

Sports

Ags, Horned Frogs tangle Saturday Oliver's takes over as Aggies' 'hand's man'

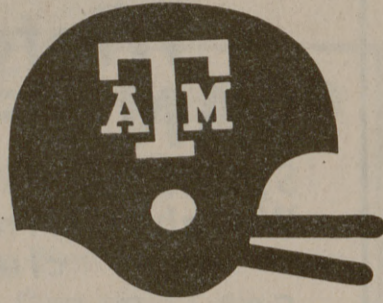
By Anthony Wilson
Sports Writer

A hands man. Every successful football team has to have one.

A hands man is a receiver who the quarterback always looks for when a crucial first down or touchdown is needed, because a hands man will always hang onto a pass, especially when the game is on the line.

In the previous four seasons, Texas A&M had one of the best possession receivers to be found in Shea Walker. But this year's hands man, freshman redshirt Gary Oliver, may be even better.

"He's a better receiver than Shea was," A&M wide receiver coach George Pugh said. "He's better because he does have speed. He does have talent. He does catch the ball. He's a tough, tough ballplayer. His speed is deceiving. He's a legitimate 4.6 sprinter. Shea Walker was at best 4.9 — wind-aided."



As a redshirt last season, Oliver spent a lot of time observing Walker from the sideline. Among the things he learned were to work hard in practice and precision in running pass routes.

"From Shea, you just learned that you have to go out every day and practice and work harder just to get better," Oliver said.

Oliver must have picked up on some of Walker's goal line moves. He scored the offense's only

touchdown against Arkansas Saturday in the fourth quarter on a 3-yard pass from Craig Stump.

"I ran my 10-yard out route and Craig made a good throw on the sideline," the 6-foot-2, 170-pound Oliver said. "It doesn't sound like much, but the 3-yard touchdown against Arkansas was my biggest catch."

After making the grab that iced the game for the Aggies, the normally subdued Oliver went wild with excitement, pointing into the stands, jumping into teammates' arms and high-fiving everyone in the area code.

"When I was interviewing (after the game), they asked me what I was feeling," he said. "And after the game I couldn't even remember what I had done after the touchdown. Everything just takes over you. I didn't realize I had run off the field or jumped up and down or whatever I did."

Oliver finished the game with two catches for 15 yards and the

one touchdown. For the season, he has seven catches for 88 yards, a 12.6 yard average. His two TD receptions leads the team. His other touchdown catch sealed A&M's victory in the fourth quarter of the Rice game. That was a 37-yard catch thrown by running back Darren Lewis on a halfback option pass.

Oliver, who because of his moves and body english was given the nickname the Weasel by Pugh ("He loves it. He better. He has no choice."), has made a meteoric rise up the depth chart into the starting flanker position. At the end of spring practices, Oliver was listed as the third split end.

"He may have been even farther along than that," Pugh said. "I thought he was maybe fourth or fifth string."

Oliver moved up the depth chart after Anthony Taylor and

See Oliver, page 7

Nebraska or OU clash as No.1 for sixth time

From the Associated Press

Saturday's game marks the sixth time since their 1971 "Game of the Century" that either the Nebraska Cornhuskers or the Oklahoma Sooners is ranked No. 1 entering their annual showdown.

The No. 1 team is 3-2 in the previous five meetings and the higher ranked team is 11-6 since 1971.

Saturday will be the 22nd meeting of No. 1 and No. 2 ranked teams in the 52 years of the Associated Press poll, the 15th time in regular-season play.

In the previous 21 games, the No. 1 team has a 14-5 lead with two ties, although the No. 2 team has won four of the last six.

The first shootout between the nation's two highest ranked teams occurred in 1943 when No. 1 Notre Dame edged No. 2 Iowa Pre-Flight 14-13. Notre Dame and Army each were involved in four of the first six 1-2 games between 1943-1946.

There was a 16-year break until No. 1 Southern Cal outlasted No. 2 Wisconsin 42-37 in the 1962 Rose Bowl, the first time the top two teams met in postseason play.

The last time, of course, was No. 2 Penn State's 14-10 national championship victory over No. 1 Miami in last season's Fiesta Bowl.

The 1971 classic, in which No. 1 Nebraska beat No. 2 Oklahoma 35-31, was the only previous time this game matched No. 1 and No. 2. Nebraska has been involved in one other showdown, defeating No. 2 Alabama 38-6 in the Orange Bowl to win the 1971 national championship.

