

# Sports

## Battle of heavyweights in SWC

### BRANDON BERRY Sports Viewpoint

In one corner, Bruiser Brodie takes on Cyndi Lauper. In the other corner, Hulk Hogan glares hatefully at Kermit the Frog. And in the middle of the ring, the Von Erich's battle the tag team of Arnold Scharzenegger, Charles Bronson and Rambo's I and II.

Which one would you watch? As the four remaining SWC title contenders wrestle for this season's Cotton Bowl berth, a national ESPN audience will be treated to the "Von Erich" Aggies for the second consecutive week, this time against the "Schwarzbronombo-backs" of Arkansas.

In other SWC games, the "Hulk Hogan" Horns will be entertaining the vast Raycom Sports Network audience for the second week in a row when they host the Miss-Piggy loving Wacker-backers from TCU.

Meanwhile, a wierd team from Rice, possessing no quarterback, no running game, no defense and the sixth-best SWC record (?), travels to "Bear Country" to tackle Baylor, while SMU plays host to those record-setting Red Raiders from Texas Tech.

No wonder the Von Erichs are so popular.

#### Texas Tech at SMU

The only game that means absolutely nothing to anyone.

The Mustangs have lost all the original incentives with which they headed into this season — they can no longer finish with a No. 1 national ranking, they can no longer finish undefeated, they can no longer win the SWC and they never could go to the Cotton Bowl.

Tech, meanwhile, proved last week the difference between eighth and ninth place in the conference to be 56 points and a record-setting passing performance.

The Mustangs are vulnerable to the pass, especially against a team with a roll-out quarterback who can avoid the pass rush applied by the Ponies' Jerry Ball and Joe Phillips.

Don't expect the Mustangs to totally shut down Tech's freshman



Photo by JOHN MAKELY

This week the Southwest Conference offers its version of Rocky IV. Texas A&M's Ira Valentine (42) hopes to out-muscle the Arkansas defense Saturday in the conference's top matchup. The other SWC games find TCU at Texas, Rice at Baylor and Texas Tech at SMU.

phenomenon, Billy Joe Tolliver, but don't expect the Raiders to derail the SMU Express, either — SMU 27, Tech 24.

#### Rice at Baylor

Nothing fancy about this one,

folks. One of the best defenses in the conference faces an offense that can't run the ball unless it throws the ball first, and can't throw the ball because its running out of quar-

terbacks.

The Baylor veer offense will plunge through the under-sized Rice defensive line, and when the Owl secondary moves up to cover the run, Bear quarterbacks Tom Muecke and Cody Carlson will throw the ball deep, complete and often.

Baylor missed its first and best chance at the Cotton Bowl in last week's loss to the Hogs, and the Bears will probably pay for their lack of opportunism.

But so will the Rice Owls — Baylor 48, Rice 13.

#### TCU at Texas

Texas hosts a team that lost 63-7 last week to the eighth-best team in the SWC.

The Texas running backs are power-set backs instead of Tech's wishbone runners — and Texas runs the ball better than Tech.

The 'Horn offensive line is bigger and stronger than the Tech front. And, coincidentally, they're also better.

So, what happens when the worst team in the conference and maybe in all of Division I-A meets up with one of the four SWC contenders?

UT quarterback Brett Stafford will pass, but not too much. The Longhorns will run the ball like battering rams, but not too much. And Texas will run up the score, but not too much.

And what about the Horned Frogs? There's not too much to say — Texas 52, TCU 10.

#### Arkansas at Texas A&M

Maybe the best game of the year to date in the SWC.

Two teams who have reached their offensive and defensive peaks meet in an end-of-the-year game with championship implications.

The best option attack in the nation meets a quick defense that specializes in shutting down the option while the conference's most balanced offensive unit faces the SWC's most ferocious defense.

And neither team has significantly relied on the big play to win their games.

