

Losing ground and money

WFL—'New poker game in town'

By ROBERT CESSNA

The World Football League started as the new big poker game in town. They were publicized as big gamblers, entertainers and most of all they offered action.

They had chips to burn and threw some of them to the biggest names in professional football. Calvin Hill, Paul Warfield, Larry Csonka and Ted Kwalick promised to join the new game but not till next year.

Now the chips are not so plentiful for there is not enough to go around. Florida and Portland are complaining about no paychecks. Some of the big gamblers are folding; the Detroit Wheels and Jacksonville Sharks are no more. That leaves only ten players still drawing cards.

Quick, name me the twelve "original" members of the WFL. Pros could flunk a lot of students with that question.

The poker players that changed their chairs to improve their luck are Houston to Shreveport and New York to Charlotte. The dealer (the ever talkative WFL commissioner Gary Davidson) was forced to pick up the tabs of the gamblers in Shreveport and Florida.

Thus the poker game does not resemble one that started at 9 and it's getting too close to 12 for some of the players. The people holding good hands (Memphis, Birmingham and Southern California) can not look forward to winning a big pot, but losing money. What kind of poker game is carried on where there are only losers?

The once big crowds of over 50,000 that came to watch the Philadelphia Bells are over. This week Philadelphia's crowd hit an all time low record of 750. That's right only 750 and it was ESTIMATED.

The league was supposed to give trouble to the NFL. In the NFL last year only two out of twenty-six lost money and you can expect the same this year. The big players who prom-

ised to help the WFL next year are finding out that their contracts don't have clauses saying that they don't have to go if the franchises switch.

"If you want to look at the WFL optimistically you can make a helluva story," said John Bassett, owner of the Memphis Southmen. "If you want to look at the situation pessimistically, you can make a helluva story. If you want to look at things

realistically, you've got problems."

Yet dealer Davidson contends that the game will succeed and not fold. Bob Wolff, who runs the biggest and one of the best advisory agencies for athletes in the country said, "The WFL actually has made greater strides than any other league at a comparable points. I predict that nearly every team will lose \$1.5 million the first year and maybe that

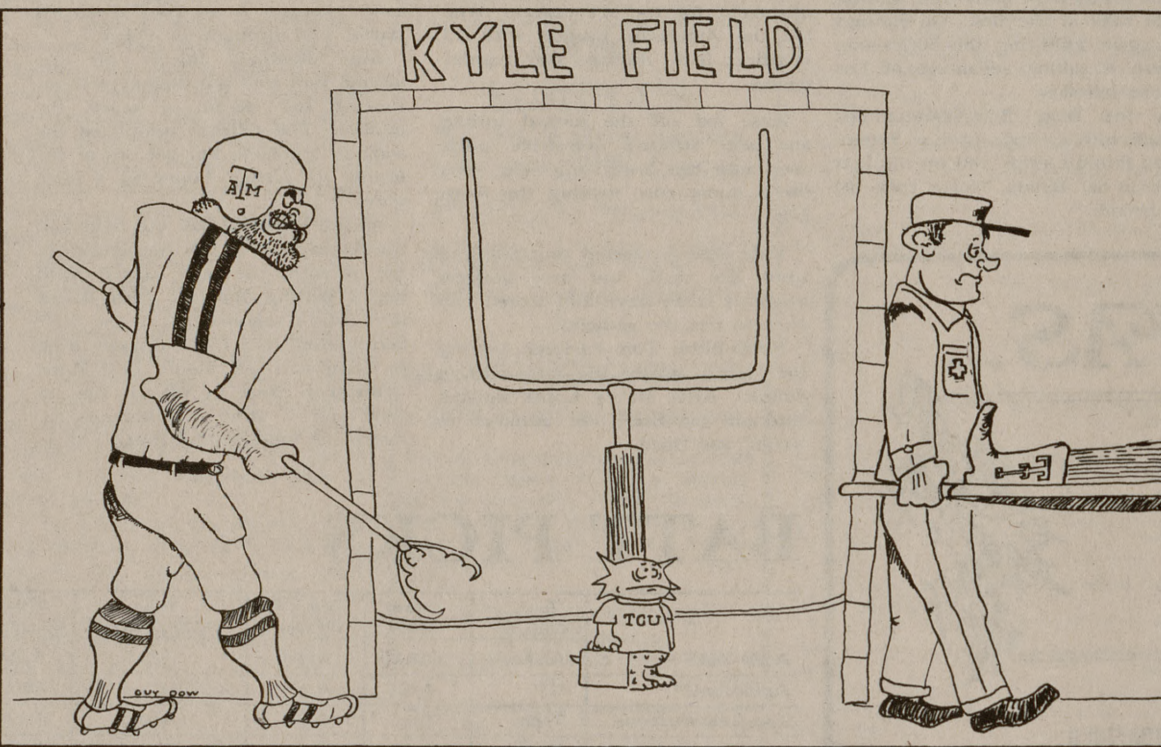
much next year. Eventually they'll make it up. The WFL is definitely here to stay."

