

## Helton and Houston begin phase-out of run and shoot

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Jimmy Klingler will gladly trade some of his passing records for more victories at the University of Houston.

New coach Kim Helton is glad to hear that because the 1993 Houston Cougars won't be re-writing the record books with the run-and-shoot offense as Klingler did a year ago and his brother David did before him.

Helton will retain much of the run-and-shoot but he's seeking more balance in the offense.

"I'm pretty comfortable with what we are doing," Klingler said. "It's different from what we're used to but all the Super Bowl teams have both running and pass attacks. We have to do both to be successful."

That presents a problem for Helton, who would like to use a two-back alignment. But he inherited a pile of small, quick receivers and has only four running backs.

"If our wideouts will perform at the level of their God-given ability, we'll be okay, if they perform less, than that, we'll be in trouble," Helton said.

The Cougars led the nation in passing offense and total offense last year with Klingler leading the nation in total offense.

Helton is determined to get more balance this season, despite his depleted running backs.

"We'll have a hard time using two backs too many times," Helton said. "We have a very good running back in Lamar Smith and Tommy Guy is a pluggier type."

TiAndre Sanders and Lawrence McPherson are the only other running backs on the roster.

And they're not super backs anymore. Now they are tailbacks, conforming to the two-back style that Helton hopes to install.

Helton has no concern about his starting quarterback.

"He has the 'innards,' the intestinal fortitude or whatever you want to call it," Helton said. "When things get heated, he's humming."

"He sometimes tries to win the games all by himself. Instead of trying to throw and catch the ball, we want him to just play quarterback."

The Cougars have a tough preseason schedule that includes games at Southern California, Michigan and Texas A&M.

But Helton doesn't want a softer early schedule.

"There's certain people you have to play to win the national championship," Helton said. "USC and Michigan are two of them. If we beat them and Texas A&M, then we've got a chance."

## Owls set to fly into tough schedule without Cobb

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Rice coach Fred Goldsmith used long odds to make a point Tuesday about the Owls' season opener Sept. 4 against Ohio State.

"Maybe we're arrogant to even go up there and play Ohio State, maybe it's a million-to-one odds," Goldsmith told touring SWC writers and broadcasters.

"But this is the game we want. It's how you get better. It was a million-to-one shot four years ago that we'd have a winning season too."

Point well taken. The Owls finally erased their doormat status last season with a 6-5 record for their first winning season since 1963 and narrowly missed a bowl invitation by losing to Houston in their season finale.

This season, the Owls want to be more than upstarts.

"Early on in the first year we had no potential on defense," Goldsmith said. "Now there are players who can compete for starting roles or go in and spell the starters."

"I know that every time they go on the field, they're getting better. That's the first time I've been able to say that about defense at Rice."

The Owls lost 38 percent of their offense when Trevor Cobb graduated but All-SWC quarterback Bert Emanuel is back and new tailback Yoncy Edmonds is faster and stronger than Cobb.

So the Owls will be shooting for the stars once again, daring

to say aloud that they want to fight for the SWC title instead of win a few games.

"One of the great feelings in football is coming down the tunnel at the Cotton Bowl, representing your conference and looking out at 70,000 of your fans," Goldsmith said.

Goldsmith had that experience as an assistant coach at Arkansas, but he said he realized last year that the Owls had never set their goals that high.

"My expectations for this team is that we go recruit players who can compete for the Cotton Bowl," Goldsmith said. "Rice hasn't thought like that before."

"I want our guys to have the thrill of walking down that tunnel one day," Goldsmith said.

The Owls will be a different team without Cobb, but Edmonds won't be expected to bear such a heavy burden.

"I think we'll be able to mix the run and pass and keep the defense off-balance," Emanuel said. "I'll do the same things that I did last year but my passing has improved."

Emanuel expects a smooth transition from Cobb to Edmonds.

"He's the type of athlete that doesn't get down on himself," Emanuel said.

"He's a lot stronger than Trevor. He bench presses almost 400 pounds and he's faster than Trevor too."

After opening that season at Ohio State, the Owls play home games against Tulane, Sam Houston State and Iowa State before beginning SWC play.

## Soccer

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coming to meet and (welcome) us. It just helps when we're being pushed real hard to know we'll have some fans besides boyfriends and parents."

Junior Michelle Crofts, who is returning as goalie, agreed and said having the attention of other athletes helps to motivate them.

"You feel more respected and it makes you want to earn it," she said.

According to Guerrieri, catching the attention of students and faculty will not be too difficult a task either, but it may take some time.

"Texas is the number one spot for soccer in the Western hemisphere," he said. "The only problem is getting non-soccer communities such as Bryan/College Station to warm up to it."

Getting the locals to "warm-up" to soccer is the least of

Guerrieri's worries right now. Guerrieri said their schedule will prove to be very challenging, especially playing Top 20 teams such as Arkansas-Fayetteville and Washington State as their season openers.

With the tough schedule and lack of experience — there are only nine returning players out of 24 — Guerrieri has set simple, obtainable goals.

"One goal is to make sure we create a team atmosphere that is conducive athletically and academically," he said. "And, we want to make sure that the girls in this program are people that the University will be proud of and their parents will be proud of."

But even with a young team playing in a new program, Guerrieri is optimistic of their performance in the upcoming season.

"The team is surprisingly strong," he said. "The team is stronger in every position than Texas A&M has ever been," he said. "And this is really only the starting point — from here on the program only improves."

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