

SMU may be surprised by A&M defensive skill

Rice Coach Ray Alborn sure seemed like a more easy-going light-hearted fellow at the Southwest Conference luncheon in Little Rock this summer than he was Saturday in Kyle Field, where he stormed up and down the sidelines most of the game.

And every now and then he would take time to chat with the officials. It didn't look like he was telling any jokes either. What was happening to his Owls was no laughing matter.

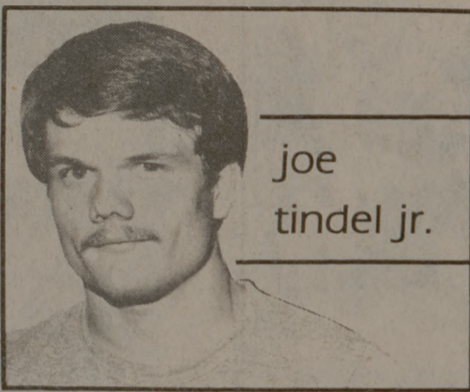
Meanwhile, on the other side of the field, a mass of jovial maroon-clad Aggies couldn't give a hoot. The Aggies' head coach, in more formal attire, calmly walked the sideline carrying that now-familiar rolled-up piece of paper in one hand.

Whatever's on that piece of paper worked.

We wrote last week that the Aggie defense may have come to life after its game-winning stand against Baylor.

See, we told you so. The Owls were unable to light up more than one digit on the scoreboard.

Incidentally, Saturday's game marked the first time the Aggie defense allowed the opponent fewer than 20 points. The defense may have started a bit slow, but it soon brought the Owls to a screeching halt. A sharpshooting Gary Kubiak commanded an offense that complemented the defensive effort by staying on the



joe tindel jr.

field long enough to allow the defenders breathing time.

True, Rice may not be the greatest team in the conference, but if we compare their performances against other SWC teams this season with the game Saturday, that 49-7 score looks quite impressive.

But even now that Texas A&M has spoken, everybody's talking about a big showdown between SMU and Arkansas and nobody's saying much about the game the Ponies really ought to concentrate on this week.

Overconfidence by SMU and an offensive performance by the Aggies similar to that of the Rice game could be

the demise of the highly respected Mustangs.

Well, maybe just a little more offense and a considerable amount of DEFENSE.

That emphasis on defense is a direct reference to the eighth episode of "Fun with Dick and James," a show which is quite popular among SMU fans. It stars superstar running backs Eric Dickerson and Craig James, as the name implies.

In order for the Aggies to cancel that program, the defense will probably have to improve several times on its best performance this season.

Should the Aggies put a halt to the best running back tandem in the country, it will still have to deal with quarterback Lance McIlhenny's sprint-out passes. Remember last year?

McIlhenny frustrated the Aggies time and again on sprint-out passes while the folks up front were waiting for Dickerson and James to do their thing. Well, McIlhenny has his thing, too.

But despite the seemingly overwhelming advantage the Mustangs have — the horses on the offensive and defensive lines and the thoroughbreds in the backfield — they may be thinking too far ahead. Looking at the Hogs and ignoring the Farmers isn't a smart thing to do when the man in the maroon jacket brings his team and that little rolled up piece of paper to Texas Stadium this weekend.

TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Miller & Bill



Aggies earn television bid

United Press International
The Southwest Conference cash register has jingled again and sent the league's television take for 1982 to more than \$4 million.

This year's NCAA television contract has pumped more money into athletic departments than ever before and the SWC has been the prime beneficiary. Officials at CBS-TV announced Monday that the meeting of Texas A&M and the fourth-ranked SMU Mustangs in Texas Stadium next Saturday will be regionally televised.

The kickoff had been set for 1:30 p.m., but has now been moved up to 11:35 a.m. It is the second straight week for SMU to be on television, having perhaps caught the eye of quite a few viewers along with the Texas Longhorns by virtue of the entertaining show those two teams put on last Saturday in Austin.

