



john wagner

## Little Mac has to learn to live with his labels

The spokesman from the SMU sports information office made himself perfectly clear — Lance McIlhenny wasn't interested in being interviewed. "Lance doesn't talk to college papers," he said.

Lance McIlhenny tucked a wad of money in his jean pockets as he talked, a silent reminder that this was no inner-city kid who really needed a scholarship. The reporters gathered around him stopped their scribbling and stared in envy as the quarterback shoved the cash in his jeans.

Lance McIlhenny was discussing his No. 1 pet peeve — sports writers who don't understand him, especially those who won't quit saying "all he does is win." "I think I can play in the NFL," McIlhenny said, with more than a touch of anger in his voice.

LANCE MCILHENNY ANSWERS to many names. Rich kid. Star quarterback. Winner. The senior from Dallas' affluent Highland Park High School fits all of those labels. Mustang fans love him. Longhorn fans hate him. Everyone else is just plain scared of what he can do on the football field.

It's easy to overlook McIlhenny — at 6-0, 190 pounds, he isn't the biggest quarterback to ever play the game. But three factors have made him what he is today — a star-studded supporting cast, his ability to make the option pitch and a never-ending desire to win.

Still, critics say all McIlhenny has done is ride on the jerseys of more talented players. McIlhenny is a sure bet to capture all-Southwest Conference honors for the third year in a row, and a sure bet to be called — again — the most overrated quarterback the SWC has ever seen. But whatever he is or isn't, one thing remains.

McIlhenny is a winner. His 29 victories as a starter ranks second on the SWC list of most wins by a quarterback. A victory Saturday over Texas A&M would make McIlhenny only the second quarterback in SWC history to win 30 games — a quest the Texas Longhorns prolonged with their 15-12 victory in Irving last week. He needs only five more wins to break the record of 33 career victories, set by Bobby Layne during 1944-47.

MCILHENNY AND THE Texas A&M defense need no introduction — they've already met, thank you. A&M hasn't beaten SMU since McIlhenny was a senior in high school, and the scores have been rather lopsided — 27-0 in 1980, 27-7 in 1981 and last season's 47-9 thrashing. That adds up to a scoring difference of 101-16 in the teams' last three meetings.

But that McIlhenny was a Pony of a different color. Back then, all Little Mac had to do was pitch to Eric Dickerson or Craig James and collect championship rings (he has two). This McIlhenny has to throw the football, and he does it with style. "Lance throws it perfect," says SMU wide receiver Ron Morris, "so I just have to concentrate on catching it."

THE AGGIES HAVE seen enough of McIlhenny to know the damage he can do — whether by pitch-out or pass. But like McIlhenny, A&M's defense has changed. And that could mean trouble for the Mustangs.

The last time SMU visited Kyle Field, a saber-wielding cadet tried to separate a Mustang cheerleader from his outfit. No doubt McIlhenny would like to do the same to the Aggies and win Saturday. After all, that's what Little Mac does best, though he'll never admit it.

Sorry, Lance. As long as the Mustangs keep winning, you'll have to learn to live with the labels.

## Aggies

(continued from page 17)

Darwin was over center when the Aggies took a 47-9 whipping by SMU in Dallas.

What made matters even worse was that staring Darwin right in the face on every snap was a big No. 74 — all-SWC noseguard Michael Carter. And Carter and Darwin will get acquainted Saturday — both are returning starters.

"I sure do remember last year," Darwin said. "I did some things good, but I did some things bad too."

"He (Carter) does whatever he wants while he's in there. He's strong, physical and quick. He has all the characteristics of a great noseguard."

So the challenge is there. The offense needs to grind the ball down the field against the Mustangs and standing in the way are people like Carter. Something has to break.

# College preview

## QB Doug Flutie leads Boston College against Penn State

United Press International  
Doug Flutie can't help but feel lucky when he plays against Penn State. After all, it was a game against the Nittany Lions in which Flutie made his debut as a quarterback for Boston College two years ago.

"I was fourth string as a freshman, and we were getting killed by Penn State," recalled the 5-foot-9 Eagles' passer. "Two guys got hurt, one guy played poorly and I remember going into the game thinking I could tell my grandchildren I played against Penn State."

