

SWC has banner recruiting day

Texas, Baylor and Arkansas lead the way in SWC signings

DALLAS (AP) — The exam is over and the papers have been graded. Baylor, Texas, and Arkansas made A's signing football recruits on Wednesday despite out-of-state raids from the likes of UCLA and Miami.

Signing day is the adult world's version of no-recruit, no-play in the Cotton Bowl on New Year's Day.

The Longhorns, Bears, and Razorbacks definitely recruited the kind of talent that can get you into post-season play.

Texas A&M and Houston fell into the middle ground high C area. The Aggies only had 16 scholarships to give because of NCAA probation and many recruits were scared off by the school's recent problems despite a new regime beginning under R.C. Slocum.

Houston faces the next several years without bowls and post-season play but coach Jack Pardee managed to land several talented players.

Texas Tech and Texas Christian were down in the low C area while Rice and Southern Methodist took a lot of chances on kids that can best be labeled as "prospects and projects."

The gradebook:

TEXAS: Grade A — The Longhorns loaded up on quality players like cornerback Grady Cavness, defensive end David Condon, defensive lineman Todd Yeaman, linebacker Kevin Watler and tight end Alan Webb. They missed out on all-world running back Robert Strait although Phil Brown of Commerce is a player. If Jimmy Saxton can play quarterback like his All-American dad did halfback, then the 'Horns could be OK at that position. It was a very good recruiting day for coach David McWilliams, who has been feeling some alumni heat. He needed it.

BAYLOR: Grade A — Texas' loss in Cuero's Strait was coach Grant Teaff's gain. Teaff not only got Strait but he also hit the mother lode with offensive linemen like John Karkoska of Aldine, three — count 'em, three — quarterbacks, including J.J. Joe of Lamar, and a classy cornerback in LeShai Maston of Dallas Carter. Marcus Lowe, a former bluechip defensive lineman who once started at Oklahoma and ended up at Navarro JC, was a steal.

ARKANSAS: Grade A-Minus — Save for a game-breaking running back coach Ken Hatfield once again

had a quality hall. Using a Cotton Bowl appearance as the foundation, Hatfield brought in some solid junior college players. He swept the state of Arkansas clean, getting eight players on The AP's Super Team. Hatfield didn't do that much damage in Texas although defensive lineman Tommy Jones of Dallas White ranks with the best in the nation.

TEXAS A&M: Grade C — Considering the circumstances, Slocum made some notable catches, including tight end Steve Seagraves of North Mesquite, defensive back Kenneth Norman of Sweetwater and defensive end Tyler Harrison of Arlington. "We got hammered over the NCAA thing but we still got some good players who stuck by us," Slocum said.

HOUSTON: Grade C — The Cougars got wide receiver Marcus Grant and defensive back Gary Edwards (he of algebra grade fame) from state champion Dallas Carter. They also signed wide receiver Zack Chatman of Beaumont Central and quarterback Darren Woods of Dallas Roosevelt who should help their run-and-shoot offense.

TEXAS CHRISTIAN: Grade D-Plus — Bluechip offensive lineman John English of Arlington was the most notable new Horned Frog. A mystery crop for a team that's going to a mystery offense, the Triple Shoot. There's some good speed among the recruits and that's always a plus.

TEXAS TECH: Grade D-Minus — Coach Spike Dykes signed a lot of fringe prospects although defensive tackle Ron Seals, a first team Class 4A All-State lineman from Andrews, could play for anybody.

SOUTHERN METHODIST: Grade D — Coach Forrest Gregg's first full-time recruiting class has a big question mark by it. The Mustangs cracked the state's top 100 prospects by signing running back Kevin Love of Cypress Creek. Tight end Greg Hill of Dallas Carter is also a good player.

RICE: Grade D — If SMU's class is a question mark, then new coach Fred Goldsmith's recruits are a double question mark. Goldsmith is proud of quarterbacks Greg Willig of La Mirada, Calif., and Charles Gulbranson of Ridgely, W. Va. The Owls signed nine out of staters.

McWilliams reaps golden harvest again

Longhorns sign 23 top prospects for balanced recruiting class

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas Longhorn football coach David McWilliams signed 23 high school players Wednesday and described his newest class as one of balance.

"I am very proud of this class," McWilliams said on signing day. "We have signed the type of players that will help us in several positions."

Last year's recruiting class was infiltrated with linemen, while this year Texas went looking for skill players and succeeded.

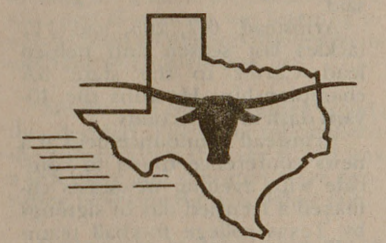
Of the 23 signees, only six were linemen.

"Last year I thought it was necessary for us to go out and get some linemen," McWilliams said. "But our main priority this time was to get some skill people because of it."

The Texas coach said this year's class rates higher by position.

"These guys are a little more balanced with more depth," he said. "That's what this class is going to do for us."

McWilliams picked out Missouri City defensive back Grady Cavness and Copperas Cove wide receiver Mike Davis as players who could step in next year and help out the Long-



horns, who were 4-7 a year ago and suffered their second losing season in three years.

"Grady is someone who could play right away," McWilliams said.

