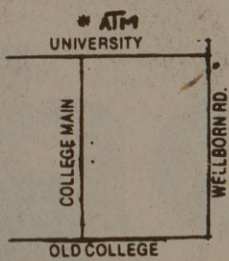


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Tuesday, November 27, 1984

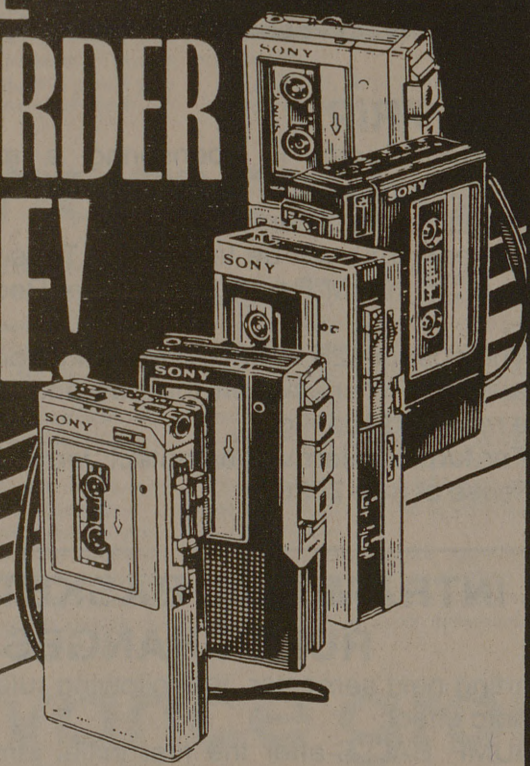
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# TCU's Cotton Bowl dreams all but gone

United Press International

In what has been somewhat of a zany season in the Southwest Conference, normalcy has made a sudden appearance. But there is no guarantee it is here to stay.

Once again, the Texas Longhorns have managed to assert themselves. They dampened the TCU Horned Frogs' season-long euphoria Saturday and put themselves in position to make yet another trip to the Cotton Bowl. The Boston College Eagles, with Heisman Trophy candidate Doug Flutie, have signed up as the visiting team for the New Year's Day classic in Dallas.

But there are a few more laps to be run in this year's race and any sort of stumble by the Horns would create an impressive mess in the conference standings. For now, however, Texas has earned the right to point out that they are still the bully of the SWC block.

"TCU has been there now, but on the wrong end of it," Texas offensive tackle Greg Wright said. "They have to regroup and see what it takes to win a really big game."

The No. 9 Longhorns, with Terry Orr running for 195 yards and scoring four touchdowns, brought TCU down from its momentum cloud, 44-23. TCU had come into the game with the lead in the SWC, a six-game winning streak and the No. 10 spot in the national rankings.

"Thank goodness there is another day," TCU coach Jim Wacker said. "But we are still 8-2. I thought before the season started that we might be about 6-4 right now, so we still have had a great season."

A TCU win would have all but clinched a Cotton Bowl berth for the Horned Frogs. But Texas, even though it knocked off TCU, still has work to do before it can make the Jan. 1 appearance in Dallas. Texas has suffered one SWC loss this year, a 29-15 setback against Houston, and there are four teams still in the conference race with two losses.

SMU (5-2) stayed in the picture with a 31-0 drubbing of Texas Tech Saturday and Arkansas (5-2) also had an easy time dispensing with the floundering Texas Aggies, 28-0. TCU is also at 5-2 and Houston, which had last week off, is 4-2.

The only way Texas can wrap up the Cotton Bowl bid next Saturday is to defeat Baylor, which won a wild 46-40 contest against Rice last Satur-



day, and have Texas Tech upset Houston in Lubbock. If Texas loses to either Baylor or Texas A&M, the race could wind up in a two-way, three-way or four-way tie. The possibilities are almost limitless, but Texas will be the decided favorite over both of its remaining foes.

The question remains, however, whether Texas is the team that struggled and fumbled its way through a five-week period of its schedule or is the team that exploded for 35 points in the second half against TCJ. Texas coach Fred Akers insisted it was the latter and he also wanted it known that while TCU was walking away with all the publicity lately, his team deserved some as well.

"TCU had momentum," Akers said. "They deserved it. They have won some good football games. But just because you don't put it on billboards it doesn't mean you can't have momentum, too. We have played some good football games, too, and we played a good one today."