The SMU-Texas A&M game will be the 10th contest involving a SWC team to be televised this year — either by ABC, CBS or the TBS cable network. And since six of those games were league affairs, it means 16 "shares" have been distributed to conference schools.

This will be the third time for SMU to be on television this season — once on each of the three networks — and the third time for Texas A&M as well. Houston has been on three times, TCU and Arkansas twice and Baylor, Texas and Texas Tech once each.

Only Rice has been avoided altogether and likely will be since the Owls are winless in seven games.

SWC officials said Monday

their figures show the Texas A&M-SMU game brings to \$4.3 million the amount that has been poured into the treasuries of the nine schools.

The Arkansas-Texas game on Dec. 4 is already inked in for television treatment and the Arkansas-SMU game scheduled on Nov. 20, which could well determine the SWC championship, is also a probable television attraction. In addition, the Texas-Texas A&M game could rate attention from the networks.

The only dismal note as far as SMU is concerned is that the televising of the A&M game could knock the Mustangs out of a chance to sell out Texas Stadium.

Considering SMU's national stature this year, the Mustangs have attracted disappointing home crowds this year. More than 50,000 tickets had been sold to the A&M game through Monday.

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Age not factor in 45-year career of St. Louis' Kittle

by Milton Richman

UPI Sports Editor
NEW YORK — You hear a lot of stories at the World Series. Some are even true.

In all the time I've known him, nearly 25 years, Hub Kittle never has told me one that wasn't, so I thought maybe you'd like hearing what the St. Louis Cardinals' pitching coach, world traveler and raconteur has to say.

There aren't too many places on this earth where Kittle hasn't been in his 66 years and wherever he has been, he generally has managed or played.

Few baseball men you know ever managed a ballclub in Saipan in the South Pacific. Kittle did while he was in the Army. He was nearly buried alive in quicksand there chasing a fly ball hit over his head, but that's another story.

In his time, Kittle has played and managed in practically every section of this country as well as in Mexico, Venezuela and the Dominican Republic. His square name is Hubert Milton Kittle, but he rarely uses it.

"I don't like that name," he says, shaking his head. "It sounds like a professor or something. It's not a baseball name."

Kittle is a baseball man through and through and everybody who knows him calls him "Hub." He was born in Los Angeles, lives in Yakima, Wash., and as far as can be determined,

he's the only man in history ever to have played professional baseball in six different decades.

The best pitcher Kittle ever handled was Juan Marichal, the superlative Giants' righthander, when he had the Escogido club in the Dominican.

Kittle began his career as a pitcher back in the '30s with Ponca City, Okla.

He was with the San Francisco Seals, Jersey City, Oklahoma City, Spokane and the Oakland Oaks in the '40s and was still pitching in the '50s for such teams as Salt Lake City, Terre Haute and Yakima.

As a manager in the '60s, he

got in some spot starts for Yakima and Savannah. That made four decades he had pitched in without having worked an inning in the big leagues.

One year before he'd become eligible to qualify for a baseball pension, Kittle was brought up to the big leagues as a coach with the Houston Astros in 1971.

He got his chance to pitch again in an exhibition game with the Detroit Tigers two years later at the age of 57.

"All the Astro pitchers, Joe Niekro, Bob Forsch, Larry Dierker, Fred Gladding and Jim York, kept hollering for me to pitch so I could get my fifth de-

cade in, but Leo Durocher, who was the manager then, said I'd get killed out there," Kittle laughed. "I told him I wouldn't. I walked one guy, but I got the rest of the side out and wound up getting the save."

Kittle made it six straight decades he pitched in when A. Rae Smith, then the owner of the Springfield, Ill., club in the American Association, held a Senior Citizens Night in 1980 and designated him to start a game against Des Moines.

"I haven't retired yet," Kittle said. "If they'll still let me put on a uniform, I'll crank up again in the '90s."

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