

SWC-PREVIEW

SMU Mustangs trying to turn the corner in 1994

SMU & Rice: Shut up and sit down

CONSTANCE PARTEN

Sportswriter



SMU head football coach Tom Rossley said A&M's games should not be counted toward the conference championship this year since the football team is on probation.

"Scuse me. SMWho? Isn't this the team that didn't even play football in the late 80's due to probationary restrictions? Yep.

Some people just don't know where to get off. Even new Rice coach Ken Hatfield said he didn't think the SWC should allow A&M's games to count.

Yeah, like Rice would have a better chance at the championship if they didn't count A&M's games. The bottom line is that these attitudes helped cause the break up of the SWC in the first place. The coaches of the weaker teams want special privileges like not counting their loss to a team on probation.

Many SWC teams have been riddled with NCAA violations for several years, and unfortunately, A&M is not an exception. But for some reason the coaches, players and fans for the respective teams seem to think the other guy should suffer greater consequences for their transgressions than they do.

"It's hard when you go three straight years without being able to beat somebody," A&M head coach RC Slocum told reporters about some of the other SWC teams.

So, this is a jealousy issue. Coaches are running to SWC officials with their bottom lips stuck out like little children saying, "big brother Aggie was bad yesterday and your still going to let him go outside and play today. That's not fair."

Here's a tip for all those other

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QB Flanigan may lead Ponies back from dead

It seems like the only direction in which the SMU football program can move in 1994 is up.

Since returning from the death penalty in 1989, the Mustangs have compiled a

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11-42-2 record. Only four of those wins have come against Southwest Conference opponents, however.

SMU head coach Tom Rossley said this might be the year that the Mustangs return from the dead.

"I see a movement into a new era for our team," he said. "We're being led by a group of younger players. I'm very optimistic that our young players will come in and perform well from the beginning."

One of those young players will be sophomore quarterback Ramon Flanigan. Flanigan was second only to Tech's Robert Hall in total offense with a 224.5 yards per game.

Rossley said Flanigan is a superb quarterback.

"I would not trade Ramon for anybody else in the league," Rossley said. "I think we've got the best quarterback in the conference."

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Schedule

- Sept. 3 at Arkansas
- Sept. 10 at UCLA
- Sept. 17 New Mexico
- Sept. 24 at Texas Tech
- Oct. 1 North Carolina
- Oct. 8 at Baylor
- Oct. 15 Houston
- Oct. 22 at Texas
- Oct. 29 Texas A&M (in San Antonio)
- Nov. 5 at Rice
- Nov. 12 TCU

Quick Facts

Coach: Tom Rossley
 Nickname: Mustangs
 1993 Record: 2-7-2
 Home Stadium: Ownby Stadium (23,783 cap.)
 Site: Dallas
 Enrollment: 5,500
 Colors: Red and Blue
 Last SWC title won: 1984

SMU at a Glance

Players to watch

QB Ramon Flanigan: Flanigan played in eight games last season for the Mustangs as a freshman, completing 111 out of 199 passes with eight interceptions and eight touchdowns.
LB Chris Bordano: Bordano registered 66 tackles, an interception and a forced fumble in 1993 while only starting four games for the Mustangs. Bordano has added another 15 pounds to put him at 220 entering 1994.
C Brannon Kidd: Kidd earned first-team freshman All-America honors during the 1993 season and anchors the Mustangs' line.

Key Losses

DT Byron Bonds, P Larry Israel, DE Chad Patton, K John Stewart, OG Jeremy Stout, DE Adam Voyles

Two-deep Chart

Offense		Defense	
WR	Erwin Wilburn	LE	Jason Lindbloom
	Kevin Thornal		Jason Evans
IR	James Whitmore	LT	Vernon Edwards
	John Biggins		Wilbert Mitchell
LT	Tony Ned	RT	Ahmad Hayes
	Glenn Ivy		Randy Bowling
LG	Greg Shea	RE	Wilbert Mitchell
	Dave Kiselak		Warwick Woodard
C	Brannon Kidd	LB	B.J. Stankovich
	Rodney Townsend		Jackson Moore
RG	Keith Chiles	LB	Chris Bordano
	Dray Wilson		Eric Tomlin
RT	Bryan Craig	LB	Cagan Moore
	Jason Holz		Mark Furschik
IR	Mick Rossley	CB	Cornell Parker
	Vaughn Dickerson		Steve Bancroft
WR	Kevin Thornal	SS	Ken Neill
	Brian Berry		Carlyce Black
QB	Ramon Flanigan	FS	Rodney Watkins
	Mark Eldred		Seth Stinton
SB	Kevin Shepard	CB	Jay Harvey
	Jacques Smith		Weldon English
K	Ben Crosland	P	Anthony Scotti
	Sacha Emanuel		Ben Crosland

Returning Starters: 10
 Returning Lettermen: 18

Returning Starters: 5
 Returning Lettermen: 13

Oilers lose opener to K.C.

Chief QB Blundin goes 11 of 17 for 156 yards

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The Kansas City Chiefs gave thumbs-up to the new grass field and thumbs-down to the Oilers' 25-0 victory.

"It wasn't too good. It really wasn't," quarterback Matt Blundin said after the Chiefs rallied for a 24-17 exhibition victory over the Houston Oilers in the first game on Arrowhead Stadium's grass field.

"They had the radio hookup, and there as a lot of static. I couldn't tell what Joe (Montana) was saying. We ended up having to go back to hand signals for most of the first quarter," he said.

Alex Van Pelt hit Lee Harris with a 25-yard touchdown pass with 18 seconds left to win it for the Chiefs.

The Chiefs moved 89 on eight plays,

including a 22-yard pass from Van Pelt to wide receiver Jimmy Johnson to the Oilers' 25.

Kansas City tied it 17-17 with a penalty-filled 56-yard drive in the fourth period, climaxed by Lin Elliott's 41-yard field goal with 5:40 left.

Cris Dishman's 64-yard interception return gave Houston a 7-0 lead in the first quarter.

"It was just a bad throw," said Blundin, who hit 11 of 17 passes for 156 yards in his first start. "All you can do is just go on from there."

The grass field was installed this summer 22 years after Arrowhead opened with artificial turf.

"I loved it," said safety Chareles Mincy. "It looks better, it smells better and I don't think my body will be so sore tomorrow."

Switzer's debut a success as Cowboys roll over Vikings

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Barry Switzer's NFL preseason debut was successful Sunday night thanks to a player he recruited out of Henryetta, Okla., High School in 1984.

Troy Aikman threw a touchdown pass and the defending Super Bowl champion Dallas Cowboys rolled to a 17-9 victory over the Minnesota Vikings.

Switzer was hired by owner Jerry Jones on March 30 to replace Jimmy Johnson. Switzer won two national titles in 16 years at Oklahoma and hadn't coached football for five years when he got the call.

Jones gave Switzer a big handshake and a smile at the end of the game. It wasn't the display of joy that

Jones and Johnson had after Johnson's first preseason victory. They ran off the field together with their hands in a victory salute.

"It was kind of neat out there," Switzer said. "I was disappointed with the second half when I thought we got a little sloppy. I was happy for the win. You always are."

Switzer added "I don't feel I have anything to prove to anybody. I was happy for the team not for myself."

Dallas quarterback Troy Aikman quickly showed his old college coach why he is more efficient in a pro-style offense than the Wishbone T Switzer tried to get him to play at Oklahoma, triggering Aikman's transfer to UCLA in 1985.

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