

SWC '93: Football Previews

Part 2 of 4 Tomorrow: Baylor and Texas Tech

RICE Life after Cobb: Owls relying on strong returning starters for '93

By MATTHEW J. RUSH The Battalion



After posting their first winning season in 29 years, the Rice Owls are looking to improve their program in hopes to obtain a bowl bid in 1993.

Head coach Fred Goldsmith, in his fifth year at Rice University, is looking to senior quarterback Bert Emanuel to lead the way this season.

After losing running back Trevor Cobb to the NFL, Emanuel and Jimmy Lee will carry the bulk of the offensive load. Emanuel's scrambling and passing ability made him last season's All-Southwest Conference quarterback.

Goldsmith outlined his strengths as having two experienced quarterbacks coupled with several big play receivers returning from the 1992 team.

Unfortunately, last year's 6-5 Rice squad suffered two big losses in Trevor Cobb and offensive lineman Matt Sign.

Redshirt freshman Spencer George is highly touted as being Cobb's successor at running

back, but Goldsmith believes that the offensive line will be the most important facet of the Owls' offensive game.

"(Chris) Cooley, (Tom) Hethrington, (Jimmy) Golden, and (Brandon) Fitzgerald will make the job of the new tailback much easier," Goldsmith said. "They are all returning letterman and two of them are legitimate NFL prospects."

Goldsmith said he knows that each game will test the Owls in all aspects, but he's keeping everything in perspective for the 1993 campaign.

"We're going to take it one week at a time," Goldsmith said. "Each week is a big game, but obviously, our ultimate goal is to win the Southwest Conference."

Newcomers Ndukwe Kalu, Adam Zylman and Mike Jones could also be instrumental in giving Goldsmith the highly-sought-after bowl bid.

Rice will play at Big Ten powerhouse Ohio State to open the season and could be 3-1 before playing at the University of Texas. The Owls have not beaten the Longhorns since 1965.

New head coach Helton takes the helm with hopes to shore up weak defense



By MATTHEW J. RUSH The Battalion

HOUSTON

After head coach John Jenkins' resignation in April, the University of Houston Cougars will look to new coach Kim Helton to guide them to their first Southwest Conference Championship since 1985.

UH posted a 4-7 record in each of the last two years.

The biggest concern of this year's Cougar squad is how the new coach will affect the players. Helton believes that, overall, the effect will be positive.

"I think that there has been a positive response so far," Helton said.

"There is also an opportunity for a fresh start for some players who didn't agree with the old system," he said.

"The team is still in the 'honeymoon' effect- that is, they haven't figured out if I'm a better deal or if I'm not."

Returning to offense are starting quarterback Jimmy Klingler, wideout Sherman Smith, Darrell Clapp and Jim Herndon. Klingler will again look to connect with his primary targets Smith and Ron Peters. The tandem combined for over 1,700 receiving during the

1992 season. Klingler will also look to throw to senior Keith Jack and slotback Lamar Smith to again post the number one ranking in yards per game.

On the other side of the ball, the Cougars were 104th out of

Helton, who was with the Miami Dolphins last season, saw little of Douglas at either position, but believes he will be a key in their pursuit to win the conference.

"From what little I've seen, he's a pretty good guy," Helton said. "He likes to work hard."

Helton believes that the Cougars' non-conference games against USC and Michigan are important for his team as well as for the conference.

"The Southwest Conference is about to come together," Helton said.

"We want to be proud and if we win, that will bring some glory to the conference."

Helton said that his goals are simple and direct.

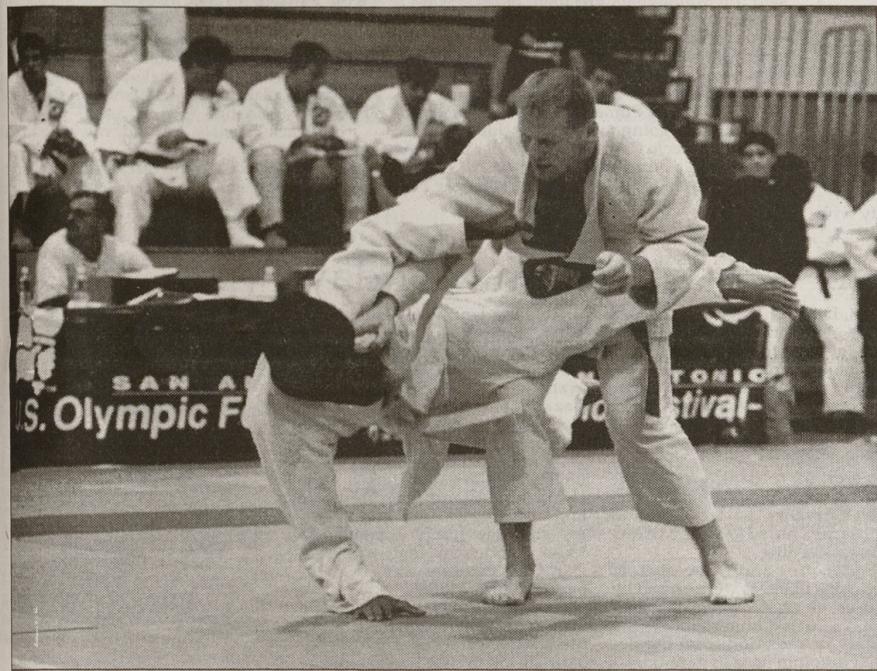
"We want to win every game," Helton said. "The biggest key to being a good football team is if you don't win, you've got to recover. You can't let one loss lead into another."

