

Sports

# Texas-O.U. weekend again

By PAT EDMONDSON  
Tradition is the element which usually sends a pair of rival universities to Dallas to participate in a football game. The aura created during the OU weekend, the second Saturday in October, is unusual and rare.

The gridiron event is the nostalgic dual between the University of Texas and Oklahoma University.

Tightly knitted geographically, the separate states have both inherited a unique devotion to competition: winning. The Texas-OU con-

test is comparable in traditional interest to the Michigan-Ohio St., USC-Notre Dame and Oklahoma-Nebraska match-ups. When the "classics" are held, the bulk of America responds with undivided attention.

Dallas became the site for the fling in 1912. The Cotton Bowl, which houses Southern Methodist University games, various high school playoff and all-star games and the Cotton Bowl Classic Jan. 1, is the setting.

Big D is situated approximately halfway between the home of the two schools, Austin, Tx. and Norman, Okla., favoring neither side.

Seventy-two thousand loyalists attend the game which begins at 2 p.m. The Cotton Bowl remains independent, however, as 36,000 seats are allotted to each university.

Bright colors of orange and red, accompanied by the same tempered clothes and balloons, shade the State Fair Grounds of Texas. The outing draws thousands, more without a ticket to the game than not. The impact of the aftermath attracts thousands more.

Saturday is the 72nd meeting of the two schools. The winner obtains sole possession of the coveted Cowboy Hat Trophy for one year. The Longhorns have cherished the trophy 42 times. Oklahoma has earned the prize 26 times. There has been 3 ties in the series.

For the University of Texas, this year's game is the initial trial for head coach Fred Akers. Akers fills in for the retired Darrell Royal, who viewed last year's 6-6 tie for the final time. Royal stepped aside to assume full responsibility as school athletic director.

A player at the University of Arkansas, Akers opposes a former teammate, Barry Switzer and Akers spent four years in Fayetteville in the latter 1950s. Switzer replaced Chuck Fairbanks as head coach of the Sooners in 1972. In four years, his regime has won 45 times, an incredible feat.

This year's Texas talent features a new look from the patterned wishbone offense. The Horns have defected to Bill Yeoman's famed Houston Veer offense. Earl Campbell is the veteran in the UT offensive corps. The junior from Tyler has bulled for 563 yards in three lopsided Texas victories. Olympian Johnny "Ham" Jones, and quickie Johnny "Ham" Jones, enhance the attack.

Four year returnee Brad Shearer is the pivotal figure on defense.

Interestingly, a large crop of Sooners are home grown Texans. Quarterback Thomas Lott returns to the locale of his collegiate debut. Lott took command of the OU wishbone offense last season when Dean Blevins, a Norman, Okla. product, became injured. Elvis Peacock, a Floridian, and Kenny King, a Texan, play at halfback and fullback.

Defensively, end Reggie Kinlaw is the ringleader.

Texas last defeated Oklahoma in 1970, and the Sooners are likely to win their sixth of the past seven games. OU is a three point favorite.

## Erxleben thinking about the game, not a record

United Press International

AUSTIN — University of Texas kicker Russell Erxleben says the excitement of his NCAA record 67-yard field goal last week has worn off. The only flutter today comes from the anticipated meeting with third-ranked Oklahoma at the Cotton Bowl Saturday in Dallas.

Erxleben has booted five field goals in the Longhorns' three lopsided victories, including the 67-yarder against Rice.

"But I'm more excited about a game like this. In those others I figured I wouldn't play a big part because we'd stomp them. But against OU, I may do something to decide the game."

Erxleben, a junior who was recruited by every other Southwest Conference school as a passing quarterback when he graduated from Seguin High, said the excitement of the Texas-OU contest has just about nullified any benefit from classes this week.

"This week in class, the professor can be up there teaching and I don't even see him. It's impossible to concentrate. Have I been kicking field goals in class? Yeah, and I haven't missed one yet."

Sooner coach Barry Switzer is well aware of Erxleben's kicking ability. He rates the Texas star as a future number one draft pick by the pros. Texas coach Fred Akers ranks Erxleben as the best kicker in the nation.

He began kicking when he was nine, and made it

to the national finals in the annual Punt, Pass and Kick contest that year, finishing second.

Unlike most long distance kickers, Erxleben kicks in the conventional manner rather than in the soccer style of Texas A&M's Tony Franklin or Uwe von Schamann of Oklahoma.

"I've always been a straight ahead kicker," he said. "I can't kick it 20 yards soccer style."

Erxleben may have some adjustments to make against the Sooners. The well worn football he used for punting and kicking was retired after the record field goal against Rice, and is headed for his trophy shelf.

