



# Sportfolio

By PAUL McGRATH  
Battalion Sports Editor

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Thanksgiving is again upon us, but it is not until the day after that we'll know whether the turkeys wear orange or maroon.

Friday marks the Bloodbath on the Brazos, otherwise known as the College Station T-Bone Party. Darrell Royal and his boys will meet Emory Bellard's Bunch to not only determine the possible Southwest Conference champion, but also the SWC representative to the Astro-Bluebonnet Bowl in Houston.

A flurry of questions have arisen about the game or the game, which ever you prefer. Number one, are there any tickets left?

Yes, if you can find them and have the money to pay for them. Some scalpers have been charging \$150 per duat. Others are asking for a more modest profit. In either case, there are still a few of the little jewels floating around.

Question two. Will Texas quarterback Marty Akins play against the Aggies?

Answer: More than likely. Akins is a senior and a true competitor. He won't miss his last chance to start for 'Ole Daddy D. The Wishbone Whiz will be about 75 per cent effective which is probably twice as potent as the uninjured, but inexperienced, Ted Constanzo. However, the freshman has been working with the first team while Akins has been seen with the second team.

Akins says he is ready. Royal says Akins is doubtful. I'm glad everyone agrees.

According to Akins, he will wear a plastic brace to protect the knee strained in the TCU game. If he does, and he probably will, it may appear more like a target than a bandage to the Aggie defenders. Sound immoral? Perhaps. But winning is everything, isn't it?

Now, question three. Can the Aggies win? The answer is simple. Of course they can. However, as in many geometric postulates, the converse is also true.

Both squads have their pluses and minuses. The Horns are super on offense while the Aggies are likewise on defense.

With the mystery surrounding Akins, which Royal likes to perpetuate for psychological warfare purposes, the Longhorn offense will have to rely on the legs of one Earl Campbell. Texas is among the top scoring teams in the nation and one of the leading rushing teams. A&M is surrendering only seven points a game and tops in the whole country in stopping the run.

While UT is suspect in pass defense, the Aggies don't pass that much. Texas has been able to pass when it has to and the A&M secondary has given up its share of big plays. But Pat Thomas and Company have made enough big plays of their own.

The A&M defensive line weighs in at over half a ton, almost six pounds per man more than the Horn offensive front. But even more striking is that the A&M offensive wall averages 249 to 217 for the Texas defensive line. The Aggies win the battle of the scales.

The Aggie linebackers will be a major key in the game as it will be imperative for Texas to cut down their mobility. However, the A&M linebacking crew consists of veterans with enough savvy to handle the situation.

In fact, with nine four-year lettermen and ten three-year lettermen, the entire A&M roster could be termed veteran.

But enough of comparison and contrast. Statistics, weights and numbers don't mean a thing when that whistle blows.

Turnovers certainly will play a large part in deciding the game. The Aggies have fumbled away the ball on their opening series in each of the last three years, an embarrassing statistic for A&M partisans. Ed Simonini has said that the Aggies should just punt on first down and "then we'll whip their tails." Incidentally, both teams have let the pigskin slip away 35 times this year.

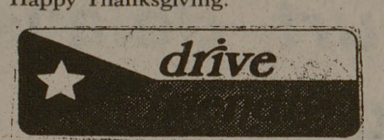
Another key item is attitude. Texas looks at this game as just another football weekend while the Aggies build 70-foot bonfires. Is there too much pressure put on this one game by the Aggies? Does this pressure cause them to fold in the clutch? Well, the Aggies have lost 57 times, including the last seven in a row to the Austin bunch. Perhaps in that statistic lies the answer.

Recently a few of us Aggies happened to be in a restaurant in the Pittsburgh Airport. A fellow at the counter, noticing our colors, asked if we were Aggies. Naturally, we said yes. He then raised that double-fingered gesture known throughout the Southwest as the Hook'em Horn sign. Apparently he thought we would become awed and scurry away to a dark corner. Instead we gave a horselaugh.

Texas is so used to winning that they expect nothing but positive results and everyone to be terrorized of the monster that Royal built.

In Aggieland, confidence has replaced the maybe-this-year attitude commonly found in these parts. Next year is here or something like that.

The last two times A&M defeated Texas was in 1956 and 1967. Using this as a basis, A&M should not beat the Horns until 1978. However, vibrations tell me that the Aggie comet will arrive three years early. Have a Happy Thanksgiving.



