

Texas A&M

# The Battalion Sports

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## SMU's Dickerson victim of the 'belated Heisman'

Eric Dickerson and comedian Rodney Dangerfield have a lot in common.

They're both tops in their field and are respected by their peers, but neither Dangerfield nor Dickerson "get no respect."

After watching Dickerson perform his own monologue of sorts for the 50,008 fans and the Texas Aggie defense Saturday, I was convinced I had just seen the premiere running back in the country at his best. I was confident that every sportswriter in the country would fill the blank on the Heisman Trophy ballot with the words "Eric Dickerson, running back — SMU."

My confidence was, to say the least, premature.

During the latter stages of the Stanford-Washington game which aired Saturday evening on ABC, commentator Keith Jackson explained how various Heisman candidates helped their cause Saturday afternoon.

Jackson made it clear that Stanford quarterback John Elway was fast becoming a prime contender for the trophy by throwing for 265 yards and two touchdowns in leading the Cardinals to an upset over the Huskies.

Jackson then added that Georgia running back Herschel Walker ran for 219 yards against Memphis State and Pittsburgh quarterback Dan Marino had not played yet.

ABC then cut to a commercial without any mention of Dickerson. After ABC returned to the game, Jackson blurted out something that I interpreted as "Oh yeah, the director just told me I forgot to mention Eric Dickerson. He had somewhere in the neighborhood of 200 yards for SMU today."



john  
lopez

Too late Keith, the damage was already done. In an outrage I asked a friend: "How can they do that? He acted like Dickerson doesn't have any chance at all."

"He doesn't," my friend said. "Nobody outside of Texas even knows what a Dickerson is."

It's a shame. A downright shame.

After what he did to Texas A&M Saturday, Dickerson is a far cry from being my favorite football player. And should he not get the Heisman, I probably won't write a nasty letter to everyone who didn't vote for him. But the point is, Dickerson should get the Heisman Trophy and he probably won't.

The probable winner will be Walker. Walker's having an excellent year, but Dickerson is having a superb year. If Dickerson's skeptics want proof, all they have to do is reach for the nearest stat sheet.

Walker has carried 242 times for 1,194 yards this season — good.

Dickerson has carried 168 times for 1,319 yards this year — better.

Not satisfied yet? Walker averages 4.9 yards a carry and 149 yards a game — impressive.

Dickerson averages 7.9 yards a carry and 164 yards a game — once again, better.

The consensus among most sportswriters is that the reason Walker should get the award is because he didn't receive it his freshman season.

Too bad.

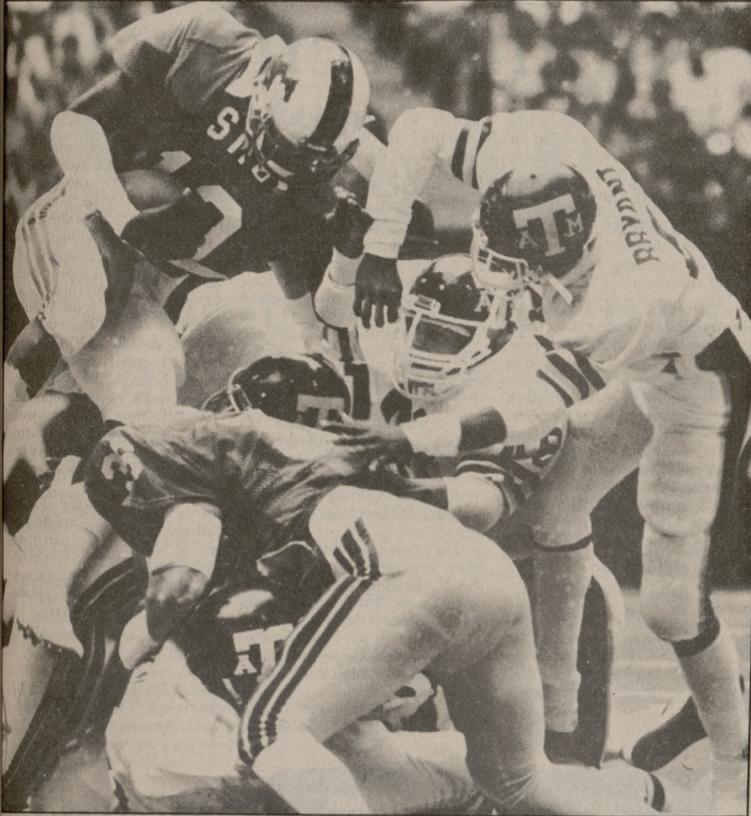
The plaque on the Heisman Trophy reads "Best College Football Player For The Year," not "Happy Belated Heisman Herschel."

Of the other top candidates, Elway has the most impressive statistics. Elway's completed better than 60 percent of his passes for 2,301 yards, but is still ranked behind four other quarterbacks in the nation.

