

Before Meeting Higginsmen . . .

# Only One Tie Mars Record Of 1947 SMU Football Team

By Fred Fuhrman

The Southern Methodist University football team that takes the field against Penn State in the 1948 Cotton Bowl Classic has earned its laurels by fashioning an undefeated season at the expense of some of the leading teams in the nation. Only Texas Christian refused to bow to the Mustangs, earning a 19-19 tie in one of the outstanding games of the year.

Opening their season with a visit to the west coast, the Red and Blue found a soft touch in Santa Clara, whom they toppled 22-6. The next victim was a strong Missouri eleven which bowed by a score of 35-19. Oklahoma A&M provided a thriller but likewise fell, 21-13. The outstanding feature of this contest was SMU's All-American halfback, Doak Walker, leading a great rally that enabled SMU to pull the game out of the bag.

SMU then started its quest for the Southwestern Conference by defeating Rice, strong favorites for the title, in a bruising battle at Houston.

### JAUNT TO COAST

The win over Rice gave the Mustangs national recognition but another jaunt to the Pacific Coast was in store with UCLA, defending Pacific Coast Conference champs, supplying the opposition. Southern Methodist struck early and protected its lead to defeat the Bruins, 7-0.

The next game on the card was against undefeated Texas, fresh from impressive wins over teams such as North Carolina, Oklahoma and Arkansas. SMU rolled up a first half lead of 14-0 due mainly to fine offensive work on the part of Walker. However, the Longhorns caught fire in the second half and tallied two touchdowns, but missed one of the conversion attempts, thus enabling SMU to walk off the field 14-13 victors. This game goes down in history as one of the all time greats in southwestern football history.

Opposing in-and-out Texas A & M at Dallas, the Red and Blue was hard-pressed to eke out a 13-0 victory over the stubborn Cadets.

### ARKANSAS TILT

Arkansas surprised this year's Cotton Bowl hosts by taking an early 6-0 lead. However, Walker gave one of his better performances of the season and SMU came out on top, this time by 14-6.

The traditional game with a weak Baylor eleven almost proved more than a match for the Mustangs. Another extremely brilliant performance by Walker was necessary to win this one. Playing on a muddy field the legions of Matty Bell were held to a scoreless tie for 55 minutes before Walker turned on the pressure and booted a field goal and tallied a touchdown and extra point to earn SMU a hard-won 10-0 victory.

Now came the epic struggle with traditional rival TCU. Underdogs from anywhere from 13 to 30 points, the Horned Frogs took advantage of SMU errors to lead 12-0 early in the second period. However, the great Walker put the Red and Blue back in the game with a twisting 62-yard dash to paydirt. Late in the third period the Mustangs took the lead at 13-12 and appeared headed for a clinching score late in the final period. However, TCU held and drove 90 yards in a thrilling display of aerial works to lead, 19-13, with two minutes of play remaining.

### WALKER AGAIN

Once again Walker pulled SMU's cause out of the fire. He returned the ensuing kickoff all the way to the Frogs' 36. Two long passes failed. Then substitute halfback Gilbert Johnson fired a

pass to Walker on the 10-yard line. With only seconds remaining Johnson heaved to end Sid Halliday for the tying score.

## Lion Boxing Team Opens January 17

Looking forward with confidence to a promising season, the Nittany boxers are increasing their training pace preliminary to the January 17 home opener with Bucknell. The 1947 mitt aggregation is quickly shaping into fighting trim under the expert guidance of Leo Houck.

Two Eastern Intercollegiate boxing champions—last year's 165-pound champion, Jackie Tighe, and John Benglian, 1946 winner in the 128-pound class, will form the nucleus for this year's squad. Leading the flock of lettermen returning from last year's aggregation are Jack Sheeche, John Slusser, Nick Ranieri and Pat Conlon.

Hal Howard who was a stand-out on the Lions' 1945 team and Buzz Farringer of the '46 outfit are returnees who will considerably bolster the team's fighting strength. The tussle for starting berths in the lower weight classes is gaining—John Turcaso, Fred Smith and Jim Cassidy being the main competitors.

### OTHER CANDIDATES

Other hopefuls who are exhibiting punching power are Norm Restaine, Al Pottasch and Alex Alexander. Rounding out the list of prospective starters is a trio of newcomers, Nick Eny, Paul Therpe and Paul Smith, who have been showing up favorably in early workouts.

Coach Houck, who has been very busy in the past week refereeing intramural boxing bouts, has still spent a considerable amount of time supervising training activities.

## 40 Gridders Go to Bowl

Forty Dallas-bound Nittany Lion gridders are tentatively slated to board Pullmans Sunday, Dec. 21, at Altoona to begin their long journey to the Cotton Bowl.

