

Sports

UT, Tech tied together by McWilliams 'Horns perennial kingpins in conference sports

By Doug Hall

Assistant Sports Editor

Fourth in a five-part series

Sport for sport, the University of Texas' Athletic Department is not only one of the best in the Southwest Conference, but one of the best in the country.

Such a statement might make Aggies' eyes burn, but numbers are numbers.

The football program, despite weathering several recent unsuccessful seasons and the firing of Head Coach Fred Akers, has a record that no other school in the SWC can match. Since 1920, the Longhorns have won or tied for 22 SWC championships, the most recent being in 1983. Since 1941, they have finished in the AP Top-10 19 times, including three national championships — 1963, 1969 and 1970.

Currently, there are over 50 former football players in the NFL including Jerry Gray, Raymond Clayborn, Kenneth Sims, Doug Dawson and Glenn Blackwood. Earl Campbell, the 1977 Heisman Trophy winner and for-



mer Houston Oiler and New Orleans Saint, recently retired from pro football.

But while Longhorn football may have stumbled over the past several years, Head Baseball Coach Cliff Gustafson has kept

that Texas program in fine shape.

After taking two of three games from Arkansas last weekend, Texas clinched its ninth consecutive SWC championship. In 93 seasons of baseball, Texas has won 60 SWC titles. Texas A&M is a distant second with 12 titles in 85 seasons.

The Longhorns are not strangers to the winner's circle in the swimming pool or on the track either. Before this year, Texas men's swimming team had finished in the NCAA's top three for seven of the last eight years. The women, not to be outdone, have won the NCAA's for the last four years and the SWC since 1982.

On the track in 1986, the Longhorns were the first school in five years to wrest the outdoors title away from Arkansas, the pre-

mier track school in the conference.

Had enough? Sorry, because there's more.

UT's women's basketball team, ranked No. 1 in the nation for most of the season, lost to Louisiana Tech in the semi-final round of the women's final four, despite playing in front of its home crowd at the Frank Erwin Special Events Center in Austin. Because there is not a poll after the championship, Texas still finished No. 1 in the nation.

In volleyball, the Longhorns once again waxed the SWC for the fifth time in five years. Over that span, the Longhorns have had three perfect SWC seasons and lost only two matches. In the NCAA's, Texas was defeated by the University of the Pacific and finished eighth nationally.

Okay, there is one sport where Texas lags behind the rest of the conference: men's basketball.

Despite tying for first place with A&M and TCU in 1986, the Longhorns have had little success under fifth-year coach Bob Weltlich, who replaced Abe Lemmons in 1983. In fact, 1986 was the first year a Weltlich team had finished over the .500 mark. This year the Longhorns won 14 games while losing 17.

When it comes to money, however, the Longhorns rank second (according to the records made public to us). Doug Messer, Texas' assistant athletic director for financial affairs, said the Longhorn's proposed budget for 1987-88 is \$8.9 million for the men and \$2.7 million for the women.

Astros' Thon to rejoin club in Montreal

HOUSTON (AP) — Houston Astros shortstop Dickie Thon will rejoin the team in Montreal today, but he has not yet been put on the active roster, the club announced.

Thon, who left spring training camp complaining of vision problems, has been playing with the Astros' AAA team in Tucson, Ariz.

Astros spokesman Chuck Pool said Thursday that although Thon will join the team Friday, he is not sure when he actually will play with the Astros.

Thon has had recurring vision problems since a beaming incident in 1985. Earlier this year, he left spring training, returned, then went on to play with the minor league.

He has said he wants to return to the Astros after his vision problems improve.

Lady Aggies to sponsor sports camps

The Texas A&M Women's Athletic Department announced Thursday that applications are now being accepted for the annual Lady Aggie summer camps.

Training sessions in basketball, softball and volleyball will be held on the A&M campus and will be conducted by A&M Head Basketball Coach Lynn Hickey and assistant coaches Eileen Feeney and Shelly Hughes-Feeney.

Ball camps are scheduled for June 7-12, June 14-19 and July 5-10. Softball camps will be held June 28-July 2, July 26-30 and August 2-6.

The first volleyball camp, which will focus on individual development, is slated for July 26-30. The second camp, to be held August 2-6, will concentrate on team play.

For applications or additional information, call 845-1052 or write the Women's Athletic Department at G. Rollie White Coliseum, College Station, Texas 77843.

Red Raiders enjoy excellent recruiting position

By Doug Hall

Assistant Sports Editor

It's only fitting, after last fall's controversial coaching change between Texas Tech and Texas, that the two schools' athletic programs should be analyzed in the same issue.

