

sports

SWC has corner of market on kickers

Those three Southwest Conference place kickers who have set the world on its collective ear over the past two seasons do have one weakness after all — they're easy at predictions.

When Texas' Russell Erxleben kicked a 67-yarder two weeks ago to set the NCAA record against Rice, the trio was asked how long the record would last. Their answers: Erxleben: "Tony Franklin (Texas A&M) is about the only one around with the leg to do it — and he's got a year and a half to shoot for it." Franklin: "Russell's record could stand for 30 years. But I'm going to look for my chance." Steve Little of Arkansas: "A long

time — that one might be tops forever unless Tony Franklin decides to go for a record...I think if the record gets broken, it'll be a situation of a kicker strictly kicking for the record, not trying to win a game."

So the SWC kickers are zero-for-three in the prediction department. Little, definitely trying to win a game Saturday from Texas, booted home a 67-yarder to tie Erxleben's record. Erxleben also had field goals of 58 and 52 yards in Texas' 13-9 victory, while Little kicked two more "gimmies" from 33 and 25 yards.

As a result of Saturday's boomers, here is the all-time NCAA long-distance fieldgoal kick table:

Yards	Player	School (Opp.)	Year
67	Russell Erxleben	Texas (Rice)	1977
67	Steve Little	Arkansas (Texas)	1977
65	Tony Franklin	Texas A&M (Baylor)	1976
64	Tony Franklin	Texas A&M (Baylor)	1976
64	Russell Erxleben	Texas (Oklahoma)	1977

Right, the five longest field goals in NCAA history by those three players currently active in the Southwest Conference. Carrying it further, which they can do, there have been 15 field goals of 60 or more yards in NCAA annals — nine of them by SWC kickers. NCAA stat books can't recall one conference ever dominating a category so completely.

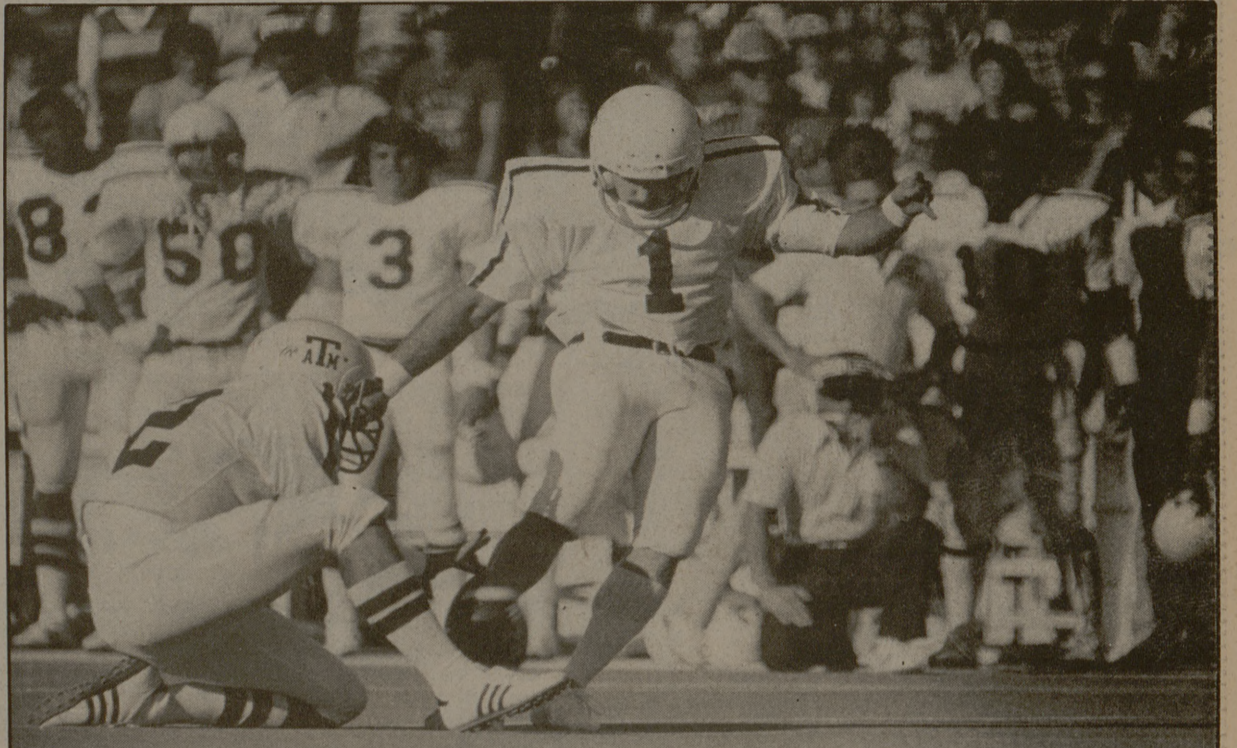
Erxleben also set an NCAA record Saturday with his two boomers

— he now has 23 of at least 40 yards, most in NCAA history. Erxleben also has nine of at least 50 yards, second to the NCAA record of 11 held by (surprise!) one Tony Franklin of Texas A&M.

Aside from distance records, the trio is butchering the proficiency records. Before they came along, the SWC career record was 29. Little now has 41 with six games left, Franklin has 37 and Erxleben 31, both with a year to go. Franklin also holds the SWC season record with 17 last year. The NCAA career record is 51 by Dave Lawson of Air Force. Truly a record that may be beaten on any given Saturday.

