

SWC teams in gear

United Press International
Temperatures are still unpleasantly high and the leaves show no sign of changing hue.

But autumn arrives Saturday night. It must be autumn because the Baylor Bears will be playing football and so will Texas Tech and Rice and SMU and Texas A&M and the defending Southwest Conference champion Houston Cougars.

The Southwest Conference season begins Saturday evening and it will not waste any time attracting attention.

Texas Tech, the surprise team in the SWC a year ago, will open the season against the No. 1 team in the land — the defending national champion USC Trojans.

"It pretty much tells the story," said Tech coach Rex Dockery, "when you realize they were 12-1 and won the national championship last year and have 15 starters back. It is unbelievable the number of great athletes USC has."

The Tech-USC game, which will unfold before a full house at Jones Stadium in Lubbock, easily highlights the night's action. But in-

cluded in the opening night festivities will be the first conference game of the year.

SMU's Mustangs, having taken up residence in Texas Stadium and expectant of a good season, will host the Rice Owls, a team SMU beat last year, 58-0. The other openers will have Baylor at home and heavily favored against Lamar, Houston making a trip to UCLA for what should be an excellent game and the Texas Aggies meeting Brigham Young in Houston.

The Red Raiders won six games in a row during one stretch last season and wound up with a 7-4 mark after being picked to finish near the bottom of the league standings. They gave a hint of what was to come in their opener at USC.

Tech led that game at the half, 9-0, and the Trojans were booed by their own fans as they left the field. USC came back to win, 17-9.

"They have players who don't get to play much who would be starting on a lot of teams," said Dockery, beginning his second year as Tech's coach. "Probably the most awesome aspect of their team is their offensive line."

"Budde and Munoz (guard Brad Budde, 6-5, 253, and tackle Anthony Munoz, 6-7, 280) are legitimate all-Americans and the rest of the line is outstanding."

The game's showcases, at least going into the contest, are Tech fullback James Hadnot and USC tailback Charles White. Hadnot, converted from tight end shortly before the 1978 season, led the SWC in rushing last year with 1,369 yards. White paced the Pac-10 with 1,859 and is already the leading rusher in conference history.

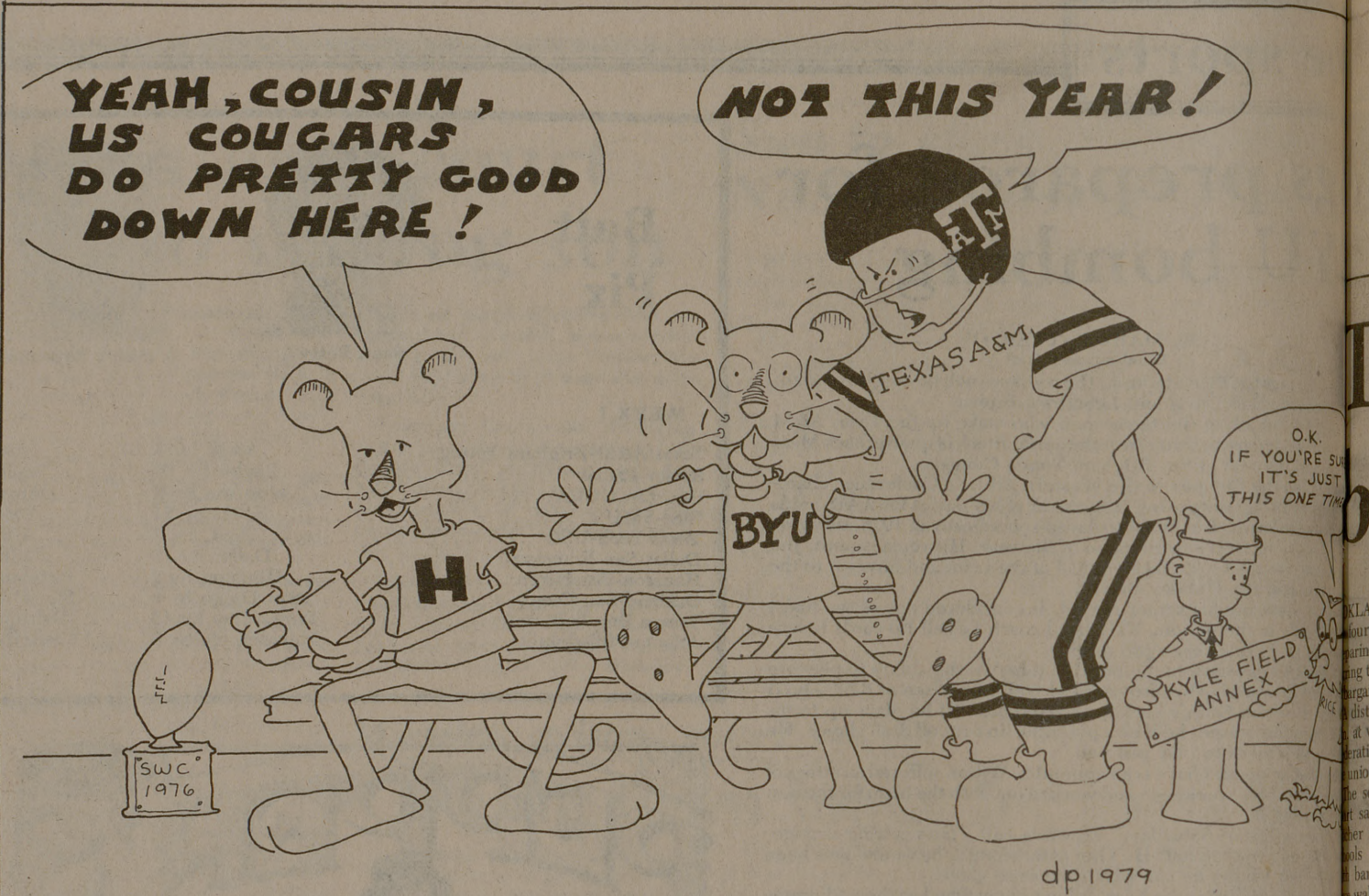
"We are playing a team much improved over last year," said USC coach John Robinson. "I think they will be one of the surprise teams in the country."

