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Extra 71

University of Houston Alumni News



Southwest Conference Commemorative Issue

A COUGAR COMES OF AGE

by Jack Gallagher

Editor's note: Support from the news media was invaluable in Houston's long quest for Southwest Conference Membership. Excerpts from the article below, reprinted from Dave Campbell's Texas Football Newsmagazine, Sept. 30, 1970, tells the story of UH's rise to the top, a position that made the Cougars the sought after rather than the seeker.

Not long ago sports information directors were reminiscing about the eventful moments of the Sixties associated with their college football teams. For the on-field incident he remembered best, North Carolina's Frank Weedon cited an evening in the Astrodome, when 2,000 University of Houston freshmen formed a halftime human tunnel and loyal North Carolinians attempted to match it.

"By the time State was ready to return to the field, 450 of its 500 fans present—all adults—were part of that tunnel," Weedon recalled. "They waved their red caps, inspired the players and caused more than a few tears and juices to flow. State went on to upset Houston, 16-6."

North Carolina State clearly isn't Notre Dame. Football is low-key in the basketball-oriented Atlantic Coast Conference of which the Wolfpack is a member. But Weedon's observations are pertinent be-

cause beating Houston today means something.

Not long ago—when it was known as Cougar High and was struggling for academic as well as athletic recognition, before becoming a state university and before its offensive teams started scorching the earth like Patton's rampaging tanks—beating Houston ranked right up there with whipping Humboldt State. But no longer. Houston has grown into one of the giants of college football. Its easy 42-15 conquest of Syracuse in its season opener last week is merely the latest reminder.

Rivals pointed a finger at everything from UH's admission standards to the questionable background of some of its student-athletes. But that was another day and time.

Conquests of Michigan State, Auburn, Mississippi and Georgia and a tie with Texas silenced the loudest critics. Houston's worst season of the last four saw the Cougars lose three games. As they say in Brooklyn, how the woin has toined.

Size alone dictated UH's eventual ascendancy to the top. A broad-based curriculum attracted quality athletes who were provided handsome athletic facilities plus strong community support.

Beyond the numerical superiority, Houston's effort to win friends also made the road to the top easier. "We have people on our staff who

genuinely like other people," says athletic director, Harry Fouke. Anyone who has ever dealt with coach Bill Yeoman can understand Fouke's sentiment. Not long ago I had occasion to call Yeoman and make an appointment to interview him.

"My office is away on the other side of town from where you live," Yeoman apologized. "Why can't we meet somewhere that's more convenient for you?"

No wonder some Houstonians complain about all the ink the Cougars get. This is a school that bends over backward to please, and the writing types can't help it. They're human, too.

Meanwhile, the report that the University of Texas plans to sponsor Houston's admission into the Southwest Conference suggested that the Cougars also are winning friends elsewhere. With Baylor and SMU looking favorably toward UH because of future football schedule commitments and the SWC's other state schools—Texas Tech, A&M and Arkansas—expected to follow Texas' lead on the matter, the Cougars could well be within reach of the six votes necessary for admission.

It is evident that someone other than North Carolina State is beginning to recognize Houston.



Dave Williams
Golf



Guy Lewis
Basketball



Harry Fouke
Athletic Director



Johnny Morris
Track



Paul Christian
Tennis



Lovette Hill
Baseball



Football—Astrodome



Hofheinz Pavilion

The 1971 All Sports Dinner Features Hall of Honor

Over 600 alumni and friends of the University helped honor outstanding athletes and at the same time witness the induction of three recipients of the First Hall of Honor Award. Sponsored by the Alumni Federation, the All-Sports Dinner was held at the Houston Oaks Hotel on May 3rd with athletes and coaches as honored guests of the alumni. Guy Lewis, head basketball coach, Rex Baxter, Jr., a UH letterman in 1956-57 and now a golf pro, and Gene Shannon, who led UH to

its first bowl game in 1952 and is now principal of West Rusk High School, were honored. Lewis, Houston's first basketball star was captain and leading scorer for the Cougars first two teams. Baxter led the Cougars to their first two NCAA team titles and was the school's first golf All-American. Shannon was the first Cougar player to be invited to play in a major all-star game and establish every UH rushing record during his career. The Hall of Honor was established by the Alumni Federation to honor individuals who have brought great distinction to the University through their athletic endeavors.

