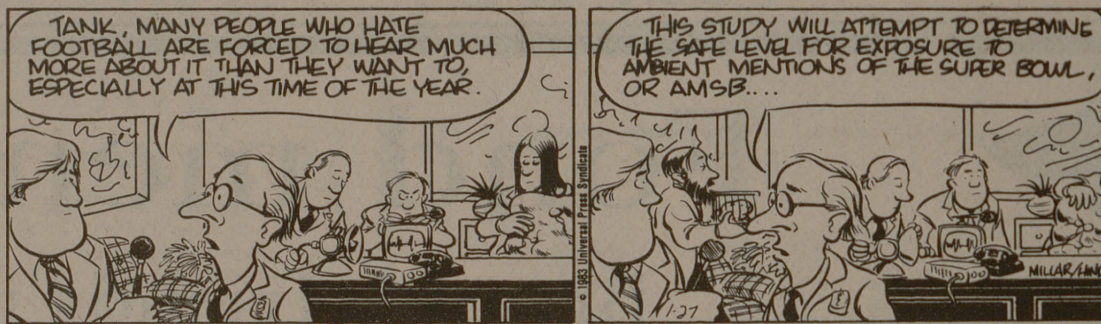


TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



Bryant — M

(continued from page 13)

High school friend says Bryant a 'natural winner'

United Press International
FORDYCE, Ark. — A former high school teammate of Paul "Bear" Bryant, the winningest college football coach of all time, said the coach was a "natural winner" determined not to lose. "I didn't really know him till he showed up here around 1927," said Clark Jordan, a high school teammate of Bryant. "I was a year or two older than him. He had all the determination in the world. He has always been a natural winner. He just wasn't going to lose."
Bryant, 69, died of a heart attack Wednesday at a Tuscaloosa, Ala., hospital. In his 38-year college football coaching career, he won 323 games.
Raised in the country about seven miles east of Fordyce in the Smith Chapel community, Bryant ventured into the south-

central Arkansas town and eventually made a name for himself on the Fordyce Redbug football team.
Jordan said Bryant's death Wednesday came as no surprise to him. He knew the Alabama coach, who retired at the end of the last football season, had been in bad health.
"I told all of them here in Fordyce that I knew from year before last he wouldn't have more than two more years left," Jordan said. "He knew he was all out. But he had so much guts and determination that he was going to stay in there. I could tell time was running out. I think he could, too."
Jordan said he last spoke with Bryant Jan. 15 and told him he probably could not make it out to Alabama in early February to go on their annual bird-hunting trip, an excursion they had made the past two years.
"I said I didn't think I was going to be up to going out there," Jordan said. "He said he didn't blame me a bit. But he said if I wasn't coming out here, I'm going to come see you." He

said I could expect him anytime."
Jordan recalled his days with Bryant — even the time the "Bear," a "pretty good-sized boy" of about 17, agreed to wrestle a real bear for \$5. He said two men came through Fordyce with a sideshow and challenged people to wrestle the muzzled bear. Bryant accepted the challenge.
"They were going to give him \$5 if he stayed in there two minutes with the bear," Jordan said. "Five dollars. That was some money in those days. Paul was that type. He said he could do it."
"The bear had a muzzle on it. They got in there and wrestled, and that muzzle came off. (Bryant) jumped off that stage and ran outside. He stayed until the muzzle came off. When he saw that muzzle come off, he left."
Jordan said: "He deserved all the credit and honor you can put on a man. He's just a great guy. And I feel sure he was the best friend I had left. I'm sure going to miss him. No doubt about it — he was a wonderful guy."

"The fact that he taught football and played football ... as a way of life was a great thing. To him, life was a football game. You have to play just as hard in life 25 years after you're out of school as you do on the football field."
"He was the type of individual that you could still have the same rapport with even after 25 years," he said. "He's just a great, great individual. His passing is really a great loss. He really had a tremendous capacity for a lot of things."
John David Crow, the Aggies' all-America halfback in 1957 and the only Heisman Trophy winner in Texas A&M history, expressed deep sorrow about the death of a close friend.
"It's a ... it's a very difficult thing for me to say anything about," Crow said. "It hurts so bad to lose someone that has meant so much to me and my family. I feel like ... I'm very fortunate because I have written him and told him how much I loved him and how much I appreciated what he has done for me and my family."
"It's a tragic loss for me. People have been calling me to talk about the football aspect of it, but it's a lot more personal than that for me. I've thought about taking the phone off the hook, but I don't think he would have wanted me to do that. He always told me that when you get

knocked down, you get up again."
Billy Pickard served as a student trainer for the team during two of Bryant's seasons as head coach. Pickard, Aggies' head trainer, said his experiences with Bryant have helped him during his career.
"At the outset, I'd like to say I was fortunate enough to have visited with him Jan. 15 in Los Angeles at the American Football Coaches' Association meeting," Pickard said. "My vivid recollection was that two years I spent with him as a student (trainer) have not only helped me in my profession but also in my life. I think the most remarkable thing about that time was that I think that's had a lot to do with why I've been here for 15 years. I think the most remarkable thing about that time was that I think that's had a lot to do with why I've been here for 15 years. I think the most remarkable thing about that time was that I think that's had a lot to do with why I've been here for 15 years."
"Coach Bryant and I had a close relationship while here as a student," he looked after his son who were at Junction. The question that everyone has is about his success, and I think his record will speak for itself."

Arkansas stays steady behind red-hot U

United Press International
The Arkansas Razorbacks had a hard time escaping LSU with a victory Wednesday night, as was evident by the final score. And the Houston Cougars had their troubles with the Razorbacks as well which was not evident by the final score.
The Southwest Conference's top two clubs both rolled with road victories Wednesday evening — both of them picking up their 16th win of the season.
Ninth-ranked Houston, unbeaten in seven SWC games, claimed a 76-40 decision over Rice, but it took a sudden second-half effort from seven-foot center Akeem Olatunji to make the eventual score one-sided.
The Cougars, playing for the first time since their 15-point victory over Arkansas last weekend, found themselves ahead by only five points five minutes deep in the second half. But finally Houston began to break away, Olatunji leading the charge with 20 points and eight rebounds.
Arkansas, meanwhile, let a 14-point second-half lead slip and the Razorbacks were clinging to a mere two-point advantage over Texas Tech with less than a minute to play.
Two free throws each from Joe Kleine, Leroy Sutton and Norton allowed the 11th-ranked Razorbacks to score a 62-57 victory over the Red Raiders, who have been playing with only 11 men on the roster since coach Gerald Myers kicked three off the club a month ago.
In the only other conference game on the schedule Wednesday night, the Baylor Bears ran off their most one-sided victory over Texas — a 76-43 decision that ended the Bears' four-game losing streak.
Arkansas raised its conference record to 6-1 (compared to Houston's 7-0) and Hogs' coach Eddie Sutton was glad to see "It's never easy to win here," Sutton said. "We made it hard on ourselves. We were under control with a nine-point lead and then got it up to 14. But our turnovers started to hurt us."
"I don't want to take anything away from Texas Tech, but they gave a great effort. There isn't anyone on our schedule who plays harder than Tech does."

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