

Texas Tech is No. 6

Playboy picks A&M 10th

By PAUL McGRATH
Battalion Sports Editor

The September issue of Playboy Magazine includes its predictions of college football's top players and teams with the Texas A&M Aggies listed as the No. 10 team in the nation.

The magazine names Texas Tech to be the eventual Southwest Conference champion and berths the Red Raiders on the No. 6 slot in the national rankings. Defending Cotton Bowl champ Houston is tabbed No. 18.

However, the Playboy poll must be taken with a grain of salt — it's as correct as often as the magazine forgets to include its famous center-fold.

This year though, the magazine may be proved correct, depending upon several variables.

The poll sees Tech winding up with a 10-1 record and the Aggies finishing with a 9-2 mark. As Michigan is predicted by Playboy to be this year's national champion with a perfect 11-0 record, one of the Aggies' two losses must be at the hands of the Wolverines (The two play Oct. 1 in Ann Arbor).

The Aggies other loss then, must be to the Red Raiders as a loss to any other SWC team coupled with a win over Tech would still put the Aggies in the Cotton Bowl. Thus, the critical game of the season for both teams is their Sept. 24 meeting in Lubbock.

Playboy has this to say about the

Red Raiders:

"Steve Sloan, Texas Tech's young head coach, has become widely known as the new Bear Bryant. His gridiron productions, both at Vanderbilt and Texas Tech, have been little short of miraculous. Sloan's teams are famed for their offensive fireworks and this one should be no different. Sloan insists that Rodney Allison is the premier quarterback in the country. He will work behind a skilled line led by Playboy All-America Dan Irons. The only threat to the Red Raiders' success is the fact that it is a senior-dominated team and such groups are often prone to ennui. But one of Sloan's prime talents is maintaining the enthusiasm and dedication of his squad. If he can do it this time, the Raiders should wind up in the Cotton Bowl."

As for Emory Bellard's Aggies:

"Texas A&M's defensive platoon was stripped by graduation, but there is a stockpile of replacement talent on hand. If they learn their jobs quickly, the Aggies will be as strong as ever, because the offense looks nearly unstoppable. Fullback George Woodard, a trim 265-pounder, steamrollers opposing tacklers and fleet halfback Curtis Dickey leaves them dazzled in his wake. The kicking game has to be seen to be believed. Punter David Appleby averaged nearly 40 yards last year as a freshman and Playboy All-America Tony Franklin may be the best field goal kicker in the country, college or pro."

The magazine joins a host of other publications torn between choosing the Aggies or the Red Raiders with most leaning towards the latter, on the basis of multi-talented Tech quarterback Rodney Allison.

Last year, Playboy picked Texas as choice in the SWC title race, joining a host of others "done wrong" by Tech and Houston.

Playboy names Irons, Franklin, Texas A&M lineman Frank Myers, Texas fullback Earl Campbell and Longhorn punter Russell Erxleben to its All-America team which includes the magazine's top 24 players.

Also listed as candidates for honors were Woodard and Allison. Aggies David Walker and Curtis Dickey were tabbed probable all-conference players.

In addition to drawing the magazine's choice as the No. 1 team in the nation, Michigan was the only school to get more than two players named to Playboy's All-America team. Offensive lineman Walt Downing, and Mark Donahue and linebacker Zac Henderson were the three chosen players.

Kentucky Head Coach Frank Curci was picked as Coach of the Year by the publication.

One misnomer about the Playboy player selections is that the magazine primarily chooses players from the major football schools, allowing many first-rate players from small schools to go unmentioned.

Behind Michigan in the poll was Oklahoma, followed by Notre Dame, Southern Cal and Colorado were fourth and fifth with Tech No. 6.

