

the sports

Coogs, Horns highlight SWC action

By MARK PATTERSON
Battalion Staff
Get the beer cold, the popcorn popped and the ice crushed, football fans. You're in for a big weekend of sports.

Not only do you get boxing on Friday night and pro football Sunday night, but you get a college football double-header Saturday that may decide the conference winners in both the Big Eight and the Southeastern Conferences.

The top game in the country pits the No. 1 Oklahoma Sooners against the No. 4 Nebraska Cornhuskers in Lincoln. Both clubs are 5-0 in the Big Eight and, as has become the trend in past years, this game will decide who represents the conference in the Orange Bowl on New Year's Day.

But that is the second game of the TV double-header Saturday. The first has LSU, ranked 10th and 11th in the two national wire service polls

Aggies win

The Texas A&M University volleyball team defeated Texas Thursday night in C. Rollie White Coliseum. The Aggies won with scores of 15-13, 15-6, 8-15, 15-12.

Texas A&M is now seeded second in the Southwest Region Tournament that is to be held at Arlington next Thursday through Nov. 18. Texas is seeded sixth.

with a 6-1 record, visiting the city of Birmingham to face No. 3 Alabama. LSU carries a 4-1 conference record into the game. Its only loss was to Georgia, a team Bear Bryant and crew does not have to face this season.

Alabama and Georgia are both 4-0 in Southeast Conference play. Due to their conference scheduling, the two teams could tie for the SEC crown with identical 8-0 records. If so, Georgia would win the Sugar Bowl berth due to Alabama's representation last season. If so, the No. 3 team in the nation would be looking for a bowl to play in come Jan 1.

Not a bad pair of games to watch Saturday after you get the lawn mowed. But people in the Southwest are being cheated out of seeing another top game in the country this weekend.

The Houston Cougars and Texas Longhorns, both undefeated in Southwest Conference play this season, will tangle in Austin Saturday to decide on the favorite for this year's Cotton Bowl berth. And the game won't be on TV.

Because of the probation the NCAA placed on Houston last season for violations in the recruiting of Danny Davis, the Cougars are prevented from appearing on television this season. It's ironic that people at Texas blew the whistle on Houston and now it's Texas who is being left out of this week's TV schedule. And TV money.

But there will be an excess of 80,000 people jammed into Memorial Stadium to see the game live and it has the makings of being as exciting as any game played this season. Since being knocked off in their season opener against Memphis State the Houston Cougars have rolled over every team in their path. And they've done it behind a defense that has become one of the stingiest in the country.

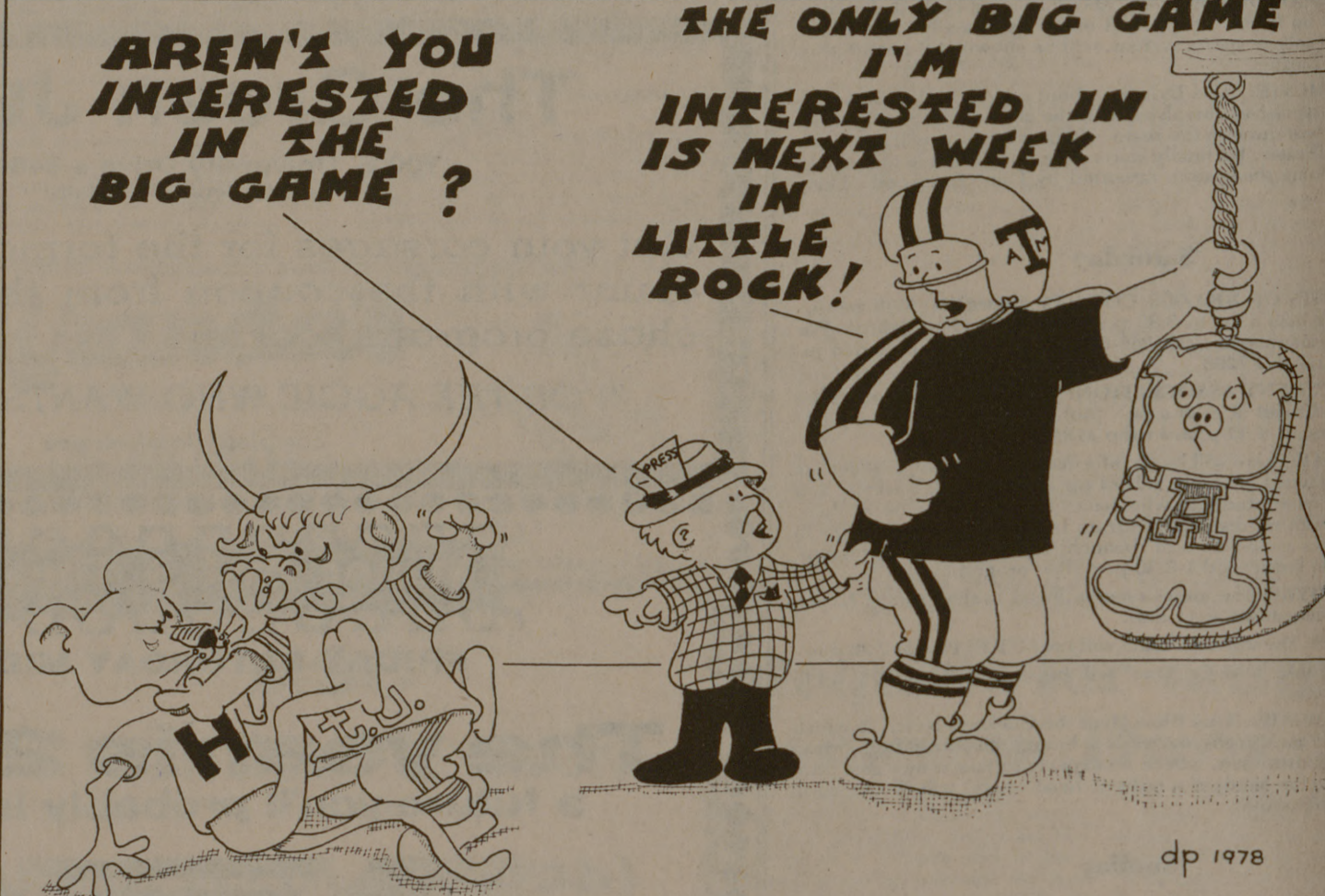
The Cougars are allowing 131.6 yards rushing per game while giving up 15.5 points per game. But in their last four games they have allowed 118 yards rushing per game and 43 points, or 10.7 points per game.