Cavness, a 5-10, 180-pound cornerback made 103 tackles and picked off four passes last season. He is expected to bolster a young Texas secondary which gave up more points and yards than any other Longhorn team in history last season.

Davis, a 6-0, 171 pounder who runs a 4.2 in the 40-yard dash, was told by Longhorn coaches that he could wear Eric Metcalf's No. 2 jersey and would probably back up senior split end Tony Jones next season.

"Mike will also have the opportunity to step in," McWilliams said. "I told all the players and I have always told recruits to come in ready to play."

The Longhorns also received signatures from Commerce running back Phil Brown and Spencer, Oklahoma running back Lamel Foreman. Brown, 5-11 and 185 pounds, gained 1,516 yards a year ago, while Foreman, 6-0 and 185, picked up over 1,300 yards on the ground.

The only quarterback the Longhorns signed was Jimmy Saxton, the son of former Texas All-American quarterback James Saxton.

McWilliams said the lack of an offensive coordinator did not seem to bother the majority of recruits that were considering Texas.

"I didn't get many negative reactions to it," McWilliams said. "I think it may have helped that we got it out in the open but I'm sure that we probably lost some because of it."

McWilliams said that because of the recruiting period, that he has not had the time to interview any candidates for the job vacated when Johnny Mize was reassigned last

month in a shakeup of the Longhorn coaching staff.

"As soon as this day is over, I'll be able to work on that," he said. "Of course, to talk to anybody I will have to get clearance from the head coach (of other institutions) first."

Houston Oiler offensive coordinator June Jones is said to be the frontrunner, but his six-figure salary with the professional team may cause a roadblock.

McWilliams also said that even though they lost the state's top prize in Cuero's Robert Strait to Baylor, he is glad he decided to play for a Southwest Conference school.

"I wish we could have finished first on his list," McWilliams said.

"Robert was very up front with us as far as that goes. I felt like we had a shot at him."

"The main thing about Robert is that I'm glad he stayed in the conference."

"With Robert and Grady saying they were going to stay in the conference, I think it changed a lot of minds," McWilliams said. "When the smoke clears, I think we'll see the conference will have a good year."

Razorbacks monopolize Arkansas talent

Hatfield signs 12 recruits; seven off Arkansas Super Team

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. (AP) — A dozen high school football players, including seven members of The Associated Press Super Team in Arkansas, signed national letters of intent Wednesday with the University of Arkansas.

Another member of the Super Team, offensive lineman Chris Oliver of Fayetteville, did not sign with the UA, but has made an oral commitment to the Razorbacks. Oliver is 6-foot-5, 245. His parents are due back in town Friday.

The Razorbacks signed a total of 21 athletes on Wednesday, the first day that a high school player could sign an NCAA letter.

It was Coach Ken Hatfield's sixth recruiting class. "This is the best in terms of overall skill and ability to play quickly that we've had," Hatfield said. "I think 98 percent of these guys will be in a position to help us in one year."

Normally, he said, that process takes two or three years.

He said that in the Southwest Conference, he thought Arkansas, Texas and Baylor "got exactly what they wanted. Everyone else got some players who can help them."

He said Arkansas benefitted from five years of hard work. "I think our players did a great job of recruiting for us," he said.

He said Arkansas looks for four things — what kind of person is the athlete, can he graduate, can he beat Texas, Texas A&M and the rest of the SWC and does he fit the Razorbacks' needs. "I think we have a quality class in all of those respects," he said.

The Super Team members who

signed with Arkansas are Brendan Cook of Little Rock Catholic, Shannon Wright of Fort Smith Southside, Tyrone Chatman of Dumas, Stephen Walls of Little Rock Parkview, Darwin Ireland of Dollarway, Doug Marsh of Camden Fairview and Ray Strachinske of Cabot.

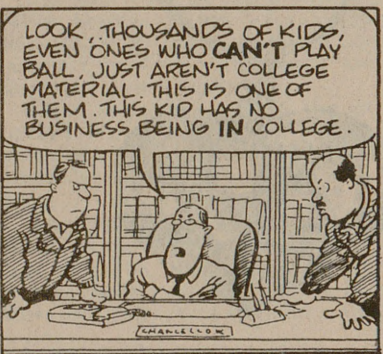
The out-of-state commitments include running back Ron Dickerson, the son of Penn State assistant Ron Dickerson Sr. As a senior, Dickerson rushed for 1,132 yards and eight

touchdowns.

Hatfield called Dickerson a class individual who was timed in 4.35 in the 40-yard dash at Penn State. He also had a long jump of 25-4 as a junior. "I think our track program had a lot to do with recruiting him," he said. "I think he saw an atmosphere very similar to the atmosphere at Penn State."

He said that because of Dickerson's speed, he will get a look at tailback and could contribute next year.

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



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Mr. William Piez
Deputy Assistant Secretary of State

Thursday, February 9, 1989

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Discussion: "Increased Aid to Developing Countries"
His Excellency Hideo Kagami The Honorable U. Alexis Johnson
Dr. James Auer Dr. Betty Unterberger

7:30 - 9:00 p.m. "A Convergence of American and Japanese Consumer Societies"
Dr. Edward Lincoln

Friday, February 10, 1989

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Discussion: "U.S. and Japanese Bilateral Businesses"
Mr. Steve Levy Dr. Kiichi Mochizuki Dr. S. Kerry Cooper

Saturday, February 11, 1989

10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Closing address: "The Future of Japan"
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