

# Switching gears

## Smith finishing career as kicker, not swimmer

by Simon C. Gonzalez  
Battalion Reporter

From the Olympics to the Ozarks — that's the story of Martin Smith, the place-kicker for the Arkansas Razorbacks.

Smith is from Hartfordshire, England. Like many English lads, he grew up playing soccer. However, Smith discovered he had a talent for swimming as well. This talent eventually led to a berth on England's national swim team, which competed in the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow.

"I swam in the 100- and 200-meter freestyle, the 400-meter medley relay, and the 800-meter freestyle relay," Smith said in a long-distance telephone inter-

view Thursday. He won a bronze medal in the medley relay and placed sixth in the 100-meter freestyle.

Smith was recruited by Arkansas to swim. He was competing in the Commonwealth Games in Canada in 1979 when Sam Freas, the Razorback swimming coach, was there on a recruiting trip. Freas offered him a scholarship and Smith accepted.

He was on the swim team for 3½ years, and decided to try football in his last semester of varsity eligibility.

"This is the first time I've ever played football," Smith said, "but I decided to give it a try since I'd played soccer."

Smith walked on at the start of football practices this fall and made the squad. He watched the first five games from the sideline, but he's started the last three. Smith has made 14 extra points and has been successful on two out of the three field goals he has attempted.

His longest kick so far has been a 34-yarder, but he feels his effective range is about 50 yards.

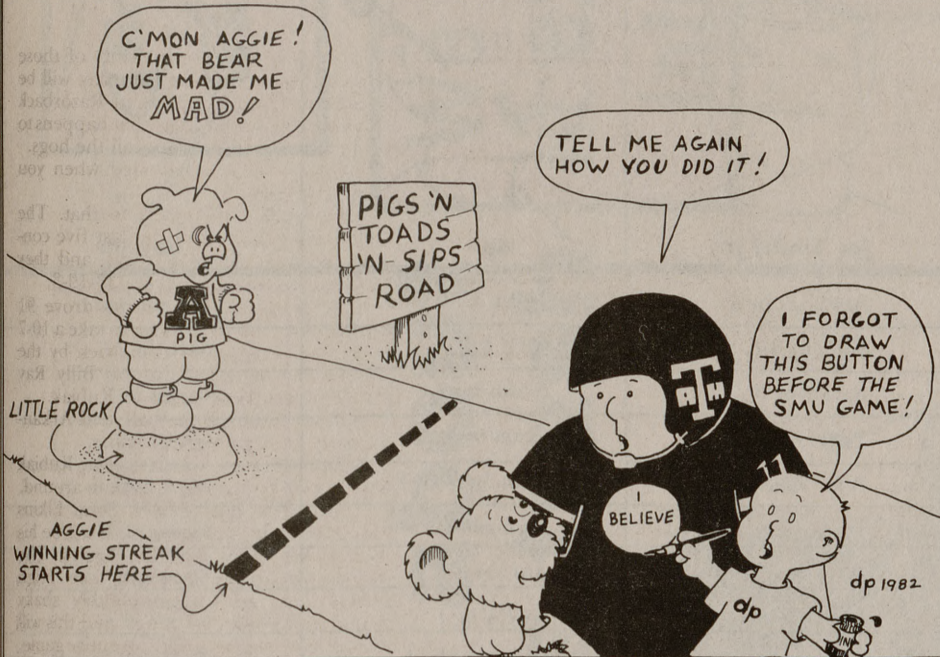
"I've kicked longer field goals

in practice," Smith said, "but realistically in a game I think my range would be about 50 yards."

Smith said that idea fits in well with Coach Lou Holtz's philosophy, since Holtz rarely tries a field goal from longer than 50 yards.

Smith said that he's been the subject of some good-natured jokes by his teammates.

"They find it unusual that a swimmer is playing football," he said.



# Mustangs can clinch share of SWC crown

United Press International  
The SMU Mustangs had hopes for some very large pots of gold at the end of their personal rainbow this year and the first pot is in sight — just over there on the other side of the Texas Tech Red Raiders.

It all seems so easy. Just brush aside the team that was picked to finish last in the Southwest Conference, equal a school record with a 14th consecutive victory, collect what the Mustangs hope will be just the first half of the league championship and then zip home to prepare for the arrival of the Arkansas Razorbacks in a week's time.

But things never seem to be easy for SMU in Lubbock. When the Mustangs and Raiders meet on the South Plains, the game often becomes a meteorological event. And it usually also turns out to be a Texas Tech victory. SMU has not won in Lubbock in 14 years and the last three times the Mustangs have visited Jones Stadium it has snowed.

"My first impressions of Tech are bad ones," recalls Eric Dickerson, the NCAA's second leading rusher and a prime factor in SMU's current standing as the No. 2 team in the nation. "The first year I was injured on the kickoff and missed the rest of the year. I sprained my ankle on the same play that Charles Waggoner hurt his neck (which ended Waggoner's football career).

"Then the next year we had a bid to the Holiday Bowl and went out and lost 14-0. That was humiliating. We kind of limped into a bowl."

Things figure to be different this year, but as Arkansas found out in Waco last weekend, you never know. Tech is not last in the conference, as had been forecast. The Raiders (4-5) are currently fourth with a break-even league mark.

"Ask Washington if they think Tech has a good team," said SMU coach Bobby Collins, referring to the Huskies' narrow triumph over the Raiders last month. "A win would mean a lot to their program. But a win would mean a lot to our program, too."

"We've got to go out and give it our best or we will undoubtedly come back with our first loss of the year."

If SMU doesn't lose its first game of the year, the Mustangs will clinch a share of the conference title. And if SMU wins and Arkansas somehow finds a way to lose its second straight game — the Mustangs would claim the undisputed championship and a berth in the Cotton Bowl.

No. 9 Arkansas (7-1) will be in Little Rock Saturday night against Texas A&M (4-4), seeking to bounce back from its 24-17 loss to Baylor.

If SMU does beat Tech, Arkansas will have to win all three of its remaining games to

make it to the Cotton Bowl.

"We can still get there," said Arkansas coach Lou Holtz. "But that's going to be more difficult than ever. We have no chance to win our remaining games if we don't play better than we did against Baylor."

This week's sub-plots will be played out in Fort Worth and Houston with the resurging Texas Longhorns (5-2) traveling to TCU (3-6) and the upfitted Baylor Bears (3-5-1) visiting the downtrodden Rice Owls (0-9).

There are those who feel a decision has already been made at TCU to dismiss coach F.A. Dry. But if there has, a win over Texas might cause some alteration of thinking.

Texas, however, is not yet officially out of the Cotton Bowl race and the Longhorns' 50-0 win over Houston last week shows that they are in good form for a run at a decent bowl bid.

The Longhorns have back-to-back shutouts to their credit and if they blank the Horned Frogs it will be the first time a conference team has held three straight opponents scoreless in 19 years.

"The race is getting a little tighter," said Texas coach Fred Akers. "The happenings last weekend were surprising and it points up the fact that you can't book anything in this conference."



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