

Wednesday, August 8, 1990

Sports Editor

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845-2688

# Big Eight, SWC representatives discuss television alliance

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Representatives of the Big Eight and Southwest Conference meet today in Oklahoma City to discuss a television alliance that could mean more viewers for the leagues.

Officials from both conferences have talked in recent weeks about forming an alliance to enlarge each other's television markets, a move that could mean more revenues.

Iowa State Athletic Director Max Urlick said he and several athletic directors and faculty representatives from the Big Eight were invited to meet with at least five SWC officials in Oklahoma City.

"The best way to describe the meeting is 'exploratory,'" Urlick told the Des Moines Register. "No decisions will be made. I doubt much will happen other than just a lot of talk."

"We've been told there's a meeting, but right now everything's kind of confidential," SWC spokesman Bob Carter said Tuesday.

Urlick said the discussions would involve only a television agreement for football and possibly other sports. He said he doubts the leagues will merge.

"We are talking about using the inventory of games in both conferences to market ourselves to viewers in our region," Urlick said. "That could mean the Iowa-Iowa State game could be broadcast into Texas every couple of years when we have the rights to the game."

"This is just to talk with the Southwest Conference people"

—Bob Devaney, University of Nebraska Athletic Director

At other times, top conference or non-conference games involving SWC teams could be broadcast in the Big Eight region.

Carter said Tuesday he did not know who would attend from the SWC, but the Register said SWC officials scheduled to attend the meeting include Texas A&M Athletic Director John David Crow, Texas Athletic Director DeLoss Dodds and SWC Commissioner Fred Jacoby.

The Big Eight delegation will include Commissioner Carl James, Urlick, Oklahoma Athletic Director Donnie Duncan and Colorado Athletic Director Bill Marolt. Sources told The Associated Press that Kansas Athletic Director Bob Frederick and Nebraska faculty advisor James O'Hanlon also were expected to represent the Big Eight at the meeting at an Oklahoma City hotel.

Duncan was out of town Tuesday and not immediately available for comment.

Nebraska Athletic Director Bob Devaney, who said last week that he was opposed to an alliance, confirmed Tuesday that he will go to Oklahoma City for the meeting.

"This is just to talk with the Southwest Conference people," he told the Omaha World-Herald in a telephone interview.

The Big Eight, which has only Denver, St. Louis and Kansas City as major metropolitan areas, has one of the nation's smallest TV markets. By forming an agreement with the Southwest Conference, the Big Eight could add the large Dallas-Fort Worth and Houston markets.

The SWC is looking to stabilize after losing Arkansas to the Southeastern Conference.

"It is a way to get greater exposure as well as increasing our revenues," Urlick said of a potential alliance. "At the same time, I want to hear more about what is contemplated before I make any decisions."

Another Big Eight official, who asked not to be identified, told the Register that nothing formal will come from the discussions this week.

"I'd say everything is on the table, but nothing is on the table," the official said. "There are a lot of things that can be done, and we are just trying to set up a dialogue on it."

Carter said he didn't know if any announcements would be made after the meeting.