Athletes named as MVP's were Poo Welch (basketball), Leonard Hilton (track-cross country), Robert Mitchell (track-cross country), Tom Jenkins (golf), Jim Rombeau, (tennis), and Elroy Othold (baseball). Craig Robinson, a two year starter at offensive right tackle, was the recipient of the Muster scholarship as the top scholar-athlete in the College of Engineering.

Elmo Wright received two significant awards. Wright, who established three NCAA pass receiving marks during his career was named UH's most Valuable Football Player and

also received the coveted Saunders Award which goes annually to the top senior scholar-athlete.

When UH Will Play SWC Teams

When will the Cougars begin playing for their first Southwest Conference championship? That is the question most Big Red fans are asking now that the Cougars have been accepted by the SWC.

Houston's 1973 cross country team will be the first one eligible for SWC competition. Other sports will follow during the spring of 1974.

Basketball competition will begin in the 1975-76 season and football will be phased into the program gradually because of long-range schedule commitments. The 1976 football season is slated to be the first one that the Coogs will play for the right to represent the SWC in the Cotton Bowl.

Meanwhile, Houston is a full-scale member with voting privileges and will share in regular season television money with other conference members. The Cougars, however, will not share bowl receipts with other Conference schools until the 1976 season. Coach Guy Lewis' basketball teams will be eligible to accept post-season tournament bids as an independent until the 1975-76 season.

ON THE COVER

This illustration will appear on the dust jacket of the 1971 Southwest Conference Football annual. The hardbound book, which is published each January, will cover every 1971 Cougar football game. A feature story on the University of Houston, by Mickey Herskowitz, will be in the 1971 book. Cougar football fans can keep a complete history of the University of Houston in the Southwest Conference by starting with the 1971 book.

"Southwest Conference Football 1971" may be ordered through the University of Houston Alumni by sending in the order blank on the back cover of this magazine.

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Extra 71

University of Houston
Alumni Magazine/Southwest
Conference Commemorative Issue

Vol. 26 No. 2

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THE MUTUAL BENEFITS OF SWC MEMBERSHIP

by Ted Nance

At a time when pro competition is very keen for the sports dollar, Houston's entry into the SWC should beef up attendance, interest and news coverage throughout Texas and Arkansas.

"We are pleased of course to be a new member of the Southwest Conference," says UH Athletic Director Harry Fouke. "We think it will be good for all parties. We are proud of our membership and we are going to be a very good member."

"When another team takes the field against the Cougars, we want that team to feel that UH is the team that it has to beat to win the championship. We intend to continue to work very hard toward this goal to give the people of Houston and the Southwest the best in athletics."

The Cougars are the only Conference school that has been in the top 20 in football for the past five years in a row. UH is the only SWC school that has sent eight of its last 11 teams to post-season national basketball tournaments.

The Cougar baseball team had advanced further in the NCAA World

Series (the finals in 1967) than any SWC team in the past 15 years. Houston is one of two teams in the Southwest to win an NCAA cross country championship.

UH golf teams have won the NCAA title for 12 of the past 16 seasons. Cougar track and tennis teams have also finished among the nation's top 20 consistently in the past two decades.

At a time when it was becoming increasingly difficult for the University of Houston to schedule football games after October 1, membership in the Southwest Conference should be very beneficial to both the Cougars and the Conference.

Because of conference games that are normally scheduled after the intersectional schedule, everyone wanted to play Houston in the first three or four weeks of the season. Consequently, the October and November schedules became tough to fill.

As a conference member, UH will need only three non-conference dates, much easier to come by than eleven.

