

Mark Patterson

Eagles must earn respect of SWC

Respectability. It is similar to credit these days; it's hard to achieve and easy to abuse.

North Texas State University will take its shot at achieving its share of respectability when the Mean Green Eagles travel to Austin Saturday to take on the big boys of the Southwest Conference, the University of Texas Longhorns.

Some people view North Texas' chances Saturday similar to those faced by a man known as Custer. But it's NTSU's only shot at a SWC team this season and the game is very important to the Eagles.

"Any time we play a SWC school it's definitely more important than playing any other intersectional game," NTSU athletic director and head coach Hayden Fry said. "It's important to our long-range goals of getting into the conference. We don't necessarily have to win, just prove we can compete at that level."

"It's always a great honor to play the University of Texas because they traditionally win the conference and are ranked in the top 10 nationally. This club (NTSU) isn't in awe of them, they just look at the game as a great challenge and opportunity."

North Texas better make good their opportunity this weekend to defeat Texas. Their contest this weekend is the second of a three-game series with Texas dating back to 1976 when Texas defeated NTSU 17-14. The two clubs won't meet again until 1981.

"Texas was kind enough to put us on the schedule and we're grateful," Fry said. "Being on their schedule is the most valuable thing we have here at North Texas. It can do us nothing but good to play a team of their caliber."

Fans of Fry's Eagles understand the importance of this game against UT. Ticket sales through Tuesday are far above the rate sold for the 1976 game. Over 10,000 fans of North Texas will make the three-hour drive to Austin to see their team try and slay Goliath.

The Eagles will field a high potent offense featuring running back Bernard Jackson, the nation's fourth leading rusher with 851 yards on the year. Quarterbacking the Eagles is Jordan Case, currently ranked eighth in total offense nationally.

They'll need all the offense available against Texas, especially since the men in orange are coming off of a humiliating defeat at the hands of Oklahoma.

"Their losing to Oklahoma was the worst thing that could have happened to us," Fry said. "If they would have won they might have taken us lightly, looking forward to Arkansas in two weeks. But with the loss they'll play a heck of a lot harder to try to regain their prestige."

The atmosphere among the players at Texas is relaxed after last week's losing effort.

"This week in practice we look like we have everything under control," Texas coach Fred Akers said Wednesday. "I didn't see anything that worries me in our game against Oklahoma, at least anything that worrying will cure. We'll be ready Saturday."

"This is a big game for North Texas but it's just as big a game for us simply because it's the game we're playing this week. It really doesn't matter if it's North Texas or someone else on the schedule. It's our next opponent and that's the way we look at it."

The game means a little bit more to North Texas State University. It gives the men from Denton a chance to improve their credit rating within their home state. And thus far that hasn't been such an easy task.

Mosley's illness hampers performance

By SEAN PETTY
Battalion Staff

If it is possible that Texas A&M quarterback Mike Mosley was running on just six cylinders instead of all eight Saturday against Texas Tech, just think what he can do when he is finely tuned.

Mosley, the sophomore from Humble, has been battling a severe cold and nervous stomach for over three weeks. His illness has kept him from eating properly, making his relatively small 175-pound body weak.

"I lost six or seven pounds," Mosley said. "I was only eating one meal a day and even when I ate that, I felt like I was going to get sick."

One meal a day is no where near enough nourishment for a man who must tangle with men almost twice his size every Saturday afternoon.

"I think most of my problem is nerves," he said. "There has been a lot of pressure on me this year and I guess it's just getting to my stomach."

"Mike was just sick," head coach Emory Ballard said. "He was sick just about every way you can get sick. He was coughing, nauseous, throwing up and he had a cold. He couldn't eat and he couldn't sleep."

"Mike is a real competitor. We took every precaution to make sure there was nothing seriously wrong with him. He came out there last

Monday and practiced the whole time. He loves to compete and he has something to compete with (backup quarterback David Beal). He (Mosley) loves to play the game."

Mosley was sent to St. Joseph's hospital in Bryan after the Memphis State game to have tests run and see if they could get him running on all eight cylinders again.

"They did everything to me," Mosley said. "They ran a lower and upper gastro-intestinal test and took X-rays of my stomach and all the tests came up negative. They just don't know what it is."

