

Davis, Cougars 'think cotton' this year

United Press International
HOUSTON — If there is such an animal as a Southwest Conference defending champion-emeritus, the Houston Cougars are it.

As football fans know, Texas won the league title last season with a perfect record which included a solid thumping of the Cougars. But that 35-21 Longhorns win was against Houston's "interim" team, in the opinion of quarterback Danny Davis.

"We prefer to look back and say we are coming off the season before

last," Davis said. "Why not? Those were the good times. And many of the players who went to the Cotton Bowl are still here."

The 1976 season was the one in which unknown sophomore quarterback Davis whipped the Cougars to a surprise conference co-championship and a victory in the Cotton Bowl.

Then, in the second game of 1977, Davis suffered a shoulder separation. Stellar linebacker David Hodge, selected to one preseason

All-America squad, quit school. Then the Houston football program was slapped with a one-year probation for the illegal recruitment of Darrel Shepard.

A rash of injuries added weight to the incredible nosedive and made it impossible for the Cougars to approach their preseason goal, the national championship.

In all, 47 players in practice this fall were on hand when Houston beat Maryland 30-21 in the Cotton Bowl.

Davis, for one, is more conservative in his choice of T-shirts this season. During preseason 1976 he wore a shirt which had "1976 SVC champs" stenciled on it. Then he upped the ante and during preseason 1977 he wore one which read "1977 National Champs." This training camp his shirt says simply, "Think Cotton."

"Sometimes," he said, "you can feel things. We didn't have much to talk about last year. The players around now want to go somewhere, not just stay home." Davis appears fully recovered from shoulder surgery and he has

already been tabbed as the starter over Delrick Brown, a shellshocked sophomore who performed as well as could be expected after Davis' injury.

"He understands," Davis said of Brown's acceptance of his back-up role.

The brash quarterback's supporting cast, as talented as anyone in the conference except possibly Arkansas, includes linebacker Hodge and two other defenders who were injured last season, tackle Theodis Williams and nose guard Robert Oglesby.

and Williams back definitely helps," said Cougars head coach Bill Yeoman. "We are a year older and that means a great deal to us."

Because Houston coaches were forced to play younger players in a disappointing 6-5 season, defensive coach Don Todd admitted, "We've got better depth than we've had in a long, long time."

The most inexperienced position on the field may be at running back. Last year's backups, Randy Love and Emmett King, lead the competition which includes youngsters Terrell Clark, John Newhouse and Allen Polk.

Houston, with Yeoman directing the team for 16 years, has not lacked for offense, averaging 435 yards per game. But with the 6-3, 2-11 Hodge back, the defense may outplay the offense.

Hodge left school before last season saying he was tired of football. After a year of work, he returned to school and to the team. According to linebacker coach Gary Mullins, "Hodge alone would have made the difference in the outcome of a couple of games last year."

Davis added, "I'm sure glad he's back."

Conference notes

Ags work on passing

United Press International
COLLEGE STATION — Texas A&M, known chiefly as a running team, worked exclusively on its passing attack Monday with quarterbacks Mike Mosley and David Beal drawing praise from coach Emory Bellard.

The two sophomore quarterbacks worked with receivers Doug Teague, Gerald Carter and Mike Whitwell against the No. 3 defense.

AUSTIN — Texas coach Fred Akers said Monday he was pleased with the continued improvement of his freshmen, but said the defensive unit is far ahead of the offense at this early stage in fall workouts.

"But that's the way it should be," said Akers. "Because the defensive unit has nine starters back while the offense is rebuilding."

Randy McEachern, Mark McBeth, Jon Aune and Sammy Ansley were working in that order at quarterback. Johnny "Ham" Jones and Kermit Goode were the No. 1 running backs while "Lam" Jones and Brad Beck were running with the third offensive backfield.

FORT WORTH — The TCU coaching staff moved defensive lineman Mike Isaac, a 6-3, 245-pound sophomore, to offensive tackle Monday, the first day of classes for the Horned Frogs.

It was the first day TCU had had only one workout and it is also the first day that coach F. A. Dry expressed displeasure with a practice session.

"It just wasn't a good practice," he said. "We lacked execution and we didn't have the explosiveness I expected today."

Meanwhile, TCU athletic director Frank Windeger announced that the school would administer a special fund to assist in a trip to the Soviet Union by paralyzed former football player Kent Waldrep.

Waldrep, 24, who suffered a spinal cord injury four years ago in a TCU game against Alabama, has ar-

ranged for a trip to the Soviet Union for special treatment.

Doctors in Leningrad have had success in dealing with spinal injuries.

"Congressman Jim Wright and President Carter are just a few of the people responsible for helping clear the red tape for Waldrep's trip to Russia," said Windeger.

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Jill Hall, Off-Campus Student Association President
Mike Pettus, Hassle-Free Chairman

RESOURCE TABLES

Student Activities, MSC, Intramurals, Off-Campus Center, BBB, Chamber of Commerce

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PRESENTED BY MR. MALON SOUTHERLAND OF THE TAMU PLACEMENT OFFICE

TOPICS TO BE COVERED:

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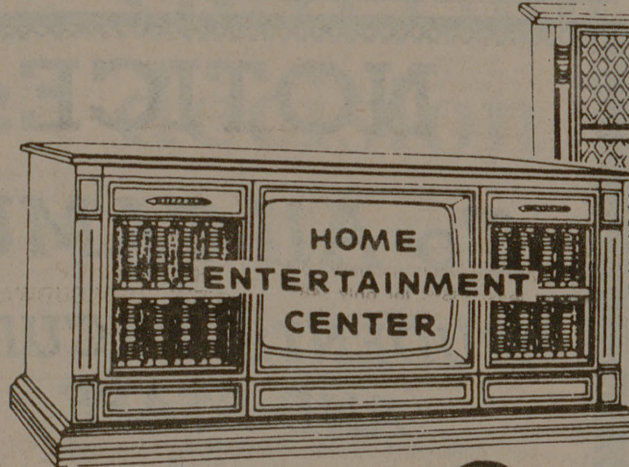
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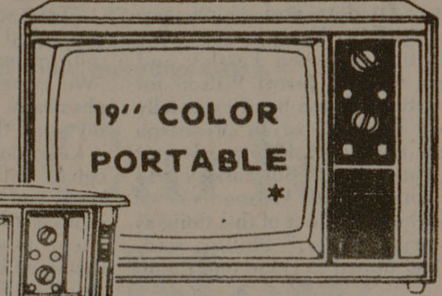


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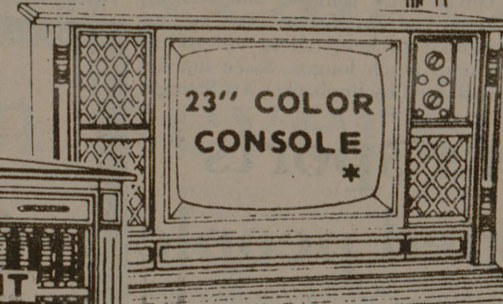
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TALENT NEEDED

A talent show is being planned for Saturday, September 2, to aid in the Jerry Lewis Muscular Dystrophy Labor Day Drive. We are asking for volunteer talent to participate in this benefit program. All individuals and groups are encouraged to participate . . . musical bands, singers, choirs, comedians, dancers . . . any type of entertainment. For details call 693-6300 and ask for Jim Johnson or John Yarborough. And remember, it's for Jerry's kids.