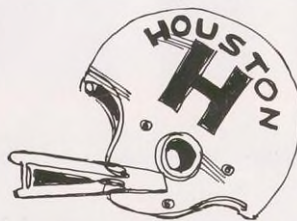
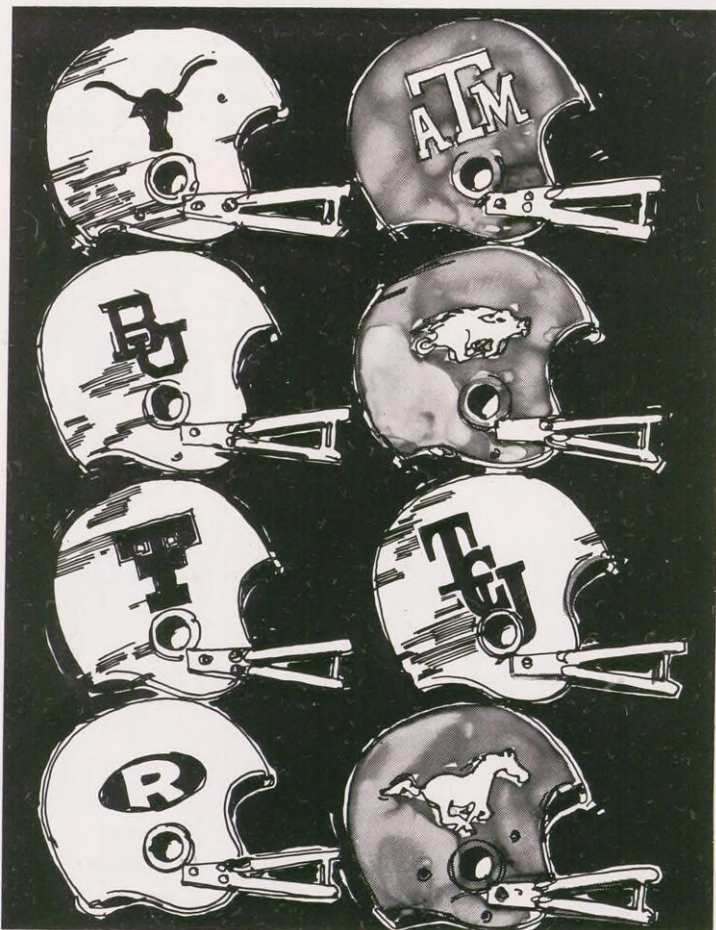
Also, in an era of rising costs, travel costs will be cut dramatically

by UH's membership in the conference. For example, UH will be traveling to College Station, Rice, Waco and Dallas in a season instead of Miami, Raleigh, N.C., Memphis, Tenn., and Athens, Ga.

Games with conference rivals instead of intersectional foes will also give Houston fans a chance to watch the Cougars play on the road, a pleasure that has been available to very few in the past because of the high costs of air travel.

At the same time, the Southwest Conference will gain one of the nation's athletic powers. Houston's all-around athletic record is better than that of any SWC school.

At the same time, local interest should increase due to the proximity of the games. Alumni in other parts of Texas will be able to see the Cougars play at least once a year in their portion of the state. These intra-state games are also good for business within the state. For example, look at the number of people from Houston who could drive to Austin or Dallas for a game, increasing restaurant, hotel and service station business along the way.



Welcome, Cougars, to the Southwest Conference.



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SWC MEMBERSHIP WON'T AFFECT UH ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

Academic requirements for high school seniors who are prospective athletes will not be affected by the University's Southwest Conference membership.

The University has been requiring athletes to meet the NCAA national 1.6 prediction table for several years. In fact, UH was using the national table a year earlier than the SWC.

The table means simply this. Any prospective athlete must be able to predict a 1.6 (out of a 4.0 system) on his college work. This may be done by four different methods.

These are as follows: The prospect's rank in his high school class and his entrance test scores are combined. For example, a student who ranks midway (50 percentile) in his graduating class must make a minimum SAT score of 813 to 819. Or, if using the ACT score, it must be at 18 at the same rank in class.

If a prospect ranks higher in his class, he may be permitted to make a lower SAT or ACT score. Or, if he ranks lower in his class, he must make a higher SAT or ACT score.

A prospect's high school grade average related to his test scores (either SAT or ACT) are two more methods used to award scholarships.