Mosley is eating again and has started gaining his weight back. His weight and size are things that must be taken into consideration throughout the season.

The question is, can Mosley's small frame take the constant pounding of a game as the season goes on?

"Since I am pretty skinny I try and stay out of the way of those big linemen as much as possible," he said. "Each week I can feel the bumps and bruises a little more. My shoulder is a little sore and so is my back but nothing that can hinder my play in any way."

"I was pretty weak against Memphis State, especially right before halftime. The heat was pretty bad that game and that didn't help any-

thing. Against Tech, I was a little weak at the end of the first half but got my second wind in the second half."

No wonder he was tired in the first half. He had already rushed for 99 yards.

Now that he is on the road to recovery, Mosley looks ahead to this week's game with the University of Houston in the Astrodome.

"I don't mind playing in the Dome," he said. "Although I had a bit of a hard time catching my breath in there last year when we played USC. I guess maybe it was because of the smoke trapped in there."

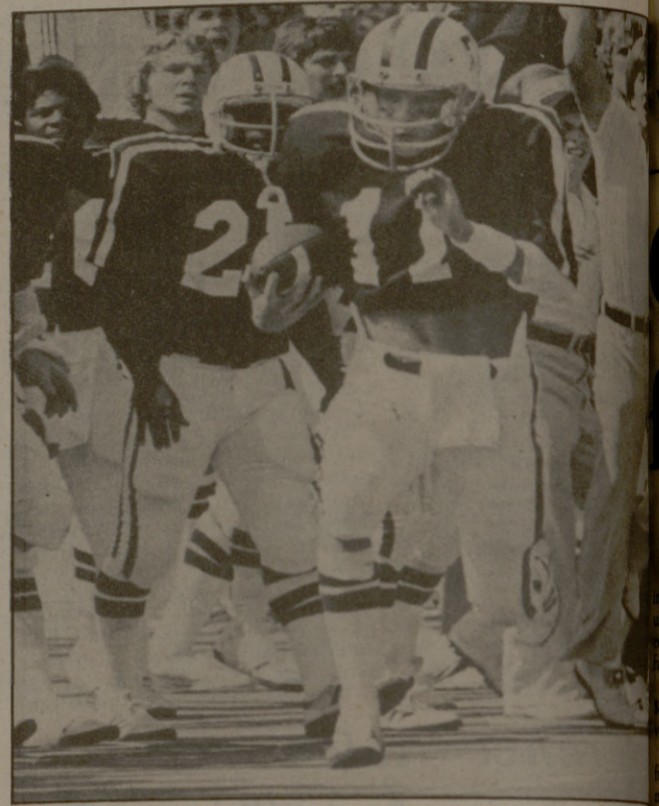
As far as taking a beating, Mosley sees the game with Houston as being very physical.

"Houston is so big," he said. "David Hodge (linebacker) will hit you about as hard as anyone."

If Mosley can get over his ailments, his performances should improve accordingly. But if there is any room for improvement, Ballard has not seen it.

"Mosley likes the option, that's really what he knows best," he said. "And I like it that he likes the option. He runs it about as well as it can be run. So he and I are walking down the same road, and I like that, too."

Now if they can just walk down that road healthy, it may be a very beautiful road lined with cotton.

