

# Baylor at Rice highlights important SWC weekend



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**United Press International**  
The Baylor Bears have a busy schedule planned for Saturday. They intend to defeat the Rice Owls, accept an invitation to play in the Cotton Bowl on New Year's Day and then collectively say to the rest of the Southwest Conference: "I told you so."

Unless the Owls rise up and unexpectedly smite the Bears, the Southwest Conference championship race will officially come to an end. Baylor already has a share of the title wrapped up and would grab all of the crown, as well as a spot in the Cotton Bowl, with a decision over Rice.

Baylor was given little consideration when the year began, despite the fact the Bears were coming off a win in the Peach Bowl and had key personnel returning.

Coach Grant Teaff, normally the most mild mannered of men, has even gotten a little huffy lately about what he feels has been a lack of attention paid to the Bears' effort.

"This," he said last week after the win over Arkansas, "has been no miracle."

And because Baylor would like to earn some post-season recognition, the Bears — if they do make it to the Cotton Bowl as expected — would enjoy facing a team of national repute.

Although Teaff has not said so, there is speculation the Bears would really like to face Notre Dame. But the selection of the guest team is quite jumbled going into the weekend, with a host of possibilities open to the Cotton Bowl committee.

The jumbling will begin to be unjumbled as games are completed Saturday, because that is when bowl

committees may officially extend invitations.

Until then it is best to concentrate on the games:  
**Baylor (8-1) at Rice (4-5)** — The possibility of an upset is not all that remote, and if it should happen the Texas Longhorns and SMU Mustangs could leap back into the Cotton Bowl picture. Baylor has a bit of history on its side, however, and will be seeking a little revenge as well.

When Baylor won the SWC title in 1974 — the first the Bears had won in 50 years — they cinched the undisputed crown with a win over Rice.

But the last time Baylor played in Rice stadium, two years ago, Rice won a 24-10 upset. It was one of the lowest moments in Teaff's tenure at Baylor and it marked something of a turning point in the Bears' football program. Since that loss, Baylor has put together a 16-5 record, including a win in the Peach Bowl last year over Clemson.

**SMU (7-2) at Texas Tech (4-4)** — The Mustangs are certain to receive a bowl bid, probably to the Holiday Bowl in San Diego to face Brigham Young, if they beat the Red Raiders, and may get one even if they lose. Even though SMU's winning streak is only at three games, it is the longest in the conference and the Mustangs' freshman quarterback Lance McIlhenny is building quite a success story for himself.

SMU, however, has not won in Lubbock since 1968. That, coincidentally, was the last year the Mustangs went to a bowl — defeating Oklahoma in the Bluebonnet Bowl.

**Texas (6-2) at TCU (1-8)** — It appears the Longhorns will be getting a bowl bid as well — speculation

centers on the Bluebonnet Bowl against North Carolina — if they can whip the Horned Frogs, who are enjoying the heady feeling of victory for a change.

The TCU players honestly have to feel they can whip Texas if they can play as they did during the fourth quarter against Texas Tech last week. For the last dozen years, however, this has been the most one-sided rivalry in the conference.

TCU last defeated Texas in 1967

and in the next 12 games the Longhorns outscored the Horned Frogs by an average of 45-8. Included in those games have been such scores as 81-16, 69-7, 58-0 and 52-7.

**Texas A&M (2-6) at Arkansas (4-4)** — As amazing as it seems, this game could wind up deciding which club finishes last in the SWC. Neither team has won in a while and the Razorbacks, if they lose this one, could be headed toward its worst season in 27 years.

## Swimmers will face Raiders, Mustangs over the weekend

By JON HEIDTKE

One couldn't blame head swimming coach Mel Nash for singing the phrase "Hey, it's good to be back home again" after last week's debacle in New Orleans.

Four times last weekend, the swimmers carrying the team to the Tulane dual meet (which A&M won in both men's and women's competition) broke down turning a nine-hour trip into a 14-hour marathon.

"We had to stop so many times that the team had a yell practice on the way home which was highlighted by a 'beat the hell out of me' yell," Nash said.

So this weekend Nash and the team get to stay home, but also get the unenviable task of facing perennial national power SMU on Saturday in a dual meet.

Last year was the first time in 23 years the Ponies didn't win the SWC swim crown (Texas came out on top), but they still finished seventh in the country.

SMU is the team the conference gauged by, "Nash said, "because of their history and tradition. Even though Texas won last year, it still means more to beat SMU, because you swim pretty even against them, you know your program has arrived."

Last year SMU won all the events in the meet against A&M, but Nash said this year the gap may have closed a bit. "They are a little bit weaker and we have come up a bit," he said.

Nash said the SMU women will have a small team, but a high quality one with proven national performers and will probably hold the upper hand.

And on the men's ledger, Nash said if the team wins one event it will be an improvement over last year, and any win after that will be icing on the cake.

The Aggies will host TCU at 4 p.m. today in what Nash calls a tune-up before the big SMU meet. Nash said he will use freshmen and those who don't get to swim much in the men's matches.

But on the women's side, Nash said he expects it to go down to the last event, the 200-yard freestyle relay. "What they did in one year of recruiting is unbelievable," he said. "They really turned it around."

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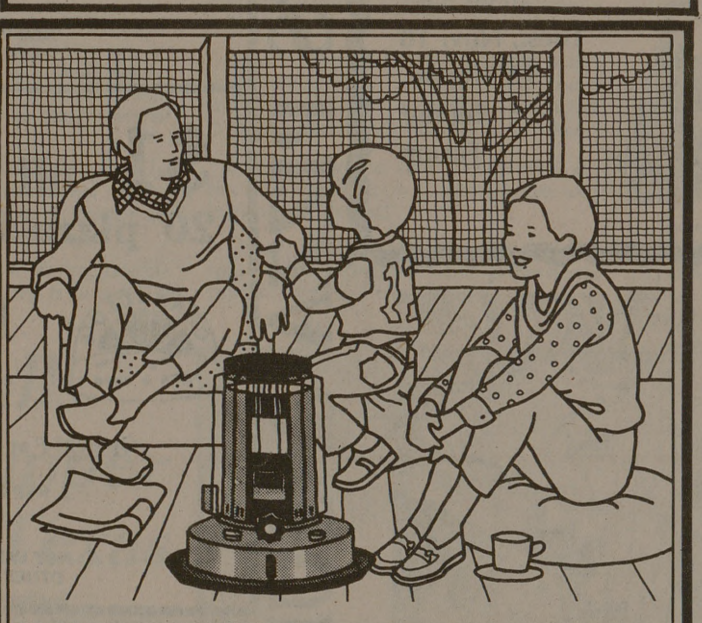
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