Alumni who can check grades for recruiters ahead of time will be able to save valuable recruiting time. If a prospect does not have the grades, the time spent by an assistant coach trying to find this out, could be better spent recruiting some other player who can qualify.

UH-Alabama Game on TV

The University of Houston-University of Alabama football game, Oct. 23 in Tuscaloosa, Ala., will be on closed circuit television in Houston for all Cougar fans who can not make the trip.

The UH-UA homecoming battle, which promises to be one of the nation's top collegiate games for 1971, will be shown in full color in Hofheinz Pavilion. Kickoff time is 1:30 p.m.

For complete ticket information, write the Alumni Executive Director, 3801 Cullen Blvd., Houston, Texas 77004, or call 748-6600, ext. 242.

Memorable Quotes from Alumni

"Invitation to University of Houston to join the Southwest Conference will no doubt be highly beneficial to all concerned. Congratulations to the Southwest Conference and best wishes to the University of Houston."

—**Sherwood Crane '42**

"Houston's entry comes at a time that is mutually supportive. With her previously achieved academic excellence and athletic recognition the University of Houston brings a bit of greatness."

—**Louise P. deYoung**

President, Alumni
Association
1946

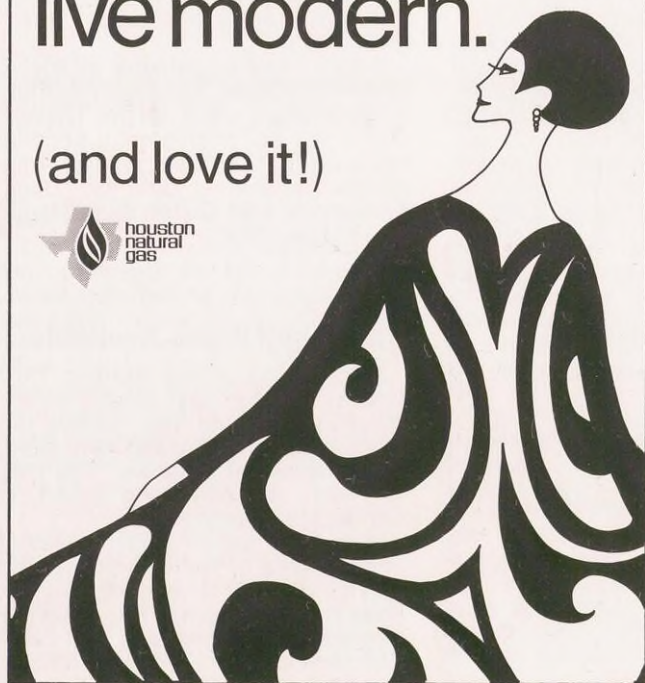
"Highest standards of scholarship, leadership and sportsmanship, consistently applied from the start, earned for the University of Houston its rightful place in the Southwest Conference."

—**Charles Saunders**

President, Alumni
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1946 and 1947

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AN ALUMNI TEAM...HOW GRADS CAN HELP

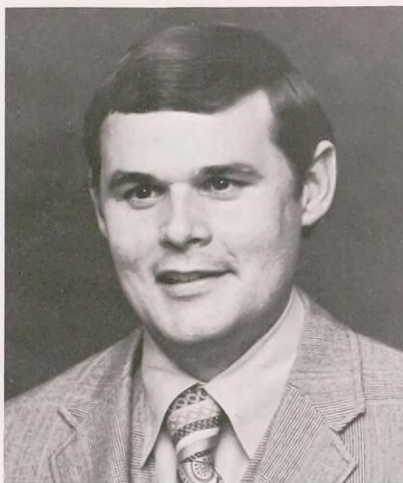
by Dean Kirkpatrick

If you live outside Harris County you will soon have an opportunity to play a vital role in the development of the University of Houston. The Alumni Federation is undertaking a long-range program to establish Alumni chapters for the many alumni who live outside Houston. Among the objectives of these alumni groups are assistance in student and faculty recruiting, legislative liaison, and assistance with athletic recruiting. Chapters are now forming in San Antonio, Dallas, Fort Worth, Corpus Christi, and Longview/Tyler.

