

Ags dominate SWC awards

Individual honors coming in

By **ROBERT CESSNA**
Staff Sports Writer

Even though the Aggies are staying home for the holidays instead of preparing for a bowl game, the individual honors are still coming in.

Previously, Pat Thomas, junior defensive back, received first team All-America laurels on various magazine and newspaper pickings, including the Associated Press and Football Writers of America.

Ed Simonini, a linebacker and also a junior, was chosen for second team All-America by AP.

This week the Associated Press announced their All-Southwest Conference football teams and 11 Aggies were represented. Baylor, the conference champ placed 10 on the two teams.

Earning first team recognition were Warren Trahan, Bubba Bean, Ed Simonini, Tim Gray, Randy Haddox and Pat Thomas.

Trahan achieved a personal goal with the selection. "I was aiming for this all year," Trahan said. "I was disappointed the team couldn't do better," he said.

Trahan was selected at defensive tackle along with Doug English of Texas. Trahan said he felt the main competition would come from English and Ecomet Burley of Tech who received second team.

Trahan is the only Aggie senior thus far to be picked to play in post-season bowl games. He will appear in the American Bowl as he turned down an offer for the Blue-Gray game.

Now Trahan will shift his emphasis from college to pro hopes. "I will keep toned," Trahan said in hopes to keep in shape for the pros. "I will start to lift weights, play basketball and handball to keep in shape," Trahan added.

"I'm glad I can go out a winner," was the final comment Trahan had.

For Simonini post season awards are not a new thing. This his second year on first team All-Southwest Conference and also the second year on the AP All America second team. Last year he was also voted the best defensive player in the conference. In his sophomore year he got "outstanding newcomer."

"I'm happy," was the initial reaction of Simonini. "I know that I got picked but I also know some guys that didn't get picked that should have. I know what I'm doing bad and what I'm doing good. Let the coaches and other players do the

judging (for honors)," Simonini said.

Simonini doesn't see that much difference between his individual play between this year and next but can see that the team has improved.

"I feel I played about the same as last year. There was a lot more help from a lot of other guys this year. The team stats proved that. It was one great team effort," Simonini said.

Simonini now has the time to relax, if that's possible.

"It's nice to be able to relax," Simonini said. "It's hard to have a football life, social life and academic life at the same time. Now there's no practice or films," Simonini said. "Just academic and social life to contend with."

Many people feel the season was lost because of losing the SWC crown and having no post-session appearances. Simonini said, "It was a good season."

Gray was on the AP SWC team for the first time. He transferred to A&M for his last two years of college ball.

"I was pleased in being selected for the honor," Gray said. They had a successful season and now some of them are getting the individual accomplishments, he said.

Gray cites the difference in his recognition this year to the play of the team as a unit. "The linebackers did a good job, the linemen rushed well; this all goes along with the secondary's part," Gray said. He added, "When you play as a unit things happen."

Gray said that playing junior college ball helped more than it hindered his progress. "It helped me in my athletic experience," Gray said.

As of this writing Gray has not heard from any post-season offers nor has Haddox, but Trahan has accepted the America's Bowl bid.

"Being selected to play in post-season play is a compliment to our team and coaching staff," Gray said. "It can determine your draft status," he added.

Gray will now keep in shape and await the pro draft. He plans to play a lot of basketball, jog 3-4 miles a day when it gets nice and do a little weight lifting to keep his muscles toned.

"I was a little bit surprised," was the initial reaction of Haddox when he received the news of his selection. He said he didn't have that

good of year, percentage wise, "I thought (Allan) Pringe of Rice would get it," Haddox said.

"I was disappointed in the way I kicked. I was planning for a better year than I had," Haddox said. But there were a couple of good moments, Haddox added.

As for the season on the whole, Haddox said it was a big disappointment. "Ever so close but yet so far away in a way," was the way he summed up the year. "We were one game away from winning the conference and now we don't even go to a bowl game," Haddox said. Being a senior you look forward to it, then you don't make it, Haddox added.

For Gray, Simonini and Bean there is the worn out phrase of "wait 'til next year." No matter how over used it is still applicable. For Haddox, Gray and Trahan the tomorrow will have to be in the pros, if there is a tomorrow at all. On Jan. 28 and 29 these individuals will sit by their phones and hope there is a tomorrow in football.

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Two All-Americas to transfer to A&M

Two of the most highly sought junior college football players in the nation signed letters of intent with Texas A&M yesterday.

Charlie Johnson and Robert Jackson will enroll in the university for the second semester. Johnson is a 6-3, 270 lb. tight end from Tyler Junior College. Jackson comes from Henderson County Junior College in Athens where he was a 6-2, 220 lb. linebacker.

Johnson was an all-state fullback at West Columbia High and received All-America honors at Tyler. He was also named the offensive player of the year in Texas junior colleges. He played on the defensive line his freshman season and was all-conference both ways.

Jackson also was named All-America both years at Henderson. In addition to playing linebacker, he also filled in at noseguard. He was tabbed the outstanding defensive player on the junior college level in Texas.

Both men have excellent speed with Johnson clocked at 4.8 in the 40-yard dash and Jackson crossing the stripe at 4.6.

Head football coach Emory Bel-

lard said, "We feel very fortunate to sign two players of their caliber. They have proven to be outstanding football players and we've been impressed by them as young men. We know they will make tremendous contributions to our football program."

By selecting A&M, Johnson and Jackson turned down offers from Oklahoma, Southern Cal, Texas, Baylor and others. Other junior college players choosing to go with A&M will be signed on Thursday.

SMU rallies for first win

DALLAS (AP) — Guard John Sagehorn scored 20 points here Tuesday night to lead the Southern Methodist University Mustangs to a come from behind 75-67 basketball victory over Athletes in Action West.

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