

Sophomore jinx has bitten Cougars

This has not been a year to remember for the Houston Cougars, but they can change that in a hurry if things happen to go right next Saturday.

It's Houston's turn to try to do something about No. 1 Texas this

week and the unbeaten Longhorns are the team the Cougars like to beat more than any other.

Feelings are running particularly high this year because of the "Darrell Shepard" affair and because the Longhorns exercised their option to play Houston in Rice Stadium as opposed to the Cougars home lair in the Astrodome.

And, as the amateur football psy-

chologists are want to point out, the situation is ripe for an upset.

Texas has had three emotional games in the last four weeks — downing Oklahoma, Arkansas and Texas Tech — while Houston finally got out of the mud last week with a 42-14 whipping of Texas Christian.

But fullback Earl Campbell, who advanced his career rushing total to 3,714 in Texas' 26-0 win over 13th-ranked Tech last Saturday, sees no letdown in the forecast.

"We were ready to play against Tech," said Campbell. "But that's nothing new with this group. We were ready to play last week and we'll be ready next week."

"I've always wondered about teams that have to get up for certain games. What do they do on those weeks when they don't?"

"What this team does on Saturday is just step out there and play the best we know how. It's that simple."

The Southwest Conference race

now had dwindled to three teams. Joining the unbeaten Longhorns at 4-0 in league play is ninth-ranked Texas A&M, which had to come from behind to defeat SMU last week, 38-21, and has this week off.

And one game back at 3-1 is Arkansas, an easy 30-7 winner over Rice last week and a host to the

Baylor Bears this week. In the other conference games this week Texas Tech will be at home to TCU and SMU will entertain Rice.

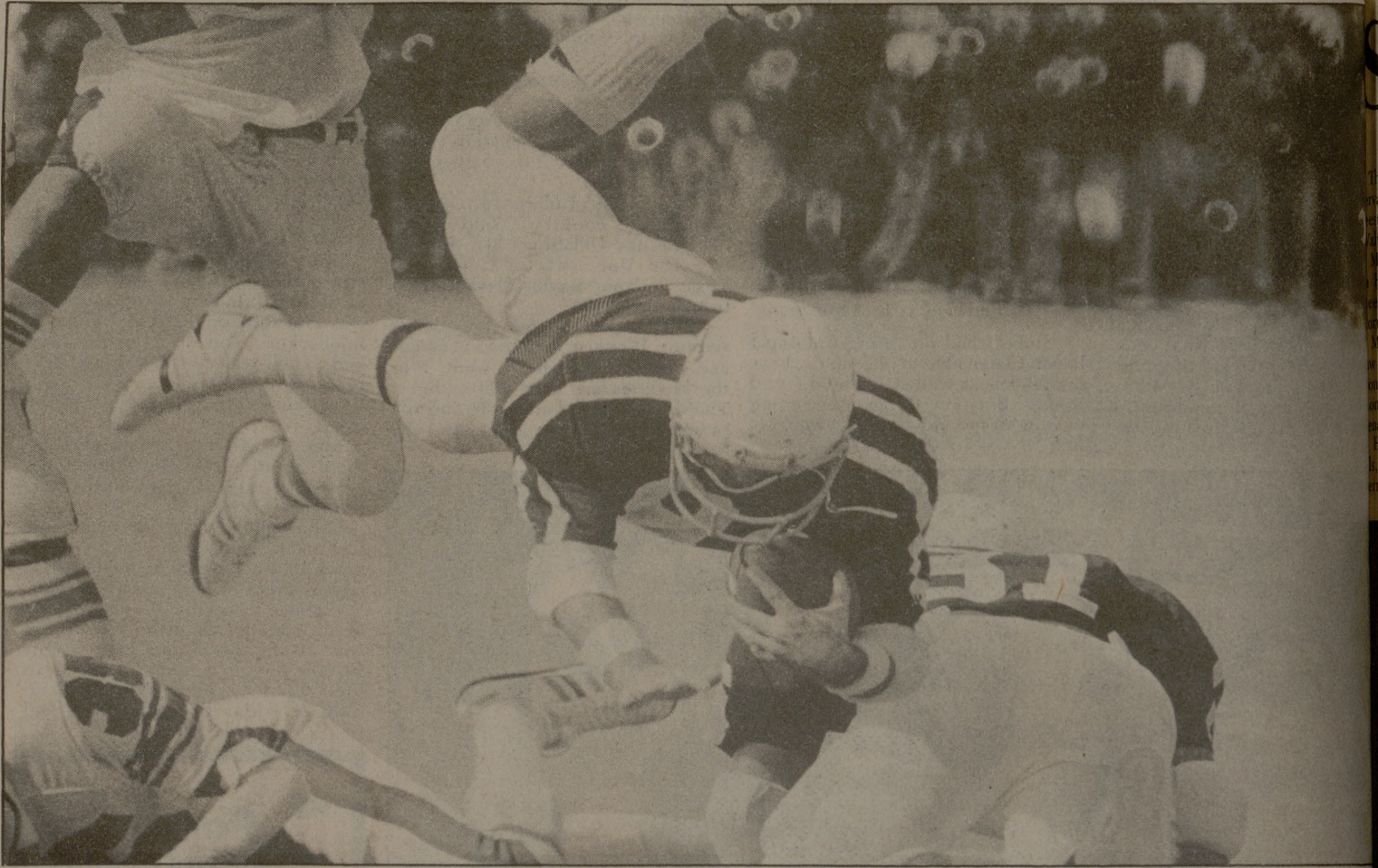
Houston had lost two straight going into the TCU game last week. The Cougars have had their conference championship hopes dashed with the early season loss of quar-

terback Danny Davis, been placed on probation because of the recruiting of Shepard and were even asked to give up their television date with Texas A&M Dec. 3 so the Aggies could be shown against Texas Thanksgiving weekend.