In the area of athletic recruiting Alumni and friends of the University of Houston can play a very important role in helping the coaching staff recruit prospective college athletes. However, it is imperative that well meaning alumni and friends work closely with the Cougar recruiter. To do this they must be aware of the Southwest Conference recruiting rules. Here are some of the most important ones:

No member of an athletic staff of a member institution may contact or interview a prospective student-athlete, living in the state of Texas and Arkansas, or his parents until after the close of the football season in the student's high school during his senior year. These contacts and interviews apply to personal contacts including telephone conversations and do not include contact by mail. A prospect outside of Texas and Arkansas may be recruited after the close of his junior year in high school, subject to local recruiting rules of that state's interscholastic league.

This means that alumni can do a **tremendous** amount of ground work during the season by meeting the prospect, his parents and setting up a meeting with a UH coach as soon as the season ends. Can you do this? If so, the University would like to know.



DEAN KIRKPATRICK
Alumni Executive Director

A member institution may finance one and only one visit to its campus for a given prospect student-athlete, such visit not to exceed two days and two nights. Only actual round trip transportation costs by direct route between the student's home and the institution's campus may be paid.

However, any person (alumnus), at his own expense, may transport or pay the transportation costs of a prospective student-athlete to visit the campus one time, provided such person, at his own expense, accompanies the prospective student-athlete on his visit. Only actual round-trip transportation costs by direct route between the student's home and the campus may be provided and such visit may not exceed two days and two nights.

An individual alumnus or other friend of an institution may transport the relatives or other friends of a prospective student-athlete to the campus in his own vehicle provided such person, at his own expense, makes the trip himself; however, such individual may not pay the commercial transportation costs of

relatives or other friends of a prospective student-athlete for purposes of visitation.

No member of an athletic staff of a member institution shall encourage a prospective student-athlete to be absent from any of his high school classes. Except by written permission from a principal of the high school of the student-athlete, his expenses, travel or local entertainment may not be paid for a campus visit by the institution, friend or an alumnus, as a result of which one or more high school classes are missed.

Any staff member or other representative (alumnus) of a member institution's athletic interests desiring to visit a prospective student-athlete at the student-athlete's high school shall first contact the principal or his authorized representative, explain the purpose of his call and request permission to contact the student-athlete. Only if permission is granted may the contact be made at the high school.

No member of an athletic staff or other representative of a member institution's athletic interests shall contact or interview contestants in high school athletic contests or high school all-star games, either while enroute to the game, during the time when the athletes are at the scene of the game, or while enroute to their homes following a game. (Exception: A contestant at high school all-star games played during the summer months, whose letter of intent is on file in the Conference office, may be contacted or interviewed by representatives of the conference institution filing such letter.)

A well informed alumnus or friend who is interested in helping can be a tremendous asset to the University. If you are interested in becoming a part of the team please write Alumni Executive Director, Dean Kirkpatrick, 3801 Cullen Blvd., Houston, Texas 77004.

Alumni

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Football Films Available

Great plays of the exciting 1970 football season are ready for instant replay when you reserve the thrilling 30-minute color film titled, "Five Times For Houston." The film, in 16mm, full color and sound, is narrated by Harry Kalas.

It is ideal for an alumni meeting in your area or for other civic and service groups for meetings, luncheons or conventions. For more information or reservations, call Dean Kirkpatrick at the Alumni offices, 748-6600, ext. 242, or write in care of the Alumni. There is no charge for the film.

The 1971 Football Season Outlook

by Bill Yeoman



UH Head Coach Bill Yeoman

I am always apprehensive when it comes to predicting a football season. There are just too many unknowns. As far as we are concerned, we probably have farther to go than at any time in the last five years.

We lost in quality and experience. This was borne out by having eleven of our players drafted by the professional teams. I believe you can say we face a rebuilding situation. I guess everyone has the same problem. There are surprises and disappointments. I hope we have a few pleasant surprises.

