

SMU's Gregg breathes life into floundering Mustang program

SMU



Mustangs

DALLAS (AP) — Forrest Gregg, the enforcer, the man in charge, the tough guy in a white hat cleaning up the bad side of town.

Those are the impressions you get of the rugged Gregg, who whipped cancer and has slapped life back into a Southern Methodist football program burned to a crisp by the NCAA death penalty.

Gregg comes into a room of reporters as he did on the Southwest Conference tour and lets you know the questions he isn't going to answer. There are NO objections.

The head football coach and athletic director of the SMU Mustangs loves the school on the Hilltop with a passion. He played there, met his wife there, and feels he owes it every ounce of energy he possesses.

"I owe SMU a lot," Gregg said. "I love this school and don't like to see it hurt."

Gregg was an All-Pro for Green Bay coach Vince Lombardi, who called Gregg "the best football player I ever coached at any position."

The late Lombardi loved Gregg's 100 percent, no-nonsense, no-excuse approach.

Gregg was coaching at Green Bay when SMU asked him to bring its program back from disaster. Gregg answered his alma mater's call almost instantly.

"I couldn't say no to the place I loved," Gregg said. And Gregg had a warning for any alumni who would cheat again: "If I catch anyone cheating, they'll have to deal with me."

Enough said. Nobody would want to mess with the 6-6, 250-pound Gregg, who has hands like a blacksmith and a bulldog's disposition.

Gregg is tough on his players but they don't complain. That's because they know all the advice they get is coming from someone who has been there in the trenches of college and pro football.

School president Kenneth A. Pye wants this to be Gregg's last year as coach so he can concentrate full time as athletic director. Gregg is to name his own successor. But that's one of the things he doesn't want to talk about.

Some SMU backers have started a movement to keep Gregg on as head coach.

Gregg is a tough disciplinarian, which was something a freshmen-dominated team needed for a heavy schedule in a two-year absence from college football. SMU surprised the college world with victories over Connecticut and North Texas. Then it opened the season with a 44-7 victory over Division I foe Vanderbilt before losing last week 43-7 to Tulane.

Alligator gar grounds for open tourney

THREE RIVERS (AP) — It's probably an exaggeration to say bass and crappie have been run out of any lake in Texas by alligator gar. Studies show the toothy creature grows to 150 pounds-plus without ordering regularly from the gamefish menu.

It might also be a reach to blame gar for robbing trotlines, straightening fish hooks, sinking boats, dandruff, snoring mates or any other affliction of humankind. Point instead at turtles, oversize flathead catfish and bad luck.

Still, this is the semi-brush country of semi-South Texas between San Antonio and Corpus Christi, a hardscrabble region that gave us fajitas, two-stepping, rodeo, shotgun politics, George Strait and other essentials of life, even longnecks. And its hard-working, hard-playing people take any excuse for sport.

Hey, somebody said, dove season isn't open here yet, so wouldn't it be jolly — even noble — to hold a gar tournament on Choke Canyon Reservoir. In one shot, we could raise some money to help restock the lake with crappie, thin out the gar, and have some grins doing it.

Thus, was born the Open Gar Tournament, maybe the first water-related competition in the country that permitted the taking of fish by snagging, snaring, juglines, trotlines, limb-lines, bow and arrow, pitchforks or, when all else failed, rod and reel.

This tournament was "open" all right — wide, wide open. The tournament favorites were the bow fishermen, wiry fellows who spent the night on the front decks of small, flat-bottom boats shooting hard-backed fish under the glare of spotlights.

Turns out, the early forecasts were not far off, with archers Jim Kegebein and Dale Cavallin, both from nearby George West, winning for most fish and for big fish. Among their 36 gar was a 58-pounder.

Runner-up for big fish was a 57-pounder caught by Gene and William Cavender of Leming, who used rod and reel, strangely enough.

Afterward, tournament organizers filleted 25 gar and fed 100 at a fish fry, filling bellies and raising eyebrows at the same time.

