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**SALES & RENTAL**

## Notre Dame starts new era

Holtz urges Irish players, coaches to ignore past

Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Lou Holtz has started to work at it, doing a job once performed by the likes of Knute Rockne, Frank Leahy and Ara Parseghian — coaching football at Notre Dame.

Holtz' era at Notre Dame began by doing what he does so well — talking. He met individually with Notre Dame football players and assistant coaches Tuesday.

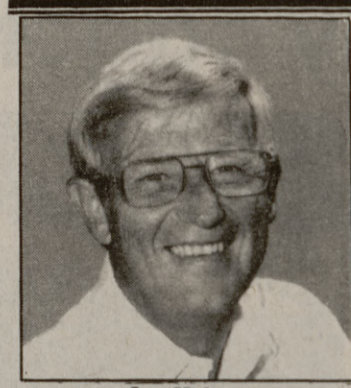
"I want to establish a line of communication between me and the players," Holtz said. "I want to put their minds at ease as far as the future is concerned, especially going into final exams. That's priority number one. Number two is recruiting. We're going into that very hard."

Holtz will find, as did the coach he succeeded, Gerry Faust, that Notre Dame no longer has first shot at the best Catholic high school players in the country, according to another former coach, Dan Devine.

"There's no longer the feeder system where a product of a Catholic High School automatically goes to Notre Dame," said Devine, who coached the Fighting Irish from 1975-1980.

"You've got to go out and fight for those kids," said Devine who was in New York to be inducted in the College Football Hall of Fame Tuesday night.

Devine predicted that Holtz may be shocked when he finds "there's not nearly as much emphasis on



Lou Holtz

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— Notre Dame Coach Lou Holtz

football, internally, as you think there is."

Recalling his experience at coach, Devine said Holtz will "Get his players later in the day than at any other school in the country. He'll get less practice time. Kids will go to a lab class rather than practice."

"But they'll play on Saturday. They'll compete."

Devine said Holtz soon may wonder, "My gosh, is this Notre Dame where football is so important?"

Devine, who led the Irish to the National Championship in 1977, said Holtz also will find less pressure from alumni than he may think.

"It's a lot sweeter than Lou Holtz had at Arkansas or Lou Holtz had at Minnesota," Devine said. The alumni does not dictate at Notre

Dame, though the university may let them think they do."

"Look to the future" was Holtz's message to the players, who returned to campus Monday after a devastating defeat at Miami and the end of Faust's disappointing era.

"He's trying to stay away from the past," athletic department spokesman John Heisler said of Holtz.

The past under Faust was capped by Saturday's 58-7 defeat at Miami and closed with a 30-26-1 record compiled during Faust's five years with the Irish.

Faust resigned Nov. 26, three days after a loss to Louisiana State made him the losingest coach in Notre Dame history. Holtz, head coach at Minnesota the past two seasons,

## SMU's vast talent concerns Switzer

Associated Press

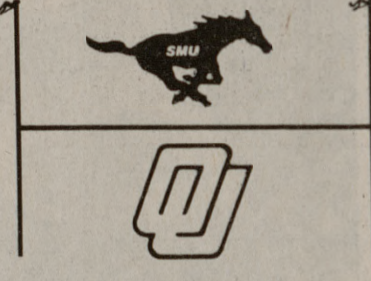
NORMAN, Okla. — The Southern Methodist football team represents the most talent on offense that Oklahoma has faced this year, Sooners Coach Barry Switzer said Tuesday.

"I've had pro scouts tell me SMU is more talented offensively than Nebraska, and it wouldn't surprise me," Switzer told writers and broadcasters at his weekly news conference.

"I think they're probably the most dangerous team we've got left on our schedule, and I'm not saying that just because this is our final game," Switzer said. "They're kind of like a sleeping giant. They are a very talented football team."

No. 4 Oklahoma must beat SMU in order to keep alive its hopes of playing for the National Championship against No. 1 Penn State in the Orange Bowl Jan. 1. The Sooners enter Saturday's 2:30 p.m. game with a 9-1 record, while SMU is 6-4.

The Mustangs were a preseason Top 20 pick and their record has been a disappointment, but Switzer said they could easily have been 9-1.



"SMU didn't struggle, they lost," Switzer said. He added that late scores carried Texas A&M, Baylor and Arkansas past the Mustangs.

"They just murdered Texas, and we didn't," Switzer said. "They got beat by Arizona, but they got worn out with the passing game. The other three ball games, they could have won every one of them."

SMU is on probation and it has been speculated that perhaps the penalty has given the Mustangs less to play for. Switzer disagreed.

"When we were on probation (1974 and 1975) we still won our games because we had good players," he said. "The teams that usually win have the better players."

Switzer had strong praise for SMU's tailback duo of Reggie De-  
pard and Jeff Atkins, flanker Ron Morris and noseguard Jerry Ball.

"Their offensive line is huge," he said. "Their I-backs are great and their receivers are great. (SMU noseguard) Jerry Ball should be one of the finalists for the Lombardi Award. He is a great football player. He and (Oklahoma noseguard) Tony Casillas are the best I've seen."

"I didn't realize how good he (Ball) was. He is by far the best lineman I've seen this year."

Switzer said he thought his team, which is facing its third stiff test in a row after beating Nebraska and Oklahoma State, is as sharp mentally as it has been this year.

"We had a great practice yesterday," he said. "I don't know if we'll win the ball game, but we'll play great."

Oklahoma is coming off a 13-4 victory over No. 19 Oklahoma State in a game played on a field covered by ice. Switzer said the film is useless and will be saved "only for posterity."

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