Defensively, our losses have precipitated a significant number of changes. In an effort to get older, more experienced players on the field, our defensive coaches moved Mike Bolin from tackle to strong linebacker, Kent Branstetter from defensive end to defensive tackle, Bob Kyle from defensive end to weak linebacker. There wasn't as much movement in the secondary mainly because there wasn't anyone to move. Three of the four starters are gone with Ronny Peacock the lone returnee at cornerback.

The effort and enthusiasm in the spring was excellent. Mainly because everyone recognized how much improvement had to be made to have any chance at all of being a halfway decent team.

The front four, Butch Brezina, Steve George, Kent Branstetter and Eric Muegge are larger than any defensive line that we have had, but unfortunately they aren't as quick as those who have preceded them. Regardless of what they may or may not have, they must develop quickly. Our opener with Rice will necessitate a great pass rush, and our next game with Arizona State will expose them to backs with great speed.

Our ability to cope with the first two opponents will go a long way toward determining our season and how good we can be. Everyone behind this group is a sophomore. While Phil Hahn, Perry Geiser, Bill Lewis and Bill Stohler are extremely enthusiastic, they are more apt to make the costly error. We are hoping that we can get some help from them by mid-season.

The segment of our defense under the most severe pressure will be our secondary. They will be new and possibly not as capable physically as some we have had the past few years. At the end of spring practice, it appeared that the Peacock brothers, Ronny and Randy, will man the

corners with some additional help from Willie Walker. At free safety, Nick Holm, a letterman, is pretty firm with Jerre Sykes providing some help. At strong safety Bill Burchett and Burl Fuller are still contesting each other, but Burchett's status is doubtful due to a summer accident.

Our defense has performed extremely well in the past, and if effort and enthusiasm will help it would be premature to sell them short. Middle linebacker Frank Ditta is another top returnee.

Offensively, our losses though not as pronounced as on defense, are still substantial. Gone is two-time All-America and NCAA record holder, Elmo Wright. Back to fill his shoes are Pat Orchin and Willie Roberts. Pat has proved to be very steady, has good speed, and is an excellent competitor. Roberts has outstanding ability, but has not shown the consistency of concentration that could make him great.

Our backfield returns intact. This is a big plus. Robert Newhouse and Tommy Mozisek have been very consistent runners and their improvement as blockers should help substantially. In the spring, Puddin Jones, Steve Smith and Leonard Parker gave an indication of providing very severe pressure on our first two backs. If Gary Mullins, our quarterback, can regain his full effectiveness, it certainly will increase the overall pressure of our offense. The knee that he injured in the spring of 1970 seems to be sound and its strength appears normal. In any case, Joel DeSpain and Terry Peel with the addition of D.C. Nobles off the freshman team should provide us with help that was not available last year.

The offensive line, though losing three youngsters who were drafted by the pros, was fairly effective during the spring. Charlie Moore and Steve Cloud, both seniors, will

give us great leadership and consistency on the left side of our line. David Bourquin gave an indication that he had completely recovered from a high school ankle injury and enjoyed a good spring. Luke Stungis, squadman, and Ken Baugh, a red shirt sophomore, are battling it out at right tackle. The development of this position could be critical.

The center position is still unsettled with LeRoy Fisher, Bill Reed and Glen Riske all in contention. Our tight end position is manned by Riley Odoms, a youngster who was much improved in the spring, but still short of what he can be.

Our team will have to play over mistakes early in the season until all the youngsters who were changed can develop a familiarity with their position. To play over mistakes requires a singleness of purpose and a staggering amount of effort. I realize all coaches say this, and one of the wonderful things about football is that it is true.

1971 TICKET PRICES

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UH Football Schedule 1971

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON 1971 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

| | | |
|----------|-----------------------------|---------|
| Sept. 11 | Rice U. HOUSTON | 7:30 PM |
| Sept. 18 | Arizona St. U. TEMPE | 7:30 PM |
| Sept. 25 | Cincinnati U. CINCINNATI | 8:00 PM |
| Oct. 2 | San Jose State HOUSTON | 7:30 PM |
| Oct. 15 | Villanova U. HOUSTON | 7:30 PM |
| Oct. 23 | Alabama U. UNIVERSITY | 1:30 PM |
| Oct. 30 | Florida St. U. HOUSTON | 7:30 PM |
| Nov. 6 | Memphis St. U. MEMPHIS | 7:30 PM |
| Nov. 13 | Virginia Tech HOUSTON | 7:30 PM |
| Nov. 20 | Miami U. HOUSTON | 7:30 PM |
| Nov. 27 | Utah U. HOUSTON | 7:30 PM |

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SWC FOOTBALL 1971 ORDER NOW!

