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Roberts, 'man upstairs' credited

Sims wins Heisman Trophy

United Press International  
NORMAN, Okla. — Heisman Trophy winner Billy Sims shared credit for his achievement Tuesday with his roommate and "the man upstairs."

Sims, the third Oklahoma player and sixth junior to win college football's top prize, appeared relaxed and confident before television cameras and reporters at a news conference minutes after his selection was announced.

He was wearing jeans, a white OU t-shirt, a red cap with a large B on it, an orange windbreaker and a big smile. He said the B on his cap originally was for the Boston Red Sox, but it now stood for Billy.

"I never thought I was going to win," Sims said. "I thought it was pretty close, but I thought Rick Leach would win it."

Leach, the Michigan quarterback, finished third in the voting of more than 900 sports writers and sportscasters behind Sims and Penn State quarterback Chuck Fusina. Southern California running back Charles White, also a junior, was fourth.

Sims said this season he had hoped to win the Heisman and had hoped Oklahoma would win the national championship. But he said obtaining a degree was more important than either goal.

In response to a question, Sims

said his roommate, Outland Award winner Greg Roberts, deserved a large share of the trophy.

"He can have it all if he wants it," Sims quipped. "I give a lot of credit to our offensive line."

Sims, asked if there was anyone he wanted to thank, replied, "The man upstairs. He knows best."

However, Sims said he didn't say his prayers "the night before the voting ended."

"Me and the man upstairs, we've got a good understanding," he said.

Sims said thoughts of the approaching selection did not cost him any sleep.

"I slept like a baby," he said. He said his first thought, upon learning he was the winner, was, "I'm No. 1."

Sims said he does not believe he changed as a person during the football season that led to his selection, and does not expect to.

"But I know Hooks won't be the same," he said. Hooks is Sims' hometown, in northeast Texas near the Oklahoma border.

Sims said he plans to go home to Hooks this weekend to attend a Billy Sims Day celebration Saturday.

"They were going to have it anyway," he said.

Sims was the third Oklahoma player to win the Heisman. The others were Billy Vessels in 1952 and

Steve Owens in 1969.

Sims, the nation's leading rusher and scorer with 1,762 yards and 20 touchdowns, said he had no particular goals for next year except to stay healthy, play well and try again to win the national championship.

He said he was eager for the

Orange Bowl rematch with Oklahoma its only loss, 17-14, in the 1977 season.

"I love it," he said. "I play tomorrow."

SWC enters final football weekend

United Press International  
The strange 1978 Southwest Conference football season has only three games left and it would appear the Houston Cougars are going to win their first undisputed league championship and go to the Cotton Bowl for the second time in three years.

But it hasn't happened yet. And until it does, it cannot be taken for granted. If nothing else, this season has demonstrated again and again that the odd is the normal.

So before the final games are played, a review of some of the season's happenings might be in order. —Baylor's Bears, expecting their best team in years, lose their first five games by a total of 22 points, leading in all of them.

—Arkansas, a popular pre-season pick to win it all, struggles against Oklahoma State and Tulsa before losing two in a row.

—Houston is pegged by more than one SWC coach to win the title, but the Cougars lose on opening night to Memphis State, 17-3.

—SMU was thought to be improved, but no one gave the Mustangs a chance against either Penn State or Ohio State. The Mustangs almost beat the Nittany Lions and tied the Buckeyes.

—Texas Tech, thought to be in turmoil following the resignation of Steve Sloan, scares USC on the opening weekend and after losing three of four the Red Raiders become the terror of the league behind SWC leading rusher James Hadnot.

—Arkansas officials and Coach Lou Holtz carry on a running verbal battle with the SWC hierarchy and Holtz goes so far as to ban game officials from their normal dressing facility in Fayetteville before a game with Rice.

—And in College Station, after losing two straight games, Emory Ballard, father of the wishbone, quits as coach and says he did so because he felt he was on the verge of being fired.

Finally, however, things settled

down, Houston ran off eight wins, moved to No. 5 in the rankings and seemed set to win the Cotton Bowl trip last week. But that's when the season set in again.

Houston lost to Texas Saturday, 22-21, Texas won by Baylor, 38-14, TCU beating Texas A&M and the 1978 season has come to a week with the Red Raiders going to the Cotton Bowl and its first trip ever to the Bowl as representative of the SWC.

"We can't think about the Tech Coach Rex Dickey," said Tech Coach Rex Dickey. "We've done a masterful job in beating our team to its current 7-3 record. Straight triumphs."

"All we can do is play hard and win."

The final weekend of the season begins Friday night Texas Longhorns, Sun Belt and embarrassed last season Baylor, 38-14, hosting the A&M Aggies, who had a 15-7 record.

That game will be nationally and if Texas wins, it will wind up in a tie for the SWC title.

Then, on Saturday, the travel to Arkansas, which is behind to defeat SMU last 27-14, and which also has a tie for the crown, for an contest. And on Saturday the final game of the SWC. Houston will host the Rice Astrodome.

The only thing that would be for the Cotton Bowl would be for the Cotton Bowl. The Rice Owls and for Texas A&M. In that case Tech would be the bowl.

"We had better get Rice," said Houston Coach Emory Ballard. "We will have a chance to win the game. We can get it. The kids have enough class to get into the game. It was my fault go into the Tech game in mental frame of mind."



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Holtz and Dick to switch jobs?

United Press International  
FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — Arkansas coach Lou Holtz says he is not concerned about the coaching situation at Florida because Saturday's game against Texas Tech is taking up enough of his time.

"We've got a big game up here," Holtz said Monday. "If we win, we can have the second highest number of wins in two years in the school's history. I'm in Arkansas, remember?"

Rumors have been circulating for weeks that Holtz would replace Doug Dickey as head coach at Florida and Holtz has not denied flatly the possibility he would go.

Orville Henry, sports editor of the Arkansas Gazette, said in his column today that his "feeling for a long time

has been that Holtz is better suited to Florida. In this case, he's cent sure isn't enough."

An anonymous source said Dickey told the Miami Herald a bizarre switch of heads between Arkansas and Florida. The Gazette reported that Dickey had discussed the possibility of Arkansas in the event Holtz took the Florida job. Dickey once an assistant coach to Emory

Holtz is 8-2 at Arkansas and 19-3 in his two years at Florida. His first year at Florida was the Orange Bowl and this year which has one game left Saturday against Texas Tech headed to the Fiesta Bowl.

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