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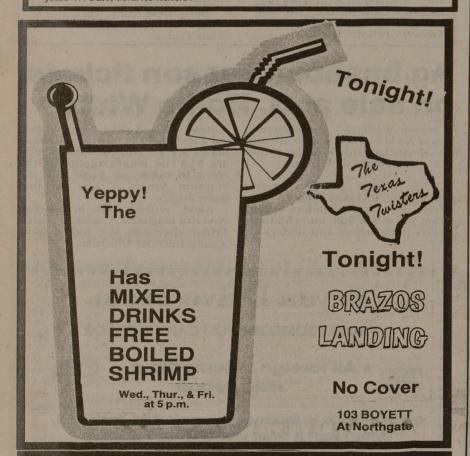
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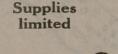
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Prospects to sign letters today A&M, UT get recruiting help from bowl wins

From the Associated Press Bowl victories by Texas A&M and Texas were expected to propel them to bumper recruiting

crops Wednesday, signing day for football national letters of intent. Although UCLA, Louisiana State and Oklahoma will make big hauls, not as many top players will be leaving Texas as in the past. Many of those who stay will choose Texas or defending Southwest Conference champion Texas A&M.

The Aggies' impressive Cotton Bowl victory over Notre Dame gave Coach Jackie Sherrill the boost he needed for another talent haul.

Texas Coach David McWilliams' victory over Pittsburgh in the Bluebonnet Bowl showed recruits the Longhorns are on their

The Longhorns' recruiting had suffered in recent years under former coach Fred Akers. McWilliams has been getting a big re-ception, particularly from offen-sive and defensive linemen.

Head coaches must stay in their offices Wednesday as the recruits sign on the dotted line. Assistants can gather the signatures



No visits of any kind were allowed the last 48 hours as high school players got a chance to think in peace. Only telephone calls were allowed.

That's the only way Southern Methodist has been able to re-

cruit, anyway.

New SMU Coach Forrest
Gregg will have 15 scholarships
available, but the players who get them won't be on the field until

He's been limited to recruiting by telephone because of NCAA sanctions in a slush-fund scandal that reached the governor's of-

Irving tight end Drew Randall, who chose SMU over Rice and Princeton, has been the Mustangs' biggest commitment.

UCLA beat out A&M, Texas, and Oklahoma for Spring running back Kevin Williams. It was the third time in the past four years that the state's top prospect

Oklahoma got a commitment from Irving MacArthur's Reggie Finch, rated one of the best running backs in Texas. The Sooners have also received commitments from linebacker Joe Bowden of North Mesquite, halfback Ike Le-wis of Dallas Wilmer-Hutchins, linebacker-defensive end Trey Tippens of Snyder and linebacker-defensive end Joe Green of Aldine MacArthur. Bowden is considered the No. 1 linebacker in Texas.

LSU was to sign such talented players as linebacker Tyrone Malone of Willowridge and de-fensive back David Walcup of

Conroe.

LSU recruting coordinator
Sam Nader says the Tigers don't

"We get criticized by our last for not being national recruiter Nader says. "But there's enough players in our recruiting area

where we don't have to do that A&M gained a late con ment from Cameron's talent quarterback Paul Johnson, with could also be a quality defense back. The Aggies also should se Robert Wilson, a bluechip music ning back from Houston W

Texas has a herd of big beef the trail to Austin, including likes of offensive linemen Moriarty of Conroe McCullor Turk McDonald of DeSoto

Doug Skene of Allen. The Longhorns have a picked up the commitment Anthony Curl, a 6-3, 205-poulinebacker from Aldine Mat thur. Curl has 4.65 speed and

high jumped 6-6.