See SWC Football, page 16

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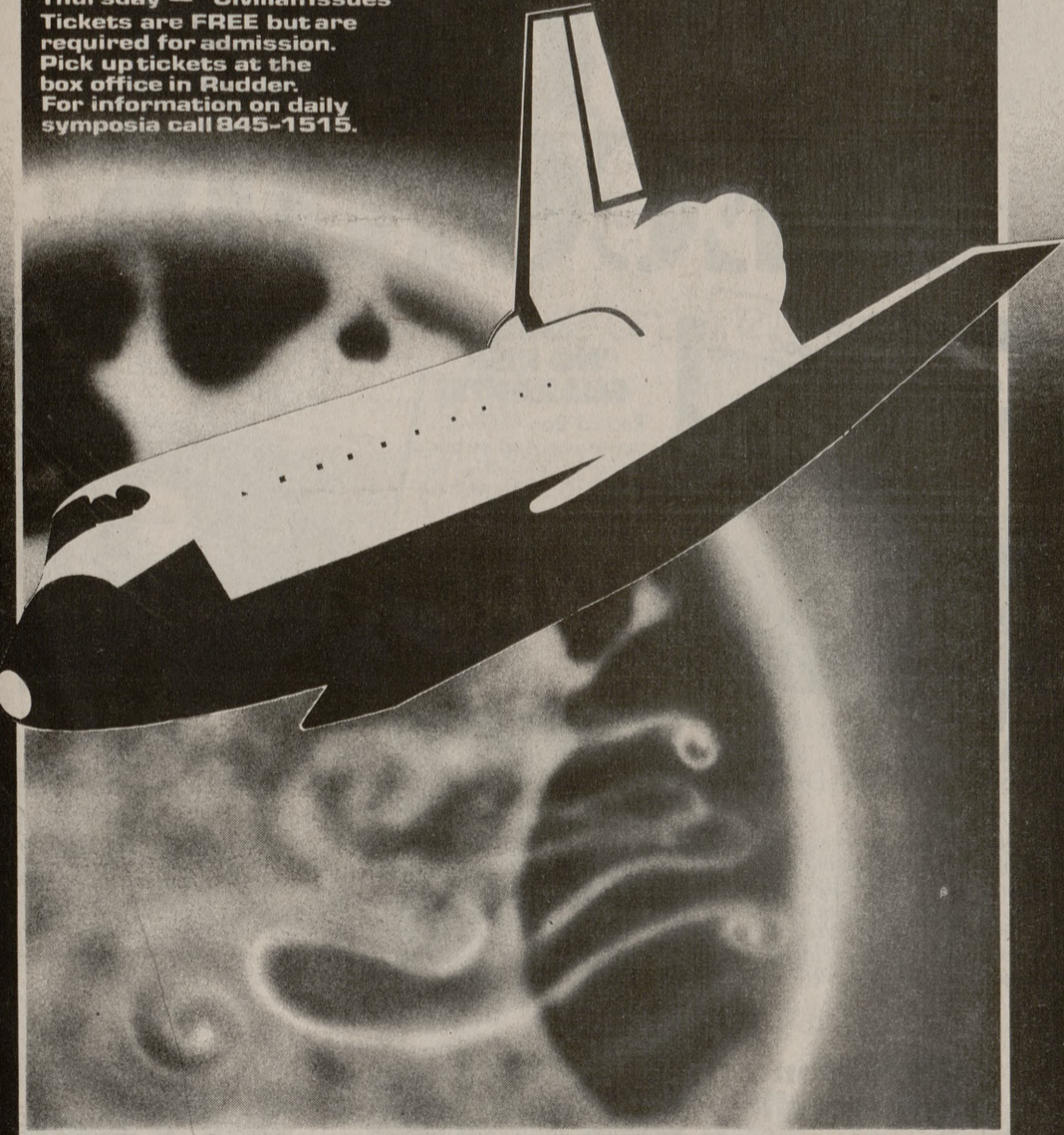
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