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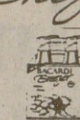
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Dear Earl? Former Oiler tries hand as columnist for weekly tabloid

AUSTIN (AP) — When former Heisman Trophy winner Earl Campbell of Texas was approached about writing a newspaper column for Austin Weekly, he was told it would be a "Dear Abby"-type column.

"What," asked Campbell, "is Abby?"

Not only had Campbell never heard of syndicated columnist Abigail Van Buren, he had not even subscribed to a newspaper during his eight years as an NFL pro running back at Houston and New Orleans.

"I never wanted to read about myself," he said.

Once he returned to Austin, where his four years as a Longhorn were capped by the Heisman in 1977, Campbell took a job at the University of Texas as assistant to the vice president of student affairs. He also began getting newspapers again.

Writing a column enhances his role as a Texas celebrity and as perhaps the most familiar sports figure in the state's history. Campbell's No. 20 is the only Longhorn football jersey ever retired.

From the first column in September 1988, "Time Out With Earl" appeared once a week 52 weeks a year.

Seldom controversial, the column responds to inquiries in cards and letters received by the newspaper. Austin Weekly staff writer Melissa Nichols calls Campbell and tapes his response over the telephone. "I clean it up," she said.

"She'll call me back, and she'll say 'Listen to this Earl.' Then I might do some more things, and she'll put them in there," Campbell said.

Paine

(Continued from page 5)

athletes — Rosser wouldn't want it any other way.

"We feel very blessed to have Jeff contributing to the youth of this area," he said. "I really can't see anybody else doing the job that he's doing for us now."

Both Paine and Rosser applauded the responsiveness the program has received from the athletic staff.

"We've been blessed to have the support of good Christian men such as R.C. Slocum and baseball coach Mark Johnson," Paine said. "They've been very helpful and it's a privilege to work with them."

Slocum said it's great to have Paine working with the athletes.

"He was fine player for us and he went on to have a successful professional career," he said. "We are fortunate to be able to have him work with our athletes as part of his role with the Brazos Valley Adult Chapter."

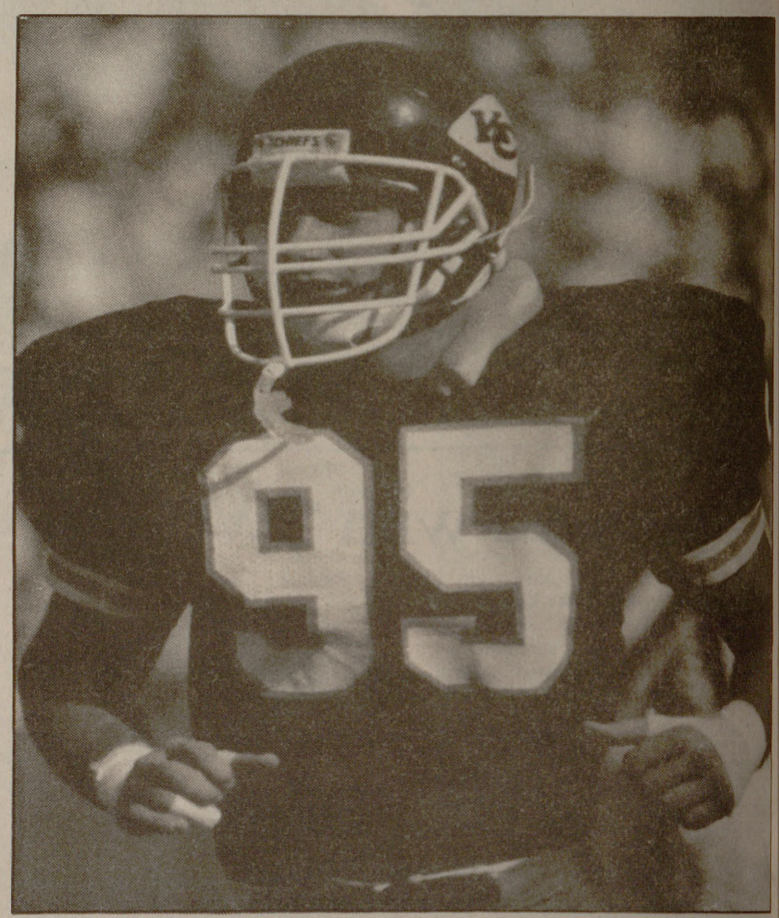


Photo courtesy of Jeff Paine
A&M former football player Jeff Paine has played for the Kansas City Chiefs, Washington Redskins and St. Louis Cardinals.

"Coming to A&M as a walk-on, I can identify with the trials and tribulations of a student-athlete," Paine said. "I've walked in their cleats and I really enjoy helping them out."

