

SMU hurt ... Physical and mental pains

MARK WEAVER
in a series of articles of SWC
teams.
Southern Methodist Univer-

sity, in the midst of turmoil due to a two-year probation, is trying to reunite its team. And they may have.

"We grew together this spring," said fullback David Bostick (6-2, 217). "When we got on probation, everybody on the team rallied behind Coach Smith. We're more like a family than a football team."

Injuries were another key problem last year. Halfback Wayne Morris (6-1, 195) is coming off a knee injury but remains the No. 1 halfback.

"In the spring we had as many as 13 guys who played last fall who were out with injuries," said Coach Dave Smith. This includes defensive end Clarence Dennard (6-3, 220) and defensive back Robert Smith (6-0, 170).

Oscar Roan (6-6, 215) is one of the best tight ends in the conference. He's an excellent receiver and blocker, but his playing status is in question due to cartilage and ligament damage sustained during the spring.

At quarterback, Ricky Wesson (5-10, 160) is a small, quick runner but had problems last year with his passing. Wesson only completed 30 percent of his passes last season which is below the expectancy of a

wide open offensive team like SMU.

David Bostick will be starting fullback after a freshman season when he gained 615 yards and averaged 5.5 yards on varsity. He will definitely be a plus for the Pony backfield. Sophomore Rex Garner (6-0, 195) will be starting at the other halfback spot with Morris. On the offensive line will be

Randy Savage (6-3, 235) will play the other tackle as new starter Mike Ellis (6-5, 245) will be at nose guard. The cornerbacks will be Ronnie Robertson (5-10, 170) and Robert Smith, both seniors but new as starters.

Linebackers Ernest Knox (6-2, 235) and Ted Thompson (6-1, 210)

Batt sports

center Mike Smith (6-3, 235) and tackle Henry Sheppard (6-6, 240), considered by Coach Smith as SMU's best lineman last year. Sophomore Jim Duggan (6-3, 244) will play the other tackle.

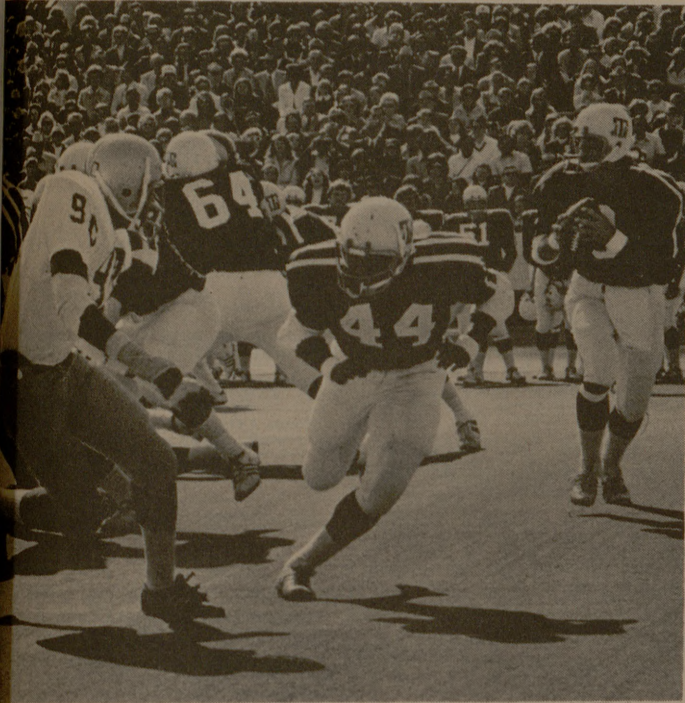
Both guards Guy Thomas (6-1, 240) and Horace Derry (6-4, 230) will be first year starters for the Ponies. Freeman Johns (6-2, 172) will be starting at split end.

On defense, mammoth tackle Louie Kelcher (6-5, 275) is in line for all-conference awards this year. He will lead the way on a defense that has eight returning starters.

bring returning senior starter experience to the defense. Coach Smith considers Thompson an exceptional person and a real winner.

Playing safety will be returning starters Robert Gibson (6-0, 185) and Mickey Early (5-11, 175). Both bring speed and quickness to the defensive secondary.

The outlook for SMU could be good, depending upon two things. Can the Ponies overcome the problems brought on by the probation and can their injured personnel play up to their potential? The answer for the Ponies seems to be "neigh."



