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SWC Coaches' Corner

Bears



Grant Teaff

United Press International
 WACO, TEXAS — This will be my 13th season at Baylor and in all those years I can't remember seeing a team change from one year to the next as much as ours will this year. In 1983 we were blessed with some outstanding skill people, as good a group as I've ever coached. But this season will be different because most of those great athletes are gone.

Everyone wants to know how I'll go about replacing Alfred Anderson, Gerald McNeil, Bruce Davis and Allen Rice. My answer to that question is that I can't replace them, at least not with players who can do exactly the things they did. After all, those four accounted for 72 percent of our offensive yardage last fall. So it's obvious that things will not be quite the same. Our running backs and receivers won't have the kind of experience you'd like them to have. It's comforting to know that is not the case at quarterback, where we have two of the best I've ever been around in Cody Carlson and Tom Muecke.

Carlson and Muecke have all the talent it takes to quarterback a team in the Southwest Conference. And they're such fine leaders, too. I've often said that if you have a talented, experienced quarterback, you have a chance to win. We are lucky enough at Baylor to have two of them and that's a big plus for us.

Everytime I turn around somebody asks me what kind of scheme I'll devise for playing Cody and Tom. All I can say this early is that I'll just have to wait and see. If one quarterback emerges as a clear-cut leader in two-a-days, then I'll not hesitate to go with them.

"But if they're even as they were last year, which I imagine they will be, then I'll probably alternate them one way or another. That's a decision, however, I'll make toward the beginning of the season.

What kind of offensive line we'll have to protect those quarterbacks is one of our biggest questions. We have three experienced linemen coming back, but two starters and the majority of the depth will be virtually untested. We're hoping the

extensive redshirt program we had going here will begin to pay dividends in the line.

Luckily, inexperience won't be a problem on the defense side of the ball. We have nine starters coming back and 13 other players who started at least one game last year because of injuries to our regulars. That's quite a pool of talent from which to draw.

We're receiving the positive results of those injuries last season—lots of players with experience—they sure caused problems last year. We were never quite able to put a defense on the field that had any degree of cohesion to it. I hope this year the defensive players hold up. We could have a solid defense if we can keep from getting into that revolving door situation like we had in 1983.

The linebackers and line will be our defensive strengths. We have good, talented players who have experience manning those positions. The secondary is more of a concern. Back there we have some fine athletes, but they need to come together as a unit.

Our kicking game is quite unsettled. I'll just have to put our punters and kickers through a trial by fire in two-a-days to see who steps to the forefront.

As I said earlier, injuries will play a big role in our season. If we can remain injury free, we have a chance to become a pretty good football team.

will have a lot better chance of being competitive.

As far as the conference race goes, I saw some article where they listed six or seven teams that have a legitimate chance of winding up on top and I would subscribe to that.

Texas A&M, of course, has a great collection of athletes as always. They are a year older. What's going to give them a chance is their quarterback and I can name you eight or 10 great athletes they have.

Texas and SMU are going to be a factor. Baylor has those two quarterbacks who really did an excellent job last year and they are coming with staggering speed out wide.

TCU will be significantly improved because it's pretty much the same bunch of kids, but a year older. I know what kind of linemen Texas Tech has gotten over the last couple of years. Their defensive end offensive lines will be improved and this kind of where they were worn out for a couple of years.

Kenny Hatfield is an excellent football coach and Arkansas is going to be tougher than a boot. I'm sure Watson Brown at Rice is going to get things going and I think we will be little bit more competitive. So I'm going to be a lot of fun to watch. I really believe that."

Cougars

United Press International
 HOUSTON — We're going to run the same offense that we have run for 99 years. Until we start winding up lower than second in total offense we're going to be real careful about doing anything drastic in the way of changing.

I really think we're going to throw the ball more effectively mainly because the kid (Gerald Landry) throwing the football and the receivers know that he is going to come around a little bit.

It is evident by the fact that we had a minimal number of fumbles during our spring work and I think the mental mistakes have been cut down. Before anything has a chance of taking place, your frame of mind has to be right. Then, if your head gets right, you at least have the opportunity to at least have a chance of being competitive.

Now as far as the spring was concerned I thought the work was real good. But what I was really encouraged about was the habits the kids got during the drills. I think their concentration was significantly im-



Bill Yeoman

proved and I thought our effort was excellent. As a result of that I really believe we accomplished some things that had to be accomplished.

I think everyone starts to talk about defense because if you don't have one of those you don't have anything. I really thought the defense was coming on, playing a whole lot better toward the end of spring practice. If we can have that at the beginning of our two-a-days, then maybe we can get where we can play defense and if we do that we

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