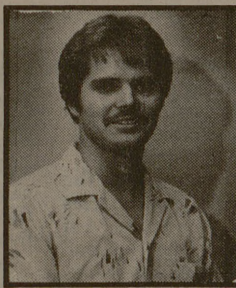


Sports

Upset with all-SWC picks



Ritchie Priddy

While reading the sportswire Tuesday morning for copy, I came across something that blew my mind: the UPI all-SWC team had only two Aggies on the first two teams. The AP version only had six. Neither wire service had any Aggies on its first team.

Defensive tackle Keith Guthrie and line-backer Mike Little were both named to the UPI second team defense. Quarterback Gary Kubiak, defensive end Keith Baldwin, offensive tackle Tommy Robison, Strogen, split end Mike Whitwell and full-back Earnest Jackson made the AP second team.

How ridiculous, I thought. How could these sportswriters and broadcasters ignore the feats of Kubiak, Whitwell, Baldwin, Strogen, Bandy, Cannon and Childress (to name but a few) when considering their first team?

Then I began to think of the 'select panel of writers and broadcasters' who choose the team. Most of them, obviously from the bigger cities (i.e. Dallas and Houston), probably have not seen the Aggies but once or twice this year, so they base their votes on the teams that they have seen and their records.

That's odd. How can a few select people, not having the opportunity to see every team an equal number of times, choose an all-conference team?

The problem is that while the players selected to the team are deserving, there are a number of other players that are not from the top teams that are equally deserving.

It takes a great deal of talent, teamwork and outstanding coaching to produce a winner. Everyone has to work together to be successful. However, not every team is blessed with equal talent, good teamwork or an outstanding coach. Every player deserves to be judged on his talents alone, and not the success of his team.

That is obviously not the case with the all-SWC teams, especially those picked by writers and broadcasters.

However, I realize you're never going to get a totally unbiased opinion from anyone, so I think I'll throw in mine. It may not carry any weight, but at least, it will help boost my ego.

My all-SWC offensive team consists of the entire Texas A&M offense.

The line has led the way for talented backs Johnny Hector, Earnest Jackson and Thomas Sanders to run around, over and in-between defenders all year. Those backs may not have finished as the top rushers in the SWC, but the team ended the season as one of the top rushing squads in the nation.

David Bandy anchors the line at center, and because I think he's the best in the league I'll make him the top offensive lineman. Hell, I'll make him the top lineman in the country.

Behind the cool leadership of Gary Kubiak the Aggies finished as the conference's number two team in total offense, averaging 385 yards a game.

Kubiak passed for 1,808 yards and 11 touchdowns. That's not too bad. Lance McIlhenny, the first team quarterback, didn't total those statistics. Besides, all he

had to do was give the ball to Craig James and Eric Dickerson.

Split end Mike Whitwell finished with 27 catches for 731 yards and three touchdowns. He also finished with the highest yards-per-catch average with 27.1 per reception.

Defensively, it's more of the same. Keith Baldwin and Fred Caldwell, along with Keith Guthrie and Jon van Sant on the line, have led the Aggie defense all year.

Baldwin finished the season with 91 tackles, and Caldwell had 80. You can't ignore that.

What about Ray Childress? Seeing limited action, he finished with 45 tackles and several blocked passes (he's 6-6). Childress gets my vote for Freshman of the Year.

Try explaining to Bobby Strogen why he wasn't mentioned as one of the top line-backers in the conference and see what'll happen.

Strogen, consistently around the ball, led the team in tackles with 133, had five interceptions and forced more than one opposing player off the field with his crushing tackles. You can't help noticing him on the field. Just ask any offensive back.

Mike Little had 117 tackles. That's not too shabby for a 5-10 linebacker. He more than makes up for his size with his uncanny knack for getting to the ballcarrier.

The secondary has been suspect all year long, having been burned several times by great passing. But I'm not going to tell Billy Cannon he's not on my team. I still remember what he did to Lonell Phea and I'm not about to forget what he did to the guy in Huntsville.

Well, there you have it. My all-SWC team for 1981. It may not be the best, but I'll tell you one thing: I wouldn't tell these guys it's not.

