a shot to play.

Royal came up with another of his country witticisms—he had a poor rural upbringing at Hollis, Okla.—after Longhorn Club president Wally Scott asked members if they preferred fried chicken or roast beef sandwiches at the weekly showing of game films.

The vote was about half and half, and Scott repeated Royal's whispered preference for the sandwiches, saying that decided it.

Royal took the microphone and declined to take credit, or blame, for the decision. "My job as a boy was to run down to the highway to see what had been run over so we could have gravy," he said. "I'm grateful for anything we have here."

SMU

DALLAS—Southern Methodist University's Mustangs worked out in the Cotton Bowl Wednesday in preparation for their nationally televised battle with the University of Texas Saturday.

Coach Dave Smith stressed the importance of the game regarding his team's Cotton Bowl aspirations. He called the game "an excellent opportunity to show the nation what we can do."

Smith said he felt Texas has the best of defense SMU has seen this season and expressed great admiration for the Longhorns' adeptness at defending the Wish-bone.

Senior Keith Bobo was X-rayed

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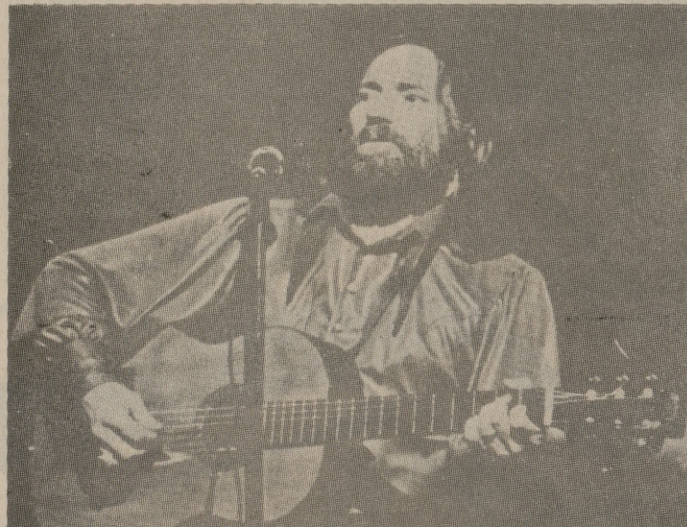
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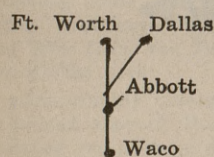
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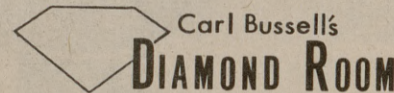
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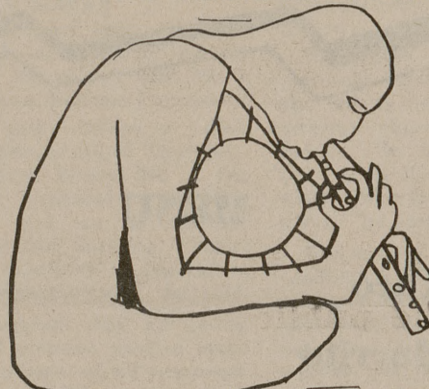
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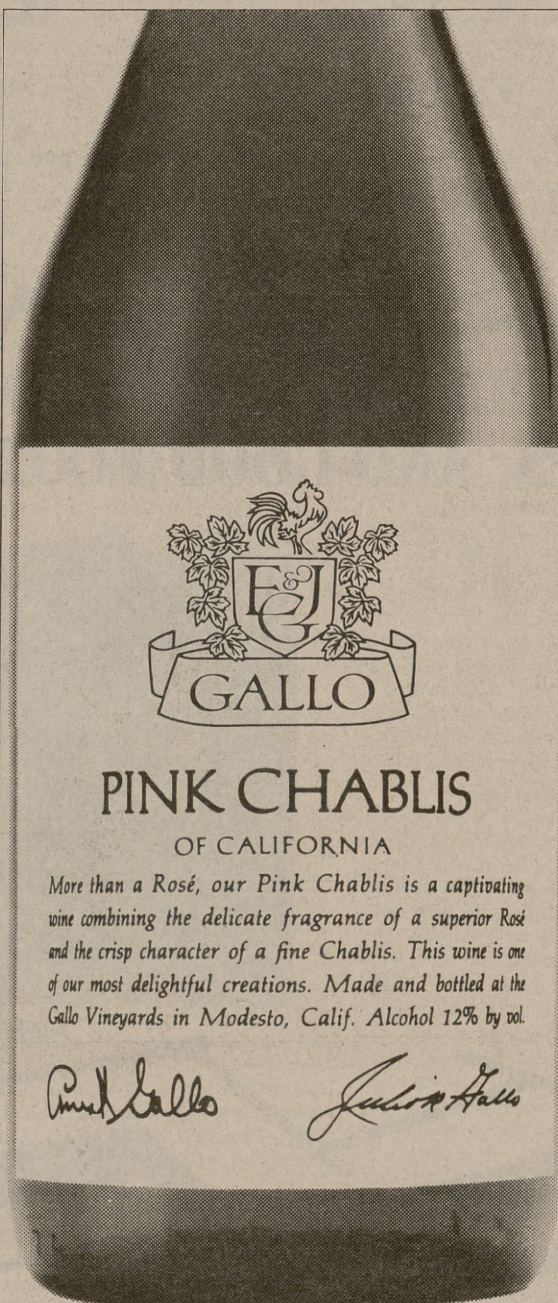


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