

Larger, heavier than ever before

# Southwest Conference shows player growth

They come from the banks of the Brazos and from the shores of the Mediterranean, and the Southwest Conference football players of 1976 will be taller, heavier and more widely-traveled than at any time in the 62-year history of the SWC.

A survey of pre-season rosters of the nine schools, printed in the 1976 Roster & Record Book, turns up the following information:

The percentages of out-of-state players and transfers have virtually doubled in the last two decades.

The top players have grown a couple of inches taller and 24 pounds heavier in that time.

And almost 50 per cent more states are represented on current rosters than on rosters of 20 years back.

The figures come from comparing rosters in the 1956 record book to this fall's edition.

An all-time high of 16.3 per cent of

the 1976 squads have out-of-staters on their campuses, 103 of the 631 players named to report for fall practice this month. In 1956, only 8.9 per cent of the SWC players were out-of-staters and ten years later the average had risen to only 10 per cent.

About 5 per cent of this year's players are transfers, primarily from junior colleges in the Southwest and West. They number 31 or 4.9 per cent against only ten players (2.5 per cent) in 1956 and eight (2.0 per cent) in 1966.

Using consensus all-conference teams as the gauge, players have been gaining in size at the rate of about two pounds a year over the past decade. The 1966 consensus all-conference team averaged 6-1 and 204 pounds, while in 1956 it was

6-0, 200. This year's pre-season all-SWC team selected by Dave Campbell's Texas and Arkansas Football Magazines averaged 6-2 and 224 pounds. At this rate the tricontinental all-conference team will average out at 7-2 tall and 424 pounds.

Arkansas leads the SWC in out-of-state players, 38 of the 77 listed on the roster, but 20 of them are Texans. The only non-Texas school in the SWC, Arkansas usually leads the conference in out-of-state recruiting—the 1956 roster showed a fourth of the team from outside Arkansas, the '66 roster listed 30 per cent. Twelve of the 28 freshmen listed this season are also from states other than Arkansas, keeping the total squad at 48

per cent outsiders.

But considering players from Texas and Arkansas as "home grown," Rice has the most out-of-staters with 19. They hail from nine states and such distant points as Connecticut, Florida and California. Across town at the University of Houston, the Cougars enter their first SWC season with only three out-of-staters. This ties with Texas Tech for the fewest.

Following Arkansas and Rice, SMU lists 15 out-of-staters, Texas eight, TCU and Baylor six each, and Texas A&M five.

On the other hand, Houston has gone in heaviest for junior college graduates with eight, while TCU has successfully recruited five. But Rice

and SMU, the other two teams generally figuring to benefit the most from immediate help, have only one transfer between them. And among the teams considered the stronger in pre-season polls, Baylor has signed five and Texas and Texas A&M each signed four. Arkansas lists two transfers, Texas Tech one.

Among the 1976 roster superlatives:

Baylor place-kicking candidate Omar Abu-rahma traveled the longest distance to attend college. Waco is roughly 6,347 miles from his home town of Gaza Via, Israel—even further if you take a wrong turn in Istanbul.

Rice's Eric Zammit claims two distinctions: one, his name comes last in

the composite alphabetical listing of the 631 players, and two, he's the biggest man in the SWC this season at 6-7 and 290 pounds. The junior offensive tackle from Luling, La. barely outweighs TCU's Doug Eid, a 6-7 by 280-pound defensive tackle from Richardson.

The smallest player is—take your choice—5-7 by 143-pound Joe Bob Bizzell, a Texas defensive back from Odessa, or 5-8 by 142-pound Travis Tadlock, a Tech offensive back from Amarillo.

The oldest player may be Rick Fambro, the SMU quarterback from Richardson who was born Oct. 28, 1952. However, if a collar-bone injury forces Fambro to pass up his senior season the oldest player will

be Arkansas back Barnabé born May 8, 1953.

The toughest name for writers will be Texas guard Tschatschula—20 letters, the easiest name is Arkansas, J.R. Ross, six letters, not a period.

The large population of Houston, Dallas-Fort Worth, San Antonio, provide a high percentage of the players. Houston with 14 per cent (91 players), Dallas with 12 per cent (44 players) and San Antonio with 11 per cent (29 players). Other contributors to SWC are Austin with 17 players and with 12.

Sport Shorts

## Walker cut by Oilers

Former Texas A&M running back Skip Walker has left the camp of the Houston Oilers. The Houston organization cut him along with five players.

The ex-Aggie from Del Valle was a sixth round pick of the Oilers and had expressed hopes of making it in the pros.

Walker is third on the all-time A&M career rushing list with 1,878 yards on 317 attempts (5.9 yard average) and is tenth on the season rushing list with 618 yards in 1973.

In accordance with NCAA regulations, Texas A&M Athletic Director Emory Bellard has re-assigned two Aggie coaches. Receivers coach Chuck Moser has been given an administrative job in the athletic department while kick returns coach Dean Campbell has been made a part-time coach, one of two each school is allowed to have. The NCAA rule was decided upon last January and calls for limits of one head coach and eight assistants, plus the two part-time assistants.

Bellard has criticized the ruling, saying its real purpose is one of equalization rather than economization.

Texas Football magazine lists Sherman as the top AAAA team in the state this fall. They are followed by Baytown Lee, Houston, Kashmere, Odessa Permian, Tyler, Mesquite, Galveston, Killeen, Brazoswood and Longview to round out the magazine's top ten.

The publication picks Brownwood to take the AAA title, Rockdale is favored in AA and Aledo is the choice in Class A.

## Ag lacrosse team whips Houston, 1-0


As the heat rose to 105 degrees on the field the Texas A&M Lacrosse team defeated Houston 1-0 last Saturday at Houston Baptist University.

The Aggies took the lead in the first four minutes of play with an unassisted goal by junior attackman Steve Brock.

That was all the Aggies needed as the faultless defense of senior Richard Randolph, senior Mark Sheel and Frank Gargallo held the Houstonians scoreless. Reserve help was also accredited to John Sicola with four unassisted clears.

The highlight of the afternoon was the debut performance of rookie Bill Jones at midfield. Texas A&M coach Bill Dickup said Jones hustled all afternoon while recovering six loose balls.

The team will complete its summer practices this week and will resume fall practices on Wednesday, Sept. 1.



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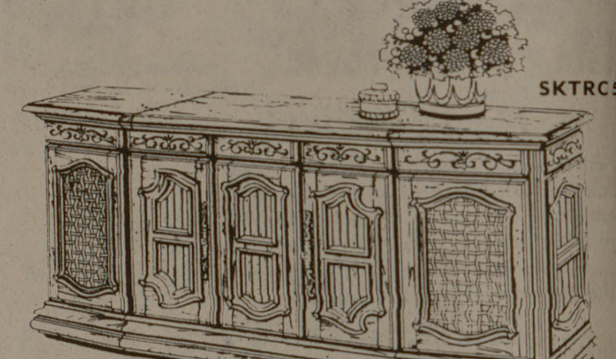


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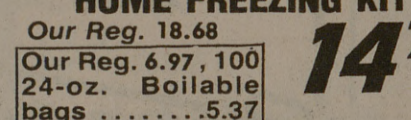
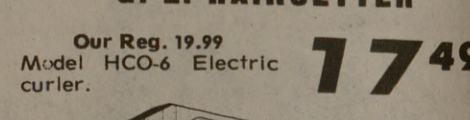
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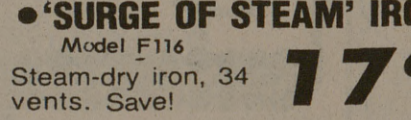

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