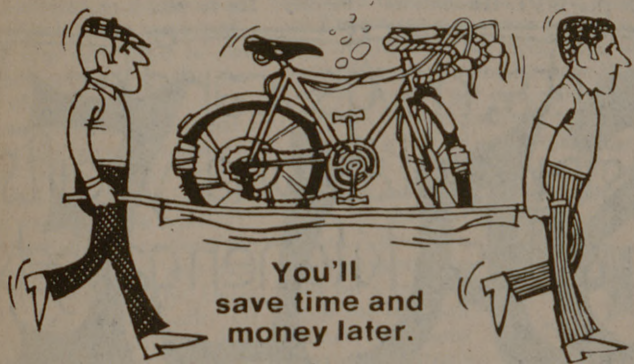


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Sportfolio

Royal knows coaching business

By MIKE BRUTON
Sports Editor

Darrell Royal is no fool. Did you hear him say on national TV during the Coaches All-America Football Classic that Texas A&M will be the team to beat in the Southwest Conference in 1975. I usually don't pay Royal much attention when he makes public statements about SWC football, because he puts on his public-relations face. But this time I think he meant it.

The Longhorn coach had a very genuine look on his face when he uttered those words. And the way the cards are stacked I'm sure he wanted everyone to know that the Aggies were nothing to toy with.

He also made another statement that surprised me, when he mentioned the fact that he and his Orange storm troopers attributed last year's day after Thanksgiving massacre to lady luck. Those three early fumbles by the Aggies made a tough job easy for the Horns.

Then Royal got into his patterned TV speech about how average the Longhorn football team would be in the upcoming season. And then I stopped paying attention again.

The Aggies are in the driver's seat and for obvious reasons. But you can bet that a fellow named Broyles and 'Ole Daddy "D" himself will be trying very hard to install an ejection device on that seat.

Since Royal stuck his neck out on TV with his wise choice as to who would be head rooster in the barnyard of the SWC, it's only fitting that I interject my thoughts. I'll even go further and line up all eight teams in the order I think they will finish. Just to be a little different I'll start at the bottom and go to the top.

Hanging around in the cellar can

make a team awfully sick, so I'll buy some get-well cards and send them to Fort Worth. The Frogs won't make the .500 mark next season; they can play UTA only once.

That big smile on Al Conover's face is beginning to droop a little bit. He's beginning to run into problems finding something to laugh about. Conover has showed the signs of a drowning man as it relates to the coaching profession, by running off all his assistants and bringing in another bunch of poor souls. The Rice Owls will finish 1975 with one foot in the cellar door.

SMU will have offensive potential next season, with a quarterback like Ricky Wesson they should. There's one problem that might bother them slightly. How're the Mustangs going to stop the other teams? Put the Ponies in the No. 6 spot.

I believe. Yes, I believe that miracles still happen every so often. Baylor won the SWC in 1974. Don't get me wrong, the Bears had some

good athletes and they have some good young ones coming up, but they made a lot of enemies last season. Fifth place is high enough for the Bears.

The Texas Tech Red Raiders have a sound football team and a bright young coach named Steve Sloan. But there's some folks in Austin, Fayetteville and College Station who're going to be as tough as nails. Welcome to football country, Mr. Sloan. Raiders in fourth.

My handkerchief was all wet after I heard Royal talking about Texas not being an above average football team. The presence of Earl Campbell alone puts me to wonder about his evaluation of the 1975 Longhorn team. When those Teasips hear the Texas fight song it's like Popeye eating spinach. Let's line the Horns up third.

When I watched the Arkansas Razorbacks playing the Aggies last year, I saw a young, talented, well-drilled football team. I didn't

breathe easy until the final gun. You can be sure that ABC didn't rearrange the SWC schedule to fill in an open date. Hang the Horns on the second notch.

If things go like I think they will, I'll be a happy man on January 1. The Aggies received a No. 5 national ranking by a major preseason poll, and our friends at the Newport News picked A&M as a No. 1 choice for the second consecutive year. The Ags have their guns cocked and aimed and believe me, they are loaded. Besides, Darrell Royal said Texas A&M is the team to beat. Any man who has a 169-53-3 coaching career record knows what he's talking about. The Aggies get the cotton.



Musial tops

ARLINGTON, Tex. — Stan "The Man" Musial, who devastated National League pitchers for 22 years from his peek-a-boo batting stance, headlines a list of former St. Louis Cardinal greats who will be at Arlington Stadium for the second annual Old Timers Game on July 19.

