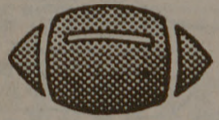





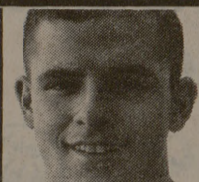


Football Forecast



 Charean Williams Asst. Sports Editor	 Ken Sury Sports Writer	 Travis Tingle Sports Editor	 d.p. Cartoonist	 Pete Herndon Sports Writer	 Doug Hall Sports Writer	
Texas A&M at Rice	Ags by 9	Ags by 17	Ags by 21	Ags by 14	Ags by 6	Ags by 10
TCU at (13) Baylor	Bears by 16	Bears by 20	Bears by 25	Bears by 14	Frogs by 1	Bears by 10
(19) Texas at SMU	'Stangs by 2	'Stangs by 13	'Stangs by 3	'Stangs by 1	'Horns by 2	'Horns by 3
Houston at (14) Arkansas	Hogs by 10	Hogs by 10	Hogs by 20	Hogs by 7	Hogs by 12	Hogs by 7
(9) Ohio State at (20) Minnesota	Gophers by 1	Buckeyes by 5	Gophers by 6	Buckeyes by 1	Buckeyes by 7	Gophers by 3
Michigan State at Purdue	Spartans by 14	Boilermakers by 7	Spartans by 6	Boilermakers by 1	Boilermakers by 3	Boilermakers by 7
Georgia Tech at (16) Tennessee	Vols by 4	Vols by 7	Vols by 10	Vols by 1	Vols by 10	Vols by 6
Mississippi State at (6) Auburn	Tigers by 18	Tigers by 21	Tigers by 7	Tigers by 10	Tigers by 7	Tigers by 3
USC at Notre Dame	Trojans by 3	Irish by 1	Irish by 1	Trojans by 1	Trojans by 14	Trojans by 7
West Virginia at (3) Penn State	Nittany Lions by 7	Nittany Lions by 6	W.Virginia by 8	Nittany Lions by 2	Nittany Lions by 1	Nittany Lions by 9
Atlanta at Dallas	Pokes by 14	Pokes by 6	Pokes by 17	Pokes by 3	Pokes by 10	Pokes by 10
Houston at St. Louis	Cards by 12	Cards by 10	Oilers by 9	Cards by 1	Cards by 6	Oilers by 7
Last Week's Record	5-7	3-9	4-8	4-8	5-7	5-7
Overall Record	50-21-1	49-22-1	48-23-1	47-24-1	42-29-1	42-29-1

Time of the essence to SWC

Last week was the "Time of Trial" for the Southwest Conference's title contenders. This week could be labeled "Redemption Time" for last week's losers and "Demolition Time" for last week's winners.

The Redeemers — Texas A&M and Arkansas.

The Demolishers — Baylor and all of the above.

The Perspirators — SMU and Texas.

Texas at SMU — Texas Stadium (Irving) — 2 p.m.

Both of these teams are sweating this week.

For those "Probationary Ponies" from SMU, the Texas game provides a second chance for respect, revenge and a Top 20 ranking.

Highly-touted SMU lost all these things with back-to-back losses to Arizona and Baylor.

One week ago, most observers around the SWC claimed the motivation-less Mustangs needed to be put out to stud and out of their misery before the motivated Cotton Bowl contenders sent them to the glue factory.

What a difference a week makes.

SMU dominated the Houston Cougars last Saturday by strutting the offensive and defensive stuff that made them everyone's preseason pick to run away with the conference race.

The Texas Longhorns are now next in line for a "nuclear" team that either explodes or fizzles.

And Texas Coach Fred Akers is worried about it.

Akers is already claiming games with SMU shouldn't count in the SWC standings.

BRANDON BERRY Sports Analysis

The Texas athletic department was reportedly the hangman that tightened the NCAA noose around the Mustangs' illegal necks.

And the Longhorns presently stand 2-0 in the SWC, following an emotional 15-13 upset win over legitimate SWC favorite Arkansas.

Sometime next week, Akers will be berating officials, schedule-makers, big-mouthed A.D. colleagues and an offense that will have proved how much faster horses are than cows — Mustangs 21, Longhorns 13.

Houston at Arkansas — War Memorial Stadium (Little Rock) — noon

At the start of the season, many people might have believed this game would be for all the SWC marbles.

After all, last season's Cotton Bowl representative would be playing this season's most eligible bachelors.

Surprise.

The Razorbacks were everything everyone expected of them, climbing as high as No. 4 in the nation, until they met up with a Texas defense that kicked sand in the face of Ken Hatfield's seemingly unphysical "flexboners."

Houston, meanwhile, has had plenty of practice dealing with sand in the face, as the Cougars have slid from the Cotton Bowl penthouse into the SWC's kitty litter box.

Now, UH fans and boosters are clamoring for a new coach and a new

team — or, at least, new ones that coach and play like the old ones.

Here's a vote for a return to normalcy and the best game of the year from the "Kitty Kougars."

It's a shame it will probably be wasted on a team as good as Arkansas — Razorbacks 24, Cougars 20.

TCU at Baylor — Baylor Stadium (Waco) — 2 p.m.

Baylor isn't the best team in the SWC. They're merely the most experienced, most coordinated and the smartest.

TCU isn't the worst team in the SWC. They are just the least experienced, least coordinated and the dumbest.

And the poorest.

TCU had to come from behind in dramatic, last-second fashion to beat less-than-dynastic North Texas State last weekend.