# UCLA Bruins to again dominate NCAA scene

Associated Press  
Nothing has changed at UCLA — not even the coach.

John Wooden has retired, of course, but the Bruins have brought in an uncanny look-alike in Gene Bartow. Like Wooden, Bartow does not smoke or drink and he has the same quiet manner and bespectacled countenance of his professional predecessor.

Wooden used to sit on the bench with his legs crossed and his arms folded during the most intense of games. Bartow sits with his legs crossed and his chin propped in one hand until an explosion is necessary.

Wooden was ultra-successful. Bartow has been successful, too, and will continue to be with the rich legacy of talent he has been endowed

with at college basketball's glamour school.

But make no mistake about it, Bartow is his own man, despite the similarity in physical make-up. He won't let Wooden's ghost haunt his teams.

"There's no way I'm going to compete with John Wooden," says Bartow, once called "Clean Gene" by his players at Memphis State. "I don't think John Wooden himself could match what has happened here."

What has happened at UCLA is ten NCAA championships in the last 12 years — something that could happen again this year, considering the personnel on hand.

Returning to UCLA's monster team are four players who helped the Bruins bolt to the national championship last season: Richard Washington, Marques Johnson,

Ralph Drollinger and Andre McCarter.

And so, the Bruins are in terrific shape to make another run to the national championship, despite the presence of such heavyweights as Indiana, Maryland, North Carolina, Louisville, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Marquette and Notre Dame.

"Offensively I think I'm a little more power-oriented than John Wooden, and I think we could use a little more pressure man-to-man on defense," says Bartow.

Will people expect too much from the big, bad Bruins? Bartow says no.

"I tell my assistants that if we just win them all we won't have any problems," says the new "Wizard" at Westwood.

# Simonini, Thomas reap honor

Associated Press  
ROCHESTER, N.Y. — Ohio State's Archie Griffin, Southern California's Ricky Bell and Pittsburgh's Tony Dorsett were named Tuesday to the backfield of the American Football Coaches All-American team.

Joining them in the backfield are quarterback Johnny Scarra of UCLA and Texas fullback Earl Campbell.

Two extra backs, one on offense and one on defense, were named to the 24-man squad this year.

The Selmon brothers of Oklahoma, tackle Leroy and end Dewey, anchor the defensive line which also includes end Leroy Cook of Alabama and Notre Dame tackle Steve Niehaus. The Selmons are the only family ever to have three members honored by the coaches. Lucius Selmon was named to the 1973 team.

The remainder of the offensive team consists of Henry Marshall of Missouri and Steve Rivera at ends, Marvin Powell of Southern California and Bob Simmons of Texas at tackles, Dennis Lick of Wisconsin and Randy Johnson of Georgia at guards and center Rik Bonness of Nebraska.

The rest of the defensive unit is made up of linebackers Ed Simonini of Texas A&M, Reggie Williams of Dartmouth and Ray Preston of Syracuse, and defensive backs Pat Thomas of Texas A&M, Tim Fox of Ohio State, Chet Moeller of Navy, Don Dufek of Michigan and Mike Haynes of Arizona State.

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# Campus Comments

By SANFORD RUSSO  
Battalion Campus Editor

The University is at it again.

In order to save students from a "flea market" and "temptation" the University Center Board recommended earlier this week that the soft drink machines be removed from their proximity to the student lounge in the MSC.

The group also restricted the number of tables on the first floor concourse of the MSC.

Thanks to the farsightedness of Chuck Cargill, University Center director, A&M students will no longer be tempted to take soft drinks into the student lounge and relaxingly leave a Coke ring on one of the antique tables, chairs or rugs.

It's certainly too bad that the student lounge looks more like a museum than a place to get together with a couple of friends and chew the

fat. In fact there are museums that are more inviting than the student lounge.

The flea market atmosphere was caused by the extensive number of tables used for vending, Cargill said.

It might be asked where else in the United States there exists a place where the fleas can dwell in their natural environment — cattle hides.

It seemed like a good idea to let the students sell their wares along the concourse. At least they would be "nickling and diming the students to death all over campus," as members of the Concession Committee would phrase it.

It was fun walking through the spots before the eyes. There was a usually some student interaction taking place in the student center.

Oh well, back to the dust of museums and cow hides.

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