Oklahoma has been in three other 1-2 marches, losing all of them. The Sooners were No. 1 when they lost to Texas 28-7 in the 1963 Cotton Bowl, No. 2 when they lost to Southern California 28-24 in 1981 and No. 1 when they bowed to Miami 28-16 last season.

Jeffery's chances for Heisman Trophy fading

By Anthony Wilson
Sports Writer

Around the turn and heading into the home stretch, it's Tim Brown and Tony Jeffery neck and neck. Close behind but fading fast are Lorenzo White and Craig "Ironhead" Heyward. It's Jeffery and Brown. It's Brown and Jeffery. Brown's really pouring on the publicity and hype. And Brown crosses the finish line in full stride, winning the race to the Heisman hands down.

The Heisman Trophy is an award given each year to the nation's best collegiate football player. The Heisman race has evolved into a four-man contest this season with Notre Dame's Brown, Texas Christian's Jeffery, Michigan State's White and Pittsburgh's Heyward pulling away from the pack of early season



hopefuls, such as Washington's Chris Chandler, Florida's Kerwin Bell and UCLA's Gaston Green.

This Saturday, Texas A&M's defense will try to contain Jeffery, who is the nation's third leading rusher behind Heyward and White. Jeffery has carried the ball 202 times for 1,353 yards, for a 6.7 yard average, the top average among the nation's top six rushers. Although Jeffery received no preseason consideration for the Heisman, he has emerged as a strong candidate in the last month.

However, the front runner for the award would have to be Brown. Brown is second in the nation in all-purpose yardage, averaging 182.2 yards per game. The senior from Dallas has racked up 133 yards rushing, 729 yards receiving, 380 punt return yards and 398 kickoff return yards for a total of 1,640 yards.

Jeffery is fifth in the nation with 161 yards per game. He has 17 receptions for 257 yards to go along with his rushing totals.

Notre Dame's record, 8-1, coupled with the fact that the Fighting Irish play the toughest schedule in the nation, gives Brown a definite advantage over Jeffery. TCU is 5-5 with a 3-3 Southwest Conference record. And the SWC has had trouble keeping a team in the top 20.

In a telephone interview on

Thursday, Jeffery said that he hadn't even contemplated winning the award until about a month ago.

"I'm just trying to help the team and try to have a winning season," he said. "I wasn't thinking about that until I saw it in the paper about four weeks ago. It's nice but I'm not really thinking about it."

John David Crow, A&M's associate athletic director who won the Heisman Trophy in 1957 when he rushed for 562 yards, believes that Brown is the favorite to win the trophy, but that Jeffery should be given consideration.

"I think with the kind of year he's having and what he means to TCU's football team, he deserves consideration," Crow said.

See Jeffery, page 7

Big 10 upset by network's showcasing of Tim Brown

From the Associated Press

Tim Brown, Notre Dame's outstanding flanker-kick return specialist, is favored to win the Heisman Trophy next month.

It's a good thing votes are not counted in the Big 10 office.

The Big 10, which has not had a Heisman winner since Ohio State's Archie Griffin in 1974-75, is somewhat touchy over its TV network publicizing other players.

On Sept. 30, Mark Rudner, director of the Big Ten Service Bureau, sent a letter to Rasmussen Communications, the Big 10's TV syndicator, complaining about "the preferred treatment given to Notre Dame's Tim Brown in regards to the Heisman Trophy."

Specifically, Rudner objected to a Rasmussen news release which said that "the Big 10 Television Network will showcase the Purdue Boilermak-

ers against nationally-ranked Notre Dame and Heisman Trophy candidate Tim Brown . . ."

Rudner conceded "there can be no question about the abilities of a Tim Brown," but expressed concern that "these efforts should be made at the expense of the many Big 10 football players that our coaches, sports information directors and conference office personnel promote for various postseason honors."

The letter mentioned Ohio State linebacker Chris Spielman and running backs Jamie Morris of Michigan and Lorenzo White of Michigan State as possible Heisman contenders, adding:

"I question the wisdom of the Big 10 Television Network promoting Tim Brown of Notre Dame for the Heisman Trophy over those three players, or any other Big 10 player."

Class Council Newsletter

Thank You!

