1926 death remembered in A&M-Baylor rivalry

by Tracey Taylor

Baylor have a history of being very competitive. pital. But never has the feeling been as intense as it was in 1926, when the rivlary resulted in the death of

an Texas A&M cadet. Lt. Charles M. Sessums, a senior at Texas A&M in 1926, died as a result of injuries received dur-ing a fight that broke out between halves of the When the game was over, the Baylor students Texas A&M-Baylor game in 1926.

The exact cause of the fight is still unknown.
The game was played on Oct. 31 at the Cotton
Palace Exposition in Waco. There is no dispute

The score at the final gun was 20-9 Baylor. That can be looked up in the record books. But the picture becomes foggy when you try to resulting from a fracture to the base of the skull.

discover exactly what happened at halftime that

According to page one of the Waco News-Tribune on Oct. 31, the scuffle was caused by two Texas A&M cadets who ran out on the field and leaped into a car being driven by six Baylor coeds.
One of the girls was said to be slightly injured

troversy should be raised or encouraged, since Sessums' parents did not wish to file charges. when she was knocked from the car

rallied to the girls rescue and charged the cadets, grabbing empty band chairs on the way. The News-Tribune states that "the boys, swinging these chairs, met full force of the Aggie delegation...(and) succeeded in beating the Aggies back." Besides chairs, the paper said, soda water bottles and pieces of lumber were used as weapons

The Dallas Morning news said in a front page article that the Baylor coeds were staging a demonstration in front of the Aggie rooting section and actually provoked the Aggies to jump on their close proximity of the schools that keeps the competition more alive than anything else.

For whatever reasons, chaos broke out. The weekend's game will be a fight to the finish.

riot was eventually brought under control by Dean Allen of Baylor, the Aggie yell leaders and The games played between Texas A&M and Waco police. Lt. Sessums was taken to the hos-

> In an attempt to prevent further squabbles and quiet the restless Baylor fans, the Aggie yell leaders went across the field to the Baylor stands and

When the game was over, the Baylor students were asked to leave and, according to the Waco paper, "the Ags were forced by their officers to remain in their seats for 30 minutes to prevent another clash. They were then marched off the field in squad formation.'

Sessums never regained consciousness and was pronounced dead the next morning at 9:00 a.m. The official cause of death was listed as blood clot

That same Sunday morning, a meeting took place between Baylor and Texas A&M former students in which it was decided that the whole incident should be forgotten and no further con-

All football games between Texas A&M and The paper said a group of Baylor boys then Baylor were suspended until 1931. The 1926-27 Longhorn (the Texas A&M yearbook until the name was changed in 1949) described the fight as "a pitched battle between a handful of cadets and the large part of the Baylor student body."

> Although no brawls are expected at this weekend's game, a fierce rivalry between Texas A&M and Baylor still exists. The win-loss record

But for whatever reason, you can bet this

medals restored

United Press International PHOENIX — Olympic gold medals won in 1912 by Jim Thorpe will be returned to his family next year, following a vote by the International Olympic

Thorpe's daughter, Charlotte Thorpe, 63, who has fought most of her adult life for return of the medals, was overjoyed when she learned Wednesday the executive board of the IOC had voted to restore Thorpe's medals.

"You just don't know how I feel, you can't know possibly how

ISI," Miss Thorpe said.

Thorpe, a Sac-Fox Indian, won gold medals in the pentathlon and decathlon at the Stockholm Games in 1912, but they were taken from him after it was learned he had played minor-league baseball for \$2 a game, for expenses, before competing in the Olympics.

Thorpe died of cancer in 1953, at the age of 65.

The IOC announcement

made in Lausanne, Switzerland. Thorpe's amateur status would be restored and the medals presented to Miss Thorpe at a special ceremony in Los Angeles in January.

The name of James Thorpe will be added to the list of athletes who were crowned Olympic champions at the 1912 games, the IOC said. "However, the official report for these games will not be modified."

Miss Thorpe said she felt when the gold medals are returned, trophies presented to her father by the king of Sweden and czar of Russia also will be returned. She said the trophies were in crates in the Olympic museum in Lausanne.

She said the gold medals will to to the U.S. Olympic Hall of

Miss Thorpe had said in earlier interviews that her father never got over the humiliation of being denied the medals.

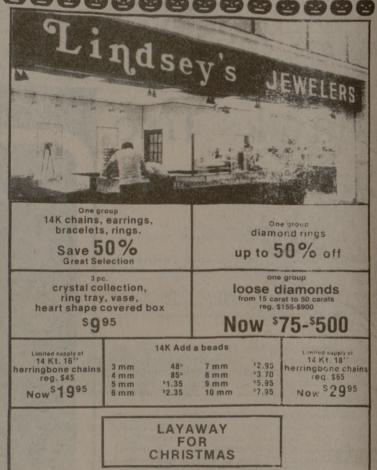
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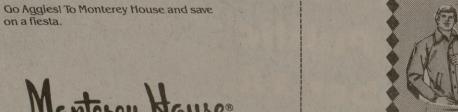
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