

# Many changes mark storied SWC's 62 years

organized in 1914, the Southwest Athletic Conference arose out of the needs of the larger colleges to create an organization which would further the best interests of intercollegiate athletics. The need of higher academic standards for student athletes and of uniform standards and practices were the primary reasons for the representatives of the institutions who convened in Dallas, May 6, 1914, for the purpose of organizing an organization that would enlarge and more closely regulate the athletic activities of the institutions of the states represented. The meeting was held at the Oriental Hotel, site of the Baker Hotel today.

Thus came into existence the Southwest Intercollegiate Athletic Conference, which two years later (May, 1916) was to be shortened to Southwest Athletic Conference. The league encompassed representatives of only three of the five states that were included in the original planning. LSU withdrew at the organizational meeting, while the University of Mississippi failed to follow through on early indications of interest.

Composed of eight members at the outset, the conference functioned with as few as six members (1916-17), had eight members in 1920, and then had seven members for 30 years (1926-55). The admission of Texas Tech in 1956 brought the membership to eight again and the admission of the University of Houston in May 1971 set it at the all-time high of nine.

Southwestern, Oklahoma and Phillips withdrew after brief periods and Oklahoma A&M took leave after a decade of membership. SMU joined in 1918 and TCU in 1923, last additions before Texas Tech's admission.

### Membership

The eight charter members agreed that a two-thirds vote would be required to increase membership, expel or suspend a member or to amend the constitution.

Rice took a leave after participating in 1915 and Southwestern withdrew voluntarily after two years. Rice rejoined in December 1917 and SMU was admitted in time for the 1918 track and field meet. Oklahoma withdrew early in 1920. Phillips University was admitted in 1919, but withdrew early in 1920, protesting a rule that would not allow freshmen in varsity competition at schools with enrollment of fewer than 500 male students. SMU considered withdrawing for the same reason.

TCU was admitted in December, 1922, and Oklahoma A&M resigned in 1925, bringing the conference to the seven-institution membership that remained intact 31 years. Then Texas Tech was admitted at the May, 1956, meeting in Fayetteville, to begin competition in football in 1960 and other sports in 1958.

Houston was admitted at the May, 1971, meeting in College Station, to begin competition in cross-country, baseball, golf, tennis, and track in the 1973-74 school year, basketball in the 1975-76 school year and football in 1976. At the May, 1972, meeting in Fayetteville, it was decided that Houston would begin competition in all sports other than football and basketball in the 1972-73 school year. Admission dates in those two sports remained as originally set.

### Eligibility

It is significant of SWC standards that the first eligibility rule adopted stipulated that an athlete must take at least the minimum work prescribed in a regular course of study and must pass at least two-thirds of work prescribed, both during and at the conclusion of a term.

The three-year rule, which after one year of residence allowed a man three years of eligibility, was adopted in 1915 to become effective January 1, 1916. In December, 1916, member schools with male enrollment of less than 400 were given the privilege of using freshmen on the varsity.

The three-year rule was dropped during World Wars I and II, in each instance being reinstated immediately after peace was restored. The conference abolished the three-year rule for all sports except football and basketball starting in 1968, allowing freshmen to compete on the varsity level. In April, 1972, the conference voted freshmen eligible in football and basketball, too, conforming to new NCAA permissive legislation. Under these rules athletes have five years in which to get in four years of varsity competition, with the stipulation that the freshman year must count as one of the four competition years.

Since 1962 the graduate rule also has ruled out "unearned financial aid by the athletic department" for those who have received degrees and those who have completed the scholastic requirements for a degree.

In 1920 it was agreed that scholastic work during the summer should count in establishing eligibility, provided the student carried the equivalent of the normal term's work and passed in two-thirds of it as in the regular term. Such work could be done at any institution without prejudicing his eligibility.

The summer school rule was in effect until September, 1929. For

the next 44 years summer school work did not count for or against a student's eligibility, either from scholastic, time of entrance, residence or transfer standpoint. At its April, 1973, meeting, the conference voted that beginning in the summer of 1974, student-athletes could use summer-school work to make up scholastic deficiencies for eligibility purposes, under certain conditions.

In 1925, the conference decreed that a student athlete must have fifteen units for college entrance in order to become eligible. That requirement has been modified to necessitate that he be a graduate of an accredited high school.

The conference, long recognized as having the nation's toughest transfer rule, has not since 1925 permitted eligibility for a transfer to an SWC school who had participated in the same sport on a varsity squad at an institution granting a standard degree (senior college).

The rule was even stricter from 1925 until 1929, for during that period such transfer was not eligible to participate in any sport at the school to which he transferred.

It was liberalized in 1931 to permit participation by transfers from senior colleges that had discontinued intercollegiate athletics, and the transfer rule was suspended for the duration of World War II.

In 1936, the transfer rule was amended to permit participation in the same sport for a student athlete who participated only on a freshman team before transferring. This is the rule today.

