Whites, Maroons beat Baylor

The Aggie Ruggers won two games from Baylor College of Medicine in Houston on Saturday. In the opener, the Whites (varsity) defeated a very tough and underrated Baylor Medical side by 16-13. The Maroons clearly outshone their White counterparts and won hand-

ily, 17-7.
The White squad began play and appeared to be trying to demonstrate their having never played the game before. The three

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By GERARD A. O'DONOVAN week lay-off, unquestionably, made a big difference for it was indeed a flat, rusty fifteen that began the game for the champion Aggie Whites. Though the Aggie football team had but two weeks off, they should take note lest any complacency sets in.

John Rayton opened the scoring with a 15 mile-per-hour crosswind in his favor, with one of his patented dropped goals. The Ags led 3-0 until just before the half when Baylor scored beneath the posts for a try and a two point conversion. The Medics took their 6-3 lead into the second half and what wind there was would favor them too.

At half-time, which lasts five minutes in Rugby games and neither side leaves the field, Tony King, Rayton, Alan Jeffrey, Billy Good-rich and hustling Robert Moorman put things together and they

After the half, Tim Field, who played his best game ever at fullback, kicked a 37-yard penalty goal into the crosswind to tie the score at 6-6. Baylor responded in similiar fashion, with a 30-yard pen-alty goal and the spirited Meds went ahead again 9-6. Ever-improving Phil Cook saw to it finally that the Ags had to punch one over and he did for a well-taken try, his third in the last two games. The conversion

was missed and the Ags led 10-9. Another penalty was called against Baylor and once again, Field split the uprights from 42 yards, to increase the Aggie lead to 13-9.

Baylor was effective in neutralizing many of our lineouts, but some fine second efforts, three in a row, by Ray Zwartjes, started passing movements and their goal line had a charmed life. We should have scored three more times

However, it was the Baylor lads that almost scored when their center broke abruptly after a scrum and raced 65 yards for what appeared to be a certain try, since he had a trailer alongside him. Field did the only thing that could stop the play. A panther-like leap, a ferocious tackle, and the ball was loose for Rayton, Rick Reno, and forwards Fitch and Moorman and the Ags were off and running. Back came Baylor for more and though the ball carrier stepped out of bounds and encircled the corner flag, the referee awarded a try,

overruling the touch judge.

BU took it anyway as the referee changed touchjudges. The score was tied once again at 13 each, as the two point conversion squirted along the ground, the proud ball being ashamed of its misuse. Ever resilient, Rayton rallied his side once

quite unlucky not to have scored near the flag. The Aggie passing had become more crisp now and Curly Hillard's passes to Alan Jeffrey, to Rayton, to Womack looked just like what the doctor ordered. At long last, Hillard whipped yet another pass to Jeffrey who found Rayton ever alert and when I saw John gaze goalwards, I knew that the Aggie surgery was successful.

John wafted his fourth dropped goal in two games to give the Aggies

a hard earned 16-13 victory. It was pleasant to watch Field play like a classic fullback, tackling and kicking when he had to. In the end it was the talented toes of Field and Rayton that did it again.

Rugby is still a team sport and the most important ingredient of star-dom is the rest of the team. At practice and when watching our colleagues play, we might remember

Butch Lewis and his Maroons were superb in the second game. There were always on top, winning most of the set scrums and lineouts.

Appropriately, the Maroons

opened the scoring with a goal by Lewis from 35 yards out. Back came Baylor, and pushed over a try that was unconverted. The Ags trailed 4-3. Lewis, who has a peculiar habit of circling the scrum or lineout found outhalf John Collier ready, to roons were classy 17-7 winners.

Barry Metz, Metz quickly to flying Collier passed Frank Burke who sent Robert Stevens over near the flag. Vintage stuff it was, despite a missed conversion.

At the half the Maroons led 7-4. Baylor responded with a 50 yard penalty goal and tied it again at 7-7.

The controversial penalty be-came a catalyst and the Maroons started to play ball. Collier, after a short pass from Lewis, faked and raced 65 yards to score. The Ags led 11-7. Two lineouts and two scrums were won by the Aggies with Frank Burke playing superbly and tackling everything that was not Maroon.

