

SPORTS

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by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



It's a 6-horse SWC race without those Mustangs

From staff and wire reports

DALLAS — The Southwest Conference had its tightest football race in 70 years last season and 1985 could be even tighter.

Six teams have a legitimate shot at the title with only Texas Tech and Rice considered unlikely longshots and SMU not eligible.

A new conference rule bars schools from winning the title in a year they cannot play in the Cotton Bowl and SMU is banned from all post-season bowl appearances for two years under terms of its most recent NCAA probation.

How close was it in 1984?

For the first time, the champion had two losses (Houston and SMU tied) and, for the first time, the five top teams finished within one game of each other.

Houston and SMU were 6-2 fol-

lowed by TCU, Texas and Arkansas all at 5-3.

Arkansas came within a point of the co-championship, finishing a game back after a 32-31 loss to TCU.

Texas A&M came back strong to whip TCU, 35-21, and Texas, 37-12 to end their campaign.

Baylor missed out on a co-championship with cliffhanger losses to SMU and Arkansas.

Texas Tech lost close games to Baylor, Texas and Houston.

Rice didn't win a single SWC game, but scared SMU, Baylor and Houston.

"I think it's a wide open race," said SMU Coach Bobby Collins. "Arkansas will be stronger, TCU and Texas should pick up where they left off and the other conference teams should be stronger. Remember

Houston came out of nowhere last year."

SMU

SMU, which defeated Notre Dame in the Aloha Bowl, is loaded again. The Mustangs are 49-9-1 in the last four seasons under Collins.

While their title and bowl aspirations are now futile, the Mustang players reacted to the probation by saying it would make them even more determined to win all eleven games on their schedule.

SMU senior quarterback Don King will again return to lead an offense that averaged 396 yards per game, including 251 yards on the ground.

"Pony Express II," or SMU tailbacks Reggie Dupard and Jeff At-

See See SWC Race, page 10

Teams trimming NFL fat

Veterans, rookies alike get placed on waivers

Associated Press

Tackle Dean Miraldi won't have to pay the \$1,000-a-day fines being assessed against him by the Philadelphia Eagles. That's because he won't be playing for the Eagles any longer.

Miraldi, the Eagles' No. 2 pick in the 1981 National Football League draft, was one of 14 players cut by Philadelphia Tuesday — one day after he had reported to the team's training camp.

Miraldi, who was in the option year of his contract, wanted the Eagles to renegotiate his agreement, which called for \$110,000 per year. He had rejected the team's offer of a \$20,000 raise.

In addition to Miraldi, the Eagles waived four veterans and nine rookies. The veterans were nose tackle Harvey Armstrong, quarterback Dean May, tackle Rusty Russell and running back Michael Williams.

The Eagles also placed on injured reserve wide receivers Rodney Goosby and Kevin Guthrie, and linebacker Jody Schulz. And they put four holdouts on the reserved-did-not-report list, including running back Wilbert Montgomery, defensive end Dennis Harrison, linebacker Jerry Robinson and wide receiver Mike Quick.

See See NFL Cuts, page 10



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