

SWC presidents pass harsh eligibility requirements

DALLAS (AP) — Southwest Conference presidents on Sunday enacted the stiffest academic requirements for student-athletes in the league's 76-year history.

The policy, set to take effect next fall pending review by SWC lawyers, goes beyond the NCAA's ever-stiffening standards.

It requires recruits and walk-ons to pass college entrance tests and have at least a 2.0 high school grade point average in core classes. Failure to meet those requirements upon enrollment would disqualify student-athletes from competing in athletics during any remaining years at the school.

Current policy requires student-

athletes who do not meet both benchmarks to sit out of competition during his or her first year, but allows students three years of athletic eligibility if grades improve.

SWC Commissioner Fred Jacoby said he was confident the new rules, adopted at a meeting of SWC presidents here, will stand up to any legal challenges.

Southern Methodist, Texas Christian and Rice already have similar policies.

Jacoby said the new rules will mean higher graduation rates.

The conference presidents "have the firm feeling that most of the students are not graduating," said Jacoby, who described the meeting

among the nine school leaders as cordial. "In their own particular situations, they feel very strongly that the kids are not graduating if they don't qualify."

The presidents also rubber-stamped a Sept. 20 decision by conference athletic directors to keep Arkansas football in the SWC fold during the 1991 season.

Arkansas, a charter member of the SWC, voted Aug. 1 to bolt to the Southeastern Conference by 1992 in all sports except football.

The school had a change of heart for 1991 when it discovered the difficulty of trying to schedule football games for the eight SWC slots they would be losing.

But the hottest topic at the meeting was the stiffened academic requirements.

Decisions in recent years to stiffen eligibility rules have drawn the ire of minority leadership, which contends the moves are racially biased. Georgetown basketball coach John Thompson is a leading critic of the trend.

"I think there will be some negative reaction out there," Jacoby acknowledged. "But I think the presidents want qualified students who have a reasonable opportunity to graduate."

Jacoby said the presidents had considered the ruling for more than a year. "This is not something they

just drummed up," he said.

Among other actions, the presidents on Sunday:

- Issued no immediate plans to expand the conference. But the presidents said the SWC will continue to groom affiliations with the Big Eight and a group of Eastern seaboard schools in football and basketball.

- Officially changed home gate receipts from a 50-50 split so that the home team would retain all gate receipts in football and basketball beginning in 1992. Schools would be allowed, however, to work out minimum guarantee packages with one another.

- Changed fees for teams partici-

pating in bowls. Teams will now get to keep \$500,000 off the top before the SWC splits the remainder. The current figure is \$300,000. The move will take effect after this year's games.

- Allowed SWC teams to keep 80 percent of their television receipts for non-conference national TV games with the remainder going to the conference. The current formula is a 50-50 split.

- Changed the take from 40 percent to 50 percent on regionally and nationally televised games between conference teams. The other half will go to the conference.

A&M survives Red Raider assault, 28-24

Tough matchup prepares Aggies for UH air attack

By RICHARD TIJERINA
Of The Battalion Staff

Preparing for No. 13 Houston and its Run-and-Shoot blitzkrieg can drive an opposing team batty, but Texas A&M head football coach R.C. Slocum said Sunday the Aggies won't have to make large-scale adjustments.

No. 19 A&M (4-1, 1-0 in the Southwest Conference) has beaten Houston (4-0, 3-0) for the last five years, including the last two in the Astrodome.

"So many people play them and have to make major changes in their scheme," Slocum said. "With our style of defense, there's no changes. We use the same formations and schemes against them as we use against everyone else."

"We'll use them more against them — blitzes and things — but we don't have to change the things we've been doing. It's the basic part of our personality. Playing man-to-man coverage and blitzing has always been a part of our defense."

Aggressive defense played a familiar role in A&M's 28-24 win over Texas Tech Saturday: it saved the Aggies in a tight game. A&M, which had averaged almost four sacks a game before the contest, finished with just one against the Red Raiders.

But it was a big one. Junior linebacker Quentin Coryatt sacked Tech quarterback Robert Hall at the A&M 15-yard line late in the game with the Aggies clinging to a four-point lead. Two plays later, cornerback Kevin Smith picked off Hall's fourth-down pass to clinch the game.

"We've won a bunch of games through the years where we've stopped a team at the end to win," Slocum said. "We did what we were supposed to do today."

"I was disappointed that it came down to the very end like that. But I felt like we deserved to win the ballgame. I don't think we stole one from them."

Still, as the Red Raiders drove down the field on their way to what could have been a winning touchdown, visions of Lubbock danced around the Aggie sideline. Last year, Tech burned A&M on a third down pass with under a minute to play.

The Aggies responded this time. But

See Aggies/Page 12



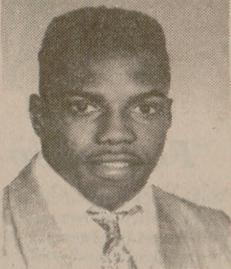
Photo by Jay Janner

A&M's Darren Lewis stiff arms a Texas Tech defender for seven of his career-high 232 yards in the Aggies' 28-24 win.

Smith steals way into A&M record books

By DOUGLAS PILS
Of The Battalion Staff

Giving credit where credit is due, Texas A&M cornerback Kevin Smith gave the ball from his school record-breaking interception to his mom, Ora Smith.



