

Backlashes and Blown Patterns

BY BRUCE SUBLETT AND KARL WOLFSHOHL

Traipsing through the East Texas woods after squirrels two weekends ago it occurred to Backlashes & Blown Patterns that we could be—er, ah—misplaced a little bit. You know, kinda turned in the wrong direction.

He wanted to go one way and I wanted to try the opposite direction and we were both convinced that the other guy had been out hunting squirrels too long. Well, to make a short story even shorter, we compromised on another path entirely, went that way, found the boat, got home fast and spent the night in soft beds instead of in a tree munching acorns for supper with the other furry critters.

Now this wasn't a new experience to us and you have probably gotten lost yourself if you've messed around much out in the wilds. If someone hasn't already filled you in on how to find your way in the wilderness, here are just a few of the more basic things to remember.

The best way to find yourself in the wilderness is to be out there with somebody who knows the area. For three Christmases we had hunted deer in a 14,000 acre brush pasture near Hebronville in South Texas. The rancher we hunted with chased cows through that same pasture twice a month on horseback and knew every dried-up creek bed and mesquite tree on the place.

But send two inexperienced young trailblazers out to a part of the area they've never been, take away their guide and add a cold hazy drizzle that obscures the sun and makes the whole world look the same. Lost again, and this time bad. Case in point: Take along the man who knows the land.

But if you're hunting territory that's new to you and don't have a guide, your two best friends are the sun and wind.

Let's begin with the sun. It's your most dependable road sign. Most legal deer hunting is done in the evenings or early in the mornings and during these times of day the sun is low in the sky.

When you strike out into your happy hunting grounds make a note of which direction you are headed in relation to the sun. If it's directly over your left shoulder as you start out—and if you're walking a generally direct path—make sure it's over your right shoulder as you hike back toward the starting point.

Know in which direction you plan to go and if you change paths make a note of where you did it and look for a landmark to shoot for on the way home. Readjust to the sun's angle and strike out. But be careful! If you like to wander around in circles looking for game, at least take along a flare so the rescue team can find your body later.

Really, though, the sun will not lie to you. Keep your path generally picked out and don't stray around aimlessly if you don't know the area. On a clear day the sun will keep you going until you reach home or until it gets dark.

But what happens when there is no sun or when it's straight up in the sky? Use the wind as a substitute. Again, as you begin your trek make a note of where the wind is hitting your body. This in itself will keep you on a reasonably direct path that can be followed home later. Watch for shifts in direction of the breeze and make note of them. But don't fool yourself. If the weatherman said this morning that the wind will blow from the north all day, then don't turn around in circles and convince yourself that it's shifting when it's not. Experience pays off here, too.

Royal prepares Horns

Texas-Arkansas tilt to be battle for survival in SWC

(AP) — A University of Texas football player went to sleep recently during a team meeting.

"I told him that if we had been talking about buying him a new car, he'd have had no trouble staying awake," said Texas Coach Darrell Royal. "It depends on how much it means to you."

The Longhorns have an attention-getter this week—the Arkansas Razorbacks.

Arkansas is 1-1 in Southwest Conference play and Texas is 0-1. No team has ever won the SWC title with two losses and never have both teams lost a conference game prior to their

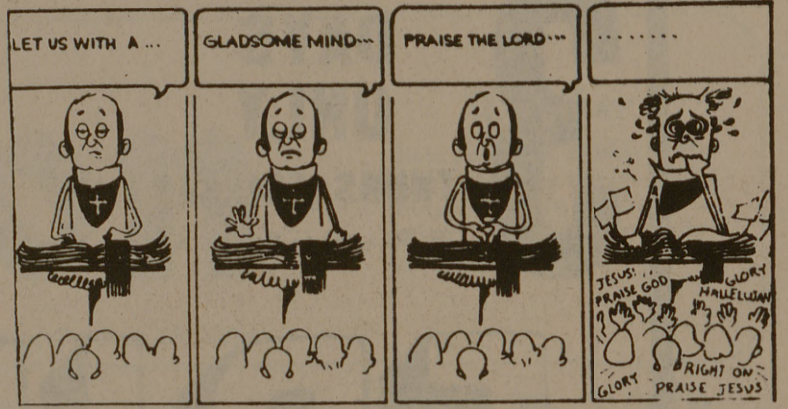
annual showdowns.

"Whoever loses this week is pretty much assured of being out of the race," Royal said.

"Whoever loses has a problem for the rest of the season. Two times up and three times down; everybody knows that's the way you drown. We've both already used two times up."

Royal said Texas gave an all-out effort in a 16-13 loss to Oklahoma last week.

"I thought we had to play turnover-free football and get a super effort to win," Royal said. "We accomplished one, but we failed miserably on the other."



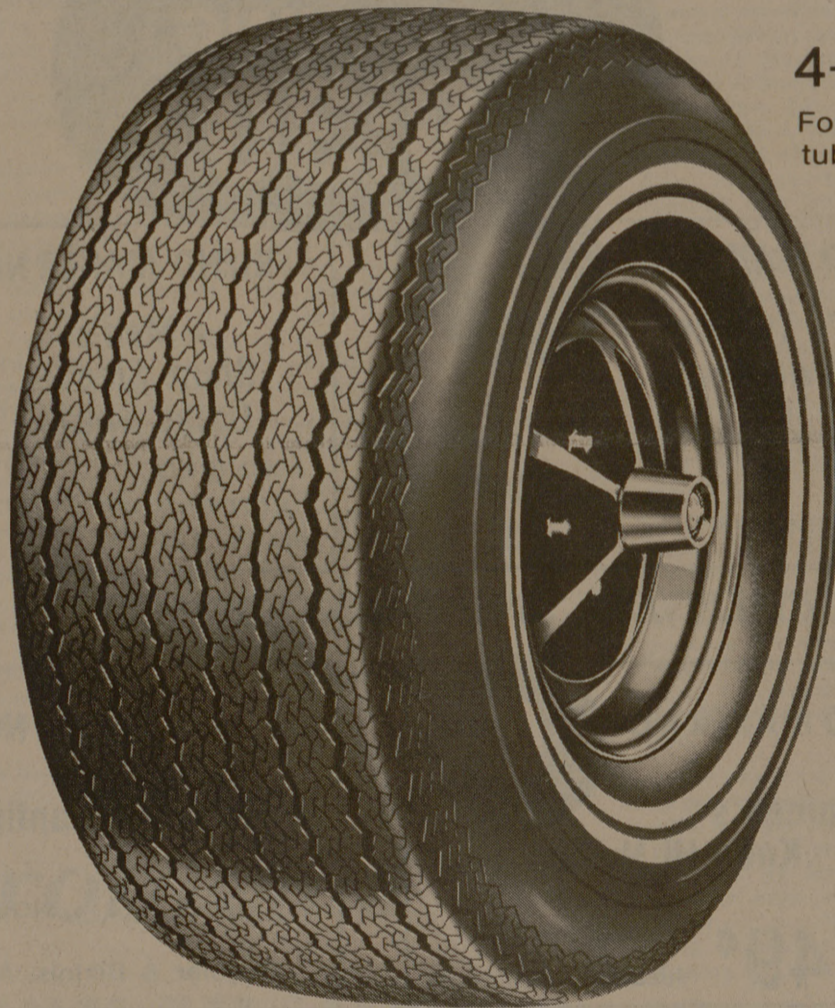
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