

Sports in the 70s

Texas was off and running

By MIKE RABUN
UPI Sports Writer

It might be a chilly winter morning with the fog dampening the bare limbs of the trees.

Or it might be one of those scalding summer afternoons when even the concrete sweats.

And it might be a career woman decked out in the latest matching shirt and gym shorts or it might be a lumpy businessman wearing the same outfit he does while working in the garden.

But whatever the weather conditions and whoever the person — somewhere, someone, right now, is running.

Each of them is a symbol of the largest sports phenomenon of the 1970s.

If the 1960's were the age of watching — with the building of the Astrodome touching off a boom in stadium construction and professional sports leagues expanding cross country — the 1970's were the age of doing.

On a late summer afternoon in Houston's Memorial Park, the jogging trails look like a freeway at rush hour.

"We don't even know how many people use the trails," said Richard Farrington of the Houston Parks Department. "But we know one thing. The trails have been very well received."

If the sun is shining on a weekend in Dallas, there is not a softball diamond open anywhere in town.

"About 1970 we had something like 500 softball teams playing in the city," said Alan Thompson of the

parks department in Dallas. "Now we have a little over 2,400 teams. It's hard finding a place to put them all."

Between running, softball, baseball, tennis, flag football and volleyball, it seems as if almost every man, woman and child in Texas found something to do in the 1970s.

"And don't forget about soccer," said Farrington. "That's going out of sight and really creating headaches. We just haven't figured out how to handle that. And in California you hear about roller skating taking over everywhere. People are just looking for a lot of things to do and the cities — even the biggest ones — can't keep up."

But for those who didn't want to take part, there was still plenty to watch in the 1970s.

And the thing that most people wanted to see was still football. Inflation ate away at the dollar and gasoline prices wiped out vacations, but on Friday night in rural Texas, high school football was still king. Schools such as Brownwood, with coach Gordon Wood given a special dispensation by the city council to keep working past the retirement age, carrying on the tradition.

In the Southwest Conference the Baylor Bears — the ultimate underdog for so many years — finally won

the league crown in 1974. The Houston Cougars were admitted to the conference and promptly won or shared in three out of four championships.

And Earl Campbell became the all-time leading rusher in conference history, won the Heisman Trophy and at the end of the decade began what promised to be a successful career with the Houston Oilers.

Campbell turned Houston into a Super Bowl contender overnight, drawing record crowds to the Astrodome and putting the Oilers into the playoffs for two consecutive years.

And in Dallas, despite changes in the roster, coach Tom Landry and the Cowboys rolled on and on. At year's end they had made the playoffs for the 13th time in 14 years.

During the decade Dallas appeared in a record five Super Bowls and won two of them.

For years the sport of college basketball was one to ignore in the Southwest Conference. It looked as if it were being played in slow motion.

