

Texas A&M

# The Battalion Sports

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## Wacker confident his 'potion' will work on Kansas, against tough conference foes

by John P. Lopez

Jim Wacker has been brewing, stirring and stirring his winning potion for 12 years running — it hasn't failed him yet.

At Texas Lutheran College, Wacker's magic spell brought a mediocre team a perfect record and two straight national championships within four years.

Amazing.

At North Dakota State, the well-bound Wacker pupils piled up 24 wins and two conference titles in a span of three years.

Unbelievable.

And at Southwest Texas State, Wacker's brew stupified football experts when it worked wonders on a football program that more

closely resembled a Walt Disney movie than a national power.

Within three years, the Wacker magic turned its third trick — two straight national championships for the Bobcats and an overall record of 48-12.

But can the effervescent Wacker do it again? Has the ol' Wacker black magic run dry?

Or will Wacker scoop up one more handful of magic brew, sprinkle a few drops on the Horned Frogs' dinner plates and watch the lowly TCU Horned Frogs transform into the next Southwest Conference powerhouse?

Never?

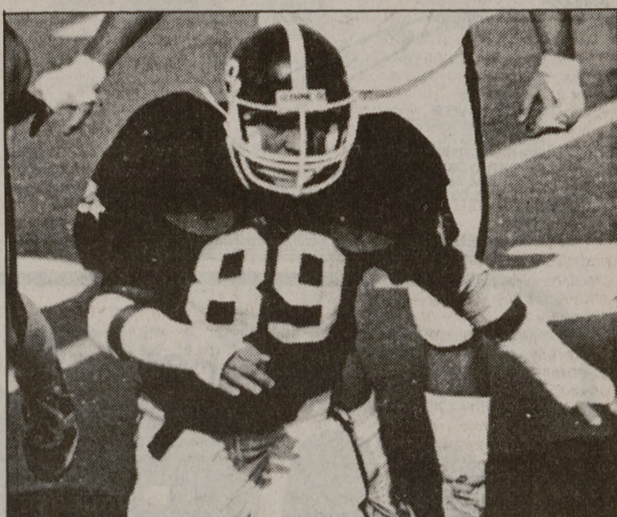
Not if you asked Wacker. Time

*"We have worked extremely hard at cutting down mistakes — not beating ourselves. It will be interesting to see if we can practice what we preach," — TCU coach Jim Wacker on the Horned Frogs' opening game Saturday against Kansas.*

"I've said all along that in order for us to win, our outstanding athletes will have to provide us outstanding play," Wacker said recently. "Generally, speaking, your average players will play up to their potential, but you need great plays from the great players to win."

Some of the Horned Frog players Wacker will be counting on to carry TCU's fortunes this year are linebacker Kyle Clifton, running back Kenneth Davis, offensive guard Elton Baptiste and wide receiver James Maness.

TCU's first chance to showcase itself will be Saturday when the Frogs host Kansas in Wacker's first game as TCU head coach.



Jim Wacker said TCU linebacker Kyle Clifton will be a key player for the Frogs in 1983.

## For Raiders, 'don't touch that clipper'

john wagner

Just to clear things up, the Texas Tech/Air Force football game will be on television Saturday.

You're not exactly overwhelmed. Tech, you ask? Air Force? Who cares? College students have better things to do on Saturday afternoons, like clip their toenails.

Listen anyway.

The situation surrounding the Red Raiders' 1983 opener is a strange one. Things haven't gone well for Texas Tech lately. Football — at least the winning kind —

was a fossil's hair away from becoming extinct on the Lubbock campus. Three wins in 1979. One win in 1981. Four wins in 1982. Tumbleweeds have more stability — and personality — than recent editions of the Red Raider football program have had.

But this year is supposed to be different. These are the new and improved Red Raiders, coach Jerry Moore tells us. This team isn't going to be an embarrassment to students, faculty and all of West

Texas. No-sir-ee, Bob, as they say in Lubbock. This team could be good.

Ted Turner thought so too. At least, Turner's network — Atlanta superstation WTBS — thought so. Network biggies picked the Red Raider/Falcon game as the opening game of their '83 broadcast season. These same guys picked Boston College/Texas A&M to begin last season's programming. See a trend anywhere?

Before you jump to the conclusion that Turner's staff is made up of calculator-belted nerds who have only seen football as played on Intellivision game cartridges, think again. Tech vs. Air Force might be a good game.

The Red Raiders, though they won't compete for the Cotton Bowl berth, should be improved. How much is hard to say. Air Force, on the other hand, is a definite threat this season. The Falcons were 8-5 last year, and have 51 lettermen returning.

Game experience, too. A pounding running attack (they use a variation of the wishbone) accounted for 397 yards last week in their opener against Colorado State.

Problem is, selecting, promoting and preparing for the game won't happen. At least not on WTBS.

ABC announced this week it would exercise its option to carry the game, after both schools had agreed to switch the starting time to Saturday evening. WTBS even went to the trouble of hiring a portable lighting company to install temporary lights at Falcon Stadium, which has none.

Hello, afternoon. Goodbye, nighttime.

Hello, ABC. Goodbye, WTBS. One would be hard-pressed to find a more perfect example of how television rules college athletics. Say the word, and the col-

leges move. Juggled times, jumped networks and total confusion are becoming the norm. The fact that Tech and Air Force had no real say in when they would play and who would televise them doesn't speak well for either the schools, the NCAA or the networks. It certainly doesn't show any concern for the fans.

And when it gets right down to it, the fans (and the folks at TV Guide) are the only ones inconvenienced. Tech and Air Force still play on television. ABC squeezes out WTBS, airs a game that could be half-way interesting, and WTBS finds two substitutes.

Network roulette. Much more interesting than clipping your toenails, and a whole lot more fun. Saturdays on ABC, anyway.

## Miami tests Coogs

United Press International

Not too many weeks ago, Baylor coach Grant Teaff was giving his sizeup of the Southwest Conference race and after giving most of the teams in the league a once over he paused and said:

"You might ought to watch out for the Houston Cougars. It's not often Bill Yeoman has trouble two years in a row."

Teaff appeared to be right on target because a few days later Houston pummeled the Rice Owls, 45-14, running up 333 ground yards and 464 yards overall.

This week, the Cougars will get another test from the Miami Hurricane and Yeoman said he's well aware that it could be a stiffer challenge.

"We can't kid ourselves," said Yeoman, whose team suffered through a comparatively poor 5-5-1 season last year. "Miami is going to come in here and be tougher than a boot. But I think we have a chance to be competitive."

Last year, the Hurricane whipped Houston 31-12 in the season opener for both teams so Yeoman hopes to avenge that disappointing loss.

## Maine artist too pooped to paint

United Press International

BOOTHBAY HARBOR, Maine — What began as a private joke between an artist and a local shopkeeper has turned Bill Harris into the "Sea Gull Poop King of Boothbay Harbor."

About 1,500 bags of ersatz "Freeze-Dried Sea Gull Poop" have been sold in the 12 months since Harris put his first scoopful into a plastic bag and stapled on a label. In fact, the stuff is powdered milk.

The business began during a

conversation with a shopkeeper friend of his who was amazed at the things people would buy.

As a joke, Harris took his friend up on the challenge and rushed home to his kitchen cupboard. It took him only a few minutes to draw the label: a smiling gull and the words "Freeze-Dried Sea Gull Poop from the Coast of Maine! Add water and stir, great with blueberries."

On the reverse it read, "A 'Natural' Product, Boothbay Harbor, Me."

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