Clemson official attacks ABC-TV for airing story

United Press International
CLEMSON, S.C. — Clemson University President Bill L. Atchley has criticized ABC-TV for airing what he called an unconfirmed report on alleged football recruiting violations at the South Carolina school.

Atchley wrote a two-page letter, dated Tuesday, to Roone Arledge, president of ABC News and Sports. The letter was sent the same day Clemson was named No. 1 in the United Press International national college football rankings.

The Tigers' regular season record is 11-0, and they are set to meet fourth-ranked Nebraska in the Orange Bowl.

During halftime of the nationally-televised Pitt-Penn State contest, ABC aired a report on an NCAA probe into charges by two former Knoxville, Tenn. high school football players that they were given money by a Clemson alumnus to attend the university.

The youths, linebacker James Cofer and defensive back Terry Minor, were interviewed by ABC sports reporter Jim Lamplsey.

It was "extremely unfortunate that Clemson coaches and players who have worked with such dedication and success have been subjected to such unfair treatment,"

Atchley wrote. "It is no secret that these allegations have been made" by Cofer and Minor, he said. "However, the disturbing aspect of ABC's report was the implication that Clemson's failure to respond publicly to these allegations means they are true."

Continued Atchley: "The NCAA has established procedures to be followed while investigating any member institution. The official enforcement procedures require that any information developed during an investigation be kept confidential."

The Clemson president said, "Irreparable harm to the university's image and reputation can undoubtedly result from the mere publication of such allegations, Atchley said.

even if these allegations are later proven false. This is especially true in an instance such as this where no formal charges have ever been brought against Clemson."

Atchley acknowledged that ABC offered Clemson a chance to respond to the story, but he said "it is Clemson's position that the investigation of such charge should be handled according to the procedure set forth by the NCAA."

"Therefore, any response by Clemson to the issues presented last Saturday would be contrary to the best interests not only of Clemson, but of the NCAA and all of its member institutions," Atchley said.

Bowl tickets on sale beginning today

The Texas A&M football team continues its preparations for the Independence Bowl with workouts and film sessions.

The Aggies will meet the Oklahoma State Cowboys in the Dec. 12 bowl in Shreveport, La.

Texas A&M secured the bowl with its 37-7 victory over the TCU Horned Frogs Nov. 21. Oklahoma State won its bid by virtue of its 27-7 victory over Iowa State the same day.

Texas A&M finished its regular season last week by losing to Texas 21-13, and finishing the year with a 6-5 record. OSU also lost its finale, 27-3 to Oklahoma, to finish with a 7-4 record.

Student tickets to the bowl

game went on sale this morning at 8 at Window 6 in G. Rollie White Coliseum. Some 1,300 tickets will be sold on a first-come, first-serve basis. Student tickets sell for \$12 and a coupon book is needed for each ticket. Regular tickets sell for \$15.

The Independence Bowl has been tied into the Southland Conference in the past but bowl officials broke the contract last year. The bowl now features two outside teams.

Bowl officials said last week that banners are welcome and beer will be sold at the game.

The game will be televised nationally by the Mizzou Television Network.

The Aggies and the Cowboys

have met eight times previously with A&M holding a 6-2 edge. The last meeting was in 1954 with OSU winning 14-6. The Aggies beat the Cowboys 14-7 in 1952.

The two schools recently signed a home-and-home series contract which takes effect in 1983 with OSU visiting Kyle Field.

The team is scheduled to leave College Station Wednesday morning, Dec. 9 and will be staying in the Sheraton in Bossier City, La.

Stabler praises Bear for attaining record

United Press International
HOUSTON — Ken Stabler says his former coach Bear Bryant is too modest when he passes out praise for attaining the all-time college football win record.

"We played teams that had bigger and faster people than we had, and we beat them because of Bear Bryant," Stabler said. "I don't think he has an equal."

Bryant had said after winning a record 315th game Saturday that his success was due to those who had coached and played for him. But Stabler disagreed.

"The biggest part was him. He has such an ability to motivate people," Stabler said.

Stabler quarterbacked Bryant's 1965 Alabama team to an NCAA national championship and he remains in the game today with the Houston Oilers.

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