And as for Marino, he's not even ranked among the top 35 quarterbacks. Sure, he's leading Pittsburgh to an undefeated season and a possible national championship, but there are several other quarterbacks having a better year than he is.

In other words, when Herschel Walker or whomever else receives the Heisman in December, in his speech he should be sure to thank Dickerson for going to a school that has only been on television twice and has another great running back named Craig James who splits time with Dickerson.

Because with a 7.9-yard average every time he touches the ball, if Dickerson carried as many times as Walker has this year, he'd be close to 2,000 yards this season — not bad for a guy that isn't considered a prime contender for the Heisman.



staff photo by David Fisher

SMU's Eric Dickerson (with ball) has rushed for more yards than any player in the school's history, and is close to breaking Earl Campbell's SWC record as well. But Dickerson, a senior who

should be considered the top prospect when the Heisman Trophy voting is done later this year, will probably be overlooked in favor of "sentimental favorite" Herschel Walker of Georgia.

## Cross country squads third, fifth in conference

The Aggie men's and women's cross country teams competed in the Southwest Conference meet Monday in Georgetown, with the women placing third and the men finishing fifth.

The meet was held on the Kurth-Landrum Golf Course on the campus of Southwestern University.

Coach Bill Nix's women's squad scored 54 points to finish close behind Houston, the winner with 36 points, and Arkansas, with 42 points. The Aggie

men, coached by Ted Nelson, didn't fare as well, compiling a total of 121 points. Arkansas, which won the meet, totaled 21 points with the second-, third-, fourth-, fifth- and seventh-place finishers.

Arkansas won its ninth straight title, but is still short of Texas' record of 14 in a row, set between 1934-47.

For the Aggie Ladies, Suzanne Sheffield led finishes in the 5,000-meter race with a seventh-place time of 18:40. Other Texas A&M finishes include De-

bbie Noel, 15th at 19:07.7; Paula Odom, 16th at 19:13.2; Stacie Reich, 18th at 19:18; Shelly Richmond, 21st at 19:37.2; Lisa McCorstin, 22nd at 19:43.3, and Esther Dedrick, 25th at 19:57.3.

The Aggie men's squad was paced by Jim Sterling, who had a 31:09.9 time in the 10,000-meter event. Texas A&M's Aaron Ramirez finished 18th at 31:49.6; Jim Bolleter was 19th at 31:52.6; Vince Stark was 28th at 32:20.4, and Craig Weise was 46th at 38:09.9.

Nix, who had expected the

Aggie Ladies to finish higher, said: "The finish was a disappointment for the whole team. We had as good a chance at the title as any of the teams."

"Physically, I thought we were well-prepared. But psychologically, there was a lot of pressure for such a young group of two juniors and five freshmen. It

created a poor race situation."

The Aggie Ladies had finished first in three previous meets this season and had earned a second-place finish at the A&M Invitational and a fourth-place finish at the Purdue Invitational Oct. 23 in West Lafayette, Ind.

Nelson said: "I was very

pleased with three of our men who ran well — Jim Sterling, Aaron Ramirez — a freshman, was very competitive, and Jim Bolleter. Unfortunately, Andy Elliott, who usually finishes high, had to drop out midway with a pulled Achilles tendon."

"The District IV NCAA qualifying meet is in 12 days. We can

be competitive and have a chance to move up a couple of places."

The Texas Longhorns, whose men finished sixth and whose women placed second, took first place individually in both competitions. Lori Nelson's 17:45.5 won the women's event and Sam Sionik managed a 29:45 to win the 10,000-meter men's race.

## How to follow Fellini.



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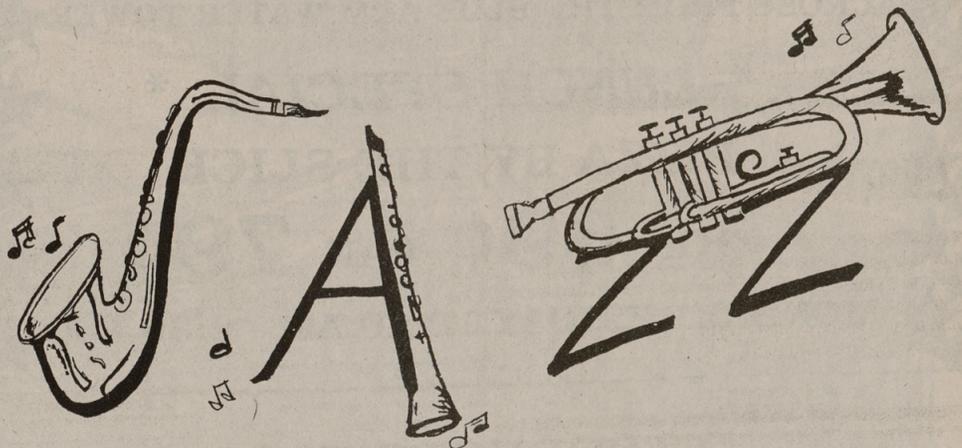


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