

# SWC contests fairly 'strange'

United Press International  
It will go down in the annals of the Southwest Conference as "Strange Saturday."

All future weirdness will be judged on the happenings of this particular weekend.

The fourth-ranked and unbeaten Texas Longhorns and the 12th-rated Oklahoma Sooners, supposedly two of the best teams in the country, combined to lose the ball 14 times (eight for Oklahoma) with a national television audience looking on, but somehow the game produced a winner. It happened to be Texas, 20-13, thanks to a 76-yard, fourth-quarter drive that was strangely flawless.

"You can't make as many mistakes as we did against Texas and win," said Oklahoma coach Barry Switzer, whose team almost won anyway.

Southern Methodist, vying for a critical win that could have brought it some national recognition, jumped in front of 15th-rated Baylor, 21-0,

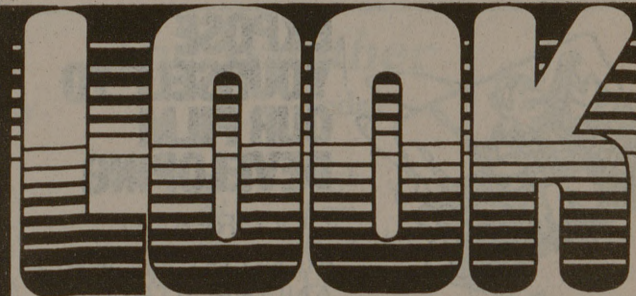
but a curious coaching decision at the end of the first half and a fumble near the Bears goal line at the end of the game cost the Mustangs a 32-28 decision.

Baylor scored twice in the final moments of the first half, one of the touchdowns being set up by a pass interception when it appeared the Mustangs would have been more prudent running out the clock.

Winless TCU appeared to have at last found a team it could beat and actually led the Rice Owls, 24-7. But Rice, already the conqueror of LSU this year, stormed back to win, 28-24, ending a final TCU threat with an interception in the end zone.

"It's a great lift to your program when you are down by 17 and scratch back and win," said Rice coach Ray Alborn.

Arkansas found itself in danger against Wichita State in the final quarter before pulling away to a 27-7 victory.



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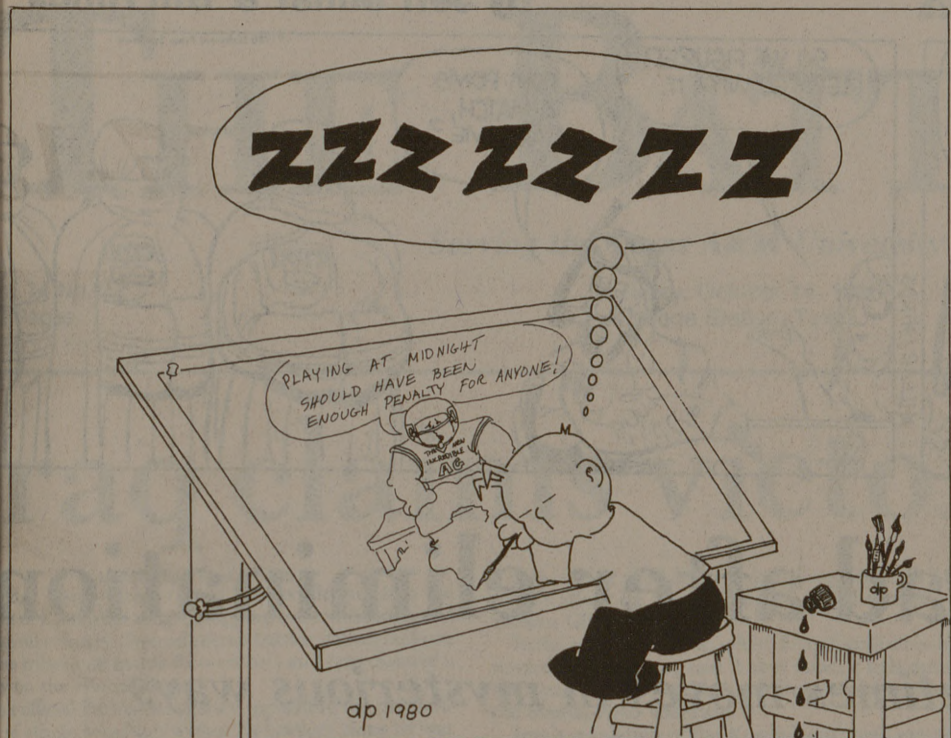
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## Reflections

by Richard Oliver



## South beats North, 8-7 in 11 innings

The South scored three runs in the top of the 11th inning Sunday, then held the North to only two runs for an 8-7 victory in the second annual Texas Junior College Baseball Coaches Association all-star game played at Texas A&M University Saturday.

## Loss hurts in many ways

Ever since I was very young, I have been told there are certain rules which must be followed in athletic events. For fans and players alike, there is a list of sportsmanlike rules which everyone should adhere to at any athletic contest.

When I finally took the big step and entered A&M, I heard references to places like t.u. and Cougar High. I always knew what t.u. meant, being a one-time Longhorn fan, but the Cougar High label for the University of Houston never had any meaning for me. Until now.

After watching this weekend's loss to the Cougars, I came away with a very bitter taste in my mouth at the treatment our players, fans and alumni received from the Houston fans, not to mention the idiotic happenings on the field. Cougar High is not just a meaningless derogatory phrase, obviously.

From the standpoint of a sideline observer, the actions and calls on the field by the officials were sickly. On three separate Houston kickoffs, the Cougar players were at least three yards downfield before

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the placekicker ever touched the ball. On one play, Aggie tight end Mark Lewis was speared by a Cougar player in front of an official. The ref reached for his flag, hesitated, and then took his hand away.

Early in the game, Houston fumbled and the Aggies fell on it. One official, however, had blown the play dead a bit early. Another scoring opportunity was taken away.

Late in the game, Mike Mosley, subbing for the injured David Beal, took off to his right looking for a receiver. Not finding any, he headed for the sideline to stop the clock, pausing long enough to dump the pass off to no one in particular. Cougar defensive lineman Hosea Taylor, however, wasn't finished, as he drove Mosley to the turf after the ball was thrown, clearly after the play was over. An official was standing right at the scene, yet only whistled Mosley for the intentional grounding. Photographers, coaches and players just stared incredulously at the referee. Mosley limped off the field, shaken.

After the game, as the Aggies and the press filed off the field, Houston fans screamed obscenities and threw ice and cups on the field. In the lockerroom, the frustration boiled over as players cried and nursed the hurt of the 17-13 loss.

Several players complained of scratching and biting by the Houston players during the game, and showed a few marks to prove it.

"Yeah, that was going on," said cornerback Darrell Adams, "that's the way they play."

"They just played like dogs," agreed tight end Mark Lewis softly. Several A&M fans at the game related stories of being taunted and cursed at by Houston fans.

If such was the case, Cougar High has a bit of growing up to do. Overactive fans are all part of college football, as is a bit of roughness on the field. But, the actions of the Cougar fans, the officials and the players together is a little sour to swallow all in one sitting, not to mention the absurdity of having to play the ballgame in the middle of the night in the first place.

At least we as Aggies and as fans should be glad we're in a school that believes in sportsmanship and fair play and even maturity. Next year if Houston brings its fans up here to root on the Cougars, we as Aggies will have every right to look around us and say, "Well, there goes the neighborhood."

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