

Sports

'The bash' — again

United Press International
If that old concrete structure in the middle of the Texas State Fairgrounds could speak, it would be saying:

"Oh, no. Not again."
But, yes, again it is.

Around the world of college football it's known as Texas vs. Oklahoma. Around the watering spots of Norman, Austin and Dallas, it's simply known as "the bash."

The bash begins along about the middle of the week and the game, for those left who really care, comes next Saturday.

For the 72nd time the Sooners and Longhorns will mangle each other in one of college football's greatest rivalries and, once more, the game will be of interest to more than just friends and relatives.

And, once again, the game will coincide with the opening of the Texas State Fair, the United States' largest annual exposition. There will be far more than a quarter of a million people swirling around the grounds Saturday, getting sick on cotton candy, wrenching their necks out of joint on the roller coaster and having a look at the livestock.

But only 72,032 of them will make it inside the Cotton Bowl, where coaches Barry Switzer and Fred Akers will unleash their troops.

"We ought to be fresh for Oklahoma," said Akers, who for the first

time will be the head coach in the biggie. "We would have liked to have had more work for our first unit."

Texas' first string played only a bit last Saturday because the Longhorns were crunching Rice, 72-15.

As is usually the case, the Texas-Oklahoma affair will far overshadow any other contest in the Southwest Conference, even though the nation's longest major college losing streak could come to a halt.

TCU, which lost its 15th in a row to Arkansas last Saturday, 42-6, will take on the weak Rice Owls in Houston. Another conference game has SMU 2-2, which played scrappily in a 35-7 loss to Ohio State traveling to Baylor, a last minute 28-24 loser to Houston, Texas Tech 3-1, which nipped North Carolina Saturday, 10-7, will face Arizona on the road.

Texas A&M, embarrassed by Michigan, 41-3, Houston and Arkansas have the week off.

Oklahoma carried a No. 2 national ranking into its victory over Kansas last week and Texas was No. 8. So, as is often the case, both teams will be undefeated and ranked in the top ten when their meeting comes around.

And this year's game promises to be more entertaining than last year's non-epic, which saw unimaginative offense all afternoon and, finally, a botched extra point attempt by

Oklahoma at the end of the game which left it in a 6-6 tie.

Saturday's confrontation will give everyone a clue as to just how good the Longhorns are. They have overwhelmed three opponents and

have a speedy, diversified attack which could give Oklahoma problems if the Sooners continue to lose fumbles as they have this season. "I'd try witchcraft to get rid of those fumbles," said Switzer.



Woodard

Grulich

Donahue

Aggie notes.

The 104,802 on hand for the A&M-Michigan game was the third largest ever at Michigan Stadium. The past two Ohio State games there drew 105,543 in 1975 and 105,223 in 1973. It was the largest crowd ever for a Southwest Conference team.

A&M Coach Emory Bellard: "The first half was about even. We might have had the upper hand a little bit. But in the second half Michigan beat us in every phase of the game of football, whipped us soundly. We had our opportunities in the first half but couldn't make the plays we needed to make. Our players were just lackadaisical. I simply just don't have another word for it. The turning point was our fumble near the end of the first half. The season is not over. This has been a humiliating loss. I hate it and our players hate it. We hurt about it. But now we've got to regroup and put it all back together for Baylor."

Michigan Coach Bo Schembechler: "That was a good win for us. I'm proud of our defense. We made a few mistakes but we never cracked. I'd have to say the score was not indicative of the strength of these two teams. Texas A&M is an outstanding team and I don't want to take anything away from them. I look at the great win A&M had last week against Texas Tech and then what happened here and all I can say is we have to forget this one and get ready to play just like this again next week against Michigan State. The touchdown right before the half was the key to the win. It was the first time in seven years that we optioned for the wind at the start rather than receiving. That was because of our fear of Tony Franklin's field-goal kicking."

Franklin now has kicked 7 consecutive field goals. The NCAA record is 11. Franklin's NCAA distance record was erased Saturday by Texas' Russell Erben who booted a 67-yard field goal against Rice. A&M is idle this week, then goes on the road to Baylor and Rice before playing its second home game of the season against SMU on October 29. Big George Woodard carried 39 times for 153 yards against Michigan. A&M ran 80 plays to 63 for Michigan while the Wolverines had 300 total yards and A&M 211. But the Aggies lost four fumbles, had two passes intercepted and one punt blocked. Against Texas Tech the Aggies had only one turnover.