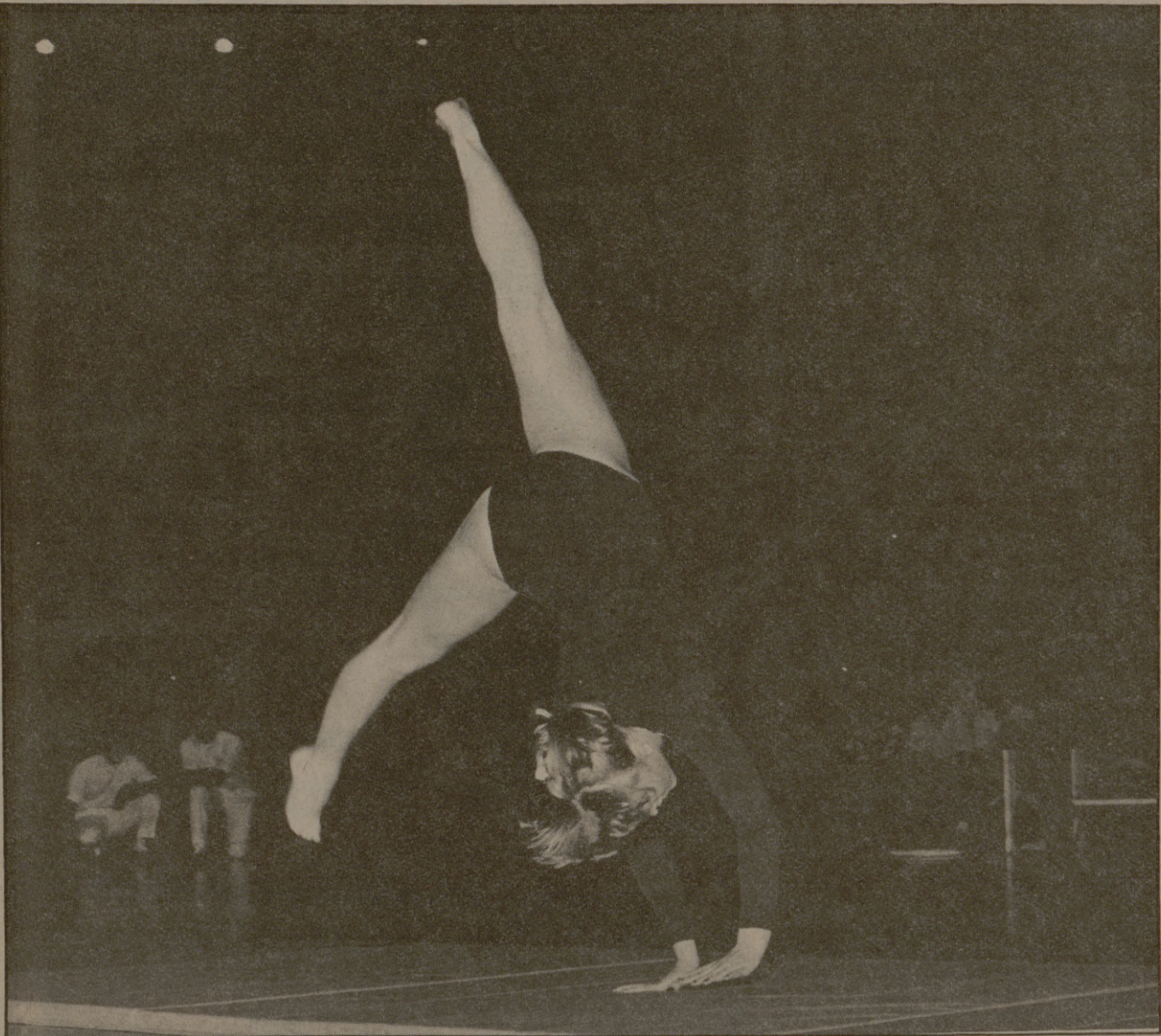
But the influx of coaches such as Eddie Sutton and Abe Lemons, along with such veterans as Shelby Metcalf and Gerald Myers, helped build the league into respectability.

The major breakthrough came in 1978, when A&M finished third in the NCAA tournament — defeating UCLA and Duke along the way and beating eventual champion Kentucky in the semifinals — and won the NIT with an overall victory in the finals over Nevada State.

But in pro basketball, it was the San Antonio Spurs' major story. The failing Dallas franchise in the American Basketball Association was moved to San Antonio after the 1973 season caught fire.

And when the NBA merged, San Antonio was one of the teams from the ABA that the Spurs, led by two-time champ George Gervin, supported by a devout fan base, reached their peak early in when they came within a hair and a few seconds of reaching the NBA championship series.

The Houston Rockets, while, had trouble building themselves into a championship, but they at least laid claim to most valuable player in the during the 1978-79 season, bounding champion Moses



Head over heels for the Aggies

A member of the Texas A&M gymnastics team performs at halftime of the Texas A&M-East Texas State game Wednesday night. The gymnastics team under Coach Jan Fambro went through the fall season undefeated.

Battalion photo by Pat O'Malley

Edna just keeps coming back

United Press International
Coming from behind has become a habit this year for Coach Bud Jackson and his Edna Cowboys. Five times this season the Texas high school Class AA semifinalists have played catch-up football, and won.

"It isn't something you look forward to, but I feel it does say something for the character of our kids

that they haven't folded when the pressure was on," Jackson said. "The year didn't start out good for us, but we've been improving each week. Our kids just kept coming back when others would have counted themselves out of everything."

Because of that come-back feature, Edna will meet McGregor at 8 p.m. Friday in Memorial Stadium at

Austin for a shot at the state championship the following week.

Childress and Van play at Wichita Falls Memorial Stadium. The other Class AA semifinalists are the winners playing for the crown. Semifinals also are scheduled this weekend in Classes AAA, A, and state championships decided in Classes AAA and

McKinney meets Bay City Saturday in Houston, and the Class AAA title. Wheeler and High Island play at 8 p.m. Saturday in Cleburne for the Class B championship.