And Scott Huntington, who handled the deep snaps for Erxleben's other field goals, is suffering from bruised ribs as Texas prepares for the Oklahoma showdown.

He's breaking in a new kicking ball this week, but admits the advantage of using the old worn ball probably is only psychological.

"Some guys do weird stuff and if I didn't do anything but kick in high school, I'd probably be weird as heck," he said.

"I don't think von Schamann gets on his hands and knees every time he kicks in practice (which he does in games), and Tony Franklin can kick just as good with shoes (which he doesn't in games). I've seen him."

Before Erxleben leaves Texas, he wants to own every school kicking record.

## Oilers ready for Steelers

United Press International

HOUSTON — The Houston Oilers host the Pittsburgh Steelers Sunday in an important AFC Central Division contest, and those two teams know only too well how important games are among the brethren.

The Steelers have won 12 of their last 13 games against division mates Houston, Cincinnati and Cleveland, and those wins have paid off in playoff spots.

The Oilers, on the other hand, have gone nowhere in the past two years because of losing 10 of the past 12 games with their three Central Division foes.

The Steelers and Bengals were the only teams to beat Houston in 1975, but because of those losses the Oilers' 10-4 record was not good enough. Cincinnati last season was 11-3 and sat home because of two losses to Pittsburgh.

"There's no question, you've got to beat the people near and dear to you," said Oilers coach Bum Phillips. He admitted how hard that is, saying, "We've had hell with 'em, and I don't see any reason for that to change."

The Oilers have not played a division mate so far.

Pittsburgh is off and running after beating Cleveland 25-14 last Sunday. In that one, quarterback Terry Bradshaw threw for three touchdowns, Franco Harris rumbled for 72 yards of his team's 218 rushing and the "Steel Curtain" was intact.

Pittsburgh's defense ranks first in the NFL, allowing its first three opponents fewer than 100 yards rushing per game. Middle linebacker Jack Lambert has had 27 unassisted tackles in the past two games.

Houston's offense, which scored twice against Miami last Sunday, has had trouble generating a running game.

Slight injuries to tight ends Mike Barber (cut hand) and Jimmy Giles (twisted ankle) will not help the Oilers' ground game. Phillips may go with three wide receivers.

Pittsburgh has had to do some shuffling in the defensive secondary this week. Safety Mike Wagner is sidelined, and Donnie Shell will replace him.



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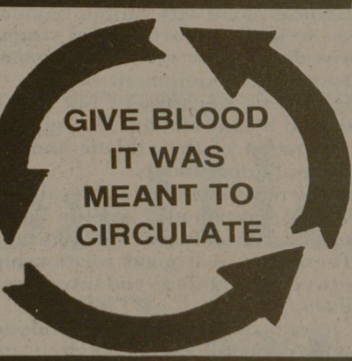
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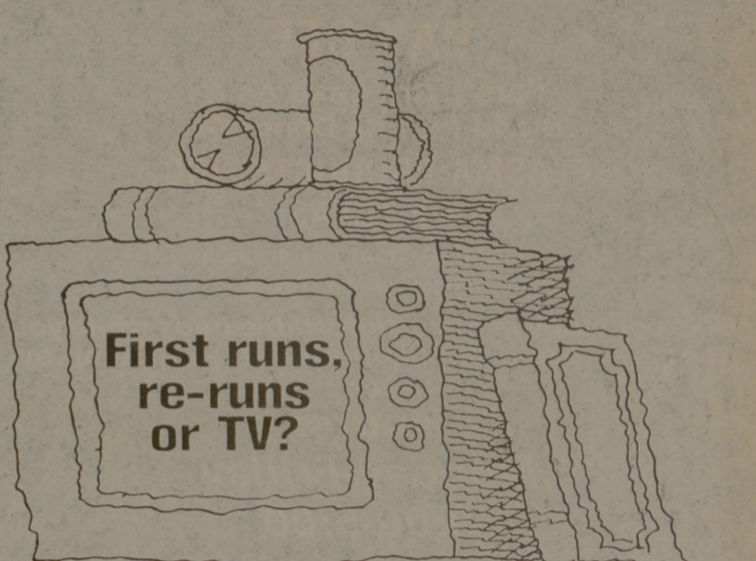
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## OTHER ENTRIES DUE

SPORT	ENTRIES CLOSE	ENTRIES CLOSE
Swimming	Tuesday, October 11	5:00 p.m.
Soccer	Tuesday, October 18	5:00 p.m.
Racquetball Doubles	Tuesday, October 25	5:00 p.m.
Archery	Tuesday, October 25	5:00 p.m.
Table Tennis Doubles	Tuesday, November 1	5:00 p.m.
Cross Country	Tuesday, November 1	5:00 p.m.