A group of former American League stars will oppose the Cardinals in a brief exhibition which precedes the Texas-Boston regular season game. The Old Timers game will commemorate the 75th anniversary of the American League.

Musial is Mr. Cardinal. A statue of the Pennsylvania-born slugger stands in front of Busch Memorial Stadium in St. Louis, Missouri as a testimony to a ball-player who designed the St. Louis Cardinals standard of excellence.

How Musial ever hit from his famous crouch seems beyond belief. His stance has been described as "a naughty kid peering around the corner to see if the cops are coming."

He uncoiled and hit rifle shots from that lefthanded stance. A pinch hit double in Wrigley Field against the Chicago Cubs was his 3,000th hit. He collected 630 more before he retired after the 1963 season.

He won seven batting titles. He averaged more than one hit per game during his career. His career batting average was .331.

When time finally robbed him of his physical talent and No. 6 retired, he owned or shared 19 major league records, 29 National League records and nine All-Star records.

Musial's finest year was 1948 when he hit .376 which included 46 doubles, 18 triples, 39 homers, 135 runs and 131 RBI's. He collected a total of 230 hits and had a slugging percentage of .702.

He once hit five home runs in a doubleheader and had four games in which he collected five or more hits.

Musial appeared in 24 All-Star games and was on the winning team 13 times. He went to bat 63 times in All-Star competition and had twenty hits including six home runs. His solo homer in the bottom of the 12th in the 1955 All-Star game in Milwaukee lifted the National League past the American League, 6-5.

Oddly enough, Musial began his professional career as a pitcher. An injured pitching shoulder forced him to switch to the outfield where he began his rise to the major leagues in 1941.

His first full year with the Cardinals was 1942 when he hit .315. He was a .300 hitter for the next 15 years in a row.

Ag linebackers solidify defense

(continued from page 7)

sideline to sideline and he's as agile as they come. One A&M defensive coach said Jackson is actually a better overall athlete than McCrumby. And that's quite a compliment.

One of the strongest points of the Aggie linebacking corps is depth and versatility Jesse Hunicutt, who made a strong showing in the spring, and Phil Bennett along with swift Lester Hayes make up quite a backup crew. Hayes ended the spring at safety but will be used as an outside linebacker if needed.

It has been said by many that the linebackers make a defense. They have to play dual roles in the total defense scope. They must be ready to fortify the line and plug gaps to impede running backs. At the same time they must be able to drop back and aid the secondary by filling short zones in passing situations. With a linebacking unit like the Aggies', many SWC football teams may find it difficult to run or pass against the Maroon.

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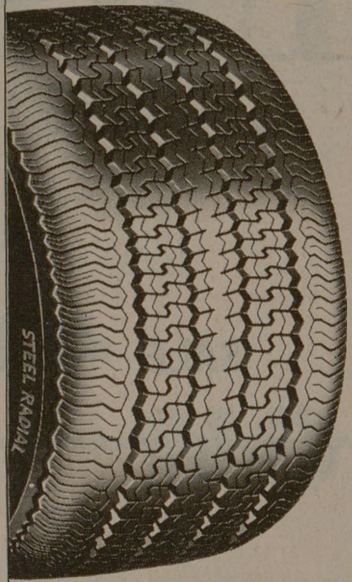
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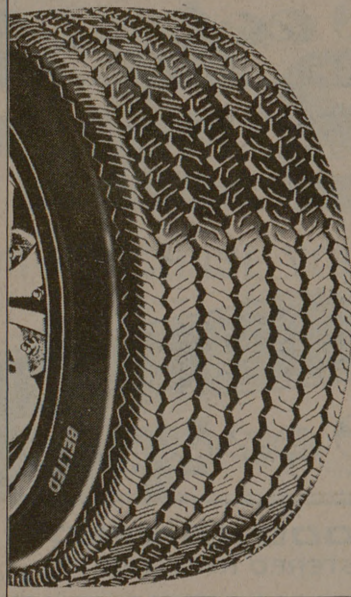


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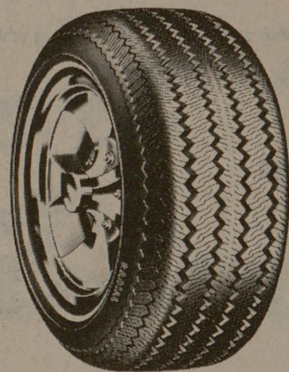
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