

Paul Arnett

Baylor quarterback out for year

The Baylor Bears received some bad news yesterday. Number one quarterback Sammy Bickham, who was injured last Saturday against the SMU Mustangs, is lost for the season.

"They have a very talented squad," coach Emory Ballard said. "But they haven't reached their potential because of injuries. Losing Bickham will hurt them, no question about it. They have some great players, though, who can help the team's cause."

But, without Bickham, the Bears' chances against the Aggies are bleak. Replacing an injured center is one thing, yet replacing a quarterback is an entirely a different matter.

There have been five quarterbacks injured in the Southwest Conference this year. Some members of the press say that the opposition is to blame.

To say that an opposing team goes out there on the field to try and in-

jure the quarterback is wrong," Ballard said. "I know that Ron Meyer did not have a plan to hurt Sammy Bickham. It was just one of those things."

"I have a bag of mail saying that that was our plan against Tech. The press helps this kind of talk along. Allison was injured on a good clean hit. He was trying to scramble out of the pocket and our man wouldn't let him go."

"It is wrong to imply this kind of thing. A quarterback can easily be injured in option football. He is more likely to be hit than a straight drop-back passer."

Greg Wood will replace Bickham at quarterback. He has a fine offensive unit to work with, and should have no problem operating the Bears' attack.

"Baylor has three fine wide receivers," Ballard said. "If the ball is in their direction, you can bet one of them will catch it."

Tommy Davidson and Ronnie Lee have caught 10 passes so far this season. Lee, a big strong tight end, caught an 80-yard touchdown pass against the Ags two years ago. Bo Taylor, the other outside threat for the Bears, has caught nine passes

this season.

The Bears' leading ground gainer is Greg Hawthorne. He has rushed for 300 yards in four games.

"Baylor has four fine running backs who can take it in from anywhere on the field," Ballard said.

"Our defense will have to play aggressively in order to keep the score down."

"I'll say one thing about Baylor, they have a darn aggressive kicking game. They are excellent on punt and kick-off coverages. It was that

style of play that won it for them last weekend. I don't think their squad is weak anywhere."

Defense has been the Bears' strong suit in conference play. They held the Mustangs to just three points. Texas Tech only managed 17.

"Defensively Baylor is a fine football team," Ballard said. "They have missed Johnson at nose guard, but his replacement has done a good job. Few men on defense are better than Johnson."

"They have one of the best second-

daries in the country. You better have a passer who is accurate, or you can bet they will wind up with the football."

The Bears lead the conference in pass defense, but against the rush they have had their problems. The secondary was fantastic against the Mustangs last Saturday.

"They completely shut down one of the best passers in the conference," Ballard said. "We have some new wrinkles in our offense that we hope will keep them off balance."

Houston's special offense works well

United Press International
HOUSTON — The Houston Oilers think so much of the Pittsburgh "Steel Curtain" defense that they devised a special offense just to block it.

In the "Pitt offense," as Houston coach Bum Phillips described it, excellent blocking fullback Tim Wilson lined up two steps behind the line of scrimmage and centered between the right guard and tackle.

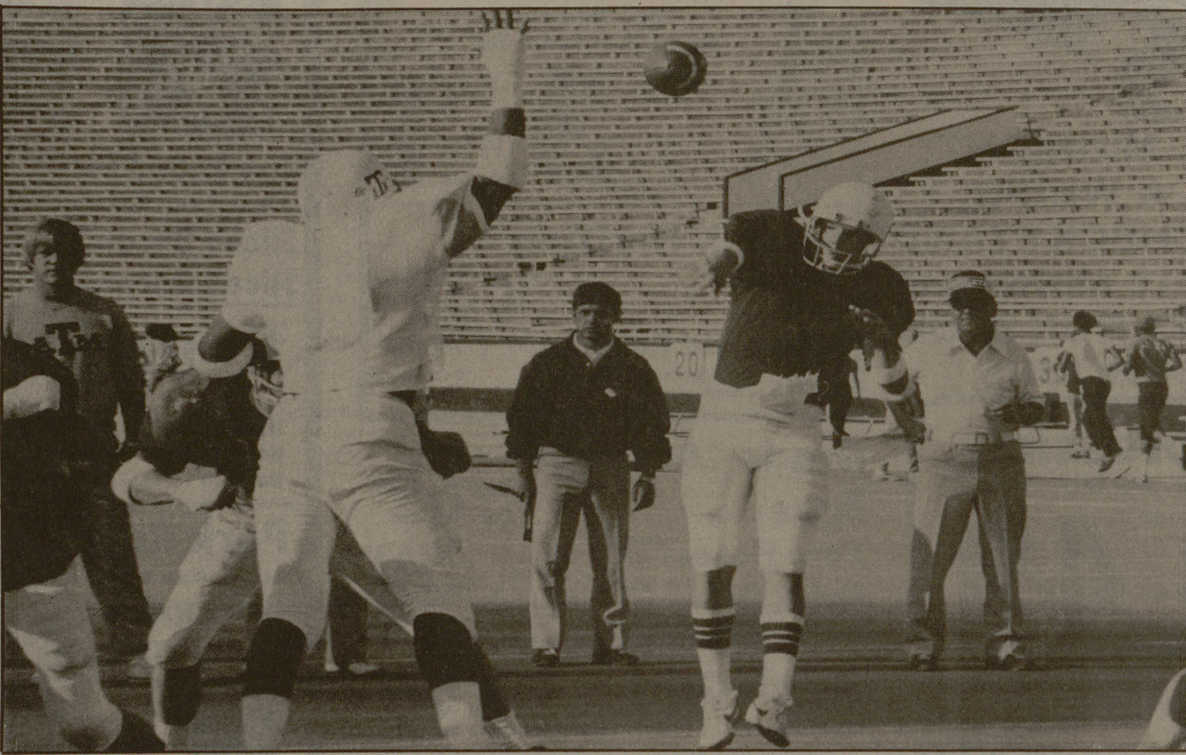
The alignment had some success as Houston gained 98 yards on the ground and gave quarterback Dan Pastorini excellent pass protection in a 27-10 win over the Steelers Sunday. Wilson, sometimes taking a handoff from the unusual position, carried 11 times for a 5.6-yard average.

