

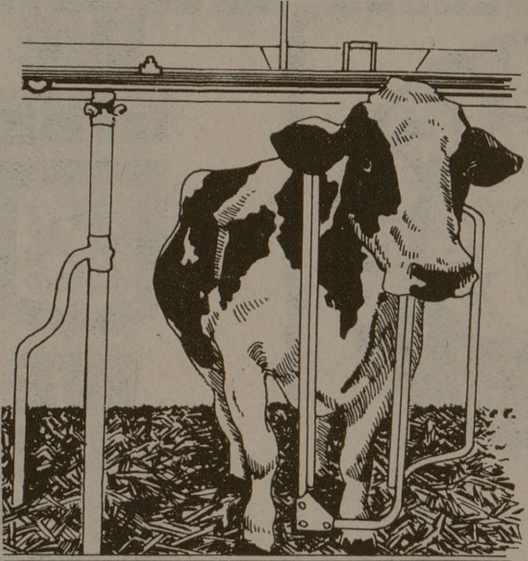
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SMU leads with 25

Out-of-staters fill SWC rosters

DALLAS — For the third straight year, Southwest Conference football teams will rely on out-of-staters to fill about one of every six positions.

The 1977 Southwest Conference Roster and Record Book lists 837

varsity and freshman players out of which 133 come from states other than the one where they're attending college.

That is slightly more than 16 per cent of out-of-staters among 230 SWC rosters. As recently as a decade ago only eight to 10 per cent of SWC football players were from states other than Texas and Arkansas.

This year's freshman rosters include 38 out-of-staters among 230 players listed, or 16.5 per cent. The varsities include 95 of 607, or 15.6 per cent.

The figures include 18 Texans on the Arkansas roster and five former Arkansas schoolboys on other SWC rosters.

The 133 out-of-state players come from 24 states and one foreign coun-

try, Omar Abu Rahma, who grew up in Israel, is a walk-on kicking candidate at Baylor.

Except for 23 Texans who went to Arkansas, California sent the most out-of-staters to SWC football with 18. Other leaders are Oklahoma with 15, Louisiana with 10, Missouri and New Mexico with nine each. There are five gridders each from Colorado, Florida and Arkansas, four each from Kansas, Mississippi and Ohio and three each from Alabama, New York, and New Jersey. States sending two players to SWC schools are Illinois, Kentucky and Nevada, while Arizona, Indiana, Nebraska, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin are each represented by one player.

Out-of-staters comprise 46.2 per cent of Arkansas' squad, the highest of the SWC.

SMU replaces Rice this season as the busiest nationwide recruiter.

This season 29 per cent of the SMU squad (25 of 86) come from 11 other states, while 21.5 per cent (20 of 93) of the Rice squad are from 14 other states. SMU was the heaviest out-of-state recruiter in '77 with eight of its 29 signees (27.5 per cent).

No other SWC schools approach the Arkansas, SMU and Rice figures. Texas is third with 11.2 per cent, followed by TCU at 10.6, Texas A&M at 8.4, Baylor at 8.0, and defending co-champions Texas Tech and Houston at 6.8 and 4.0 per cent, respectively.

Neither Baylor nor Houston listed any out-of-state freshman signees this season, while TCU named only one.

The large metropolitan areas provide the most fertile recruiting grounds. Players from the three biggest population centers — Houston, Dallas-Fort Worth, and San Antonio — comprise almost 35 per cent of the players.

The city of Houston leads out-of-state gridders, followed by Dallas with 50, Fort Worth and San Antonio 29. Other training grounds for SWC players are Spring Branch with 17, tin with 16, Tyler with 15, Richardson with 12, and Little Rock with 11 each.

In the second ten are Beaumont and Temple, 10 each; Odessa and Galveston, nine each; Christy and Longview, eight each; San Angelo and Cuero, seven each; and Abilene, Midland, El Paso, Wichita Falls, six each.

East Texas, which has the biggest recruiting SWC area in the years, has an especially strong representation. In addition to 45 players from Tyler and Longview, there are five from Nacogdoches, four each from Lufkin and Dallas and 43 others from cities east of Dallas area and north of Houston.

The 1977 rosters also show the biggest football teams the SWC yet seen. There are 64 players on 100-pound or more. Just five years ago, before squad-size limits of the SWC rosters listed 982 players, 145 more than this year, but 145 of them were 250 or heavier years ago, only three 250 or heavier were listed.

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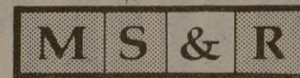
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