"I thank the Lord that he gave the perseverance to make my way from being a walk-on to playing professional football," he said. "But one thing I try to stress to an athlete is to think about what they will do after their playing days are over."

"I want them to enjoy being an athlete, but long-term decisions must be made."

It was when Paine was attending A&M that he received a true relationship with the Lord and that's what he wants to pass along to the athletes at A&M now.

"I've been out of school for six years and I realize now that the decisions I made then were not fads," he said. "They were real decisions that will stay with me for the rest of my life. I just want to see everybody grow in their relationship with God and have that relationship stay with them after they leave school."

Paine, who will be in College Station for just one more year unless he

gets the position at the church, said the A&M FCA huddle group meets every Tuesday night at 9 p.m. in the Lettermen's Lounge in G. Rollie White Coliseum. He said being an athlete is not required, all that's needed is a desire to learn more about God's word.

Paine will be the keynote speaker at the annual Gameday Witness game next year on Sept. 22 when A&M plays the University of North Texas at Kyle Field.

"I coordinate some of A&M's

players going to the high school huddle meetings because the high school kids really look up to those guys," Paine said. "But mainly I deal with the college group."

"It's when college students first come here that they start to realize how strong an influence God can be," Paine said. "It's my hope that I can help guide some of these students down the path to a long and happy life with the help of God — that's what I enjoy the most about what I do."

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Arkansas

(Continued from page 5)

representative of the University of Texas.

"I won't say specifically which schools or which conferences. All of these items are under active consideration and will be pursued as we go into the next couple of months."

There was talk of doing away with the current round-robin schedule, in which each team plays the eight other league members each season, in order to free room on football schedules for games with other major teams across the nation.

"A lot of the problems that universities all across the country face are economic — the competition from other sports and from other distractions. You can see it in the decline in attendance at sporting events," Vick said.

"We need to find a way to rejuvenate that interest in college athletics and increase the attendance and thereby the interest and economic health of all our programs," he said.

Although some schools had com-

plained about the way gate receipts are split, Vick said there is little move in that direction.

"There was no move to make changes in the gate splits as they now stand," Vick said.

"The gate receipts as they are split would be a back issue right now, as opposed to the gate receipts in their size. I'm talking about the size of the crowd. Just increasing the gate receipts is more of a concern than how they are split."

Vick said the meeting also concerned legislative proposals that will come before the NCAA next year.

"Specifically, we discussed reductions in coaching staffs, phasing out athletic dorms, elimination of training tables, and reduction of grants in aids," Vick said.

Vick called the session an active meeting.

"There was a great deal of discussion. Arkansas was a very full participant in that. We're optimistic that some exciting things can happen," he said.

SWC commissioner Fred Jacoby echoed Vick's upbeat feeling about the Razorbacks and chances they will remain in the league.

"The University of Arkansas was very active in the discussions, and

they were very supportive of the areas discussed. So we were encouraged. The University of Arkansas is a full participating member of the conference, they're a very valued member of the conference, and we have every reason to believe and hope that they will remain a member of the conference."

The league's presidents meet next week in Dallas, and Jacoby said the items discussed by the faculty representatives will be forwarded to them for their consideration.

Vick declined to say whether the faculty representatives came up with any recommendations for the school presidents regarding expansion or any other matter.

"I wouldn't want to go into that kind of detail. We will have some things to pass along to them, although it won't be as specific as some people would like it to be," Vick said.

"I don't feel we're going to the presidents with a proposal as such. It's possible the presidents will decide to take action, but that remains to be seen. I don't know how they will judge the information."

Vick added, "I think they can provide direction and encouragement or discouragement to the various alternatives."

Nudist

(Continued from page 5)

Aggies Over Texas. They will be, and I quote the brochure, "dropping onto the Live Oak grounds in the ultimate demonstration of body freedom."

Cool.

Now, I don't hold anything against nudists — whatever you want to do shouldn't bother me, I've got enough things to worry about.

But I'm naive and I wonder. I think getting into an intense

game of volleyball might be, let's just say, *distressful* without some kind of bodily support for both men and women.

Also, when a person skydives, don't they have thick straps that go around the legs and up through the, uh ... crotch? Again, I think this would put the word "discomfort" in anyone's vocabulary.

National Nude Weekend at the Live Oak Ranch is sponsored by the American Sunbathing Association and The Naturist Society — a group representing thousands of nudists

throughout North America.

Although some might be wary about attending a Nude Weekend festivity, non-nudists are urged to attend. Some may get there and first become comfortable with the surroundings before they join the nudists.

If you have an open mind, why not go out and see what you're missing? Call for information at 409-878-2216.

Then, when you get back, give me a call and tell me about the volleyball match.