The Cougars refused to surrender their television appearance since it

will be their last in at least a year.

Houston is upset over the year probation because of suspicion on the Cougars' part that the University of Texas played some trick. Shepard, a highly sought after transfer from Odessa, Tex., signed Texas at the last minute to sign Houston last spring.



Perfect three-point landing

David Walker (No. 8) dives for a key first down against SMU. Walker gained a record 182 yards on 27 carries. The

Aggies defeated the Mustangs 38-21 — Saturday at Kyle Field.

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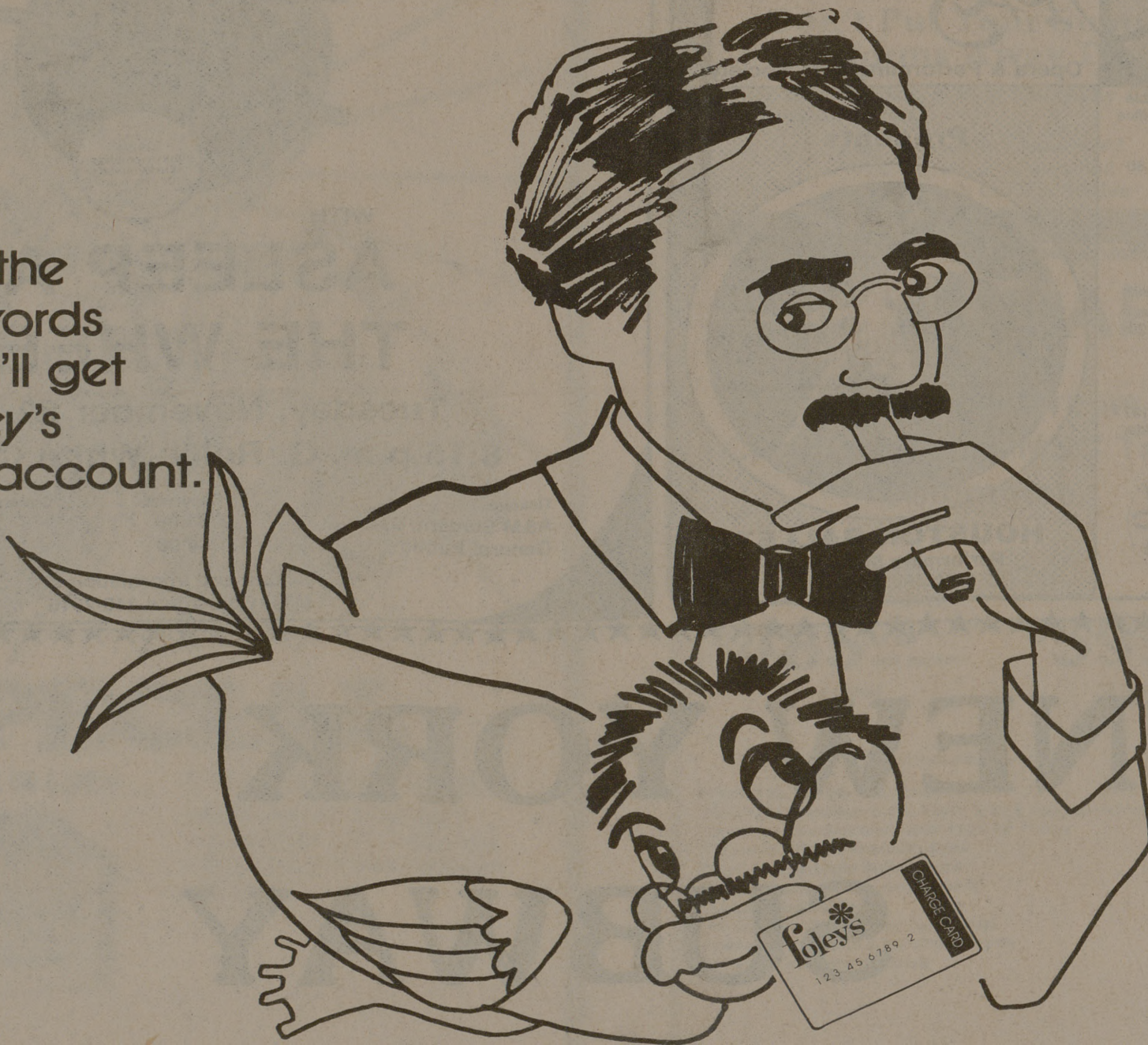
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Shepard case not closed
United Press International
HOUSTON — Southwest Conference officials met Sunday to hear a report on the illegal recruitment case of University of Houston quarterback Darrell Shepard, but no public action was taken.
Albert M. Witte, conference president, said the case was not closed. He refused to discuss the meeting.
Shepard, a freshman in Odessa, Tex., remains on the Cougars team despite the NCAA levy of a one-year probation against the school for illegal recruiting visits and illegal help in obtaining a car loan.
Shepard began driving a Firebird Trans Am a few days after he signed a conference letter intent to play with Houston.

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