"I wouldn't be surprised if they finished in the top 15. Hadnot has the rare combination of being able to run over you or around you. He is the kind of back the pros like — like Franco Harris."

Houston's trip to UCLA should be another of the leading attractions this weekend. The Cougars, who nipped the Bruins two years ago in the Astrodome, are expecting an air bombardment from UCLA quarterback Rick Bashore.

"Mechanically, we're not doing things too badly right now," said Houston coach Bill Yeoman. "At this point of the year, no one in the country is. The difference comes when you put the athletes in a game situation."

Only Arkansas, TCU and Texas will have delayed openings this year. The Razorbacks and Horned Frogs will start their season Sept. 15 and Texas will not begin until Sept. 22.



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Alabama out to prove a point

United Press International
When the 1979 season ends, Alabama Coach Paul "Bear" Bryant doesn't want to leave any doubt as to who the No. 1 team in the nation is. After last year's controversial ratings, Bryant, in his 22nd year as the Crimson Tide's head coach, will

start trying to erase that doubt Saturday when his team meets Georgia Tech at Atlanta in the nationally televised season opener for both teams. The meeting will be the first between the teams since 1964 and regenerates an old rivalry. Alabama is seeking their 12th

Southeastern Conference title, while the Yellow Jackets, who had a 6-5 mark last year as independents, are looking to top the Atlantic Coast Conference, which they entered this summer.

Although Alabama is favored to win the contest, Bryant is not bristling with confidence.

"I don't know what to prepare for," Bryant said. "Since they have a great passer (sophomore Mike Kelly) and a couple of new coaches with pro backgrounds (Norm Van Brocklin

and Steve Spurrier), I think they'll use the same things that they use when they wishbone."

Georgia Tech Coach Pepper said Bo Thomas will lead at tailback for the Yellow Jackets. "Thomas has done a good job since the start of practice, and he's got a tough task ahead of him. If Alabama doesn't make a mistake, they'll beat most anybody," he stated. "No one has a better prepared team than Alabama, and they're always a tough opponent. That's why they're nationally tough opener."

In other Saturday games, top teams, No. 6 Michigan at Northwestern, No. 8 Purdue on Wisconsin, 10th-rated Missouri State meets Illinois, Missouri San Diego State, Washington State and Ohio State against Syracuse.

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Texas High School Football Scores

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- Alief Hastings 20, Pasadena South Houston 17
- Amarillo Palo Duro 15, Dumas 6
- Arlington Sam Houston 28, Dallas Sunset 7
- Borger 21, Lubbock 7
- Dallas Lake Highland 19, Dallas White 7
- Houston Lamar 13, Houston Rengan 6
- Houston Washington 0, Houston Yates 0
- Jersey Village 19, Houston Scarborough 13
- Pasadena Rayburn 7, Houston Sharpstown 0 (called 3rd quarter, lightning)
- S.A. Burbank 39, South San Antonio 8
- S.A. Holmes 3, S.A. Lee 0
- S.A. Fox Tech 18, S.A. Edgewood 14
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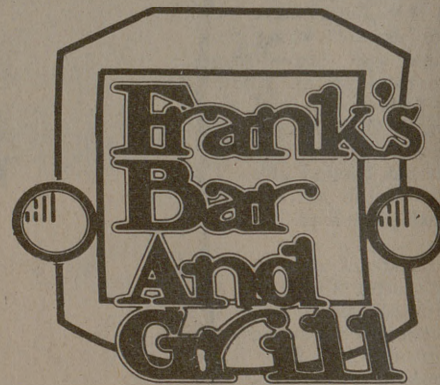
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