

Bob Lilly Jr.

TCU linebacker a chip off No. 74's block

by John P. Lopez
Battalion Staff

Bob Lilly. Mere mention of that name still sends shivers down the spine of every quarterback who ever played professional football in the 1960's and '70's.

Defensive linemen compare themselves to Lilly. Tom Landry still wishes he was in a Dallas Cowboy uniform. And Randy White, the Cowboys' all-pro who inherited Lilly's spot, has to live in the ever-present shadow of No. 74.

Lilly is a legend in his own time. So where does that leave Lilly's son, Bob Lilly Jr., 20, who also wants to make a name for himself in football?

Bob Jr., a sophomore linebacker at TCU in Ft. Worth, said in a telephone interview that he'd like future football fans to "remember Bob Lilly Jr. too," but he adds that it will take a lot of work on his part to achieve that goal.

"He (Bob Sr.) was just so far above my level," he said. "What came natural for him, I have to really work on. We're two different people altogether."

"I can judge him a lot better now that I'm older. I'm in awe of him. Back then (as a child) I took

for granted that he was a superstar."

Bob Jr., who was redshirted this year for the Horned Frogs, said he'd eventually like to be as successful as his father was at TCU (two-year all-America), but he doesn't want anything handed to him because of his name.

"I'm No. 90 (on my uniform), thank goodness," he said, "but I was No. 74 in grade school. I don't even want to think about being No. 74 up here. People think I came to TCU to live off my dad's reputation here, but that's not true."

"I originally wanted to go to a larger state school, but my father put his foot down and told me that that's not what was best for me. Other than that, he didn't try to influence me one way or another at all."

"After I visited the three schools (TCU, SMU and Baylor)," Bob Jr. said, "I decided to come to TCU because the people were just wonderful to me. It wasn't my first choice and my father didn't make me come here. It's just the school I wanted to come to."

"He was biased toward TCU, but he never told me to come here."

Lilly said the attention he's given because of his famous father is sometimes a problem.

"I don't want anybody to give me anything," he said. "I was kind of upset when I was at (Waco) Richfield High School. I made honorable mention on the all-district team and somehow I got put on the Adidas all-American team. So if there is politics in football, it was very evident there."

Another problem Bob Jr. has had trouble avoiding is criticism from people who think the only reason he got a football scholarship at a Southwest Conference school is because of his father.

"People treat me in different ways," he said. "Some people are real friendly and others think that I'm (conceited). But usually when I get to know someone, they tell me 'I used to think you had a big head.' I don't know why people think that. I guess it's because they don't think I'm good enough to play in this conference. But most of the time people are just kidding around with me about my father."

"When I was a freshman, my roommate used to always say, 'Hey, there goes Bob Lilly's son. Aren't you Bob Lilly's son? Can you get me Bob Lilly's autograph?' But he was just kidding."

We're best friends now."

But can Bob Jr. make a name for himself on his own?

"I don't know," he said. "I'd like to think that I'm quick off the ball like he was, but he was a lot bigger and stronger. I'm only six feet tall and I only weigh 200 pounds. But it's kind of hard to compare us because we play different positions. I'm a linebacker and he was a lineman. We have two different styles and techniques."

"First of all, I just want to become a starter for TCU before I think about Bob Lilly Jr. being a household name. We have a lot of good linebackers on our team, so it's going to be a fight for me next year. (Gary) Spann's just an awesome athlete. It's just natural for him."

"Naturally, I want to be an all-American," Bob Jr. said, "but I don't think there's any pressure on me to become one. The only pressure I feel is the pressure I put on myself. I just want to do good. I want to keep lifting weights and keep eating and improve myself everyday."

"I believe in goals, but the only goal I have right now is for me and Spann to be starting linebackers in the middle next year."

TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill



Aggie Ladies defeated by Kansas State, 83-72

The Texas A&M women's basketball team was defeated by Kansas State 83-72 Thursday night. It was their fourth loss of the year.

Kansas State, currently ranked No. 11 in the nation, used its height advantage and a first half-closing scoring streak to put the Aggies away.

Texas A&M kept the contest close until the last two minutes of the first half when Kansas State broke the game open. The Wildcats led at halftime, 43-36.

KSU outbounded the Aggies 40-32. Leading scorers for Texas A&M were Jackie Jones, who had 17 points, and Jenni Edgar who finished with

15. Jones hit seven of goal attempts, and the 30 of 65 from the field.

The Wildcats were Cassandra Jones with and Barbara Gilmore.

KSU is now 5-0 on the year. The Aggies dropped

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LAYAWAYS CHARGE ACCOUNT

K-State, Wisconsin set to tangle in Independence Bowl contest

United Press International SHREVEPORT, La.—It may have taken Kansas State 87 years to get to its first bowl game, but the Wildcats are not going to get any sympathy from the Wisconsin Badgers.

In four previous bowl trips the Badgers have come away winless on each occasion and they have dedicated themselves to altering that statistic Saturday night in the Independence Bowl.

Kansas State (6-4-1) and Wisconsin (6-5) will open the bowl season Saturday evening in the seventh renewal of a bowl that has struggled to obtain top teams for its game each year.

The Badgers are familiar with that. Last year Wisconsin made its first bowl trip in 18 years, going to the Garden State Bowl in East Rutherford, N.J. That bowl is now defunct.

Wisconsin also lost last year in the Garden State Bowl to Tennessee, 28-21, and coach Dave McClain wants very much to bring the Badgers their first

post-season victory in five tries. "I think we were just so excited to be going to a bowl game last year that we weren't going there with the thinking we should be going with. And that was to win the football game."

"We were going more or less with the attitude, 'hey, this is great, we are in a bowl game.' And it is great. But it hurt that we didn't win the darn thing."

McClain is hoping that Kansas State, which put together its first winning season in 12 years to earn its initial bowl trip, will

have the same problems Wisconsin encountered last year.

"I don't know if that will happen," said McClain. "Coach Dickey (Kansas State's Jim Dickey) has been to a lot of bowl games because he coached at Oklahoma."

"I'm sure he will take precautions against that happening. I'm sure of this. Emotional will be the No. 1 thing in the football game. Whoever has the best emotion will win this game."

Saturday night's game could well turn on Wisconsin's ability

to move the ball. The Badgers have their most high-powered offense in history, averaging more than 400 yards a game for the first time ever.

"I'm quite impressed with their defense," said McClain. "And offensively they look like one of the old teams in the Big Ten — three yards with power and then a lot of play-action passes."

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