Lewisville meets Temple Saturday in Irving's Texas State and Houston Memorial and play at 7:30 p.m. Friday in Christ's Buccaneer Stadium in Class AAAA semifinals.

Both Class A semifinals are Friday night, with Seagraves facing China Spring in Abilene. Troup facing Hull-Dale in Lufkin.

Jackson said Edna has a bad attack, and can both throw the ball and control and keep it on the ground. He said his Cowboys neither big nor fast, but make that in their desire.

"We haven't made many mistakes so far, and I certainly we don't start now," he said. "You play this type of competition you just can't overcome cost takes."

Jackson predicted Edna would settle down to play its best game against McGregor.

"We'll do the same things been doing — we just hope them better," he said.

Edna defeated Port Isabel while McGregor downed Waller 7, in last week's quarterfinals. Van used a penetrations edge to advance to the semis after Breckenridge to a 13-13 tie.

McKinney defeated Lubbock Estacado, 19-14, and Bay turned back Beaumont Hebert in their semifinal games last week advance to the championship

AGGIES!

Douglas Jewelry

Your old friend in Downtown Bryan, now has opened a second store in

Culpepper Plaza

Open 10-6 Mon.-Sat.
693-0677
Plus our original store

212 N. MAIN
822-3119

DOWNTOWN BRYAN

IF IT'S AUTO & TRUCK PARTS — WE HAVE THEM!

LEONARD AUTO SUPPLY

COMPLETE LINE OF WHOLESALE & RETAIL

FRONT END ASSEMBLIES — FENDERS — HOODS — DOORS — QUARTER PANELS — DECK LIDS, FOR LATE MODEL CARS & TRUCKS & ALL FOREIGN CARS

USED
GENERATORS • STARTERS
• FUEL PUMPS ETC.
OPEN MON.-FRI. 8 A.M. TILL 6 P.M.
SAT. 8 A.M. TO 12 P.M.
WE BUY WRECKED & RETIRED AUTOS

823-8127

LOCATED BY UNDERPASS ON HWY. 21 & HWY. 6 INTERSECTION
1501 N. SIMS - BRYAN

Camping in Europe was never like this

Contiki are out on their own in Europe. No-one — but no-one — can offer such a fantastic range of holidays for the 18-35's. Contiki's unique Concept Tours include a fabulous blend of camping in the Contiki Villages of pre-erected frame tents and Contiki's exclusive Special Stoppers in some of the most beautiful and exciting places in Europe. Get your hands on the Contiki brochure and put Europe at your feet.

★ NO SURCHARGE GUARANTEE ★

121 Walton at Texas Ave., South College Station, Texas 77840
713/696-1748

EXECUTIVE TRAVEL, INC.

1/3 OFF LIST PRICE
1/3 OFF LIST PRICE
1/3 OFF LIST PRICE

1/3 OFF SALE!

1/3 OFF LIST PRICE
1/3 OFF LIST PRICE
1/3 OFF LIST PRICE

1/3 OFF LIST PRICE ON EVERYTHING IN STOCK

ALL ALBUMS — ALL TAPES

1/3 OFF LIST PRICE
1/3 OFF LIST PRICE
1/3 OFF LIST PRICE

Bargain like this:

The New PINK FLOYD

"The Wall" list 13.98 Now **\$8.98**

RECORD COLLECTION

211 UNIVERSITY • NORTHGATE • 846-3901

Special FROM YOUR LOCAL DIET CENTER

You can go home for the holidays thinner and healthier without spending a fortune.

NOW THE BEST COSTS EVEN LESS!

Don't waste any more time and money on short term or ineffective fad diet programs.

You can win at the losing game!

PHONE 779-6124
7-1 and 3-30-6

a & m travel service

travel anywhere, anyplace, anytime

is having a

J. E. "COKE" WELLMAN — APPRECIATION DAY

December 14, 1979

Coke started the agency in 1970 and is retiring now. Come in for coffee and chat with Coke all day 8-5 p.m.

846-8881

Bank of A&M Building

Cowart's

YOUR JEWELRY STORE

"Great Ideas for Christmas"

- Diamonds
- Chains

- Watches
- Rings

Student Financing Available

Northgate
415 University Drive

846-5816