KA-BOOM! Texas freshman explodes into instant offensive attack

AUSTIN (AP) — Unlike some running backs who need a certain number of carries to warm up in a game, Texas redshirt freshman Phil Brown is instant offense, says Coach David McWilliams.

"It doesn't matter if it's his first carry or his fifth carry, he's always done pretty well," McWilliams said.

"You could put Phil in there, get him out, put him back in, get him out — it doesn't seem to make any difference with him."

The yardstick for running backs at Texas is Earl Campbell, the 1977 Heisman Trophy winner. Campbell's first year at Texas rushed for 928 yards, which remains the school record for freshmen.

Last year, redshirt freshman Adrian Walker approached that figure with 814 yards but has been slowed by a hamstring injury this season. Brown has become the leading rusher with 187 yards and a 6 yards per carry average in two games, Penn State and Colorado.

Against a strong Colorado team, Brown carried 17 times for 92 yards, and scored on a 2-yard run.

"I like that 29 (Brown). He's the real deal," said Colorado coach Bill McCartney.

But for Brown, a schoolboy star at Class 4A Commerce in East Texas, it

is not so much what he has done as how bright his future seems to be.

Brown, 5-foot-11-inches and 195 pounds, is what coaches call a north-south runner, meaning he races up the field, rather than running laterally to look for an opening.

After rushing for 1,516 yards and averaging 8.8 yards a carry as a high school senior, Brown verbally committed to Texas Christian but later signed with the Longhorns.

"My commitment to TCU was to get the recruiters to back off of me because I was going through testing during school, so I was trying to get them to calm down and stop calling me so much," he said.

"I kept my ties with Texas because I really wanted to be here. ... Coach Mac, he's a very fair coach, and told me exactly what he expected of me."

Brown's high school and college coaches have compared him to former college stars Charles Davis of Colorado and Emmitt Smith of Florida.

"Most people call me a slasher," Brown said.

"I feel like I'm pretty strong and can break a few tackles and outrun a few people. I'm not sure how to classify my running style."

"Whatever I do, I guess I do a pretty good job at it."

Astros crush LA's hopes

HOUSTON (AP) — Franklin Stubbs had a career-high six RBI and Jim Deshaies pitched a four-hitter as the Houston Astros routed Los Angeles 10-1 Wednesday night and dealt the Dodgers' title hopes a severe blow.



The Cincinnati Reds beat Atlanta 5-2 earlier and, coupled with the Dodgers' loss, reduced their magic number for clinching the NL West to three with only six games remaining.

Deshaies (7-12) improved to 7-0 lifetime against the Dodgers in the Astrodome after he posted a season-high nine strikeouts in his second complete game of the season.

Stubbs, an ex-Dodger, hit his 22nd home run of the season in the fifth inning to drive in three runs

and put Houston ahead 6-0.

Previously knocking in five runs on April 21, 1987, Stubbs has nine for his last 21 at-bats and now has a career-best 68 RBI.

Stubbs and Craig Biggio combined for four of Houston's seven hits against seven Dodger pitchers.

The Dodgers walked eight with six of them scoring.

Houston took a 3-0 lead in the first inning, chasing Dodger starter Mike Morgan (11-15) after one third of an inning.

Morgan walked Biggio, Karl Rhodes and Glenn Davis to load the bases before Stubbs doubled them in with a liner down the right field line.

Morgan's shortest outing of the season previously had been 2 1-3 innings against New York.

Houston added four more runs in the seventh inning on a wild pitch by Dodger reliever Don Aase, a two-run double by Ken Caminiti and Eric Anthony's run-scoring single.