And Odessa Permian H
School running back Shawn 0
says he has agreed to accept football scholarship from In Christian University. rushed for 2,288 yards in and was a first-team All-State

SMU expects signees despite 'death penalty'

Methodist football technically is dead, but the Mustangs will sign 15 players to scholarships Wednesday and expect an addi-tional 35 to 45 to join the squad in the fall as walk-ons, Coach Forrest Gregg says.
"We have had a tremendous

response from young men from around the country," Gregg said. "Our thrust has been geared to-ward student-athletes in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, but we have had inquiries and been in contact with athletes from all over.

Last year, the National Colle-giate Athletic Association slapped the Southwest Conference school with its stiffest punishment after finding SMU had paid athletes to play while it was on probation for similar violations.

After losing its 1987 season to NCAA sanctions — the so-called "death penalty" — SMU voluntarily dropped football for 1988. Meanwhile, the school's athletic director and head coach re-

Last month, Mustang football found new life from out of its past when Gregg — an SMU alumnus, pro football Hall of Famer and Green Bay Packers coach - signed on as head coach.

"We had quite a few calls be-fore his taking the job, but since then it's increased many, many 'said Associate Athletic Director Dudley Parker, who served as interim athletic director until



Doug Single came on board and who has coordinated football recruiting efforts since last fall.

The second job involved only answering telephone and mail inquiries, since NCAA sanctions prohibit SMU officials from visiting recruits or paying for their visits to the campus.

"We can't do anything except give them free tickets if there's a basketball game when they visit," Parker said. "We can't even buy them a Coke."

Even so, he said, SMU has seen a considerable number of prospects drop by, mostly from the lo-

'But we've also had them coming in from West Texas and even outside the state, flying in here at their own expense," he said. "We're talking a cross-section of football players. We'd like to think that there are a lot of bluechippers, and to my mind there

"But how do you distinguish

kid won't play four years from now because he's gained 30 pounds and grown 6 inches in the last year and maybe doesn't move his feet too well?

"He might be a Forrest Gregg, who comes in here at 185 pounds and ends up playing tackle in the pros for 14 to 16 years," Parker

Academics is at least half of the SMU recruiting equation now. In one of his first acts after taking over as the school's president, A. Kenneth Pye decreed last fall that athletes wouldn't be treated differently than the rest of the students in academic entrance requirements.

"I think the parents are really interested, more than I've ever seen before, in their youngsters getting a quality education," Par-ker said. "We start asking queson academics pretty quick to let them know that is the prime reason they're going to be at SMU, to get an education."

The program also is limited to 15 scholarships during the 1988 season. Some football players can get student aid if they qualify, Parker said, while some parents might foot their sons' bill at SMU, which costs \$12,000 to \$14,000 a year to attend.

No games next fall also is a re-

cruiting advantage, he said. "This is a unique situal where a youngster gets a cha to be a regular student, mix the student body and get to k

somebody besides those on athletic dorm floor," Parkersid During the Mustangs' last se son in 1986, only one of 19 fres men on scholarship played by

"That's the same thing th going on at other schools. comes as a shock and surprise lot of recruits who come in t ing they're going to play right as a freshman, but they're peting against a lot better pethan they did in high school."

This fall will be treated justile a red-shirt year for SMU play—they'll still have four years eligibility when the Mustang because the control of the still be a second of gin playing again in 1989, he sai

The first team of the new era which includes three scholar players and about 11 walk-one from the 1986 squad who still are at SMU, will be special, Parks

"Hearts will go out to the guys because they'll be such underdogs," he said. "They're m going to worry about the scoreboard, but they'll know in their hearts that they've played well and given their all at the

Astros will regain '86 form —

HOUSTON — Houston Manager Hal Lanier says the 1987 Houston Astros were imposters, and he expects a different lineup in 1988.

"I don't think you saw the true Astros last season," Lanier said.

"We are going to have to score more runs than we did last year to get back in the race."

The Astros won the National League's Western Division title in Lanier's rookie season as manager before falling to the eventual world champion New York Mets in 1986, but they slipped to third place last

"As you compare our team last year with 1986, the two differences you see are inconsistency and fewer runs scored," Lanier said.