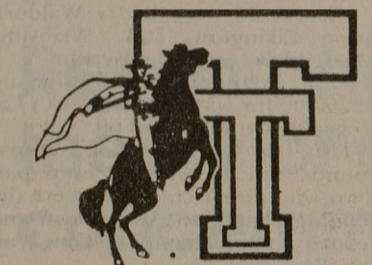
After leading the Red Raiders to their first winning season since 1978, Head Coach David McWilliams left Tech after only one season to take the head-coaching position at Texas. McWilliams graduated from Texas in 1963 and coached there for 16 seasons.

Some might say that the Texas Tech football program, now run by former defensive coordinator Spike Dykes — its sixth head coach in the past 13 years — got the short end of the deal.

Regardless, Tech's 7-5 record in 1986 puts the Red Raiders in the best recruiting position

they've been in since they went 7-4 in 1978.

And according to T Jones, Tech's athletic director, winning is important for recruiting when you're located deep in the heart of West Texas.



Jones said, "There's a direct correlation with winning as to whether recruits want to visit your school." Jones cited Texas A&M's successful recruiting over

the past several years as a good example.

"You certainly have to make an effort to get here," he said. "But we feel once a student comes here and sees what we have, then we've got a very fair opportunity to recruit him."

Texas Tech Sports Information Director Joe Hornaday said that being located in Lubbock also has its advantages.

Hornaday said, "We recruit on the school, not where we are located. We're far away from everything, but there is a positive side to that in, 'Hey, let's get away from everything to go to school.'"

"The key is to get them to visit it."

Over the past several years, the Tech men's basketball team is one that easily draws in top recruits. After winning the Southwest Conference title and the SWC

post-season tournament in 1985, the Red Raiders went on to the NCAA tournament before losing to the Big East's Boston College in the first round.

In 1986, Tech started off slowly in the conference and finished with a 9-6 record. In the conference tournament, however, they beat Southern Methodist, Texas Christian and Texas A&M to win the title for the second consecutive year before succumbing to Georgetown, another Big East power, in the NCAA's.

This year, Tech was 15-14 despite the play of one the SWC's top young players in sophomore Sean Gay.

Although West Texas traditionally has some of the finest high school baseball programs in the state, Texas Tech has not been able to put its program on the winning side in quite some

time.

Along with Rice, Tech is one of only two schools in the conference to have a losing record in baseball over the last 37 seasons. Tech has never won a SWC championship and last challenged for the title in 1971 when they finished third with an 11-7 record.

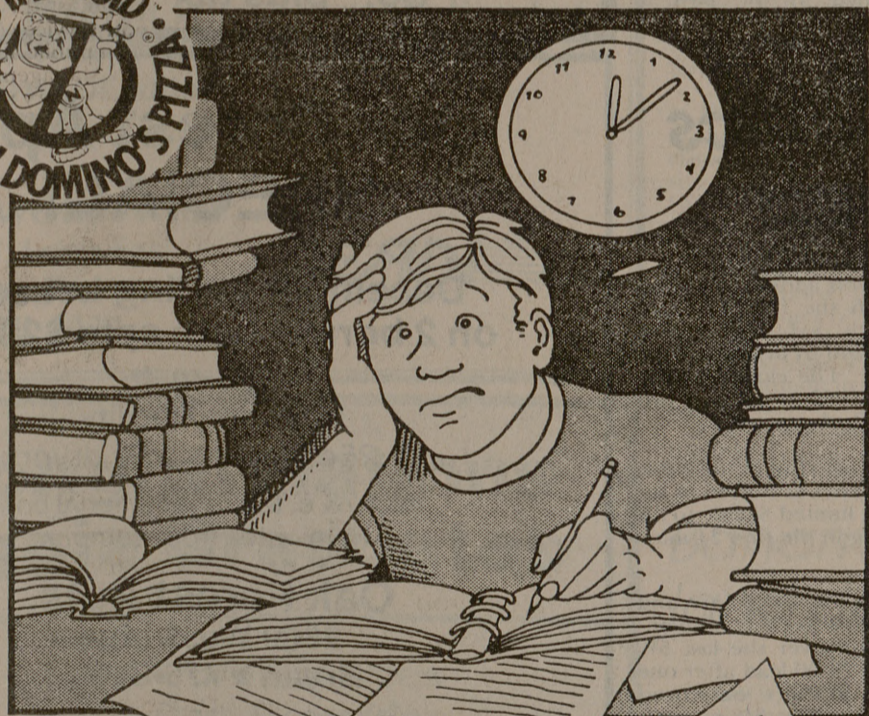
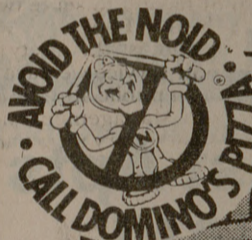
This year was no different as the Red Raiders were 6-15 in conference and 21-28 on the season.

