

Derrel Luce (46) forces one of two. Tom Donchez fumbles. Tom looks a bit surprised

Luce hits hard off field, too; raps curfew, practice



Photo by Eric Felack



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DALLAS—Remember when you were a kid and you had to be under the covers at some seemingly ridiculous (early) hour? Or how the lights had to be out at 10:30 p.m. when you went to camp? Now curfews are out of the question. After all, if you are old enough to vote, you're old enough to go to bed when you want to, right?

Right—unless you happen to play football for a college team. Take the Baylor Bears.

Coach Grant Teaff imposed an 11 p.m. curfew on his players during the season. Yep, the lights were dimmed each night at 11, but since the Bears won the Southwest Conference title and a trip to the Cotton Bowl, not much can be said against the rule. Who can argue with success?

But boys will be boys and the Bear players soon found ways to beat the curfew. Center Aubrey Schultz said a favorite method was to turn out the lights until the room was checked. Then the players pulled the shades, put a towel against the crack under the door and watched the late show on television.

With few exceptions, Baylor players accepted the curfew for what it was and played along with Teaff's game. One of the few exceptions was Derrel Luce, a member of several All-America teams and consensus All-Southwest Conference linebacker. Throughout the season Luce disagreed with the curfew and the 7 a.m. breakfast the team was required to attend each day.

It may not seem to be the typical behavior of a team leader, but Luce, who plans to attend law school after

graduation, presented a valid point to support his argument.

"It's how much sleep you get, not what time you go to bed," he said. "Sleeping from 11 to 7 is the same as going to bed at 4 and getting up at 12. Either way you get eight hours."

And the curfew isn't the only thing Luce disagrees with. In fact, he would like to see several changes made in college football programs.

For openers, Luce would like to do away with spring drills.

"I don't like spring drills," the 6-4, 224 lb. hitter said in a pre-bowl press conference. "You forget everything by the time you come back anyway. I think weight lifting and running are better."

"You go out when it's getting warm and you want to go to the lake on picnics. You need a vacation other than the summer, which isn't really a vacation because you have to work on your construction jobs to earn some money."

That remark brought another question from a reporter. "Is that what you did in the summer?"

Luce, as though he anticipated the question, stood there with a sheepish grin on his face and shook his head. "I decided to use my head instead of my back," he said. "So I sold cemetery lots."

You heard right. Derrel's mother manages a cemetery, so he worked the summer as a salesman.

"It's just a selling job, but it's much better than punch-

ing a clock at 9 a.m.," Luce said. "I didn't work very hard."

Those are some of the things Derrel Luce does atypically, but there are many more. Football players are students, and students should go to classes and study, so one writer assumed Luce attended classes regularly, as his coach mandated.

How wrong the writer was. He and others soon learned not to make assumptions about Luce.

"I'm not known for going to classes all the time," he chuckled. "Some classes aren't worth going to if you can get the notes and everything."

Luce majors in earth science-geology, which in his own words, "is not worth very much of anything unless you want to teach school." But Luce doesn't want to teach, he wants to go to law school.

Above all else, there is one thing in which Derrel Luce performs typically—football. On the field he is a leader and a hard-hitter with a nose for the ball. During the regular season Luce averaged 12 first hits per game and had a habit of forcing fumbles. In the Cotton Bowl, Luce was all over the field and once stripped Tom Donchez of the ball deep in Penn State territory.

The Bears scored but still lost the ballgame. Derrel Luce's collegiate football career is now a thing of the past, as he prepares for law school and the future. There is only one thing that will keep Luce from attending school, and that is a chance to play with the majors.

Bear blockers had their paws full

By DAVE MORRIS

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DALLAS—When the final gun sounded in the 39th annual Cotton Bowl Classic, few people were as disappointed as Baylor's Aubrey Schultz.

Throughout the frustrating loss, the 6-1, 240 lb. consensus All-Southwest Conference center had problems with the Penn State defensive charge, especially from tackles John Quinn and Mike Hartenstine. The pair continually stunted and faked their way around Schultz and his linemates and into the Bear backfield, forcing a change in offensive strategy.

"The Penn State linemen compare a lot to Oklahoma," the senior center said after the 41-20 loss. "They've got great speed and they are quick. They fake you out and stay on their feet."

Schultz singled out Hartenstine, saying, "He is one of the quickest tackles I have seen. I seldom was able to get to him for a block. Hartenstine also read the defense

well and because of his quickness, he reacted well."

Schultz split his blocking time between Quinn and Hartenstine because of the shifting on the Penn State line. Schultz had played against a noseguard all season, so Paterno and Penn State set out to confuse the Bears, using a noseguard-type defense.

Each time Baylor lined up to run an offensive play, one of the two Penn State tackles set down directly over center, shifting back to the original tackle spot just before the snap of the ball.

"We tried to confuse them with the stunting," Quinn said. "I moved too quick in the first half and gave them time to adjust, but I was holding on more in the second half. On one tackle no one touched me, so I think the stunting helped."

The movement on the line of scrimmage also affected the right side of the Baylor line—freshman guard Jon Kramer and sophomore tackle Gary Gregory.

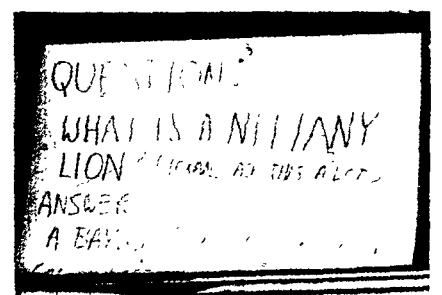
Kramer had the dubious honor of helping Schultz keep either Quinn or Hartenstine out of the Baylor backfield, a task in which he wasn't often successful. Gregory's assignment wasn't much better, as he had to key on defensive end Greg Murphy.

Both players agreed that quickness was the main asset of the Penn State defense. But to Gregory, the task of protecting the quarterback against the Lions wasn't different from any other game.

"To me they were no different than any other ballclub," he said. "Out there it's just hand-to-hand combat. They've been up against it before and they knew what was going on."

The hand to hand combat was rough for the Lions at first, as the Bear line opened up gaping holes for tiny tailback Steve Beaird. Beaird picking up 84 yards in 21 carries, most of which came in the first half.

"We adjusted at halftime and toughened



up on defense," Hartenstine said. "Their offensive line moves out very well and we were worried about the veer. We're a real aggressive team and tend to over-react."

After the adjustments, the line of defenders contained Beaird and the Baylor rushing attack, forcing quarterback Neal Jeffrey to the air, at which time Penn State took over control of the game and rolled to victory.