

Horns and Aggies battle for recruits

Sherrill is expected to sign linemen and backs

From Staff and Wire Reports

Southwest Conference schools will try to catch up with Texas A&M on national signing day Wednesday, hoping to beat Jackie Sherrill at the job he does best — recruiting.

Sherrill's Aggies have won three straight SWC titles and he has stockpiled some of the best talent in the nation by winning battles for the best of Texas' high school football talent in previous February signing wars.

But the Aggies may face a tussle from the Texas Longhorns, who were expected to make deep inroads behind Coach David McWilliams.

If anything, the Aggies may get hurt because there is too much talent and prospects don't want to make the chance of spending a season on the bench.

Also a big unknown is whether the departure of offensive coordinator Lynn Amedee to the University of Florida will hurt the Aggies.

Sherrill, though, says things look good.

"We've had an excellent reception everywhere we go," he said. "We have some specific needs and we are filling those."

Some experts rated Sherrill's 1987 recruiting as the best in the nation along with Notre Dame's. Ironically, A&M defeated the Fighting Irish in the 1988 Cotton Bowl 35-10.

The Aggies received an early blow last Friday when Kevin Williams of Spring High School picked UCLA over A&M, Oklahoma and Texas. Williams, who made both Parade Magazine's and USA Today's All-America teams, was considered the state's top running back out of high school.

Texas' recruiting had suffered in recent years under former coach Fred Akers, but McWilliams has been getting a big reception particularly from offensive and defensive linemen.

Head coaches must stay in their offices Wednesday on signing day as the recruits sign on the dotted line. The rule instituted several years ago stopped some coaches from flying around the state in corporate jets on signing day, putting the less economically fortunate schools at a disadvantage.

Here are the SWC scholarships available school-by-school and the needs of each team. Texas Christian, SMU, Texas and Texas Tech are on NCAA probation and their scholarship allocations could be changed by the NCAA before Feb. 10:

TEXAS A&M — Eleven seniors lost. Scholarships available: 22. Needs: Offensive linemen, a center and defensive backs.



Spring High School's Kevin Williams, a Parade All-America running back, smiles as his coach Dale Baker hands him a UCLA cap while his mother Nettie Clemons looks on. Williams picked UCLA over A&M, UT and OU.

Photo by Gary Bean

TEXAS — Seven seniors lost. Scholarships available: 20. Needs: Quarterback, offensive and defensive linemen.

TEXAS TECH — Twenty seniors lost. Scholarships available: 15. Needs: Defensive backs, linemen and linebackers.

TEXAS CHRISTIAN — Fourteen seniors lost. Scholarships available: 20. Needs: Running backs, defensive backs and linebackers.

RICE — Twelve seniors lost. Scholarships available: 23. Needs: More size and speed in all areas. A passing quarterback needed. Big lineman a critical priority.

HOUSTON — Sixteen seniors lost. Scholarships available: 25. Needs: Center, linebackers, defensive backs and linemen.

BAYLOR — Seventeen seniors

lost. Scholarships available: 25. Needs: Offensive and defensive linemen, linebackers.

ARKANSAS — Thirteen seniors lost. Scholarships available: 25. Needs: Linebackers, passing quarterback and kickers.

SOUTHERN METHODIST — Whole squad lost due to NCAA probation. Scholarships available: 15. Needs: Everything.

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dp 1988

Longhorns upset Hogs in SWC play

AUSTIN (AP) — Sophomore guard Travis Mays scored 25 points and pulled down 13 rebounds to lead Texas to a 79-72 upset win over Arkansas in Southwest Conference action Saturday.

The SWC-leading Razorbacks came into the game on a four-game win streak, but dropped to 16-4 and 7-2.

Texas improved to 11-10 and 5-4, winning four out of its last five games.

Playing before its largest home crowd of the season at 6,095, Texas led by 11 four different times in the first half and took a 45-38 lead into the locker room at halftime.

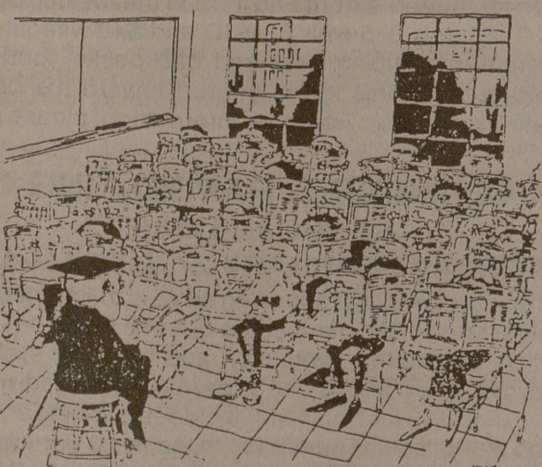
The Razorbacks pulled within one twice in the second half, the last time with 12:03 left, but couldn't even the score.

The Longhorns held off Arkansas the rest of the way and led by as many as 12 with 53 seconds left to play.

Texas hit 32 of 42 at the free throw line, while the Razorbacks made only 8-of-17 and were 0-of-5 in the second half.

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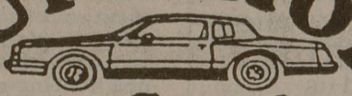
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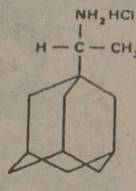
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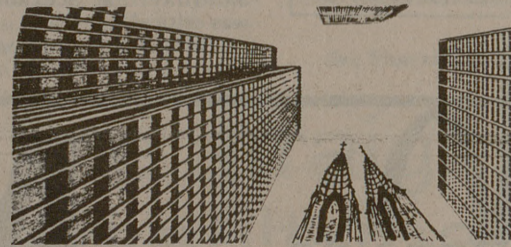


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