Flutie passed for 135 yards and a touchdown in the final quarter of Boston College's 38-7 defeat, won the starting job and has been thrilling Boston College fans ever since.

Last year Flutie passed for 520 yards in a 52-17 loss to the Nittany Lions, who went on to win the national championship. So it's no surprise that Penn State Coach Joe Paterno is worried going into Saturday's game against the 18th-ranked Eagles, despite his team's 41-23 victory over Jeff Hostetler and West Virginia last week.

"The difference is Flutie is quicker, releases the ball a little quicker and moves around better," Paterno said. "He's tougher to get hold of."

Flutie has passed for 1,593 yards and 10 touchdowns this year to help Boston College to a 5-1 start.

"If there's a pass pattern that BC doesn't run, or a formation, or a screen, I've never seen it," Paterno said. "When a guy looks like he's going to be thrown for a 20-yard loss and then throws for a 50-yard touchdown, that's the

*'Two guys got hurt, one guy played poorly and I remember going into the game thinking I could tell my grandchildren I played against Penn State.'* — Doug Flutie on his first game against Penn State.

kind of guy he is. You've got to try to keep him contained and not panic if he does some things you're not ready for."

Penn State quarterback Doug Strang has made a resurgence in recent weeks, and it's no coincidence that the Lions have won five straight after losing their first three games.

"I think he's come along very well," Paterno said. "I felt all along that he was going to be an outstanding quarterback. He's now playing the way I thought he could play."

Saturday's schedule is spiced with four meetings between ranked teams: No. 3 North Carolina visits No. 10 Maryland in an Atlantic Coast Conference showdown, No. 4 Florida hosts No. 3 Auburn in a Southeast Conference clash, No. 7 Miami hosts No. 13 West Virginia and No. 8 Michigan visits No. 9 Illinois in a battle of Big Ten powers.

Also, No. 11 Washington visits UCLA to break the deadlock atop the Pacific-10.

In other games involving ranked teams, No. 1 Nebraska visits Kansas State, No. 2 Texas hosts Texas Tech, No. 6 Georgia hosts Temple, No. 12 Southern Methodist visits Texas A&M, No. 14 Oklahoma hosts Kansas, No. 15 Brigham Young hosts Utah State, No. 16 Ohio State hosts Wisconsin, No. 17 Iowa hosts Indiana, No. 19 Alabama hosts Mississippi State and No. 20 Pittsburgh hosts Syracuse.

North Carolina, idle last week, is heading into the meat of its schedule against Maryland. If the Tar Heels can make it through unbeaten, they can probably earn an Orange Bowl appearance, most likely against top-ranked Nebraska. Maryland's chances for post-season activity would improve greatly with a win Saturday, but the Terrapins aren't in the running for a spot in a major bowl.

"It's great to be playing in an 'important' game like this so far into the season," Maryland Coach Bobby Ross said. "It's a tribute to our program. I'm thrilled for our players to have this opportunity. But this isn't the last game of the season."

The Michigan-Illinois game will pit two of the top defenses in the country. Michigan leads the

conference in four defensive categories, Illinois is second in three.

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### CO-OP OPPORTUNITY IN CANCER RESEARCH

On Tuesday, November 8, and Wednesday, November 9, 1983, representatives from the Stehlin Foundation for Cancer Research (associated with St. Joseph's Hospital in Houston) will interview students interested in the Cooperative Education Program. They will interview for students who are interested in starting co-op with them in the Spring, 1984 semester. A minimum GPA of 2.7 is required.

The Stehlin Foundation wants to interview pre-med, pre-vet, and pre-dental students as well as ANSC, Biomedical Science, Biology, Biochemistry, Bioengineering, Microbiology and Zoology majors. The pay is \$950.00 per month for the first work term, and the positions are in Houston.

You must call the Co-op Office at 845-7725 or come by Room 107, Harrington Tower for an orientation to co-op and complete your application prior to your interview with the Stehlin Foundation.

NOTE: In the past, the Stehlin Foundation for Cancer Research has employed summer students from other universities and co-op students from Texas A&M University. All students who worked for them and desired to go on to medical school have been accepted to medical school.

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