The offense, which Phillips described as "not new but very rarely seen," was so specialized that the Oilers only installed it to operate on the right side.

The coach said his team likely will never use it again.

Houston overcame a 10-7 halftime deficit with 10 third-quarter points. Then, with quarterbacks out of both sides in the fourth quarter, Houston added 10 more points because of the mistakes of safety-turned-quarterback Tony Dungy.

The Oilers (3-1) lead the AFC Central Division by one game over Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and Cleveland. The Oilers host Cleveland Sunday and then travel to Pittsburgh.



Part of yesterday's Aggie football practice emphasized the talents of back-up quarterback Mike Mosley. During the first half of the sea-

son, four SWC teams have lost their starting quarterbacks.

Battalion photo by Jim Crawley.

Yanks win opening game

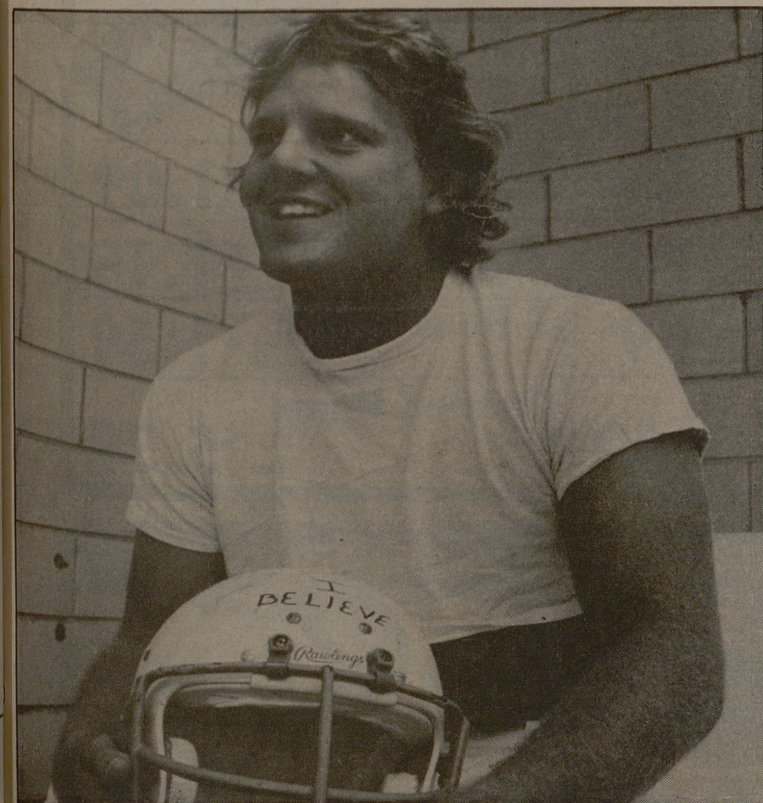
United Press International
NEW YORK — Willie Randolph, a low wattage in his club's power-packed lineup, homered in the sixth inning then doubled and scored the winning run on Paul Blair's 12th-inning single Tuesday night to give the New York Yankees a 4-3 victory over the Los Angeles Dodgers in the first game of the World Series.

The Yankees mounted their winning rally against reliever Rick Rhoden, the fifth Dodgers' pitcher, when Randolph led off the 12th with a double into the right field corner. Rhoden then issued an intentional walk to Thurman Munson and Blair, a late-inning replacement for Reggie Jackson in right field, drilled a 2-2 pitch for a single to left after failing to sacrifice twice.

Sparky Lyle, the Yankees' answer to the Red Cross, saved the victory with 3 2-3 scoreless innings to gain credit for his third straight post-season triumph. Lyle also won the last two American League playoff games against Kansas City and now has a string of 10 1-3 scoreless innings in post-season competition.

The Yankees, an underdog, now need three more victories in the best-of-seven series to win their first championship since 1962. The second game of the series will be played at Yankee Stadium Wednesday night with the teams then switching to Los Angeles for the next three games beginning Friday night. Burt Hooton will pitch for the Dodgers Wednesday against Jim "Catfish" Hunter, who will be making his first appearance or the Yankees since Sept. 10.

The Dodgers, who had fallen behind 3-2 on Munson's runcoring double in the eighth inning, bounced back to tie the score in the ninth when southpaw Don Gullett finally ran out of gas after a strong effort.



Believe it or don't

A&M safety John Baber shows his belief in the words of Grant Teaff, Baylor's head coach.

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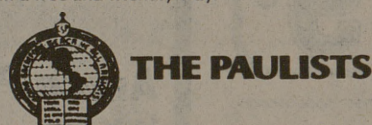
When you think about it—isn't the point of life reaching out? Only when people are secure, brave and open enough to reach out to others does life begin to yield the joy, the fulfillment, we expect from it.

Most of us think we are reaching out: for the job, the future, others in need, the ones we love. But, if we're honest, we aren't reaching out at all. We're simply grabbing for security: a life that's safe, predictable, and only goes so far... limited, and perhaps, limiting.

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