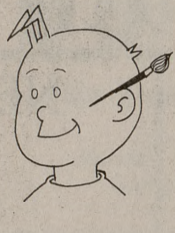


The Battalion Picks



Kurt Allen



dp



Mike Burrichter



Rick Stolle



Richard Oliver



Jon Heidtke

Huntsville vs. Paris	Huntsville by 3	Paris by 2	Huntsville by 7	Paris by 3	Huntsville by 6	Huntsville by 6
Highland Park vs. Odessa Permian	Permian by 2	Permian by 2	Permian by 2	Permian by 1	Highland Park by 4	Highland Park by 3
San Antonio Holmes vs. P.A. Jefferson	Jefferson by 2	Holmes by 7	Jefferson by 21	Jefferson by 5	Jefferson by 16	Holmes by 1
Y. Giants at Redskins	Redskins by 3	Redskins by 3	Redskins by 6	Redskins by 7	Redskins by 6	Giants by 3
Chargers at Packers	Chargers by 7	Chargers by 4	Chargers by 13	Chargers by 10	Chargers by 11	Chargers by 30
Browns at Vikings	Oilers by 10	Oilers by 3	Oilers by 7	Oilers by 4	Oilers by 5	Oilers by 14
Steelers at Steelers	Vikings by 1	Vikings by 3	Browns by 20	Browns by 8	Vikings by 1	Browns by 10
Raiders at Broncos	Steelers by 3	Steelers by 10	Steelers by 21	Steelers by 6	Steelers by 7	Steelers by 8
Cowboys at Rams	Raiders by 9	Broncos by 7	Raiders by 2	Raiders by 2	Raiders by 4	Raiders by 3
	Cowboys by 6	Cowboys by 3	Cowboys by 14	Cowboys by 1	Cowboys by 10	Cowboys by 3

Season records thus far:	81-46 (.638)	80-47 (.630)	80-47 (.630)	63-37 (.630)	76-51 (.598)	73-54 (.575)
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Lombardi Award given out tonight

United Press International
HOUSTON — The Lombardi Award honoring the nation's outstanding college lineman will be announced tonight from among finalists representing four of the nation's top seven teams.

Finalists are defensive end Hugh Green of Gator Bowl-bound Pitt (ranked third); defensive end E.J. Junior of Cotton Bowl-bound Alabama (No. 6); nose guard Ron Simmons of Orange Bowl-bound Florida State (No. 2); and linebacker Mike Singletary of Cotton Bowl-bound Baylor (No. 7).

The finalists all are members of UPI's All-America team and all are seniors. They were chosen for the Lombardi award from a voting committee of 96 coaches, sports writers and broadcasters across the nation. The winner will succeed 1979 honoree Bruce Clark of Penn State.

Green, 6-2, 222, was a Lombardi finalist last season and finished second in voting for the 1980 Heisman Trophy. He also played tackle, nose guard and linebacker and is a native of Natchez, Miss.

Junior, 6-3, 227, was a Southeastern Conference standout and three-year starter who made five prep All-American teams in high school in Nashville, Tenn.

Simmons, 6-1, 235, was a Lombardi semifinalist last year and was the only lineman in the top 10 in Heisman Trophy voting in 1979. He is from Warner Robins, Ga.

Singletary, 6-1, 232, was Southwest Conference defensive player of the year in 1979 and 1980. He never had fewer than 10 tackles in a game and is a Houston native.

One Moment Please ...

by Kurt Allen



Class of '80 Ag looks back

After four-and-a-half years in this one-of-a-kind institution, the reality of what Saturday brings has yet to sink in.

Somehow, it just doesn't seem possible that the long battle is over, that the long-awaited walk across the G. Rollie White Coliseum stage will happen and I will enter the real world as a member of the Class of '80.

A lot of Aggie history since the fall of 1976 has involved the always interesting, often controversial Texas A&M athletic department which has had a lot of memorable events and turning points during my student tenure.

Perhaps nothing receives more attention and scrutiny than the Aggie football team. In September of 1976, the alumni were satisfied. The Aggies' 10-2 finish in 1975 was their best since 1956 despite a 31-6 loss to Arkansas which dashed their Cotton Bowl hopes. The alumni stayed off then head coach Emory Bellard's back because he had beaten Texas (20-10) and gone to a bowl game.

The 1976 season was a statistical clone of 1975, as the Aggies again clobbered Texas (27-3 in Memorial Stadium) and beat Florida 37-14 in the Sun Bowl.

In 1977, Texas A&M started strong, but was humiliated 41-3 by Michigan. That began a never-ending string of alumni flak for Bellard despite an 8-4 finish and a Bluebonnet Bowl berth.

Regrouping in 1978, Bellard's charges stormed to an early 4-0 mark before Houston shut out the Aggies 33-0 in the Astrodome. The next week Baylor shocked the Kyle Field crowd by winning 24-6.

The criticism was too much for Bellard. Convinced that he was to be replaced, Bellard staged a dramatic, emotional resignation. Surprised University officials appointed offensive coordinator Tom Wilson as head coach. The rest is history.

Meanwhile, basketball has gone full cycle. After conference titles in 1975 and '76, Head Coach Shelby Metcalf's team dissolved to 14-14 in 1977 and bottomed out at 12-15 in 1978. The introduction of forwards Lynn Wright and Vernon Smith along with 6-11 Bryan center Rudy Woods rocketed the team to a 24-9 finish in 1979. Then, last year, the Aggies had a school-record 26 wins as they won the conference championship and slugged their way to the NCAA Midwest Regionals.

No other Aggie men's team wins more consistently than the baseball team. Under longtime Head Coach Tom Chandler, Texas A&M won back to back championships in 1977 and '78, finished fourth in 1979 and rebounded to second last spring.

A hallmark of Chandler teams has been excellent pitching as shown by players like Mark Thurmond, Mark Ross and Robert Slavens.

Speaking of baseball, the last four years have seen the construction of Olsen Field, while the other big project has been the Kyle Field expansion which added two new decks containing 16,000 seats plus a new press box.

Any retrospective glance would not be complete without mentioning the track and tennis teams. Under Head Coach Charlie Thomas, the tracksters again proved they're among the best in the conference by winning the championship in 1980. Meanwhile, Head Coach David Kent has built his tennis squad into a real competitor with a tough schedule.

Yes, Texas A&M athletics have grown considerably in the last five to 10 years. With winning seasons becoming the rule instead of the exception, Aggie athletics have become big business. If success indeed begets more success, the future can only be brighter. Here's hoping the next four years are as memorable for future graduates as the last four have been for me.

Women swimmers back in water

Texas A&M women's swim team gets back in action this week when they will participate in the annual Houston Invitational today and Saturday.

Scheduling problems due to finals has resulted in a small field this year with only six universities competing. Houston, TCU, Texas Womens University, Southwest Texas, Rice and A&M will all be shooting for the team title.

Head Coach Mel Nash said he is having some problems keeping his women on their weight programs and as a result will have to leave some home this weekend.

"On an individual basis, the team is coming along fine," said the second-year coach, "but leaving a few of the girls behind will detract from our overall performance."

Nash expects his Aggies to battle it out for third with SWTS, with Houston and TCU fighting it out for the team championship.

The women expected to score points for the Aggies this weekend include Tracy Johnston, Kathy Mitten, Lilli Cole, Michon Breisacher and Philis Burns.

Both the men and the women will be in action over the holidays when they will travel to Honolulu, Hawaii to participate in the Rainbow Invitational Jan. 2-3.

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