All of the classes would like to say thank you to Jackie Sherrill for a donation of \$2,500 to each of us.

It is greatly appreciated!

Elephant Walk

Elephant Walk is right around the corner!

On November 24th, the Seniors will once again gather around the statue of Sully at noon to begin the tradition known as Elephant Walk. This year we have a few favors to ask of Junior Aggies, and Senior Aggies alike.

Elephant Walk is intended to be the Seniors day. It is a time of reflection for the Seniors, an opportunity to gather with good friends, and a way to show their support for a victory over t.u.. It is a day of fun for all Zips.

Over the past 10 years this tradition has been jeopardized. Junior-Senior interaction — stemming from Juniors trying to "kill" Seniors with everything from shaving cream to water balloons, and Seniors refusing to "die", — has caused several problems. (The Seniors do not actually die, it just represents the fact that they are no longer of use to the Twelfth Man.) Major injuries occurring from the wrestling, and the "trashing" of our campus are only a few problems that have caused a deviation from the intent of Elephant Walk. The interaction may be Good Bull, but at the expense of people's health and the tradition itself, it is a high price to pay.

In a concerted effort to preserve the Elephant Walk tradition, a group of student leaders and students, Juniors and Seniors alike, have made the decision to highly discourage Junior involvement in Elephant Walk this year. Not only will this keep unnecessary injuries from occurring, but it will also preserve the tradition for the classes to follow, who may not get to enjoy this tradition if the problems continue.

We cannot expect that in a few days we are going to reach all Juniors and Seniors and turn the whole scene around. This is where we would like to call upon our fellow Juniors and Seniors to help out, also. If you are a Senior and you are approached during the Walk by another student, please try to discourage the interaction and continue walking. This may seem like a small move, but it will have great effects. Juniors are encouraged to participate in

activities that have been planned for them on the day of Elephant Walk. There will be a pull-out yell practice headed by the Junior yell leaders at 1:00 p.m. at the statue of Sully. Immediately following yell practice, the Class of '89 will have pictures taken with the live elephants out at the Bonfire site.

With all this in mind, let us all help to get Elephant Walk back to a Senior activity and preserve the traditions for the years to come. Your support and cooperation will be greatly appreciated.

Beat the hell outta t.u.!!!!

Andrea R. Beshara, Pres.
Class of '88

Denise Arledge, Pres.
Class of '89

Class of '88

T-Shirt Sales:

Elephant walk t-shirts are on sale in the MSC through the 23rd for \$10 each. All proceeds go to the class gift. Whoop!

"Never say Die!"

Class gift:

The Gift Committee is currently accepting suggestions for class gift through Nov. 20th in the MSC. From then, the gift suggestions will be researched and up to five final suggestions will be selected for voting. The voting for the class gift will be the week of February 8th thru the 12th in the MSC. The votes will then be tallied and a senior class gift will be chosen! Whoop!!! The Class of '88, the Senior Class, gift will then be presented at the All University Awards Ceremony, Sunday, April 10th, during parents weekend. We urge everyone in the Senior Class to get involved in this project, since it represents our class and contribution to the university.

Class of '89

Thank You!

We would like to say thank you to the hard workers who put on car washes this past summer. They were held in San Antonio & College Station to raise \$ for our

class. The help of everyone involved was greatly appreciated.

Class Ball

Class Ball will be combined with the class of '90 this year. We hope this will make the class ball bigger and better than ever. There was a general committee meeting on November 18, to start work toward the big night— March 5, 1988. Sub-Committee Chairmen have been chosen, but people are needed to help them. For more information call Todd 260-3991 or Katherine 260-0937.

T-Shirt Sales

Elephant Walk T-Shirts are on sale through the 23th for \$8 each. All proceeds go to the class gift, so stop by and pick one up!

"Just say Die!"

Class Gift

Gift information week is coming soon to the MSC — watch for it!

Class of '91

The freshman class had a general meeting last Tues. and officers were introduced and spoke briefly. Plans for class ball and fundraisers were discussed by students and chairmen. Concerns voiced by freshmen included the closing of the Rudder Tower Dining Room and lack of class spirit. Class of '91 t-shirts and caps will be on sale soon.

Freshman officers are: Steve Werheim-Pres., Jason Wilcox-Vice Pres., Leslie Frizzell-Secretary, David-Treasurer; Krissa-Social Secretary