

TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



Baylor to face Alabama

United Press International
It will be the Bears vs. The Bear in the Cotton Bowl and it will be the Southwest Conference producing a little history in the department of postseason productions.

The Baylor Bears, winning their fourth SWC title in history, and the Alabama Crimson Tide of Bear Bryant, losing to Notre Dame for the fourth time without a victory, will face each other Jan. 1 in the Cotton Bowl.

"This season a championship started off as a dream," said Baylor coach Grant Teaff, who in 1974 led the Bears to their first SWC crown in 50 years. "Then it became a goal. Now it is a reality," the coach said.

And despite the fact Alabama had just lost its biggest game of the year, a 7-0 setback to the Irish, former Cotton Bowl executive director Field Scovell found a receptive group in the Crimson Tide locker room at Birmingham.

"He (Bryant) was in a better mood than I expected," said Scovell, a longtime friend of Bryant's. "He was as gracious as he could be in a loser's locker room, which is an awfully tough place to be inviting anyone to your ball game."

"All the kids had their heads down, but once they accepted our invitation they showed a lot of class. Maybe 10 or 12 of them came over to me and shook hands and said thanks for asking them to play in our bowl. I don't recall that happening in a losing locker room before."

And while that was going on four other Southwest Conference teams claimed invitations to post-season attractions. It marks the first time ever that the SWC has had five bowl teams in the same year.

—Texas (7-2), which used an outstanding performance from quarterback Donnie Little to belt TCU, 51-20, will be going to the Bluebonnet Bowl to meet North Carolina (9-1).

—SMU (7-3), despite dropping a 14-0 decision in the snow to Texas Tech, received a bid from the Holiday Bowl to take on the winner of the

Western Athletic Conference, which will be either Brigham Young (9-1) or Utah (5-3-1).

—Houston (5-4) did not play last weekend, but the Cougars had jumped into the bowl picture during the week and, as expected, got an invite to play Navy (7-3) in the Garden State Bowl.

—And Arkansas (5-4), which blew a 24-point lead and had to have a field goal from Ish Ordonez with eight seconds left to beat Texas A&M, 27-24, was the choice of the Hall of Fame Game to play Tulane (7-3).

Arkansas, like Houston, could wind up with a losing record and still be going to a bowl. Houston will be favored in their remaining games against Texas Tech and Rice, but the Razorbacks could well be the underdog in both of their remaining games against SMU and Texas Tech.

Texas Tech, with wins in its last two games, could have a better record than two of its SWC rivals who are going to bowls.

Baylor needed only to beat either Rice last Saturday or Texas this coming Saturday to sew up the Cotton Bowl berth and the Bears found the Owls were not going to go down easy.

The game was not put away until Robert Bledsoe kicked a 33-yard field goal in the final minutes.

"We weren't flat at all during the game," Teaff said. "Rice took it to us, but we responded well."

"There was a lot of pressure today," said Baylor quarterback Jay Jeffrey, whose brother, Neal, had quarterbacked Baylor's championship team in 1974. "But no matter what now, we've got the championship ring. It hasn't hit me yet. I'll probably wake up tonight screaming for joy."

There wasn't all that much joy for Baylor on the only other occasion the Bears have ever played Alabama.

The two teams met last year with Alabama winning, 45-0.

And while Baylor will be making only its second trip ever to the Cotton Bowl, it will be Alabama's fifth. The Crimson Tide last played in Dallas on New Year's Day in 1973, losing to Texas, 17-13.

Women's soccer team places fifth

By RICHARD OLIVER
Sports Editor

Neither rain nor snow nor sleet shall keep the Texas A&M University women's soccer team from their appointed rounds.

This weekend, the Aggie women nestled in the hills of Colorado for the first ever intercollegiate women's soccer championship, and the mere fact that there was snow on the field didn't faze them a bit. Well, not too much anyway.

The best teams in the nation gathered, and the Aggies came through with a respectable fifth place, and placed a woman on the All-America team in the process.

Teams at the tournament included Cortland University from New York, North Carolina, Harvard, UCLA, University of North Colorado, A&M and Colorado State.

"We played our first game against North Carolina and the field was frozen and it was 20 degrees," said A&M Head Coach Rob Borgeson. "Everybody was slipping and falling all over the place."

The Ags dropped that contest, 1-0, despite playing what Borgeson calls "one of the best games individually we've played all year."

Texas A&M was then given a bye until Sunday, when they played North Colorado for a chance at fifth and won, 2-1.

"The field was covered with snow on Sunday," said Borgeson. "We figured since we couldn't get first we'd do the best we could."

Sue Tesar initiated the A&M scoring 10 minutes into the game, but North Colorado scored later when a shot at the Aggie goal was deflected off of defensive player Carol Smith for a goal.

"They took a shot and the ball was covered with ice," Borgeson related. "It bounced off her head and over our goalie's head, so in effect we scored the only goal against us."

But, with five minutes remaining in the game, Smith vindicated herself with a penalty kick score.

The tournament was won by Cortland, whose players drove all the way from New York to participate. Following the championship, coaches and soccer officials got together and picked an all-tournament team.

"The good part is that since this is the first intercollegiate college championship ever, the all-tournament team will be the first All-America team also," said Borgeson, who was also on the selecting committee.

Adele Fairman took the honors for the Aggies.

"Adele was excellent for us," said Borgeson. "She saved two goals for us herself while our goalie was on the ground."

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