BUBBA BEAN (44) prepares to block SMU defensive end Charlie Adams (90), as quarterback David Walker looks downfield for a receiver in the Aggies best offensive show last season. A&M won 45-10. (Photo by Rodger Mallison)

SMU coach puts 'gag rule' on team

(AP)—Southern Methodist coach Dave Smith announced Tuesday a "gag rule" for future interviews with his football players in the wake of a two-year probation slapped on the Southwest Conference school.

Mr. Bob Condron handles all the interviews," Smith told touring WC football writers. Condron is the school's sports information director.

"You can call 'em (the players) on the telephone but Bob must set it up," Smith said. "It's not that there's anybody in the media that we don't trust. But Dr. Willis Tate school chancellor has told us to go to the future."

Smith himself has been slapped with something of a gag rule by Dr. Tate who ordered the Mustang coach not to talk about the school's probation leveled last week by the NCAA for paying players to make tackles.

Smith said, "The sooner we get it (the probation) behind us, the faster we can get ready for football season."

Pressed why the ban was put into effect against the media, Smith said 99 percent of the time it won't matter. "We have nothing to hide. But sometimes I want an 18-year-old boy to visit with me before he is confronted."

He added there was really nothing to the gag rule "unless you, the press, want to make something big out of it."

Frog scrimmage pleases Shofner; offense improves

(AP)—Texas Christian Head Coach Jim Shofner was pleased Wednesday as his Horned Frogs went through a short scrimmage session.

Working on first down, third down and long passing situations, TCU's offense scored three times.

"We hooked up and knocked heads," Shofner said. "Lee Cook threw extremely well, Mike Luttrell ran hard. But I think the best performance came from Chuck Boyd tailback from Longview."

The Frogs open the season against UT-Arlington Sept. 14 in North Worth.

Smith refused to be drawn into a debate over the publicity question of SMU competition for the football entertainment dollar in Dallas with the professional Cowboys' offices just across Central Expressway.

He did say of the probation which carries a two-year ban on post-season play and no television: "It won't affect us. All things work for the good. It could help us be a better team. We will be positive."

About the team, Smith said, "We should be better offensively and defensively than last year. We should be better overall. But the big question is at quarterback and in our depth."

NBA to use 'wild card' in playoffs

(AP)—National Basketball Association Commissioner Walter Kennedy and Larry Fleisher, general counsel to the NBA Players Association, announced Wednesday they have reached agreement on final details for a new playoff plan effective with the 1975 playoffs.

The new playoff pool will be a record \$950,000, an increase from \$850,000 last season.

The NBA Board of Governors voted last month to add two clubs as "wild card" teams for the playoffs, the first increase in the number of teams participating since 1967 when eight clubs qualified.

The number of clubs in the NBA since then has risen from 10 to 18. Ten clubs now will make the playoffs, including the first and second-place team in each of the four divisions and the "wild card" team with the next highest won-lost percentage in each of the two conferences.

Within each conference, the five clubs then will be ranked by final won-lost percentages with the No. 4 club playing the No. 5 club in a best-of-three series. The winner then will meet the No. 1 club while the No. 2 club will face the No. 3 club in best-of-seven series. The survivors then will meet for the conference championship, followed by the NBA championship series.



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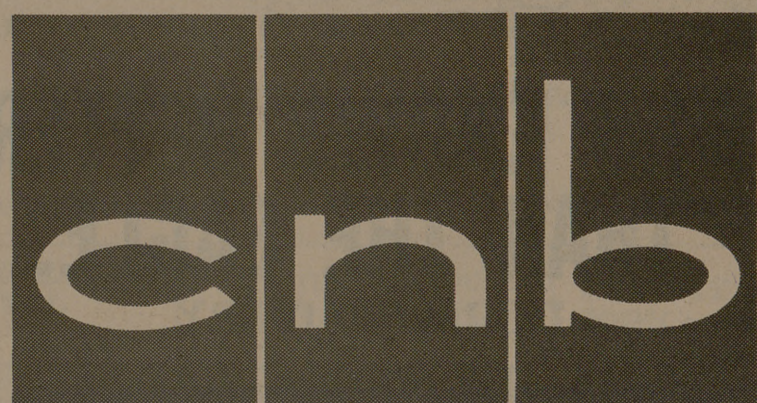
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