When Baylor did challenge, they were thwarted by fullback George McKirahan, a player usually on the White side, but the rigorous curriculum at the Vet School kept him from practices. He never had a finer game. His tackling was timely, his running truly majestic, and it was fitting that McKirahan should score

On a defensive play near his own goal, he dashed 85 yards, dodged two tackles, ignored another, and in facile style, raced past the Baylor fullback for a try which he put down beneath the posts. McKirahan enjoyed himself on Saturday. Lewis made the conversion and the Ma-

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Pro races close in East

"East is East and West is West and the wrong one I have chose ..." — Bob Hope, in Son of

George Allen, Tom Landry or Don Coryell—or Don Shula or Lou Saban, for that matter, could sing

that lament, too. With half the season gone, those National Football League coaches have teams locked in what are proving to be life-and-death struggles in the two conference's Eastern divi-

Out in the not-so-wild West, meanwhile, Los Angeles and Oakland appear to be travelin' along, singin' a song, with division championships for the taking by virtue of

Lest we forget about what's between East and West, there are a

they're as different from each other

as the nation's two borders.

To get specific, let's get the runaway races out of the way first.

In the National Conference West, the Los Angeles Rams won the division title in a four-game wal-kover a year ago. They're 6-1 this year and already have that big a lead over San Francisco, Atlanta and New Orleans this season. And, with a cream-puff schedule, they figure to win this year by an even wider

The NFC's Central Division qualifies as a yawner, too. The only question remaining is whether the Minnesota Vikings, the only unbeaten team at the season's halfway mark, will stay that way through the remaining seven games. The injury-wracked Detroit Lions, second at 4-3, can give the Vikes their only serious challenge.

In the American Conference West, the Oakland Raiders have the only winning record at 5-2. Denver and Kansas City are lurking in the background, two games off the pace with 3-4 records, but neither the Broncos nor the Chiefs are considered serious contenders, barring a collapse by the Raiders.

That takes care of three playoff berths, thus leaving five up for grabs and eight teams trying to grab

them.

The two tightest races are three-team affairs, the National Conference East and American Conference Central divisions.

In the NFC East, Allen's Washington Redskins, Landry's Dallas Cowboys and Coryell's St. Louis Cardinals are each 5-2. Unless something goes haywire, one will win the division title, another will win the conference's wild-card playoff berth and the third will be left out in the cold.

Based on the remaining seven games, Dallas appears to have the best shot at the title.

The Cowboys' only tough opponents are St. Louis and Washington. The Cardinals face three difficult foes in Washington, Buffalo and Dallas. And the Red-

facing St. Louis, Oakland, Minnesota and Dallas. This isn't a prediction, though. Just an overview. After all, "on any

Over in the American Conference's Central Division, the

Pittsburgh Steelers, Houston Oilers and Cincinnati Bengals are each 6-1. And each has an even stickier problem. Unlike the NFC East, where two of three teams seem playoff-bound, only one of the AFC Central's three contenders could be around in the post-season road to Super Bowl X.

That's because the AFC East has two challengers — Shula's Miami Dolphins, 6-1, and Saban's Buffalo Bills 5-2. One will win the division title. But the other could draw the

Bengals appear to have the best shot at the Central title, having Buffalo, Houston and Pittsburgh as their only really tough games. The Steelers are next in line, facing Houston twice, plus Cincinnati and Los Angeles as serious threats. The Oilers have to be considered longshots. Along with their two games against Pittsburgh, they must also battle Miami, Cincinnati and Oakland. Houston's only "soft touches" are San Francisco and Cleveland.

The Dolphins have to be given the edge in the AFC East. They have only two real problem games left - Houston and Buffalo. The Bills, on the other hand, face not only Miami but Cincinnati, St. Louis and Minnesota as well.

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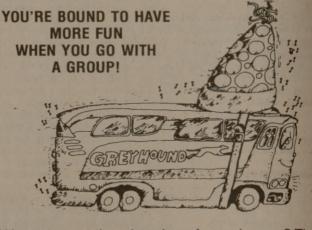
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