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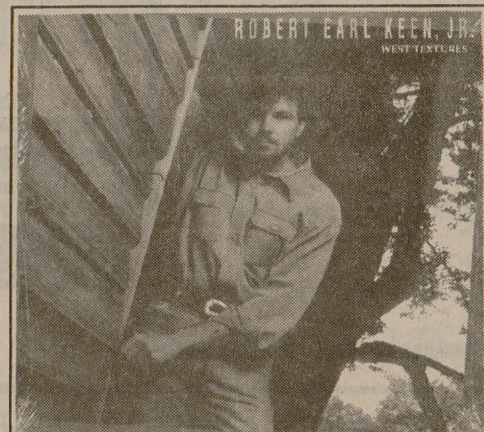


The Lounge Lizards will perform at Marooned, September 29 at 5 pm.

Robert Earl Keen, Jr. will sign autographs at 5 p.m., Sept. 28.



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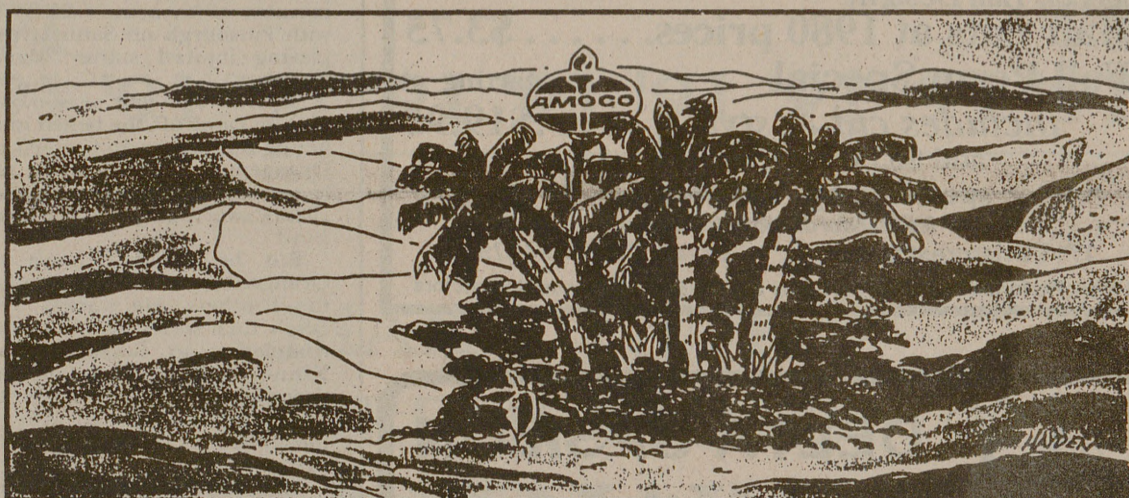


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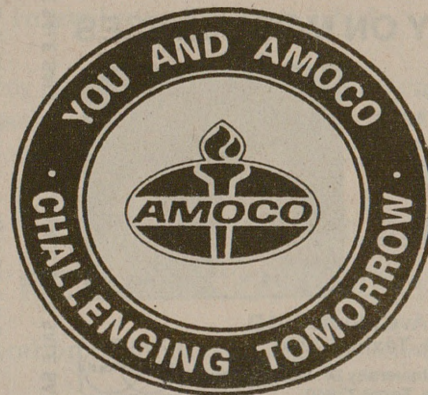
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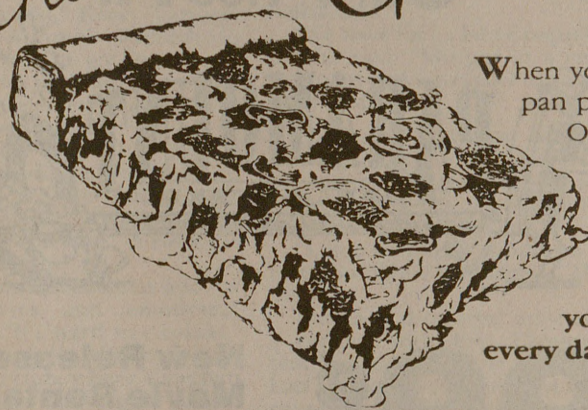
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