Other sports in Tech's athletic department are similarly grounded in mediocrity.

The men's golf team last won the SWC title in 1971, but has since foundered near the bottom of the standings. The women's golf team has finished last in the conference from 1983-1985, and the men's tennis team has never won the SWC title.

Next Wednesday: Texas A&M

BURNING THE MIDNIGHT OIL?

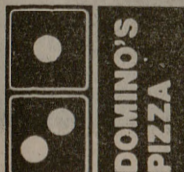


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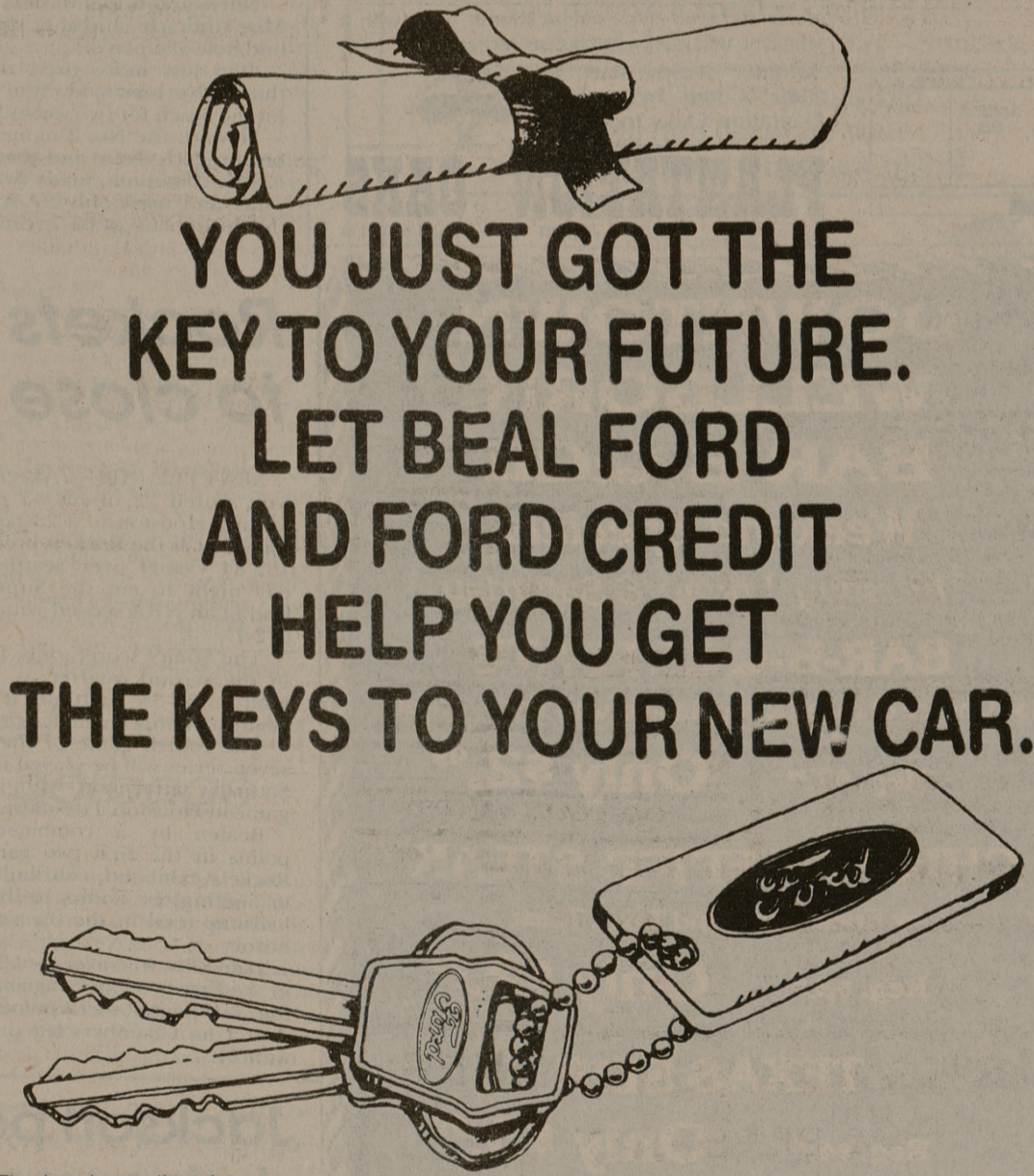
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