## Mirror image

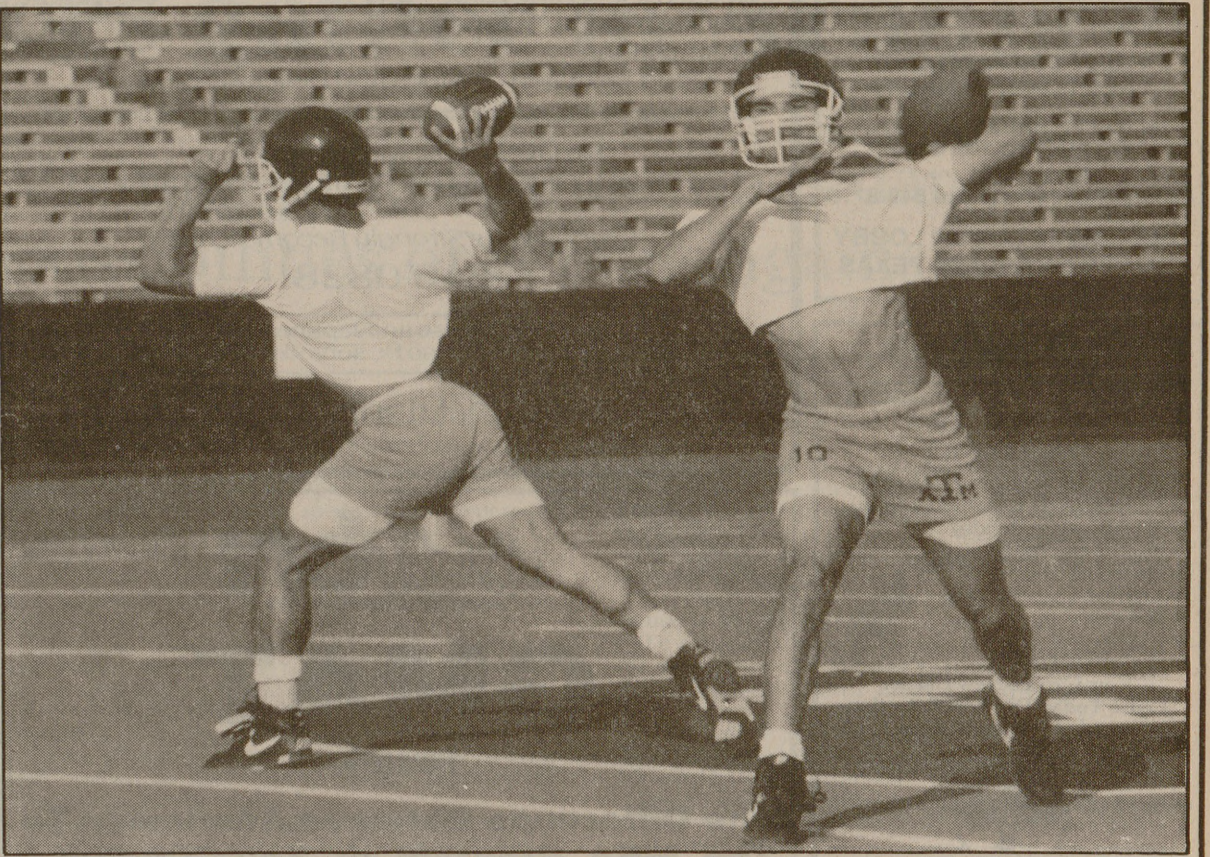


Photo by Thomas J. Lavin

A&M recruits Steve Emerson and Jeff Granger. Freshmen were required to report to practice go through drills for the coming football season. Monday while full team practice begins Aug. 13.

## Senator says Razorbacks could create SWC exodus

LUBBOCK (AP) — The prospect of seeing Texas A&M and Texas follow Arkansas out of the Southwest Conference "is more serious than meets the eye," says one state senator.

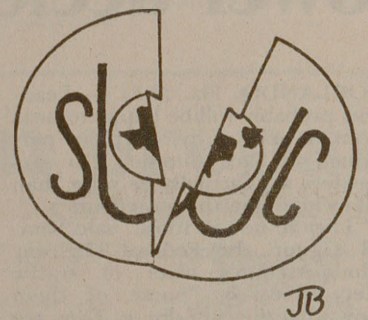
Although it's uncertain what could be done politically to hold the Aggies and the Longhorns in tow, "The Legislature is not going to turn a deaf ear to it (an attempted departure)," State Sen. John Montford, D-Lubbock, said Monday. "If we need to get involved, we will."

John David Crow, Texas A&M athletic director, told the Lubbock Avalanche-Journal Montford's comments were unfounded.

"There has not been anything talked about on this campus about us leaving the Southwest Conference," Crow said Monday.

"I'm not the one to talk to about it," Crow said. "Any decision would be made by the president of the university or the board of regents."

Speculation that A&M and Texas would defect from the



SWC for more revenue has coincided with Arkansas' decision last week to join the Southeastern Conference.

Texas Tech president Robert Lawless said last week that steps should be taken to keep the conference intact, perhaps including financial packages that would fairly distribute revenue generated by bowl and tournament appearances, gate receipts and other sources.

Board of regents Chairman J. Fred Bucy said if A&M and Texas try to leave the SWC, "We must do anything we can to stop it."

## Grambling ready despite loss of key players

GRAMBLING, La. (AP) — Forget about any tears being shed for Grambling's football team in 1990.

Coaches who oppose the Tigers' legendary leader, Eddie Robinson, and his perennially talented team don't want to hear about all of those "key losses" from the 1989 Southwestern Athletic Conference champions.

Although the pass-catch duo of Clemente Gordon and Fred Jones departed, along with two of the three starting linebackers, Grambling's opponents realize how tough the north Louisiana power looms for the upcoming season.

"Eddie never rebuilds, he just reloads," observed Jackson State head coach W.C. Gorden. "When they passed out the pre-season ballots to us, I didn't even hesitate to pick anybody but Grambling. They're the team to beat again."

Indeed, Grambling appears to be plenty tough despite the loss of numerous talented players from last year's 9-3-0 club which participated in the NCAA's national Division I-AA playoffs.

Robinson, who enters into his 49th season with the program and has 358 lifetime wins, returns 48 lettermen and 15 starters from the 1989 edition.

Included among the returnees: talented tailback Walter Dean, who set a single season rush-

ing record for the school last year with 1,269 yards and is being promoted for the Heisman Trophy; defensive back Ivan Gerald, considered one of the team's top I-AA All-American candidates and who led the club in interceptions last year with four; offensive tackle Raymond "World" Smith, who checks in at 420 pounds on a 6-foot-6 frame; and linebacker Thomas Griffin, the lone returning starter from that position who ranked third in team tackles last year with 60.