With a staff including six coaches and four managers, the Penn State gridmen will travel to St. Louis, where they are scheduled to work out on the varsity field of Washington University. Lion skipper Bob Higgins recently made arrangements for the stop-over at the St. Louis school where he coached football prior to coming to State in a similar capacity.

The Nittany football force will probably invade Dallas, Texas, Tuesday morning, Dec. 23.

Players selected to take the Cotton Bowl trip follow:

**Ends**—John Patskian, Sam Tamburo, Ed Czekaj, Dennis Hoggard, Fred Bell, Bob Hicks, Howard James.

**Tackles**—John Nolan, Negiey Norton, Bill Kyle, John Finley, Don Murray, Don Cullines, Norman Erikson.

**Guards**—Steve Suhey, Bob Drzenovich, John Simon, Bob Ross, Paul Kelly, Tom Smith.

**Centers**—John Wolosky, Charles Beatty, John Misiewicz.

**Quarterbacks**—Chuck Drzenovich, Ray Ulinski, Bill LaFleur, Walter Palmer.

**Fullbacks**—Joe Colone, Frances Roehl, Clarence Gorinski.

**Wingbacks**—Jeff Durkota, Larry Coonev, Wallace Triplett.

**Tailbacks**—Bob'v Williams, Larty Joe, Elwood Petchel, Bill Luther, Clarence Hummel, John Chuckran.

Another player will be named later.

Besides Head Coach Higgins, the Lion entourage will include Joe Bedenk, line coach, Earl Edwards, end coach, Al Michaels, backfield coach; Jim O'Hora, assistant line coach and Jayvee coach, and Earl Bruce, coach of the California State Teachers eleven.

Managers making the trip will be David Barron, Harold Saunders, Frank Philippbar and Bob Tomlinson.

## Veteran Jack Biery Faces Third Basketball Season

By Sy Barash

Jack Biery, fiery basketball forward who will probably start against Washington and Jefferson Saturday night, settled in his chair and said that Penn State's team will be lucky to win half the games on the 1947-48 schedule.

He bases his observation on the perennial strength of such opponents as Temple, Navy, West Virginia, De Pauw, and Washington and Jefferson. These teams come up with winning combinations each year, Jack pointed out.

The slender dark-blond athlete established a Rec Hall scoring record in 1942. That year, against Susquehanna University, he tallied 22 points. Later the same year he tied the mark in a game with Carnegie Tech.

At Susquehanna, in the opening contest of the 1946-47 Season, Jack topped his previous record by rallying for 25 points. However, Nick Dietrick later in the year shattered the mark.

### SLIDING ZONE

Jack explained that he now enjoys the sliding-zone system of basketball since he has become accustomed to it. When he first joined Coach John Lawther's squad he found the system difficult to master.

Not only was the system difficult to master, but Jack also discovered that he became tense before large audiences. The first time he played at Convention Hall in Philadelphia and at the Madison Square Garden he tensed, but loosened up once the games began.

"It was kind of awing the first time I ran out on the court in New York," Jack said. "It seemed like I could look straight up through the smoky haze and see a man lighting a cigarette."

Jack played for the Chicago Pneumatic Tool Company which has a plant at Franklin, where his home is located. He believes the experience he gained while on

that team enabled him to become a better player.

"In independent leagues you take quite a beating," said Jack. "And you meet good teams that play alert basketball."

### LARRY GENT

While playing for the company team, Jack met Larry Gent. Gent played on the Penn State team which entered the N.C.A.A. basketball tournament at New Orleans in 1941. Through conversations with Gent, Jack became interested in attending Penn State. Then a Senatorial scholastic scholarship from Venango County convinced Jack to matriculate at Penn State.

He was the first freshman to play varsity basketball at Penn State in 1942, the same year he established scoring records at the College.

Asked about military service, Jack mentioned that in England he serviced 8th Air Force bombers after they returned from bombing missions over the continent.

In England Jack attended a radio refresher course at a R.A.F. base. Working at the same field as an ambulance driver in the WAAF's was Jack's future wife. Six months after he returned to the United States, his wife, Iris, made the trip across the Atlantic.

Because Iris hates to see Penn State lose, Jack will be trying especially hard to prove his prediction inaccurate.

## Around the Rim

Two members of last year's team are making a name for themselves in pro basketball circles. Nick Dietrick, Penn State pivot man, signed with Sunbury and is now starting center for the Mercuries. Johnny Rusinko vacillates between the Wilkes-Barre Barons and the Sunbury Mercuries.

Last Wednesday he played for the Sunbury team as "Rushinko" and scored eleven points. Sunday he was back with the Barons as Rusinko and scored three, and then he returned to the Mercuries as Rushinko to score 20. Both Wilkes-Barre and Sunbury are in first place in their leagues.

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