The quantitative academic re-

quirements for student athletes were increased in 1952 and the minimum work load set for at least 12 semester hours, or equivalent term hours. The student athlete from that time hence has been required to pass at least twenty semester hours during his last two semesters (three terms) of residence before participation, and not less than nine semester hours, or the equivalent number of term hours, in either semester (or term).

In addition to the aforementioned requirements, a student must, in order to maintain eligibility, pass a cumulative number of hours. The cumulative minimum totals by semesters: 6, 20, 32, 44, 57, 70, 83, 96, 108. By the conclusion of what would be his junior year, a student athlete would need credit for an average of 12 hours per semester and would be expected to maintain that average for the remainder of his eligibility.

These minimum requirements remained in effect for student athletes who enrolled in a senior college prior to January 1, 1966. For those enrolling since that date, in order to be eligible for institutional financial aid, participation in athletics or in organized practice sessions, they were to meet these conditions: (1) an incoming student athlete must have a predicted minimum grade-point average of 1.600 (based on a maximum of 4.00); (2) must be registered for at least twelve semester hours or equivalent term hours; and (3) must maintain a 1.600 average. In 1974, this was changed to (1) the predicted minimum grade-point average be-

come 2.000; and (2) students still had to be registered for 12 hours. The 1.6000 average was discontinued.

### Radio and Television

History was made at College Station in 1919, when three cadets — W. A. "Doc" Tolson, Harry M. Saunders and B. Lewis Nelson — rigged up a crude but workable telegraph machine and "broadcast" A&M's 7-0 victory back to Austin. History records it as the first account of any sports event via wireless, coming the year that KDKA of Pittsburgh first "broadcast" a prize fight and baseball game, and one year before WEAF in New York originated voice broadcasts from football fields.

The first actual radio broadcast of a football game in Texas was Nov. 26, 1925, from College Station, when A&M defeated Texas 28-0. The play-by-play was handled by the late General Ike Asburn, former A&M commandant who was active in conference affairs.

Individual members of the conference negotiated independently

on radio rights, both locally and nationally, until 1935, when the Humble Oil and Refining Company purchased the exclusive rights for the first time.

Humble has renewed the rights annually since that time and each year makes a side agreement for Arkansas to broadcast its own games to the state of Arkansas.

With the advent of television, the National Collegiate Athletic Association assumed control of college television with the 1951 season. The program started with a series of national telecasts and since has supplemented a varying number of national telecasts with regional telecasts numbering up to four on designated weeks.

The only telecasts aside from the national and regional games are of sellout games under varying conditions. Such games may be telecast at the site, at the home site of the visiting team and at the home site of each team when the game is played on a neutral field, provided there is no other college game being played within a radius of 120 miles.

## Antelope herd

Declining  
ANTIN — The Trans-Pecos region of West Texas continues to be the major antelope habitat. And while the overall state antelope population is encouraging, in the eastern portion of the Panhandle have declined significantly.

According to a recently completed aerial survey of antelope conducted by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. Overall, there are an estimated 10,485 adult antelope spread over the Trans-Pecos, Permian Basin and Panhandle regions of the state.

There has been a 40 percent decline in antelope herds in the eastern portion of the Panhandle over the last two or three years, said Winkler, P&WD big game team director.

This year's antelope herd in the Panhandle stands at an estimated 84, down from the previous season's 110,000.

Winkler said the Panhandle has the smallest concentration of antelope, the 10 cups of antelope permits will be issued this year in some portions of the eastern Panhandle.

In some areas of the Panhandle where there had previously been antelope, we found there were none in this year's survey," Winkler said.

Winkler attributed the Panhandle decline to poor fawn production this year, low survival rates of fawns born last year and increased habitat destruction.

Winkler said significant population declines were noted in Roberts, Lipscomb, Hemphill and Ochiltree counties.

The largest antelope herd in the state continues to be found in the Trans-Pecos. According to this year's survey, there was no notable change in the size of the herd from last year. The sample indicated a herd of 6,744 adult pronghorns.

The only other area of the state where antelope in any numbers are found is in the Permian Basin. There, a 20 percent population increase, from 1,500 to 1,884, was reported.

The surveys are an important tool used by wildlife biologists in making recommendations for issuance of permits to landowners. As was the case in 1975, only buck permits will be issued this year.

This year's hunting dates are Oct. 1-10 for the Permian Basin and Trans-Pecos regions, and Oct. 2-5 in the areas of the Panhandle where antelope hunting will be allowed.

Winkler had anticipated some increase in the size of the overall antelope population that did not occur.

Winkler said he is concerned that there was a significant increase in the Trans-Pecos and Permian Basin antelope herds, though they had good fawn production in 1975. Apparently, fawns born last year did not have the expected survival rates and as a result did not have the expected over-increase in the population," he said.

Last year, some 926 buck permits were issued statewide and 572 antelope permits were harvested. P&WD issues antelope permits based on the number of bucks in the overall population. Also, consideration is given to production and survival rates.

"We would like to have one buck antelope every four does. We feel we get maximum production with that ratio," Winkler stated.



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