With the terrific trio leading the way, SWC kickers passed the one-mile mark in field goals Saturday as four were registered at more than 50 yards. SWC kickers have now connected on 48 over the season from a total distance of 1,849 yards, 89 yards over a mile.

Leading the way is Erxleben with nine kicks for 479 yards. Texas Tech's Bill Adams has 320 yards, followed by Franklin with eight for 288, Little with seven for 250, Robert Bledsoe of Baylor with six for 218, John Dunlop of SMU with four for 102, Wes Hansen of Rice with two for 72, Ken Hatfield of Houston with two for 63 and TCU's Steve Morman, whose lone shot covered 57 yards.



Tony Franklin missed a 45-yard field goal against the Baylor Bears. The missed effort broke his string of field goals at seven. A&M plays Rice in Houston this Saturday night at 7:30.

Battalion photo by Pat O'Malley

Aggies begin workouts

By DAVID BOGGAN
Battalion Staff

The Texas A&M basketball team began workouts Saturday for the 1977-78 season.

"They're tired, sore and congested," coach Shelby Metcalf said of his team after Wednesday's practice, "so we're right on schedule."

Metcalf said the team had accomplished a great deal in five days of practice.

"They have a lot more of the system (offensive and defensive patterns) in now than this time last year, they just need polish," he said.

Metcalf added that practice should be going this well since the team is more experienced this year.

The Aggies' first game is on Nov. 28, against Angelo State. Between now and then Metcalf must pick a starting team from a roster that has talent at every position.

Nine lettermen will return to the team from last year. They are seniors Brian Barrett, Keith Carter and Willie Foreman; juniors Joey Robinson and Wally Swanson and sophomores Dave Goff, Doug Pederson, John Schlicher and Steve Sylestine.

Juniors Carl Godine and Jarvis Williams will return to the team after a one-year conference suspension. This will give A&M a total of 11 lettermen, nine of whom have started in at least seven games.

"It feels great to be back," Williams said. "Practice has been hard and rough but we can handle it."

The team will also include three freshmen who were on the all-State team in high school. They are Albert Culton from Ennis, Vernon Smith from Dallas Carter and Rynn Wright from Dallas Roosevelt.

"Jarvis has been the outstanding player in practice so far, both in effort and attitude," Metcalf said. "He has become a real leader."

The Southwest Conference will not use the jump ball on tip offs and tie ball situations this year. The visiting team will decide if it wants the ball at the start of the first half or the second half, and in tie ball situations the teams will alternate taking the ball out of bounds. Metcalf said this new rule will have no effect on the outcome of the season.

"It won't make a difference, just as long as they tell us the rules before the game," Metcalf said. "This rule is not going to decide the championship."

Metcalf also said that his team will receive good officiating this year.

"If you want good officiating you have to have a good ball club," he said. "A good ball club has to be able to cover up its mistakes and we have this kind of ball club."

Applications for basketball season tickets for the 12 home games are now being accepted at the Texas A&M ticket office. Reserve seat season tickets are \$36 for west side armchair seats and \$30 for north end bench seats. Faculty season tickets are \$24 for west side armchair seats and west side bleacher seats and \$18 for north end bench seats.

"Ticket orders should be mailed to the Athletic Ticket Office, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas 77843. All orders must be postmarked by Oct. 28."

Students are admitted to the basketball games free with student ID and activity cards.

"We should have an exciting ball club this season," Metcalf said. "I think the fans will enjoy watching them."

Johnson returned to Houston Rockets

United Press International
NEW YORK — Larry O'Brien said he and Larry O'Brien have reached an agreement on the trade of Boston Celtics player John Johnson to the Houston Rockets — but also said the team will keep the two second-round draft picks the Rockets had obtained from the Boston Celtics in the trade for Johnson.

The Rockets, however, must honor the no-cut terms of Johnson's contract, O'Brien added after reviewing testimony of a six-hour meeting held at NBA offices Monday with officials of both teams.

Both teams expressed satisfaction with the ruling.

"The record in this case persuades me that the only innocent party here is Mr. Johnson, whose simple and understandable desire is to play basketball and who has been prevented from doing that the last two weeks," said O'Brien, noting that the Celtics told Johnson to leave camp immediately after they received his contract from Houston.

The two teams had entered into a transaction in June whereby Houston traded the seven-year veteran to Boston for second-round draft choices in 1977 and 1978.

The dispute, however, began early this month when Boston received the contract. The Celtics announced they were cancelling the

trade because they had not been made aware that Johnson could not be cut or that his contract called for more compensation than they thought for its two remaining years.

"Based on all the findings and the entire record, I rule that Boston's request that the trade be nullified be granted, but that Boston's request for the return of its picks be denied," O'Brien said.

"Boston was willing to pay two draft choices for the privilege of taking a look at Johnson on the assumption that his contract was a no-cut contract," added the Commissioner.

In his ruling, O'Brien cited the failure on the part of both teams in carrying out trade procedures and failure on the part of the league office as well.

"I find that Houston did not willfully misrepresent the terms of the contract to Boston and I find that Boston did not know it was assuming a no-cut contract," O'Brien said.

"In short, there was no meeting of the minds on the trade negotiations."

Jeff Cohen, Boston's assistant general manager, said: "Our attitude is that the decision is fine. The issue was we would not accept Johnson under that contract. No second-rounder was going to make our team this year or would be likely to make it next year."

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