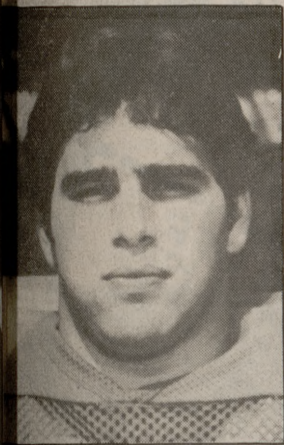
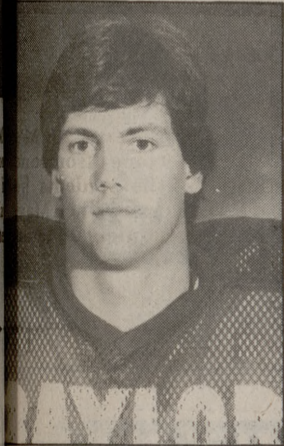


Players see 'big play' as key factor

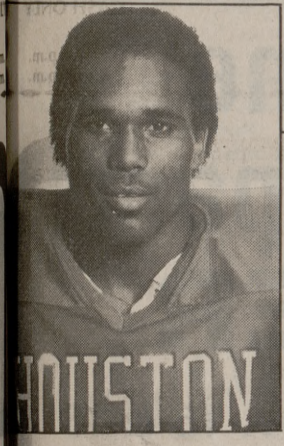
# Pony-Hog game could be a toss-up



Wayne Harpold says SMU must watch 'big play'



QB Mike Brannan says SMU, Arkansas similar



Lionel Wilson says SMU must stay with option

United Press International  
DALLAS — The SMU Mustangs and Arkansas Razorbacks have played six common opponents this year and left some lasting impressions on each of them.

Here, compiled by the Southwest Conference office, are some of those impressions from linebackers concerning the SMU and Arkansas offenses and from quarterbacks discussing the opposing defenses:

**LINEBACKERS**

**Geff Gandy, Baylor** — "I think it's going to be a defensive game — and both teams are good on defense. Arkansas might have a slight edge because they can run and pass."

"Eric Dickerson and Craig James wear down defenses. Arkansas' offensive strength is in its line — they're big and quick. So is SMU's line, but the two teams do different things because of the types of offenses they run. SMU runs the I-formation and they don't zone block. They hit you straight up (and) Arkansas zone blocks."

"After Arkansas lost to us I know coach (Lou) Holtz is going to have his team mentally and physically prepared. SMU hasn't been beaten and it's like mountains and valleys. You don't appreciate the mountains so much until you've been in the valley. Arkansas was in a valley the weekend we played them and they'll want to get back on the mountain."

**Wayne Harpold, Rice** — "Arkansas' offensive front is real powerful, real strong, and they're very capable blockers on the run. They're not that impressive on pass blocking, but that's probably because they rely more on the run. Gary Anderson has real good moves and great second effort."

"SMU's line isn't as physical. Arkansas is more of a cram-it-down-your-throat basic offense, but the SMU backs will sort of linger around in the backfield until they spot an opening and then, zoom, they hit the line running full speed. If I was coaching the Arkansas defense I'd say, 'Don't let the big play happen, fellas.'"

"I don't see SMU winning by driving the ball down Arkansas' throat, so Arkansas has to make sure of its tackles and go for the ball. I'd tell SMU to try to penetrate more, to mix it up as much as they can. I'd have them do more stunting, trying to get in Arkansas' backfield."

**Jeff Fuller, Texas A&M** — "They both have very quick offensive backfields. That's the main similarity I see. Arkansas has a lot of quickness when Gary Anderson is in the backfield. It's really hard to compare the offenses past that, because Arkansas has a more balanced attack."

**Darrell Patterson, TCU** — "I think it will be a defensive struggle — who can shut down the other one's offense. Arkansas' line is strong and they have good speed and quickness. And they have experienced quarterbacks. Either of them can take off at any time. I'd have to say Arkansas' strength is in its offensive line and quarterbacks."

"SMU's strength has got to be in its offensive backfield. Craig James and Eric Dickerson are so explosive and (quarterback) Lance McIlhenny is so versatile. You can't just take away their running backs. You have to respect them all. Eric can run away from you and Craig can run over you."

"To defense SMU, I'd concentrate on containing Dickerson and James and try to make them run up the middle. That wouldn't stop them, but it might slow them down."

"To defense Arkansas, I'd try to shut down their pitches and off-tackle plays. Against both, I'd use containment and try to force them to run up the middle."

**QUARTERBACKS**

**Mike Brannan, Baylor** — "Both have good speed on defense and they compare a lot up front. SMU may have a little better linebacking group. Gary Moten is really a good player. And SMU may have a better secondary. Arkansas has to shut down the big plays by Dickerson and James. The big play is the SMU offense's No. 1 asset."

"We were able to hurt Arkansas by going at them with basic blocking on their front people."

Our running attack then opened things up for us to go deep against the Arkansas secondary."

**Lionel Wilson, Houston** — "Arkansas has a strong front line and I was impressed with their quickness, but I don't think they're strong enough to hold Dickerson and James down the whole game. There may not be any team that can do that. SMU has to run the option game outside and break down Arkansas' ends and cornerbacks. It will be tougher for SMU to gain yardage up the middle."

"SMU should be able to throw the ball on Arkansas. McIlhenny is tough running or throwing. I think it'll be harder for Arkansas to break the big play on offense."

"It's going to be one of those 'anything-can-happen' games."

**Doug Johnson, Rice** — "I'd give quickness to Arkansas and the secondary to SMU. What's going to make it such an interesting game is that it will be SMU's big ground game against Arkansas' defense. It will be whoever plays better that day. "SMU's defensive backs are some of the most talented athletes I've played against since I've been at Rice. The SMU defensive line is big and strong, but it isn't as quick as Arkansas and SMU's pass rush isn't as strong as Arkansas'. But then the SMU defensive backs have a better feel for where the ball is going to be."

"Arkansas is so aggressive on the defensive line. Billy Ray Smith bent a couple of face masks for me. I've had three face masks bent and Billy Ray got two of them. Some SMU guy got the other one, but it was at the end of the game and he knocked me out so I never did know who he was."

**John Elkins, Texas A&M** — "Their defenses are both aggressive and very quick. I think one of the differences be-

tween their defenses is that Arkansas utilizes its front people, blitzing more, where SMU uses its secondary more to make interceptions and to turn in the

big play."

**Jim Hart, Texas Tech** — "It's hard to compare them because when we played Arkansas it was their first game in Fayetteville

and they were fired up, and when we played SMU we were in Lubbock and we were up for that game. And that makes such a difference."

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