The sports fan however is very suspect to the WFL and their hopes.

Didn't a former president say would not resign right up until did? I forget his name . . . was Gary Davidson?

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Sportfolio

By MIKE BRUTON

A lot of people ask me: why doesn't Bellard pass more? I didn't really have a good answer until I was scanning over the NCAA statistics and found that teams who run the ball are doing a lot better than those who throw. Of the top 20 passing teams (teams which feature a predominant passing attack) nine have losing records, three are just one game over .500 and as a group they've lost 42 times.

Statistics also show that teams who run the ball have had success in the won-lost column. The top 20 rushing teams have lost only 24 times, six are unbeaten and seven have lost once. This elite group includes Texas A&M which ranks eighth nationally in rushing with 304.4 yards per game. Apparently, Head Coach Emory Bellard has the Aggies headed in the right direction.

The Southwest Conference, which is growing stronger every week, ranked third in the nation in rushing with a 223.0 yard per game average, and has the fourth best win-loss record with 16 wins, 11 losses, and two ties.

Speaking of the SWC, let's see what goodies we have for this upcoming Saturday. Arkansas and Texas will have their annual shootout, but this season they're using .22 caliber pistols rather than the usual .45 caliber. The Aggies, Baylor and SMU are carrying the big guns right now.

The Horns were soaring last week when they faced the fearsome Oklahoma team, but can they reach the same heights for the Hogs. The Ozark mountain men are going to be plenty angry about their last minute loss to Baylor last Saturday, and they'll be going for blood. Both teams are fighting for survival in the conference race. Remember Darwin's theory; survival of the fittest. **ARKANSAS BY 3.**

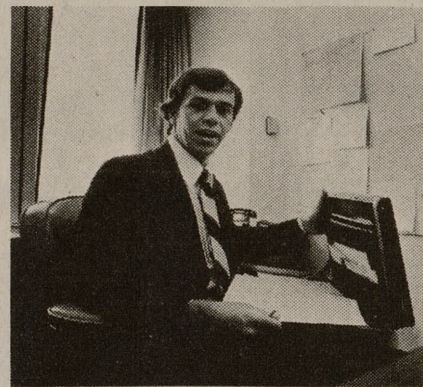
The Aggies stung Texas Tech here in Kyle Field Saturday in an important conference clash, so the Raiders will be on the comeback trail. Arizona is fifth nationally in total offense rolling up 435.0 yards a game and ninth in rushing defense allowing 117.0 yards per game. The Red Raiders have a quality football team and is not to be denied. **TECH BY 7.**

Sparks will fly when SMU meets Rice in a contest that should reveal what both teams are made of. SMU is already in the win column for conference play downing TCU 33-13 last week. The Owls earded a lot of respect by giving Notre Dame a hard game, Saturday. **RICE BY 4.**