The Aggies can knock on wood because thus far they've suffered no major injuries. Defensive tackle Johnnie Donahue sprained an ankle and QB David Walker had his bell rung in the Michigan contest but all should be hale and hearty within a few days. Curtis Dickey rushed for 45 yards against Michigan and now is No. 10 on the all-time A&M list with 1,096 yards. He passed John Kimbrough. A&M's winning streak was snapped at 10. QB David Walker now is 21-7 as a starter. "It's not the end of the world," said safety Carl Grulich.

"We still have our chance to win the SWC and go to the Cotton Bowl, but we've got to stick together as a unit."

The Texas A&M men's cross country team will run in the Arlington Invitational in Arlington Friday afternoon. Running for the Aggies will be Manfred Kohrs, Lane Mitchell, Keith Bratton, Rick Huggins, Tom Glass, Ralph Havens and Ross Oliver.

The Aggies finished fifth in the Rice Invitational last Saturday. Kohrs was the top individual with a sixth place showing. Mitchell was 16th, Bratton 31st, Huggins 32nd, and Glass 36th.

The Texas A&M women's cross country team will host its annual invitational meet Saturday at noon on the A&M campus. The Aggies are the defending champions and are unbeaten this season after a first place finish in the Texas Tech Invitational a week ago.

Running for A&M will be Ileana Hocking, Martha Sartain, Cathy Cocks, Kim Mallory and Cindy Cockroft.

The Texas A&M women's tennis team will compete in the Lady Tiger Invitational Tournament in Baton Rouge, La., Friday through Sunday.

The Aggies finished fourth in the Southwest Conference Invitational in Fort Worth last weekend. A&M beat Texas Wesleyan 9-0 in the opening round. Winning matches were Betty Schilleutt, Debbie Odum, Mary Guerra, Elise Richardson, Susan Schilling, Kathleen Sissom, Alexis Hefley and Judy Willard. The Aggies lost to highly-ranked SMU 9-0 in the semifinals and fell to Texas Tech 8-1 in the consolation match. Guerra picked up the only win for A&M.

The Texas A&M women's softball team meets Sam Houston in a 6 p.m. doubleheader in Travis Park in Bryan Tuesday and then competes in the Lamar Invitational in Beaumont Friday and Saturday.

The team is 7-3 for the season after losing two out of three games in the Sam Houston Tournament in Huntsville Friday. Kim Bellamy was the losing pitcher in a 4-2 loss to Texas Wesleyan in the opener. Sami Evans hurled a shutout as the Aggies bounced back to beat Trinity 12-0. Then Baylor decided the Aggies 3-0 with Evans picking up the loss.

The Texas A&M men's water polo team faces a tough challenge Tuesday when it takes on SMU in a 5:30 p.m. match in Dallas. The Aggies are 5-4 for the season after splitting a pair of games at home Friday and Saturday.

On Friday, the Aggies knocked off New Mexico State 14-10. On Saturday, A&M lost to Brown University 13-11. "The difference was that Brown has played together for two years while we're still learning," Coach Dennis Fosdick said. "Mental lapses did us in." Steve Sampson scored five goals to lead the Aggies.

Top 20

United Press International
NEW YORK — The United Press International Board of Coaches top 20 teams after the fourth week of the college football season with first-place votes and record in parentheses:

Team	Points
1. Southern Cal (15) (4-0)	358
2. Michigan (14) (4-0)	355
3. Oklahoma (10) (4-0)	333
4. Texas (3-0)	290
5. Colorado (4-0)	211
6. Ohio State (3-1)	191
7. Nebraska (2-1)	99
8. Alabama (3-1)	96
9. Arkansas (4-0)	81
10. California (4-0)	40
11. Penn State (3-1)	30
12. Brigham Young (3-0)	18
13. Notre Dame (3-1)	16
14. Pittsburgh (3-1)	16
15. Houston (3-1)	10
16. Texas Tech (3-1)	8
17. Texas A&M (3-1)	6
18. Florida (2-1)	4
19. Louisiana State (2-1)	4
20. Wisconsin (4-0)	3

Note: By agreement with the American Football Coaches Association, teams on probation by the NCAA are ineligible for top 20 and national championship consideration by the UPI Board of Coaches. Those teams currently on probation for 1977 are: Kentucky, Michigan State, Bedlans (Calif.), Western State (Colo.).

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