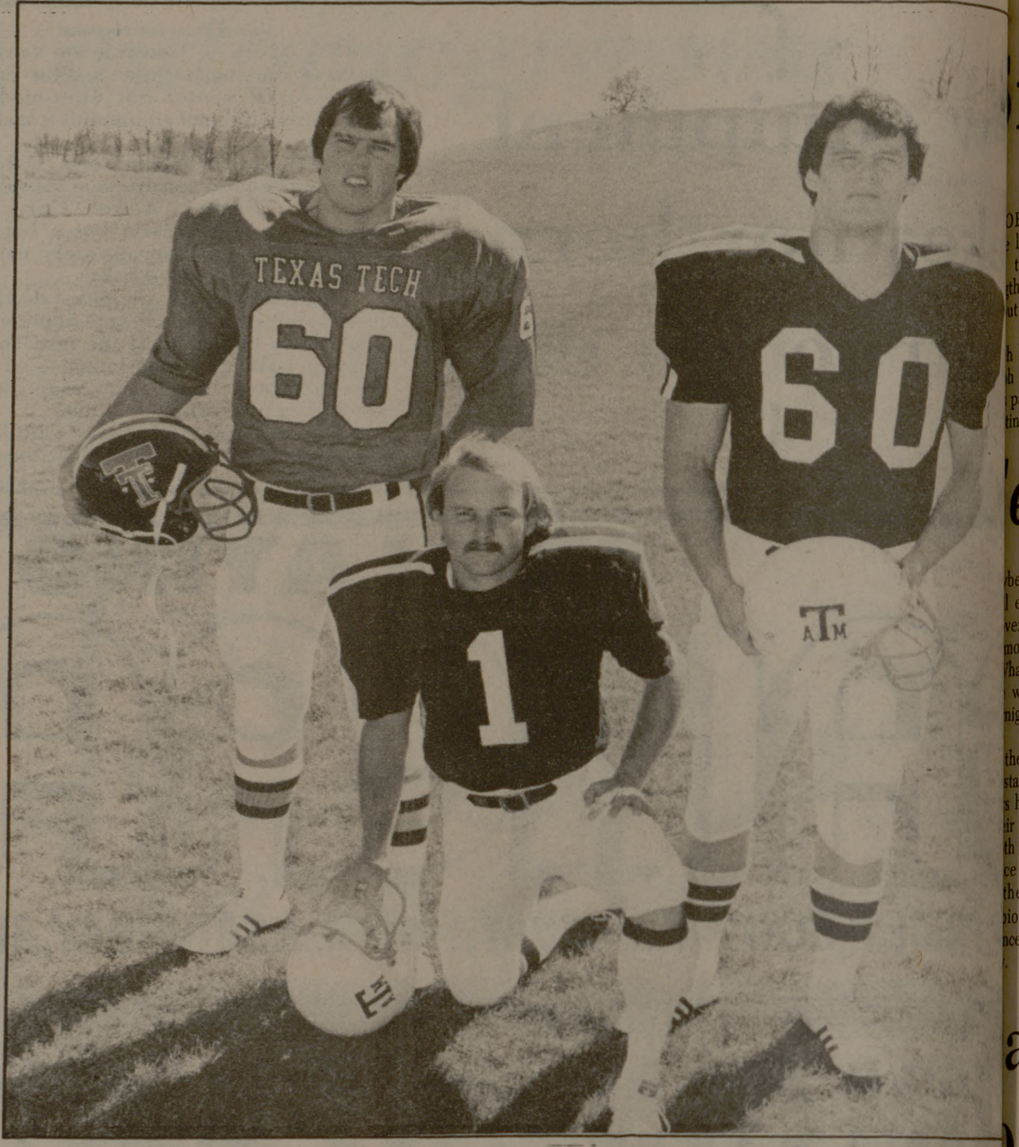
Alabama, Ohio State, Maryland and Texas A&M closed out a Top Ten filled with familiar names.

The other ten teams also included no strangers. Last year's national champion Pittsburgh was listed No. 11 followed by Arizona State, Mississippi State, Penn State and Florida.

Nebraska, Georgia, Houston, UCLA and Cincinnati round out the magazine's Top 20.

The Playboy Top 20

1. Michigan11-0
2. Oklahoma10-1
3. Notre Dame . . .10-1
4. Southern Cal . .10-1
5. Colorado9-2
6. Texas Tech10-1
7. Alabama9-2
8. Ohio State9-2
9. Maryland9-2
10. Texas A&M . . .9-2
11. Pittsburgh9-2
12. Arizona State .10-1
13. Mississippi St. 9-2
14. Penn State . . .9-2
15. Florida8-3
16. Nebraska8-3
17. Georgia8-3
18. Houston8-3
19. UCLA8-3
20. Cincinnati . . .10-1



Southwest Conference players Dan Irons, Texas Tech, Tony Franklin (1) and Frank Meyers, Texas A&M, have been named to Playboy magazine's 1977 Preview All-America Team, featured in the September issue. Not pictured are Texas' Earl Campbell and Russell Erxleben.

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Astro-er, Bluebonnet Bowl moved to New Year's Eve

United Press International
HOUSTON — The post season college football game known previously as the Astro-Bluebonnet Bowl will change its name and be played New Year's Eve night in the Astrodome for the next three seasons, a director said yesterday.

"The response to Astro-Bluebonnet was not good around the country, so we're going back to Bluebonnet. We want this game associated with the state," said C.J. Thornton, president of the sponsoring bowl association.

The game was called the Bluebonnet Bowl during its early years, but when Astrodome founder Judge Roy Hofheinz took control of the game and moved it to his sports facility, the name was changed.

The Greater Houston Bowl Association has always planned New Year's Eve date and signed a three-year contract with the Houston Sports Association, which runs the Astrodome.

"Contracts with major networks have caused the net Bowl in the past to be other dates. We don't want to happen again," Thornton said.

This year's game will be broadcast by Mizlou Television Network. Thornton said his group will initiate a drive to sell out the seat Astrodome before that will be thereby attract the interest of the major networks.

"We give 8,000 tickets to our team and we have about 18,000 holders, so that leaves 10,000 tickets to be sold. We're selling only about 15,000 tickets," Thornton said.

Texas Tech and the University of Nebraska each received \$200,000 for playing in the last Bluebonnet Bowl, and Thornton said 1977 bowl participants will receive about \$220,000 each.

Thornton announced he decided to back game activities for the future he encouraged local business sponsor the game and award players with cowboy hats and a trophy which was dropped-cut costs.

Banks, Sewell enshrined

United Press International
COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. — Ernie Banks and Joe Sewell, two of the greatest shortstops in baseball history, expressed "pride and gratitude" Monday when they were inducted into the Hall of Fame along with four other stars of the past.

Entering the shrine with Banks and Sewell were Al Lopez, former manager of the Cleveland Indians and Chicago White Sox; Amos Rusie, baseball's first strikeout king, and John Henry Lloyd and Martin Dihigo, two stars of the old Negro Leagues.

"We've got sunshine and fresh air," said Banks, who hit 52 homers during a 19-year career with the Chicago Cubs.

"I'm deeply honored," he continued. "Sure, I played the games but I wouldn't have been able to do it if it weren't for the people who believed in me."

"It's nice to be here today — in person," said the 78-year-old Sewell, who played a total of 14 seasons with the Indians and New York Yankees. "I thank you for electing me while I still have a few faculties to express my appreciation."

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