Expect the unexpected, it looks like that kind of season in the SWC. Jim Pittman at TCU and Bill Peterson at Rice are new head coaches at those schools. Jim Carlen at Texas Tech, in his second year, is making waves in the waterless plains of West Texas. The University of Houston was admitted to the SWC last spring. Although they will not be eligible for the conference championship until the mid-70's, every game they play will be covered in SWC FOOTBALL 1971. This hardbound, permanent record of all SWC teams will again cover the complete season completely.

The 1971 book will contain over 200 pages. With more pages, more photos and more color than ever before, the mail order price for SWC FOOTBALL 1971 will be \$7.75. You can save by ordering your copy today at the prepublication price of \$6.95.

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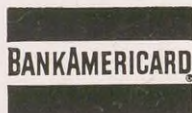
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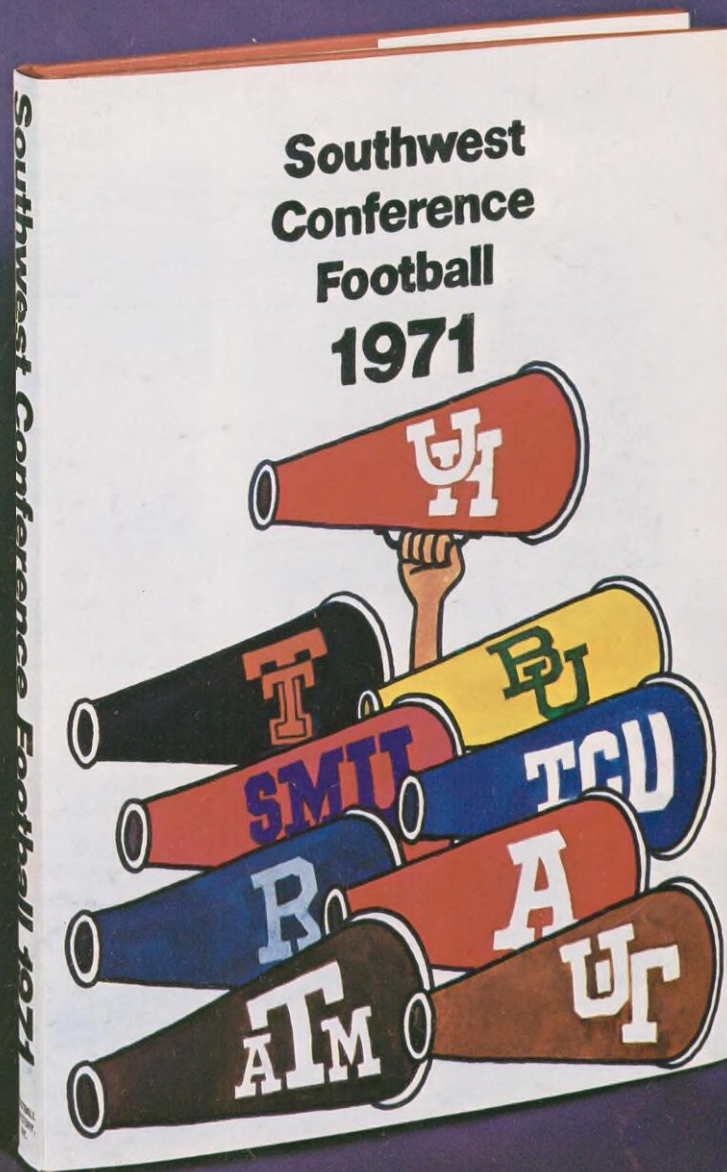
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