Kevin Smith

Smith's interception of Texas Tech quarterback Robert Hall with 2:12 left in the fourth quarter not only sealed the Aggies' 28-24 victory, but it also made him A&M's all-time interception leader with 15, breaking a tie with Lester Hayes (1973-76).

Smith said the ball will be part of his mom's collection of trophies in Orange and he'll be lucky if he ever gets to lay his hands on it again.

"I'll have a hard time getting that ball when I move out of the house," Smith said. "Mine, my sister's and all my other brothers' have trophies all over the house and all of them are hers."

"She'll claim that ball, put her name on and won't let me touch it."

As soon as the game-winning interception was made, Smith ran off the field and took the ball to his mother in the stands behind the Aggie bench.

Now that the junior from West Orange-Stark has eclipsed the A&M record, Smith can now set his sights on the Southwest Conference record of 18 held jointly by Russell Carter of SMU (1980-83) and Ronald Fraley of TCU (1951-53).

Smith missed two other opportunities earlier in the game including one pass where it looked like he could have gone 97 yards for a touchdown with about 10 minutes left in the game.

"I'd rather had that one than the one I got at the end," he said. "But it's satisfying because it won the game for us."

Currently, Smith is tied with TCU's Falanda Newton (1985-88) for seventh place on the all-time SWC list.

After the defense gave up 24 points,

See Smith/Page 12

Welch, A's shut down Red Sox, 4-1

BOSTON (AP) — Maybe Babe Ruth still has a curse on the Boston Red Sox, and maybe not. But the Oakland Athletics sure do.

Bob Welch shut down the Red Sox for 7 1/3 innings and Dennis Eckersley finished them off Sunday night as the Athletics won 4-1 for a 2-0 lead in the American League playoffs.

Two days, two wins for the Athletics. They won their eighth straight postseason game.

Too little talent for the Red Sox, apparently. They tied a record with their sixth straight loss in the playoffs, including a four-game sweep against the Athletics in 1988.

Once again, Boston hung tough. They led early, as they did in Saturday night's 9-1 loss, but again the Red Sox bullpen could not hold it.

Harold Baines' RBI grounder put Oakland ahead in the seventh and Oakland added two runs in the ninth for insurance, as if Eckersley even needs it.

Welch, a 27-game winner in the

See A's/Page 12

Pokes stampede Bucs; 49ers slip Oilers

Rookie Smith leads Cowboy run assault

IRVING (AP) — After Sunday, the Dallas Cowboys could finally say they don't miss Herschel Walker anymore. Rookie Emmitt Smith put up Walker-like rushing numbers and scored the game-winning on a 14-yard run to rally the Cowboys to a 14-10 victory over the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Smith rushed for 121 yards on 23 carries and said he felt like he should have done better.

"I showed myself a little today," said Smith, the 17th pick in the first round out of Florida. "But I didn't get an opportunity to shake and bake like I like to do. I think I can do much better."

Smith missed all of the Cowboys' training camp and had 104 yards on 37 carries before the game began.

"It shows what Emmitt can do if he just has a little bit of room to run," Dallas quarterback Troy Aikman said.

Dallas (2-3) broke a three-game losing streak and snapped Tampa Bay's three-game winning streak, dropping the tie to 3-2.

Smith's yardage was the most by a Dallas running back since Walker gained 134 yards against Cleveland on Dec. 4, 1988. Walker was traded to Minnesota last year.

See Dallas/Page 12

NFL Standings					
By The Associated Press American Conference					
Team	W	L	Pct.	GB	
Miami	4	1	.800	-	
Buffalo	3	1	.750	1	
Indianapolis	2	3	.400	2	
N.Y. Jets	2	3	.400	2	
New England	1	4	.200	3	
Cincinnati	4	1	.800	-	
Houston	2	3	.400	2	
Pittsburgh	2	3	.400	2	
Cleveland	1	3	.250	3	
LA Raiders	4	1	.800	-	
Kansas City	3	2	.600	1	
Denver	2	2	.500	2	
Seattle	2	3	.400	3	
San Diego	1	4	.200	4	
Team	W	L	Pct.	GB	
N.Y. Giants	4	0	1.000	-	
Washington	3	1	.750	1	
Dallas	2	3	.400	2	
Philadelphia	1	3	.250	3	
Phoenix	1	3	.250	3	
Chicago	4	1	.800	-	
Tampa Bay	3	2	.600	1	
Detroit	2	3	.400	2	
Green Bay	2	3	.400	2	
Minnesota	1	4	.200	3	
San Francisco	4	0	1.000	-	
Atlanta	2	2	.500	2	
LA Rams	1	3	.250	3	
New Orleans	1	3	.250	3	

See Houston/Page 12

Texas-OU hasn't lost much flavor

DALLAS (AP) — After a bad stretch of several years, the luster has returned to the annual Texas-Oklahoma football clash, which will be played before a sellout crowd Saturday in the Cotton Bowl.

This series produced four national champions from 1969-85 and four times placed both schools in the final top 10 from 1972-78. The game has been on network TV since 1961 in every year that both teams were eligible for live telecasts.

But last year was a downer. Neither team finished in the final Associated Press rankings, and the game wasn't shown on national TV because Oklahoma was on NCAA probation. And Texas put together consecutive losing seasons for the second straight year.

Most of Oklahoma's headlines lately involved player arrests, NCAA probation and the resignation of coach Barry Switzer.

However, going into Saturday's game, fortunes of both teams are again on the rise.

See UT-OU/Page 12