Impressive, but even more so when you couple the averages with the UH offense. With the return of Danny Davis as quarterback this season the Cougar offense is scoring 31.2 points per game. They have compiled a 297.2 yard rushing average per game while adding 113.2 more yards through the air.

"This team has surprised me," Houston coach Bill Yeoman said about the Cougars. "I'm afraid I didn't read the tea leaves very well at the beginning of the year. I did not know that they were going to be able to come on as fast as they have. And they're not where they can get either."

"I guess I'm just a lousy prognosticator." But tea leaves and past performances won't give the Cougars a win over Texas and a spot in the New Year's classic. Somehow they're going to have to stop the Longhorns' offense, a task that hasn't been easily done this season.

Because of the Longhorns' depth at running back only Johnny Ham Jones is ranked among the top 10 rushers in the conference. He is currently eighth with a 54.5 yard per game average. As a unit the Longhorn rushing offense is averaging 220 yards per game. But the



dp 1978

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CLOSED
SATURDAY, NOV. 11
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"BEST IN LIVE COUNTRY WESTERN ENTERTAINMENT"
HOURS
Thurs., Fri. 7:00-12:00
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1313 S. College, Bryan
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SUNDAY EVENING BUFFET
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egg rolls Beef stew (Szechuan) broccoli
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ALL YOU CAN EAT FOR \$2.98
FOR YOURSELF OR YOUR WHOLE FAMILY
RESERVATIONS NOT REQUIRED BUT RECOMMENDED

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THIS COUPON GOOD FOR ONE WASHER FREE
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Cougars won't have to worry about Ham this weekend. It was announced Wednesday that Jones will be lost to the team for two weeks with separated rib cartilage. Ham will be replaced by freshman halfback Brad Beck.

Taking up Ham's slack, along with Beck, will be the Texas receiving corps, headed by Johnny Lam

Jones. With fleet-footed Lam as his primary receiver, quarterback Randy McEachern and the Texas offense can score from anywhere on the field.

"Texas has the big play capabilities," Yeoman said about the Texas attack. "Randy McEachern is not as totally gifted as some quarterbacks, but he is a violent competitor. If anyone can beat you, he can."

Two years ago, on their last visit to Memorial Stadium, the Cougars blew the Longhorns off the field 30-0. The victory broke Texas' home game winning streak at 42, marked the first time a Longhorn team had been shut out at home since 1961 and propelled Houston onto the 1977 Cotton Bowl.

Texas has won 11 straight games in Austin. Under Fred Akers the Horns have won 17 of 19 games, including a 35-21 victory over Houston last season. The Longhorns have enjoyed great home field success, yet they don't know the reasons why.

"I don't know what it is playing here," quarterback Randy McEachern said. "I really don't feel different playing at home. I don't see anybody feels we're unbeatable home. But sure, I think it helps your confidence being here. You hear the crowds and you see the fans are with you."

