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SMU going to pay piper for years of wrong doing

It was a slow news day around The Battalion sports desk, so we got talking about the upcoming South-west Conference football season. Dreams and wishes fell like so many

autumn leaves.

Texas A&M would go at least 8-3, if they got past Alabama, one person said. Where would TCU, Texas and Arkansas be at the end of the 1985

season, another one asked?

Then the talk got around to SMU.
The voices got hushed and sympathetic sighs interspaced the conversation as talk waxed over the fate or supposed fate of the Mustang football program.

The prognosis, at least in our little world, was not very optimistic.

Right now, SMU representatives

Right now, SMU representatives are in Boston to go before the NCAA Council to appeal penalties which reportedly will prohibit the Ponies from giving any football scholarships this season.

The source of SMU's problems go back to repeated NCAA charges that the SMU football program allegedly use illegal recruiting practices to build their powerful football team.

Now, it appears, it's time for SMU to pay the piper.

to pay the piper.

The loss of scholarships would be a major blow to any program. No university can hope to attract top athletes without the promise of a full

athletic scholarship. Further NCAA Further NCAA sanctions that could be imposed, and likely will be, are the loss of the right to go to bowl

games or appear on television.
So the discussion, around the

ED CASSAVOY

Sports Writer

desk, shifted to what, pray tell, is SMU going to do?

Try getting a top football bluechipper to come to a program without a scholarship, with no exposure to national audiences or a chance to go to bowl game. Realisti-cally, the biggies won't just come to play for school pride.

It's obvious that SMU is going to get nailed by the NCAA for lengthy history of questionable practices. They deserve it.

And the powerful SMU football program will have its legs knocked out from under it. The question remains whether SMU Head Football Coach Bobby Collins will stick

around to see what happens.

SMU made a number of lousy ethical decisions and they got caught. Now they will probably pay

for it for a lot of years.

I don't feel especially sympathetic for SMU and I'm glad the NCAA is turning the heat up on universities

that break the rules.

Granted, the NCAA probably is using the high-visibility case of SMU for public relations purpose and some critics say the NCAA is really and the rules.

not doing the policing job it should.

TCU's Head Coach Jim Wacker
publicly asked SWC coaches to agree
to some ethical guidelines, but no

one trusted the idea.

Maybe the SWC's only hope is for some sort of regulatory board to be created to keep an eye out for problem programs. There'll still be the usual amount of ax grinding and finger pointing between the coaches, but hopefully the dialogue gener-ated will be useful.

Maybe someone can think of a way to control alumni or booster clubs associated with the different universities. Some of the worst of-fenders in college football are for-mer students tossing money and cars

How do you control them? With the big money, television revenues and bowl bucks, collegiate football programs will get even more competitive, looking for that edge. The problem of recruiting practices will not go away.

Universities are left to decide on their own, what they should do. Every so often a player gets nailed carrying a shoe box full of cash (a gift from some "fan"), or a program gets fined for recruiting violations.

So the whole college football scene becomes a event right out of the Roman colliseum.

man coliseum.

Each school's representatives sit in the stands munching hotdogs, watching the daily bloodfest as the line up of school representatives get tossed to the lions.

Sighs go up from the assembled crowd as they think, "at least it wasn't us this time."

Dorsett's contract settled

Cowboy runningback will report to camp

Associated Press

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. -Dallas Cowboys running back Tony Dorsett ended his holdout with the team Wednesday when he reached agreement with team president Tex

Schramm, a team spokesman said.

Dorsett, who has been absent from National Football League team's camp in Thousand Oaks, Calif., since July 21, is expected to report on Thursday, spokesman

Greg Aiello said.

"We're obviously happy about that," Aiello said from his Thousand Oaks office. "He'll be on a Fallog and morrow morning out of Dallas and will be here.

Witt Stewart, Dorsett's adviser, and Schramm negotiated for five hours in Schramm's office before an agreement was reached. Contract details were not available.
Schramm did not immediately re-

turn calls to The Associated Press.

Earlier Wednesday, agent Howard Slusher, who had been hired by Dorsett to negotiate on July 18, resigned. Sources told The Dallas Morning News that Slusher objected to Wednesday's meeting and told Stewart he could no longer work with Dorsett.

Slusher, the source told the News, wanted to wait two weeks — or right before the season — to talk with the Cowboys. Slusher's answering service said it could not immediately lo-

Dorsett, 31, and a Heisman Tro-phy winner from the University of Pittsburgh, had three years remain-

Dorsett had been asking for a deal comparable to the one signed last year by Randy White with a \$6.4 million annuity package and a \$1.5 million real estate plan.

Dorsett's existing contract would have paid him \$450,000 this year, \$500,000 in 1986 and \$550,000 in

Ags' football opener still unchanged

In last couple of weeks, a number of rumors have been circultating that Texas A&M's 1985 football season opener against Alabama will be moved up from its present date.

"Not so, maybe," says A&M assistant sports information director Alan Cannon, who says nothing has been formalized yet.

'It's going to be September 14," Cannon says, "with the starting time still

at 1:30 p.m. as of right now. "There's a possibility that the starting time of the game could be later if ESPN decides to pick up the game (for television)."

The first game of A&M Head Football Coach Jackie Sherrill's fourth year at the helm of the Aggies is being played in Birmingham, Ala. at Le-

The game will match Sherrill against former Alabama teammate and now head coach of the Crimson Tide, Ray Perkins. Perkins and Sherrill teamed with quarterbacks Ken Stabler and Joe Namath to hand legendary coach Paul "Bear" Bryant back-to-back national championships in 1964-65.

The A&M-Bama game is considered important for both teams. Perkins' Tide needs an early win to turn his program around after two dismal season, while the Ags also need a big win on the road to get Sherrill's must-win season off on the right foot.

There were a number of rumors that the A&M-Alabama game was rescheduled for Sept. 3 or 4 for television purposes, but Cannon says the present date has not, as of yet, changed.

"There is no way to know for sure until later on," Cannon says. "I expect our office will get a call, on the Monday after Alabama plays Georgia, from ESPN. That's when we'll know for sure.

1985 A&M Football Schedule

Sept. 14 — at Alabama (Birmingham, Legion Field) — 1:30 p.m.

Sept. 21 - NORTHEAST LOUISIANA - 6 p.m.

Sept. 28 - TULSA - 6 p.m.

Oct. 5 — at Texas Tech (Lubbock, Jones Stadium) — 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 12 - HOUSTON - 2 p.m.

Oct. 19 — at Baylor (Waco, Baylor Stadium) — 7:00 p.m.

Oct. 26 — at Rice (Houston, Rice Stadium) — 2 p.m.

Nov. 2 - SMU - 2 p.m.

Nov. 16 - ARKANSAS - 2 p.m.

Nov. 23 — at TCU (Fort Worth — Amon Carter Stadium) — 2 p.m.

Nov. 28 — TEXAS — 2 p.m.

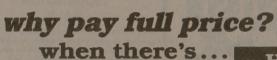
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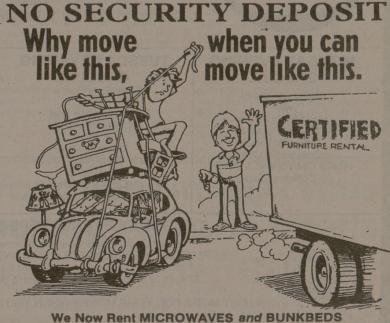
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