

# Air Force, Rebels practice for Independence match

United Press International  
SHREVEPORT, La. — The Air Force Falcons and Ole Miss Rebels hit high school football fields Thursday for their first Louisiana practices in preparation for a "classic football contest" at the Independence Bowl.

The two teams will open the college bowl season when they face off at 7:05 p.m. CST Saturday at Independence Stadium.

Only about 2,200 tickets of the more than 50,000 available remained unsold Thursday, and the contest was being touted as the biggest Independence Bowl ever.

"We have nationally ranked Air Force Academy and the No. 3 team in the Southeastern Conference in the case of Ole Miss," said bowl Director Rod Duchesne. "I think we have a classic football contest lined up."

The game will pit No. 16 Air Force against Ole Miss, the first SEC representative to play in the 8-year-old bowl.

If the experience of playing in other bowls can give an edge to one team, it would have to fall to

Air Force. The Falcons won the Hall of Fame Bowl last year, while the Rebels have not made a post-season appearance since the 1971 Peach Bowl.

Air Force had one of its best seasons ever this year, ending at 9-2, while Ole Miss was 6-5. The Rebels were 1-5 before rebounding behind quarterback Kelly Powell to win five straight and an invitation to the bowl.

The game was expected primarily to be an offensive battle. Air Force has the second best rushing offense in the nation with 3,811 yards. The Falcons are powered by tailback Mike Brown and quarterback Marty Louthan, a scrambling and a throwing threat. They will be joined by fullback John Ker-shner, who averaged 84.9 yards a game this year.

Louthan was the nation's fourth-leading scorer, passing for 1,166 yards and rushing for another 767. Brown set an Air Force Academy rushing average last year at 7.2 yards a carry, but topped it this year by racking up an average 8.5 yards each time he gets the ball.

Ole Miss Coach Billy Brewer has thought more than once about Air Force's high-scoring, flexbone offense in getting ready for Saturday's kickoff.

"We will have to be a disciplined defense to stop them," Brewer said. "They are going to move the football and will continue to do the things they have done offensively this year. We just hope we can keep them from moving the football consistently."

But Ole Miss also has some offensive sparks — primarily senior tailback Buford McGee. The senior leads the Rebels this season in rushing (580 yards) and receiving (39 passes for 272 yards).

McGee apparently has overcome the injuries that have plagued him in the past, this year becoming the first Rebel to both rush for 1,000 career yards and catch 100 passes.

Air Force coach Ken Hatfield said his team played progressively better over the last three weeks of the regular season.

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dp 1983

## Baseball meetings

Kuhn gets extension on contract

United Press International  
NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Bowie Kuhn, a "transitory bridge" over troubled waters, had his job as baseball commissioner extended until March 1, 1984, and Dr. Bobby Brown was named president of the American League Thursday at the winter meetings.

Kuhn, who was supposed to vacate his office by Dec. 31, was asked to stay another two months to give the Search Committee additional time to find a successor.

In explaining the job of finding a replacement much tougher than anticipated, Bud Selig, chairman of the Search

Committee, said he received unanimous approval from the owners to keep Kuhn in office another two months.

It was the second extension Kuhn has received. He originally resigned as commissioner last August after the owners voted the previous November not to renew his contract but asked that he stay until Dec. 31.

"Clearly, a transitory bridge needs to be built at all times and having Bowie there — and that's the latest date he will be there and that comes from him, frankly, more than it comes from me — will be very helpful in a smooth and effective running of the commissioner's office," said Selig.

Despite reports to the contrary, Selig insisted no candidates were offered the commissioner's job, although he admitted about a dozen were interviewed.

"This job has been offered to no one, no one," said Selig. "Nobody has withdrawn, nobody has been offered the job and I can't believe or imagine where anybody got that kind of garbage. Now I mean that with every fiber of my body."

Peter Ueberroth, chairman of the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee, and James Baker, White House chief of staff, were considered the leading candidates. But Ueberroth removed his name from consideration Thursday and a White House official Wednesday said he was certain Baker would not accept the job.

"I was very honored to be informed 10 days ago that I was one of two finalists major league baseball was considering for its commissioner," said Ueberroth. "As president of the Los Angeles Olympic Organizing Committee, I'm committed to the 1984

Olympics through the year just a short 232 days from now. Therefore, I am not at all a candidate for your position."

Selig said the task of finding new commissioner is time-consuming.

"It's a job without precedent and it's taking longer because we're doing it very well," he said. "Everybody (the owners) has been marvelous. When I (last November) it would take to 60 days (to find a successor), that's not the first time my life I made. And I can't say you it won't be the last."

"There are a lot of problems here. All the members of the committee have various candidates, all of them comes very time consuming. The candidates themselves are very busy. Committee members have to fit in their schedules, it just takes time. And when you think back on it, one would be surprised."

Other members of the Search Committee are George Argyros of Seattle, Charles Bronfman of Montreal, Dan Galbreath of Pittsburgh, Peter Hardy of Toronto, Bob Lurie of San Francisco, John McMullen of Houston, Edward Bennett Williams of Baltimore.

Brown, a former New York Yankee third baseman and noted Fort Worth, Texas, cardiologist, received a five-year contract to replace Lee MacPhail as AL president, effective Jan. 1. MacPhail resigned to take the job as director of the U.S. Relations Committee. Fishel, who has served as MacPhail, was named executive vice president under Brown.

On the trading front Thursday, the New York Yankees were the most active team

## Rangers' Sundberg traded to Brewers

United Press International  
NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Milwaukee Brewers bolstered their catching department Thursday by acquiring former All-Star Jim Sundberg, a six-time Gold Glove award winner for catcher Ned Yost and pitcher Dan Scarpetta at the winter baseball meetings.

Sundberg, 32, approved the trade despite the fact he was a 10-and-5 man and had veto power over it. A year ago at the winter meetings he exercised a "no trade" clause in his contract and rejected a trade to the Los Angeles Dodgers. Sundberg, who still has three years to run on a 10-year contract he signed

with the Rangers, received a \$250,000 bonus for agreeing to the trade.

Sundberg struggled through the worst season of his major league career in 1982, hitting only .201 with two homers and 28 RBI in 131 games.

However, he still is among the best catchers in baseball and the Brewers plan on using him as a regular.

"He's going to be our catcher. I think he can catch between 130 and 140 games," Brewers' manager Rene Lachemann said. "He's coming off a year but being surrounded by guys like Robin Yount and Cooper should take some pressure off him offensively."

Ted Simmons has been the team's No. 1 catcher for the last three seasons but he is now a free agent. Brewers' general manager Harry Dalton said the club was hopeful of signing Simmons but pointed out that if it did Lachemann planned to give the catching job to the 34-year-old slugger.

"I can't be sure that will help him. I can't say we're hopeful," said Dalton. "Even if we do he would be designated hitter more. We signed Sundberg as an experienced catcher and I think he will prove our pitching staff better off that. He throws well and I feel he will do a tighter job of keeping men on base by throwing runners out from first."

Yost, 28, has played a role in his three seasons with the Brewers. Last season he hit with six homers and 28 RBIs

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