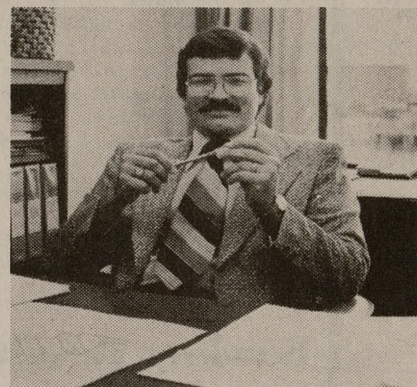
The Texas Aggies finally have a good chance to have one of those 50 point and 500 yard games. TCU has some quality athletes in quarterback Lee Cook and linebacker Dede Terveen, but they haven't performed solidly as a team this season. The Aggies have shown everyone what they can accomplish when they put their minds to it. I remember hearing some A&M football players say in June that they wouldn't be eating New Year dinner at home. I guess they've put their minds to it. **A&M BY 28.**

Amoco is engineering

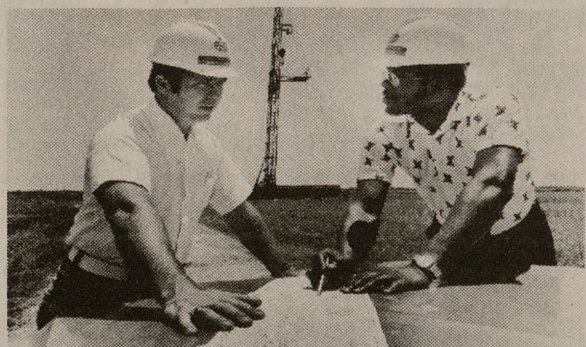
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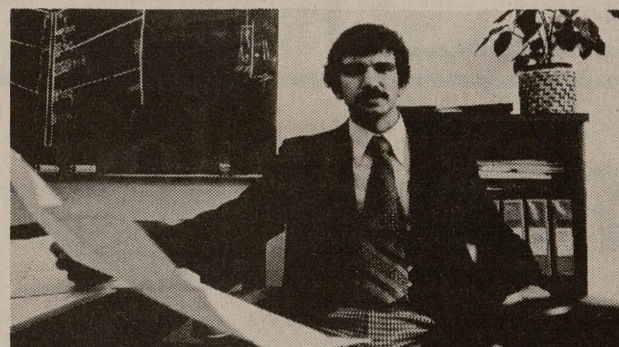
Paul J. Dudenas, Penn State '73: "I am in charge of an oilfield."



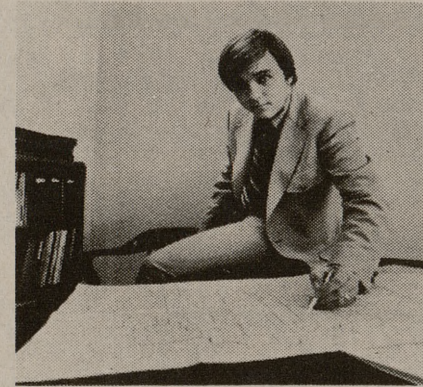
Leslie D. Skinner, Texas Tech '72: "Amoco gives you experience in a hurry."



William J. Grays, right, Texas A&M '73: "You can see your skills blossom."



Steve Shaw, U. of Missouri-Rolla '73: "By 11 am the first day, they wanted my recommendations."



Bruce H. Stover, U. of Oklahoma '71: "I have total responsibility."



Frank D. Henderson, right, U. of Texas '72: "I'm getting all the experience and help I need."

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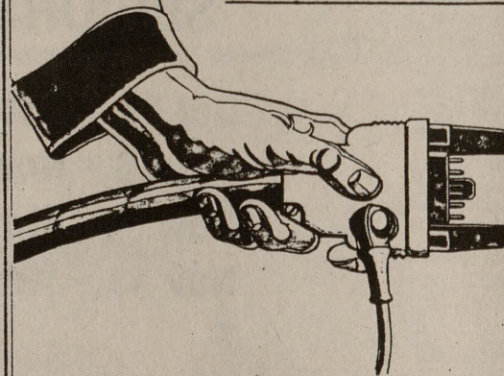
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