

Randy Hertel

Owls use shotgun in desperation

United Press International
HOUSTON — For the first time since Don Meredith played for SMU and had his hair cut in a flat-top on the hilltop campus, the shotgun offense is back in the Southwest Conference.
And just as in the case of Meredith and the Mustangs, the Rice Owls of Coach Ray Alborn are using the formation in passing situations out of desperation.
"We went to the shotgun because of the big defensive linemen," Alborn said Tuesday. "Because those guys are so big and awesome, we

just figured they'd have to come another seven yards to get our quarterback."
Rice went to the formation Saturday against Texas A&M. In Alborn's shotgun, quarterback Randy Hertel receives the center snap from seven yards behind center. He then backpedals a few steps and is ready to throw.
So far, Rice has a 1-6 record and has been unable to slow the blitz of Texas, Oklahoma, LSU or Texas A&M. The Owls face an all-out rush by the Arkansas Razorbacks in Fayetteville Saturday afternoon.

"They've lost two straight, which is real good news for us," Alborn said. "We're playing them on homecoming and that makes me feel good also. It is good news to know that they are not going to let anything happen to the plane or bus getting us in there."
Dan Hampton, the Razorbacks' premiere 6-5, 260 defensive tackle, has caused Alborn to consider modifications of the shotgun this week.
"He should be considered for the Heisman," Alborn said. "He's not only a big guy who can run, but he

plays hard every snap. So we're going to go to the shotgun and we may set our quarterback a little farther than seven yards behind the center. Say, 14 yards."
Rice was fairly successful with the shotgun when they used it Saturday, but the 21 points they scored in the second half were 17 shy of a tie.
"I was pleased with the way we ran it. We've got some things off it we didn't use," Alborn said.
Last half nothing-to-lose comebacks have been Rice's trademark for many seasons, and Alborn wishes he knew how to reverse

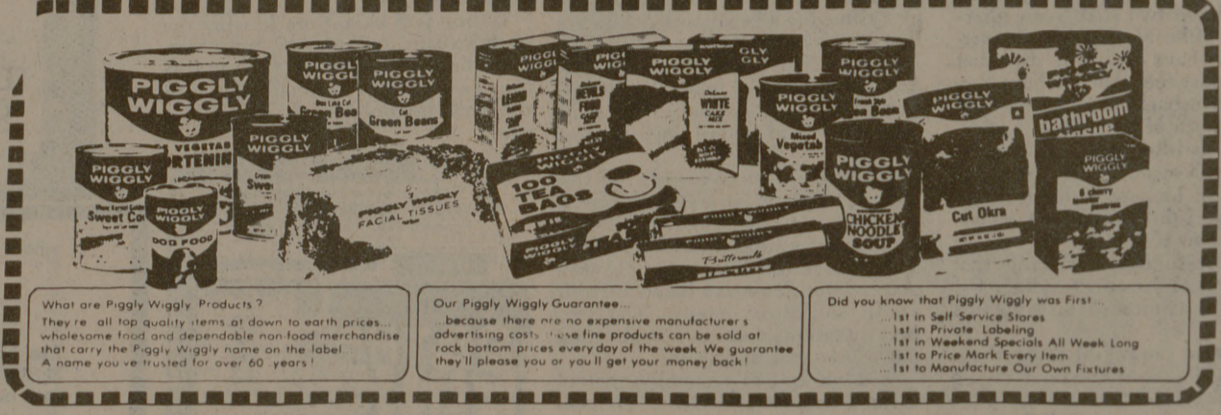
some distressing numbers. In the first halves of their seven ballgames this season, the cumulative score is opponents 162, Rice 27.
"The only thing I can figure is that they've (Rice players) been putting themselves under too much pressure," he said.
Despite playing closer (101-67) in the second half, Alborn argued that his team does not score just against other teams' scrubs.
"The implication that they (Texas A&M) allowed us to score is a bunch of garbage. They played their second-string a little bit in the third

quarter, and if you'll notice a film they had their big runs in most of the game," he said.
Alborn said he has not thought a reasonable way to combat team's poor first-half performance.
"It's a one o'clock game (Saturday) and we're going to come out (a.m.) and knock the hell out of another for 2½ hours, let them come back in, rinse down and back and start the ballgame," Alborn said.

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SWC briefs

United Press International
FORT WORTH — Injury woes continue to plague the Horned Frogs as they prepare Saturday's conference game against Houston in the AstroDome.
Head coach F.A. Dry said Saturday's starting center Eddie Grimes, who missed last week's game because of pneumonia, is questionable for Saturday.
Grimes' replacement, sophomore John Prater, who Dry said is an excellent job against Baylor, is questionable. Dry said Prater has a virus and will not practice this week.

Sophomore flanker Stewart may be out for the week after X-rays showed a bone fracture in his hip. Dry said further tests will be run on Stewart this week.

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — Kansas' Mark Andersen won individual honors and four team titles finished in the top 12 to lead the Razorbacks to their fifth consecutive conference cross country championship.
Anderson, a former Texas school state champion mile runner in San Antonio, overtook and defeated champion Mike Rice of Rice with 150 yards remaining in the 10,000-meter race at Fayetteville Monday.
Andersen won the race in 34:05, a record time of 30:57 set by Andersen in 1977.
The Razorbacks finished with 44 points, and Rice was second with 36 points. Other team totals were Baylor, 109; Texas A&M, 131; Southern Methodist, 135; Texas Tech, 175; and Texas Christian, 175.
Novelli finished with a time of 30:14 and Arkansas' Mark Matton came in third with a time of 30:27. Manfred Kohrs of Texas A&M finished fourth in 30:28 and Marty Froelick of Rice fifth in 30:28.

Landry searched for keys

United Press International
DALLAS — Since the Cowboys' loss to the Minnesota Vikings last Thursday night, Tom Landry and his staff have been looking for some keys to a winning performance.
Whether they have found them or not is still a question. Landry's team has won the last two games but has not won since the end of the season.
"I was just taking a look at our offense and defense and how we accomplished it in the first nine games," Landry said. "Mainly we looked at it to see if we could improve on some things we thought we could improve on in a short period of time."

"Actually we are doing things well. Offensively I think we are just one touchdown away from being a very good offensive team. But that's a very important touchdown. That separates most of us anyway."
Landry, however, was pessimistic on what plays were being found disfavor in the early part of the season. Some of the criticism in the most recent weeks has been the running of Tom Landry on wide plays, many of which have been ineffective.
"It's just technical stuff that I wouldn't interest you in," Landry said. "The important things to you are the ones that are a positive effect. If you see a positive effect, we have accomplished something. We don't see anything positive out of this then we just wait until the weekend of beautiful weather."
Landry said the main problem was not what plays were being called, but an overall syndrome has been with the team since the beginning of the season.
"Our problem has always been a bit of mental preparation. Coming back from the Super Bowl and not ever being up to the intensity that you need in a big game. We need a good one. If we do it, we probably pick up considerable

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55	550	1 in 34,000	1 in 11,500	1 in 6,000
60	600	1 in 30,000	1 in 10,500	1 in 5,500
65	650	1 in 27,000	1 in 9,500	1 in 5,000
70	700	1 in 24,000	1 in 8,500	1 in 4,500
75	750	1 in 21,000	1 in 7,500	1 in 4,000
80	800	1 in 18,000	1 in 6,500	1 in 3,500
85	850	1 in 16,000	1 in 5,500	1 in 3,000
90	900	1 in 14,000	1 in 4,500	1 in 2,500
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