

Future Aggie?

13-year-old A student held back for football

United Press International
JUSTIN — Dreams of a college football future have 13-year-old Kyle Burns reliving the past. The tight end for the Northwest

Junior High School Texans — a straight A student — is repeating the seventh grade so he can be bigger and stronger than his fellow high school graduates in 1989.

Coaches call the practice red-shirting. Young Kyle calls it a maturing process.

His father, Clay Burns, calls it a good investment. His mother, Linda Burns, calls it potential academic suicide.

"I'm hoping I can mature a bit," said the 5-foot-11½, 155-pound youth. "I think it will help me be better."

Kyle, who will be 19 when he finishes his studies at Northwest High School in this small north central Texas town about 25 miles north of Fort Worth, dreams of being a scholarship football player at Texas A&M University.

"We didn't force this on Kyle," said the youth's father. "He wants to play for Texas A&M and I want to give him every chance possible. If he doesn't get a chance at a school like A&M he might get a scholarship at a place like Sam Houston or Angelo State."

Red-shirting has been outlawed in Texas high schools since 1952, when the University Interscholastic League decreed that once a student enters eighth grade he has just five consecutive years of athletic eligibility left.

But the UIL, which governs sports in the state's public schools,

cannot do anything about a seventh-grader, or even younger student, being held back. The practice is legal if it is not initiated by the high school coach.

"When you consider the cost of a four-year college I think it is worth it," the elder Burns said. "I did a lot of looking around at the talent at the major colleges and most of the freshmen they signed were 19 years old."

"They had that extra year of maturity," said Burns, who was a star running back for the Northwest Texans when they won their last district title in 1962.

But Kyle's mother is dead set against the move. But she has no say in the matter because she is separated from her husband and he has custody of Kyle.

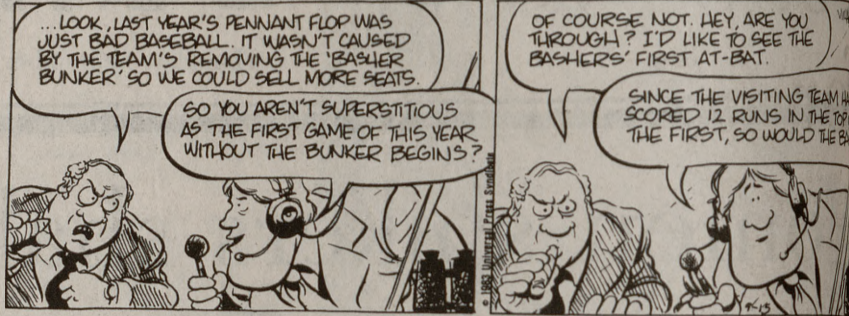
"If he gets hurt or something goes wrong, it's been a wasted year," she said. "He's so much bigger than the kids he's playing with now. He's a monster. He could hurt someone."

Mrs. Burns said she called the UIL office in Austin this summer to see if she could put a stop to the plan, but she was told she had no recourse.

"At first I was for it," she said. "But now I see it as wrong."

TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill



Linebackers 'whipping' opposition for Cowboys

United Press International
DALLAS — Despite their continuing success, the Dallas Cowboys have had a continuing whipping boy in recent years.

Their linebacker play has come in for more than its share of criticism and that criticism did not let up during this year's training camp.

Coach Tom Landry was as aware of the criticism as much as anybody, so when the Dallas linebackers turned in a quality performance last Sunday against the St. Louis Cardinals, he was quick to point it out.

In particular, Landry wanted to call attention to Anthony Dickerson — starting for the first year at outside linebacker in place of the retired Guy Brown.

Dickerson was awarded a game ball for his play Sunday during a game in which the Cowboys held

off-time nemesis Ottis Anderson to a modest 25 yards in 13 carries. He recorded a quarterback sack, intercepted a pass that changed the momentum of the game and through the first two weeks of the season had been credited with 20 tackles.

"The linebackers played one of their best games in some time," Landry said yesterday. "That is a real plus. That is one of the reasons we could control Anderson as well as we did."

Dickerson had been tagged with the reputation of being a top-flight athlete who too often free lanced and thus found himself in the wrong position. He could make the spectacular play, but he could also wind up being the goat.

Landry said he felt the responsibility Dickerson now felt as a starter was a key to his improvement as a player.

"Just being in there full time has helped him," Landry said. "In the past he has lacked consistency

more than anything else. "When you get the responsibility to start, you know it is do the job and your consistency tends to pick up."

The linebacking play has just one of several areas said showed marked improvement this season and a Dallas home game of the season coach could find only one of the club to fault.

"Our kicking game is good," he said. "This is what will really be concentrating on. The Cowboys have been given up field position and kickoffs and have had success running kickoffs on their own 20-yard line."

"We've got some young who really haven't turned selves loose," Landry said. "I'm going to try to impress them this week. They have formed well, but I think they

U.S. boxing team expects better judges at next meet

United Press International
HOUSTON — The coach of the U.S. olympic boxing team said he expects American boxers to receive better treatment in the North American Championships this weekend than a different group did in the Pan American Games.

The championship matches, held in 12 weight classes, begin Friday with finals on Sunday. The event, which will feature boxers from seven countries including Cuba and Canada, is being held in Texas for the first time.

Coach Pat Nappi said judges were unfair to his boxers who came home from the Pan American Games in Caracas, Venezuela, two weeks ago with two gold medals, compared to eight for the Cuban team.

"It wasn't all their fault," Nappi said of the American's performance.

"The judging was par. We expected to have decisions go against us, but judges really went after us."

The American team — from the top weight class bottom — is Craig Payne, Mich.; Richard Johnson, land, Texas; Ricky Wana, troit, Mich.; Virgil Hill, N.D.; Frank Tate, Detroit, Mich.; and Vincent Webb, Mo.; Clifford Gray, Beach, Fla.; Andrew Milwaukie, Ore.; Jess nevides, Corpus Christ, Todd Hickman, Akron, Ohio; Jose Rosario, Jersey City.

"These fighters are the have to offer. They will because they know this is a ping stone to the World Rome," he said.

None of the Pan American members are present. Gold alists Pernel Whitaker and Howard are nursing injuries.

Nappi said the change in talent is due to this country no one amateur national the Cubans have. American coaches look at many many competitions to leading to the 1984 Olympics.

"I like our system cause you're always looking for new talent. And this system a lot of youngsters are oppo to make it," he said.

Three-time Olympic Teofilo Stevenson, 30, entered in the Houston are two-time winner ranch and cattle cars rera and 1980 silver Adolfo Horta.

The Canadian team world amateur champions DeWit and Shawn O'Sullivan.

The achievement

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"The teenager's bod bodies dug up from house north of G August 1973 after poli the murder ring. Fiv main unclaimed, wi

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