Despite last year's downturn, a season filled with long stretches of

wins and longer streches of losses, Lanier thinks the experience obtained by young players will help the Astros rebound in the upcoming

"I think we added something when Gerald Young came in and showed he could play in the outfield," Lanier said.

"I think he will go great with (Billy) Hatcher and (Bill) Doran at the start of our lineup. The Astros also obtained free

agent pitcher Joaquin Andujar and shortstop Rafael Ramirez from the Atlanta Braves, who also floundered

base job.

Lanier was among the guests at the annual Houston Baseball Dinner division, but from that point I think son,

Ken Caminiti also jumped from

the minors into the starting third

ton's Roger Clemens. The Astros still are trying to findbackup catching help for Alan Ashby, who had one of his best sea-

Tuesday night, which included Astros pitcher Nolan Ryan and Bos-

sons in 1987 Ashby needs an occasional day off and last year missed the final month of the season with a dislocated fin-

"Alan did a good job, but we want to give him some days off and last year that was tough to do," Lanier

Lanier traced the Astros late sea-

son fizzle to Ashby's injury "When Alan dislocated his finger we didn't have anyone to replace

that's when we started going don't

The Astros had an 11-26 real over their final 37 games. Ryan, who led the major lea with 270 strikeouts last season tied for the lead with a 2.76 cm run average, was honored for outstanding 20 year career. Clemens was honored for wind

back to back American League Young awards. Doran received the House

chapter of the Baseball Writers sociation of America award as Astros' most valuable playerof

Gene Elston, fired as the A broadcaster prior to the 1987 son, received the BBWAA awar long and meritorious service to

Former Cowboy assistant dies after bout with cancer

DALLAS (AP) — Former assistant Dallas coach Ermal Allen, whose career with the Cowboys spanned their lowly expansion years to Super Bowl champions, died Tuesday at Pres-byterian Hospital after a long bout with cancer. He was 69.

Allen was an assistant coach for the Cowboys for 22 seasons from 1962 to 1983. From 1962 to 1969 he coached the offensive backfield and from 1970 to 1983 was in charge of research and development.

As head of research and development, Allen studied players and teams throughout the league and handed his reports to Head Coach Tom Landry.

Landry said, "Ermal played a tremendous role in our growth from an expansion team to a Super Bowl champion. We will miss him greatly. Our hearts go out to Allie (his wife) and the family"

Cowboys owner Tex Schramm said, "Ermal was a unique individual, a man with very strong opinions who was not bashful about speaking his mind. His contributions had a great deal to do with our success. We will

Allen was born Dec. 25, 1918 in Kylesford, Tenn. He played football and basketball at the University of

He played one season as a defensive back in 1947 for the Cleveland Browns of the American Football Conference.

He later 'served as an assistant coach at Kentucky for 14 years under Paul "Bear" Bryant and Blanton

Rangers' Correa will pitch on Sabbath if necessary

ARLINGTON (AP) - The Texas Rangers have agreed to let pitcher Edwin Correa rest on his Sabbath, but Ranger Manager Bobby Valentine said he may be pressed into service in a pinch.

"I respect his position," Valentine said. "He respects our position. We're going to do everything we can to make it work."

The Rangers agreed they will try to keep the pitcher off duty from sundown Friday to sundown Saturday, while Correa, a Seventh-day Adventist, said he

would help out when necessary. "Chances are there is going to come a Friday night when we're not able to adjust to it," Valentine said. "He understands his value to the team and that there might

'We'll sacrifice as much as can. But we're not going to so fice the other 23 guys on

Correa said he will let Vale tine figure out how to p around Friday nights and Sa day afternoons. All but one of Rangers' 26 Friday games and

Correa said they reached agreement on Thursday.

"I think what we discussed pretty fair," Correa said. He said he will donate his da pay to charity if he has to pitch

his Sabbath. "He (Valentine) said, 'If some

thing happens and we need to pitch, pray to God he sen some water on the field," "rea said.