The Cougars will open their 1993 schedule against the University of Southern California and will then face Tulane and Michigan before entering conference play.

"The team is still in the 'honeymoon' effect- that is, they haven't figured out if I'm a better deal or if I'm not."

— Kim Helton, new head coach, University of Houston

Show 'em how it's done



JOSEPH GREENSLADE/The Battalion

Former Texas A&M student Bob Perez (l) throws A&M senior Hiram Hodges with kane basama, or flying leg scissors, as part of a judo demonstration

Saturday at the U.S. Olympic Festival in San Antonio. Perez and Hodges are both first degree black belts and past presidents of the A&M judo club.

Carter eager to hit the big league

By KEVIN LINDSTROM

The Battalion

SAN ANTONIO- Former Texas A&M fullback Doug Carter has survived the first two weeks of the Houston Oilers training camp, and he has no intentions of leaving any time soon.

"I'm very glad to be here in training camp," he said. "This is the next level, and I'm happy to say I got here."

But Carter said he isn't satisfied with just being in camp.

"With all of the veterans on this team, I've got to make my mark on the special teams," he said. "I have to prove I can play at this level."

Carter played fullback for A&M from 1986 to 1992, sitting out '87 and '88 with a severe knee injury and sitting out two games his junior year with an ankle injury.

He said of the special teams he plays on, he likes the physicality of returning kicks.

"I like kick return because I get to set up and hit somebody," he said. "That's more fun than run blocking."

Carter said he likes the role the running back has in the run-and-shoot offense that Houston employs.

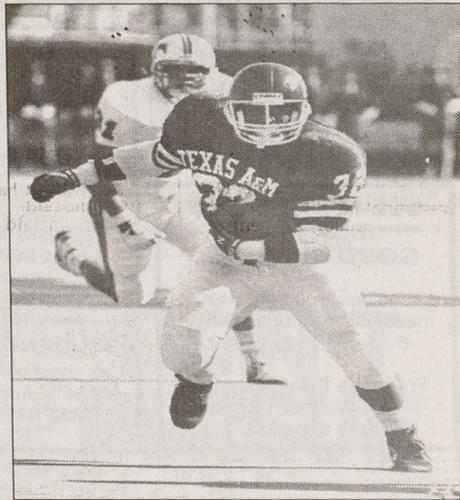
"I like the run-and-shoot because it's more relaxed for the running back," he said. "You're either running straight up the field, picking up a line-backer or helping the tackles."

Carter said the defense is more intense in the NFL than in college, but the 46 defense that Oilers defensive coordinator Buddy Ryan designed with the Chicago Bears and is implementing in Houston does resemble A&M's attack.

"The defense here blitzes a lot, like A&M does, but these guys are at a much higher level," he said. "And they are coming full speed on every play."

Carter said the level of competition is high and he will have to push himself to make the team.

"Everything here is a lot faster," he said. "Everyone out here is a high-caliber athlete. I think I'm keep-



Carter

ing pace. I know what I have to do to be successful here."

He has to keep working to stay competitive, he said. "There is no amount of running I could have done to prepare me for these two-a-days," he said. "Running for two hours straight with these guys is tough."

The Oilers begin their morning practice at 6:30 a.m. and work until 9 a.m. The afternoon practices last from 4:30 to 6:30, with classwork and lunch between sessions.

The Oilers' preseason match against the New Orleans Saints this Saturday will be the first football game in the Houston Alamodome, and Carter said he is eager to play against other NFL players.

"I can't wait to start hitting some other guys than my teammates," he said. "I can really show the coaches something by doing well against New Orleans."

Scoreboard

| American League | | | | National League | | | |
|-----------------|---|-----------|---|-----------------|----|------------|----|
| Toronto | 4 | New York | 0 | Chicago | 12 | Pittsburgh | 10 |
| Baltimore | 7 | Milwaukee | 5 | Cincinnati | 6 | Colorado | 2 |
| Texas | 9 | Chicago | 8 | New York | 4 | Montreal | 3 |
| | | | | St. Louis | 5 | Florida | 3 |

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