Most of the fans in Memorial Stadium Saturday will be Texas Longhorns. And the Cougar fans who were able to buy tickets will be as vocal and noisy as ever for their team.

But the fans of both schools were unable to get to the game probably be propped up in their TV sets, a drink in one hand and a radio in the other, watching one heck of a football week.

Smith does it his way

Everybody knows the song "I Did It My Way" is not about football — well, that is not until Darrell Smith came along. Through his actions on the field, this versatile Aggie has become the song personified. Smith has certainly had his share

of opportunities to do things his way. During his career at Texas A&M, the 5-foot-9, 170-pound Smith has played at not one, but three positions, as well as returning punts and kickoffs. With all that shifting around, did he ever find a position he liked better than the others?

"Well, to tell the truth, I liked playing them all," Smith said. "As far as I'm concerned, it doesn't matter where I play, as long as I get to play."

The Fort Worth native's latest position switch came last spring when he was moved from split end to cornerback on the Aggie defense.

"Sure, I miss being on offense, but I like taking the challenge of playing college defense with no experience," Smith said. "I enjoyed playing split end because I could go out and do my own thing and there wasn't a whole lot of traffic. I fell the same about cornerback, only in sort of a reverse way. What's more important than anything is the self-satisfaction I get from doing things my way out on the field."

The 21-year-old Smith credits defensive coordinator Melvin Robertson and former Texas A&M cornerback Lester Hayes with helping him make the big switch.

"They both spent a lot of time with me," he said, "and as a result I had a lot of good teaching."

A graduate of Fort Worth Wyatt High, the senior cornerback has come a long way in terms of playing experience. After making all-district and all-Tarrant County as a running back and a safety, Smith came to Texas A&M as a freshman running back. After playing in the first game of 1975, the season came to a grinding halt for Smith when he broke his

collarbone in a workout. He saw action again until the end of the season. The first three games he played in the backfield, while returning punts and punts to earn his first football letter in 1977, he started the game at split end as part of the Aggie offense.

Bellard's wishbone offense. The 5-10, 120-pound Smith averaged only 12 passes all year. He credits his low total to the wishbone offense, which will be a major factor in the Aggie's success this season.

"Because of the emphasis on the ground attack, being a split end, the wishbone is like being a blocking back," Smith said.

Although he has run back in the past, Smith is now a punter only punts. Ranking high in the Southwest Conference punting this season, Smith concentrates on just trying to make sure he catches the ball.

"The only time I don't try to catch a punt is when it's inside the line," he said. "Usually the punter is prepared to take the risk of the ball landing inside the 10 yard line going into the end zone."

Smith says he always tries to break every punt return for a touchdown and brings up the momentum. "I feel like every week we need a big play from the special teams because every time the other teams do something it helps the morale of the whole team."

Hoping to play professional football after he graduates next year, Smith sees the Aggies as unpredictable since we don't rely on wishbone exclusively anymore.

DANVER'S RESTAURANT
201 DOMINIK ST.-COLLEGE STATION
FIRST ANNUAL WORLD-CHAMPIONSHIP HAMBURGER EATING CONTEST
NOVEMBER 10TH, 5:30 P.M.
TWO ENTRIES PER ORGANIZATION
I.E., CORPS COMPANIES, FOOTBALL TEAM, FRATERNITIES, SORORITIES, DORMS, SPORTS TEAMS, ETC.
\$5.00 ENTRY FEE FOR EACH INDIVIDUAL; PROCEEDS DONATED TO UNITED-WAY (MALE AND FEMALE DIVISIONS)
1ST PRIZE - \$25 & "Champion" Danver's T-Shirt
2ND PRIZE \$15 for your organization fund
3RD PRIZE \$10 and FREE Frisbees
ALL CONTESTANTS RECEIVE FREE DANVER'S T-SHIRTS
RULES:
1) All the Danver's 1/3 pound Hamburger's You Can Eat in 15 min.
2) All Hamburgers should be consumed before attempting another.
3) No "Help from Your Friends" - (Seconds Allowed)
4) Winning Contestant must not get sick on premises.
5) Accurate scales and weighing of remains to determine winners.
6) Judges results will be final.
WORLD'S HAMBURGER-EATING CHAMPIONSHIP ENTRY BLANK
ORGANIZATION _____
CONTESTANT _____
HEIGHT _____ WEIGHT _____
AGE _____ SEX _____
(Return Entry Blank to Danver's Restaurant)

ACU-I COMPETITION
MSC Recreation
Saturday, Nov. 11
9:00 a.m.
Kyle Field
Nov. 14-17
12:00 noon
MSC 212 and 225
Nov. 17-18
7:00 p.m.
MSC Games Area
Tuesday, Nov. 14
6:00 p.m.
MSC Games Area

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