"We lost some outstanding players, but we have some good ones coming back, too," said Robinson. "The main task at hand for us is, as coaches, being able to develop these players into champions again. If we're not successful, it could be that we didn't do a good enough job of coaching."

While Grambling is the consensus choice to win the league title, traditional power Jackson State and Southern could be close behind.

Jackson State has an excellent pro prospect in senior Tim Barnett, who totalled 36 catches for 857 yards and nine TD's in 1989.

A major factor, however, lies in the team's adjustment to having lost three of its returning members in an automobile crash earlier this year.

"I'm still wrestling with the question of whether it's right to use this tragic incident as a

motivation for our team this year," said Gorden. "I just don't have the answer, but I do feel as if our team will do the very best it can under some very trying circumstances."

Southern surprised the prognosticators last year by going 6-4-1 and could produce even more wins this season with the return of 14 starters and 42 letter winners.

Second-year head coach Gerald Kimble has an outstanding tailback in Barry Kimbrough, who led the team last year with 439 yards and four touchdowns.

Alcorn State, traditionally a defensive power in the conference, will try to break into the upper echelon of the standings with a revamped offensive attack.

"We plan to throw the football a lot," said head coach Theo Danzy. "We could be airing it out a lot this year."

The main reason is the presence of speedy wide receiver Torrance Small, a pre-season All-SWAC selection who caught a team leading 47 passes for 926 yards and nine scores in '89.

At Texas Southern, second year head coach Walter Highsmith is telling everybody to "watch out for us."

## UT officials claim investigation of gambling finds minor violation

AUSTIN (AP) — The University of Texas reported Tuesday that an investigation into alleged gambling among its athletes has been turned over to the NCAA and that only isolated, mostly minor, violations were found.

"We don't expect these violations to warrant NCAA action against the university or any individual student-athletes," said Athletics Director DeLoss Dodds.

The report was turned over to the National Collegiate Athletic Association two months ago, but no response has been received, Dodds said.

"It (the report) is extremely thorough, and we feel good about the results in that we were dealing with isolated cases and very minor NCAA violations," he added.

The report was compiled by

Houston-based law firm of Vinson & Elkins in response to a story in the Austin American-Statesman alleging that as many as 40 student-athletes at UT had been involved in betting.

The report concludes a month-long investigation, Dodds said.

Knox Nunnally said he and another Vinson & Elkins lawyer interviewed more than 100 current and former Longhorn athletes, as well as head football coach David McWilliams, his staff and coaches in other sports.

Betting on collegiate sports is an NCAA violation.

The American-Statesman reported earlier that an NCAA spokesman said knowledge by a coach or other staff member of gambling activities among student-athletes would make the school subject to NCAA sanctions.

## Stewart kicks up more furor at 1990 PGA Championship course

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — Payne Stewart may have started another controversy at the PGA Championship on Tuesday.

"If the PGA knew the course wasn't good enough without growing rough like this, they should have taken it to a different golf course," Stewart said.

The defending champion took the PGA to task — not over the racial controversy that has caused such a furor in the last month — but over the deep, tough bermuda rough.

"Almost unplayable," he said. "I'm very disappointed with the way the PGA set up the golf course. It's like there were red lines down both sides of the fairway; like it's a hazard any time you're out of the fairway."

"You can't chip out of it — it's more of a chop," Stewart said after a practice round at Shoal Creek, the previously all-white club that became the center of a controversy over the membership policies of clubs hosting professional tournaments.

That situation apparently was resolved with the inclusion of a black businessman as an honorary mem-

ber at Shoal Creek and actions by the PGA, PGA Tour and U.S. Golf Association to avoid taking their tournaments to clubs that have exclusionary membership practices.

The Southern Christian Leadership Council abandoned plans to picket the tournament. No protesters or demonstrators were in evidence during the first full practice round on Tuesday.

"I don't want to talk about it," Stewart responded to a question. Then he talked about it.

"It's none of my business. I play golf for a living. I think the players probably are making more jokes about it than anything else," he said.

U.S. Open champion Hale Irwin declined comment.

"It's done," Australian Greg Norman said. "Everybody is happy with the decision. I don't really want to comment."

Norman didn't hesitate to talk about the rough, however.

"You better keep it on the short stuff. No question about it. If you miss a fairway you're going to make bogey 80 percent of the time," he

## ITCA awards tennis coach program grant

From Staff and Wire Reports

The Intercollegiate Tennis Coaches Association (ITCA) announced that Texas A&M women's tennis coach Bobby Kleinecke earned \$850 for the Aggie's tennis program.

Kleinecke's grant was awarded for his community service including running a doubles tournament and serving as a banquet speaker. The program participants collectively recorded nearly 5,000 hours of community service.

The Volvo Tennis/Varsity Awards Program awarded over \$60,000 in grants to 40 tennis programs throughout the nation.

A maximum of five awards was given in each women's and men's Division I region and small college division.

Awards in the Southwest Region women's division included A&M, Northeast Louisiana and Texas, which earned \$1,000 for its program.

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