

McIlhenny SMU's pilot extraordinaire on field

In the land of Mercedes, Mustangs and the Pony Express, Lance McIlhenny seems out of place.

Everything is richer at SMU. The cars, the clothes, and the talent in the backfield all look just a little classier than do those at your average institution of higher learning. The SMU football media guide, along with the standard stats and mug shots, has pictures of Morgan Fairchild and Charlene Tilton visiting the campus.

Classy, huh?
Beautiful girls, a first-rate coach in Bobby Collins, and all the talent one could ever want. No place but SMU, as the bumper sticker reads.

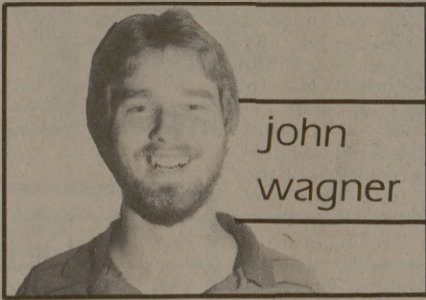
And then there's McIlhenny.
As a quarterback, little No. 11 doesn't carry impressive statistics. He's not that big, not that fast, and he doesn't throw that well.

But after a closer inspection, it's easy to see that the Dallas native fits SMU's offense like Gucci's on a banker.

His size isn't scaring anyone. Yet he's the perfect man for the job. The media guide sums McIlhenny up better than any sports writer ever could.

"All the 5-11, 195-pound quarterback from Dallas Highland Park High School does is win," it proclaims.

And win he does. The Mustangs are 20-2 in games that McIlhenny has started, including last year's 10-1 Southwest Conference championship season. His leadership and play made him a con-



john
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ensus all-SWC quarterback in 1981, and the chances are good McIlhenny will repeat this season.

Why? Just ask the Texas Longhorns. McIlhenny continually frustrated the Longhorn defense Saturday in Austin with his ability to make the right play at the right time. He has a rare talent for running the option — staring the defense right in the eyes and pitching the ball at the last minute.

And in the fourth quarter, when Texas stopped the option and shut down the Mustangs' power I, McIlhenny threw three passes, all complete, all for touchdowns.

It was a key victory for the Ponies and sweet revenge for their only loss of 1981. Last season, the Longhorns defeated SMU 9-7 on Raul Allegre's three field goals.

And because of SMU's probation,

Texas went to the Cotton Bowl while McIlhenny and the Mustangs stayed home.

In Kyle Field last year, McIlhenny passed 16 times, completing six. Once again, not that impressive. And his 108 passing yards seemed weak compared to Aggie quarterback Gary Kubiak's 257-yard total. But McIlhenny's roll-outs kept the Aggie defense guessing, and the passes completed were timely ones, if not impressive ones.

The Mustangs won 27-7.
This year the Mustangs are 7-0, ranked fourth in the country by both the AP and UPI polls, and are heading for a Nov. 20 showdown with the Arkansas Razorbacks — who are ranked fifth.

Before that contest takes shape, however, the Mustangs have to get by Texas A&M, Rice and Texas Tech. And what might seem to be a downhill coast to destiny could be disrupted — especially if the Ponies are caught looking forward to Arkansas.

But for now it appears SMU is on the right track, and the Pony Express — the tailback tandem of Eric Dickerson and Craig James — seems to be heading into the home stretch intent on crossing the wire first. The man holding the reins, however, is McIlhenny.

Somehow, in the land of Mercedes and Mustangs, Lance McIlhenny is the man who makes the show go.

He may not look pretty, but he wins. And that's all that counts.

Metzger

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see how it felt.

"The first time I went out and threw the ball, I felt encouraged. The way I threw the ball, I didn't have the natural fingertip motion any more so I had to learn to throw a little differently. But once I got the feel of the grip and became a little more relaxed and built up enough strength in my wrist and arm again, I did all right. I built new fingertips, so to speak, and it became a little easier."

The following year, Metzger was once again in the Giant's spring training camp and eventually worked his way back onto the roster.

"I was fortunate because ev-

erybody was more than fair to me," he said. "At some other places I felt like I might not have ever gotten a chance. In my mind, I made it. I knew I could never play on a starting basis again, but I thought I could play if someone was hurt and play a couple of weeks at a time."

Metzger retired in 1980 and is now owner and proprietor of the Bluebonnet Hills Restaurant outside of Brenham. But he said that after he finished his career in San Francisco, he could have entered coaching.

"They offered me a job in their minor leagues, but I didn't want to do that," he said. "I took on some scouting, but it just didn't work out with me trying to run a restaurant and be on the

road too. If I ever coach a team, I think I would enjoy coaching a college team.

"All in all, I miss the playing. The thing that was getting to be the least enjoyable was the travel. During my last year, I felt like it started becoming too much work and when it got to that point, I really didn't have a good time.

"I went to the ballpark and didn't really contribute anything; it became a chore to get there," Metzger said. "But overall, I look at it this way — if it wasn't for baseball I wouldn't have met Tammy (introduced through Astro teammate Ken Forsch) and I wouldn't have what I have today. It was good to me and I consider myself very fortunate."

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A&M to host volleyball tourney

The Aggie Ladies basketball team will host the two-day Texas A&M Women's Volleyball Classic Friday and Saturday in G. Rolie White Coliseum.

Texas A&M, ranked No. 15 in the NCAA poll and No. 19 in the Tachiakara poll, will host four teams: Southwest Missouri, Kentucky, LSU and Florida State. The squads have a combined record of 70-30 entering this weekend's competition.

The tourney will open at noon Friday with the Aggie Ladies, who have a 22-4 record and are in first place in the

Southwest Conference, facing LSU and Florida State going against Southwest Missouri. Texas A&M defeated the Lady Tigers, who are 32-16, twice in a tournament earlier in the season.

Florida State has a 17-7 record after finishing 43-8 and ending the season fourth at the AIAW nationals in 1981, while Southwest Missouri has a 20-9 record and has won 12 straight matches. One of the Aggie Ladies' four defeats came at the hands of Southwest Missouri in the Nebraska Tournament dur-

ing September.

Texas A&M will play Kentucky and Southwest Missouri will be pitted against LSU in matches at 3:30 Friday afternoon. Coach Mary Jo Peppel's Lady Wildcats have an 11-10 record after winning the Kentucky Classic.

At 7 p.m., Kentucky will face LSU and the Aggie Ladies will face Florida State. While the noon and 3:30 p.m. matches will be free of charge, tickets for Friday night's matches will cost \$2 for adults, \$1 for students and will be free for Texas A&M stu-

dents with I.D.s

Saturday's matches will open at 8 a.m., with FSU facing LSU and Southwest Missouri and taking the floor against Kentucky. At 11 a.m., the Aggie Ladies will play Southwest Missouri and Kentucky will wind up pre-championship matches by playing FSU.



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