Texas had turned the ball over a record nine times the previous week in losing to Houston and that embarrassing loss apparently served to put the Longhorns in the proper state of mind Saturday.

"We had a lot to prove," Texas defensive tackle Tony Degrate said. "This game meant more to me than any I can remember. A lot of people have really been down on us. I told coach Akers all week that I was going to have my best game ever and it just might have been."

The Texas-Baylor contest will have an early start next Saturday with a regional television commitment having moved the kickoff up to 11:35 a.m. TCU will visit A&M, with the game starting at 2 p.m.

## No. 1

BYU could become the king of NCAA's football mountain

United Press International

The haul has been long and the terrain steep, but Brigham Young can see the top now.

While five different teams have climbed to No. 1 in the national rankings this season and fallen, BYU has continued on an unswerving course to the summit and after another weekend full of upsets, the Cougars look to be king of the hill.

The No. 3 Cougars overcame five turnovers Saturday to defeat Utah 24-14, keeping the nation's longest winning streak intact at 22. Meanwhile, No. 2 South Carolina was being beaten for the first time this season, a 38-15 thrashing by Navy, making BYU the lone undefeated Division I-A team. And when No. 6 Oklahoma upset No. 1 Nebraska 17-7, even Cougar coach Lavelle Edwards was talking No. 1.

"I think we have a legitimate claim to the No. 1 ranking," Edwards said of his 11-0 Cougars, the Western Athletic Conference champions and host team in the Dec. 21 Holiday Bowl.

The Cougars' most likely challenger to UPI's No. 1 ranking this week is No. 4 Oklahoma State (9-1), a 16-10 victor over Iowa State. No. 5 Washington (10-1) might also get consideration after its 38-29 win over Washington State.

"I would think we should be rated No. 1 this week," Edwards said. "I definitely feel we have a right to be No. 1 now."

"But right now I'm more worried about Utah State next weekend. If we can get this Utah State game over with, and if we can win that one, then I'll really stop and think about it if it works out that way."

Edwards has compiled a 116-37-1 record since taking over as head coach in 1972. Before he arrived BYU had managed just 13 winning seasons in its history and Edwards figured there would never be a national championship.

"If it happens at the end of this year, it would definitely be the highlight of my coaching career, there's no question about that," Edwards said.

Robbie Bosco overcame three first-half interceptions to lead BYU over Utah. He passed for 367 yards and three touchdowns, giving him 3,537 yards and 32 TDs this season.

"I'm maybe more proud of this team than any other (BYU team) because most people fail to recognize that when things are going well, when you're not throwing interceptions or having fumbles, that it's not as hard," Edwards said.

"But, when you're not playing as good as you have been and things are going badly, when all the breaks are against you and you can still hold on to win against a very good team, that gives me a very good feeling."

At Lincoln, Neb., Tim Lashar's 32-yard field goal in the opening minute of the fourth quarter and a brilliant goal-line stand by Oklahoma with five minutes left held off Nebraska. It marked the sixth time this season the No. 1 team in the nation was upset and the second time for the Cornhuskers.

Quarterback Bob Misch passed for two touchdowns and Mike Smith ran for two more to key Navy's shocking win. The Gamecocks are the highest ranked team the Middies have ever upset.

USC's John Lee's five field goals, four of them from more than 40 yards, and Dennis Price's 63-yard interception return for a TD lifted UCLA over USC. Lee has kicked an NCAA-record 29 field goals this season.

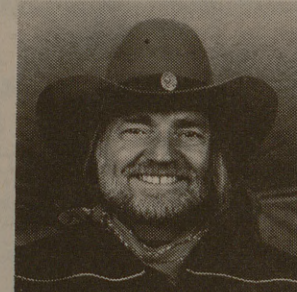
At Lexington, Ky., Florida gained at least a tie for its first-ever SEC championship. Bobby Raymond connected on six field goals to help secure the victory for the Gators, who set a school record with eight straight victories.

Keith Byars, held in check by a tough Michigan defense, still rushed for 92 yards and three TDs to put Ohio State in the Rose Bowl.

Field goal kicker Artie Cosby kicked three second-half field goals, including the game-winning 27-yarder with 1:15 remaining, to lift Mississippi State to its upset over LSU.

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