Baylor, meanwhile, somehow turned 140 rushing yards from nine different ball carriers into a 20-15 victory over A&M.

During the season, the Bears have used 27 different offensive formations and a defense that forces opponents to make mistakes in designing the conference front-runner.

The results of this game won't be pretty or unpredictable — and TCU will continue giving honesty a bad name in this conference — Bears 38, Horned Frogs 13.

Texas A&M at Rice — Rice Stadium (Houston) — 2 p.m.

This game could be one for the record books, right?

The second-best offense in the SWC meets the worst defense in the universe.

A team that unleashed over 300 yards passing and 300 yards rushing against one team faces a team that once gave up 80 yards on three rushing plays.

A team averaging 31 points per game against real defenses will be opposed by a team that gave up 62 points to Air Force, 48 to Miami of Florida and 44 to Freddy's "inoffensive" Longhorns.

This game promises to be a laugher, right?

Not so elementary, says dear Watson Brown.

The Owls are flying high after back-to-back wins over TCU and Texas Tech.

They are 3-3 for the first time since JFK and flying high.

As a matter of fact, when the Rice players heard rumors that three bowl scouts would be attending the game, they couldn't wait to act out their newfound roles in a meaningful scenario.

One big problem — the Aggies are a good, solid football team and the Owls are gamblers whose luck has run out.

Rice quarterback Mark Comalander was seriously injured against Tech and will be sidelined for the rest of the season.

Freshman Quentis Roper replaced Comalander and will start against the Aggies on Saturday. Rice's Brown said Roper will do just fine as long as he doesn't have to pass the ball too much.

And then Dorothy woke up and realized Oz was actually Topeka, the Aggies were really the Aggies and that the Owls still possessed the worst defensive team this side of Alpha Centauri — Aggies 52, Owls 13.

How much Moore will Tech take?

Texas Tech football fans can rest easy this weekend.

For the first time in the Southwest Conference season, the Red Raiders are guaranteed of not losing this Saturday.

No, they're not playing A&M Consolidated, although that might be a close game. Instead they get to take the week off and watch everybody else slug it out around the SWC.

The break didn't come a moment too soon for Lubbock's losers. Now the only slugfest they may be able to handle is one among their own head-hunting fans.

And who's head is on the wanted list?

Of course, it's Tech Coach Jerry "don't come around here no" Moore. OK, so that seem to be a copy of ESPN's Chris Berman's style on SportsCenter, but it does seem to represent what Tech fans think about Moore right now.

And what brought on these feelings?

Well, it started when Tech was supposed to open the SWC season against Baylor. Somewhere along the way to Waco, the team bus must have broken down because it looked like the Red Raiders never showed up to play.

After beating No. 3 USC the week before, the Baylor Bears laughed

PETE HERNDON Sports Viewpoint

their way to a 31-0 win and brought the previously unbeaten Red Raiders (at the time 3-0 in non-conference play) back down to earth.

But, looking back, losing to the Bears, even losing badly, was no real disgrace. The first pill that was hardest to swallow for Tech fans was given to them the next week when Texas A&M came to town.

Tech was able to stay close enough to Aggies during the game to make a last minute run at pulling the game off. Aided by the referees on some key plays, Tech scored a touchdown with less than a minute to play and trailed only 28-27.

Just exactly what happened next is hard for even a sports writer to describe, much less explain.

Moore couldn't decide whether to go for a 1-point or 2-point conversion. So he decided to run his offense and kicking team on and off the field until one of the units got tired and had to stay on the sideline. The kicking team wore down first, and Tech was penalized five yards for delay of game.

So now the decision seemed obvious. With the ball on the 8-yard-line, Tech could kick the extra point and tie the game. But the Red Raider place kicker was probably still on the sideline begging for an oxygen mask, so Moore opted to go for two.

Tech quarterback Aaron Keese was on his own, except for the presence of A&M defensive back Terrance Brooks. Brooks hurried Keese on a blitz, forcing the conversion pass to skid across the goal line with no Red Raiders anywhere close.

Boos were heard and bottles were thrown on the field, and at the Aggies, as Tech fans left Jones Stadium.

On Tech's campus, there's a statue of humorist Will Rogers on a horse. The horse's "rear quarter" faces directly toward College Station. After the A&M game, several Tech students said Moore gave the game to the Aggies because his "portrait" faced College Station.

The Arkansas game wasn't much of a disappointment. Everything went according to schedule — for the Razorbacks at least.

The Hogs blew the Red Raiders into the parking lot, 31-14, thus evening Tech's overall record to 3-3.

Tech fans didn't get too upset. Af-

ter all, next week they would get to pick on Rice — or so they thought.

Tech never put Rice away and, with less than 30 seconds in the game, a 57-yard field goal gave Rice a 29-27 lead. But this wasn't bad enough for Tech fans — the worst was yet to come.

Rice's celebration after the FG resulted in two delay of game penalties, which meant the Owls had to kick off from their own 20-yard-line. Tech got the ball around midfield with 18 seconds left.

The Rice defense wasn't used to protecting a lead and it left Tech receiver Lemuel Stinson wide open and cruising down the sidelines. But not wanting to break Tech's streak of "fack," Stinson dropped the ball on the 2-yard-line like it was a car lease handed to him by WFAA-TV's Gerry Oher. Then, to be consistent, he dropped another pass in the endzone on the last play of the game.

So why is Tech, 0-4 in the conference, playing like the bums of the SWC?

No one knows for sure, but one thing is just about certain.

All of this leaves Tech students and alumni thinking that if the Red Raiders lose any "Moore" this season, it's going to be Jerry.

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