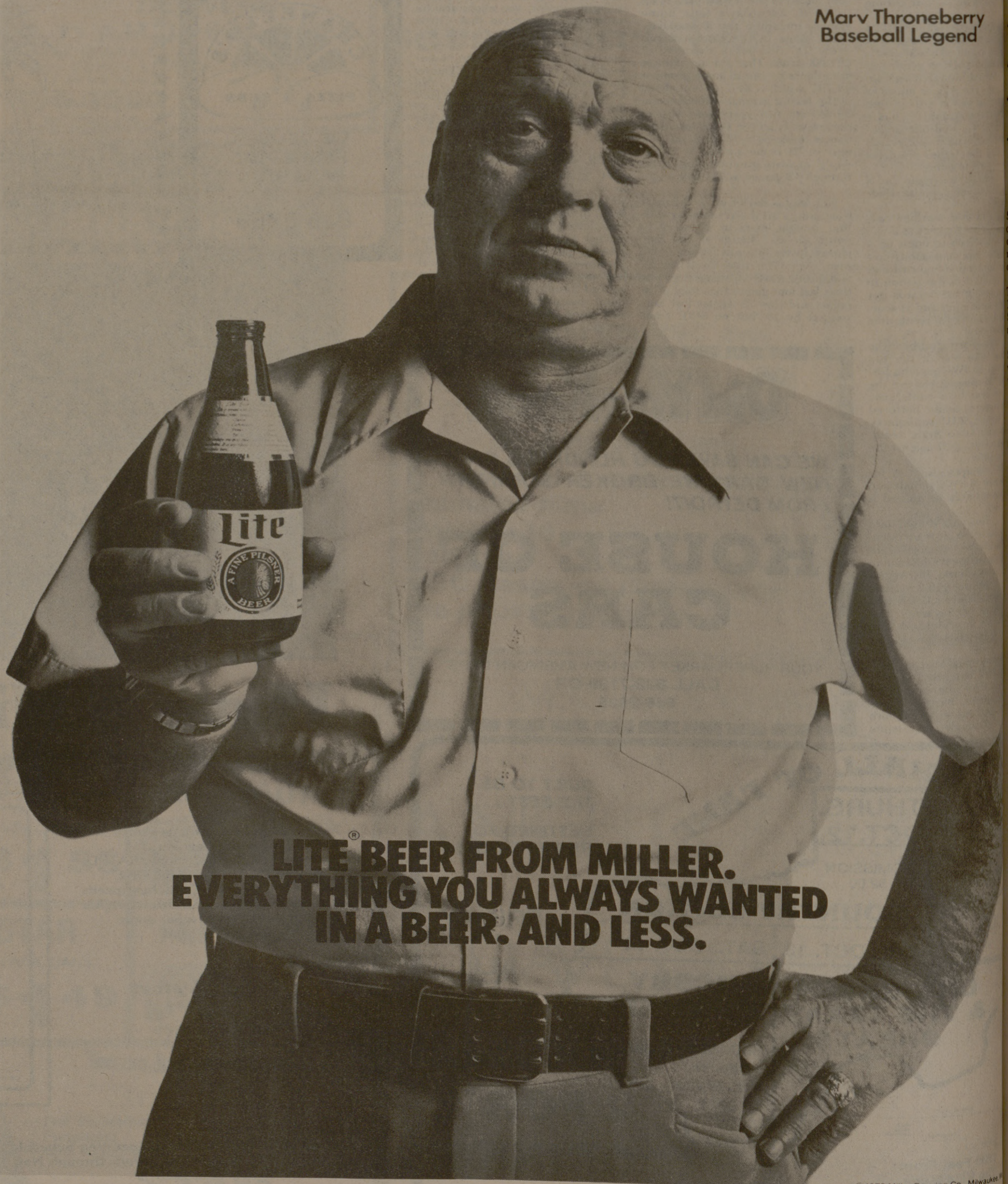


Mosley runs for a 64-yard touchdown against Texas Tech.

Battalion photo by Pat...

"BACK WHEN I WAS IN SCHOOL, MY BASEBALL COACH TOLD ME THAT SOMEDAY THERE'D BE A LESS FILLING BEER. HE ALSO TOLD ME TO TRY OUT FOR GLEE CLUB!"

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Cowboys must stick with Washington

United Press International
DALLAS — The Dallas Cowboys put together a pretty good outing against the New York Giants last Sunday and with the winless St. Louis Cardinals coming up, there is the obvious chance for a letdown.

But Cowboys Coach Tom Landry said that if Dallas allows itself to let down at any time for the rest of the year, the team is in for trouble.

"We are not just playing against the teams we face each week," Landry said. "We are playing against the level that the Washington Redskins have reached this year."

"As long as Washington (6-0 so far) is winning we have to keep win-

ning, too. So it doesn't make any difference who we are playing we have to be prepared to play to win. If we let down against St. Louis or any other team we will have a big problem."

Dallas trails the streaking Redskins by two games in the NFC East.

"Washington is doing what it has to win," Landry said. "We have to play Green Bay yet, and they are much improved. We have Miami and Bob Griese is coming back around. Then there's Minnesota and we have Philadelphia twice and Washington again, of course, and New England, too."

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