

roar, but it quickly changed to groans as Army was penalized for offsides.

Fordham was a bit short of strong reserves, and Army's ever-observant sideline play-caller, Vince Lombardi (Fordham Class of 1935), noted that Fordham's deep defenders were getting up slowly after each play. So Galiffa then started to pick the Ram pass defenders apart, and Army's march of 75 yards culminated in a Galiffa-to-Foldberg touchdown pass. Jack Mavkmull kicked the extra-point, and suddenly the game was as good as over. In two more lightening flashes through the air, Coach Blaik's tremendously talented and resourceful artists struck for two more touchdowns within three minutes of play. They added another in the opening minute of the third quarter, another in the fourth, and that was the ballgame as the scoreboard posted the final: Army 35 Fordham 0. Sunday morning's sportswriters were pretty much in agreement that the bruised and bloodied Rams gave the Cadets more trouble than any team on their schedule, including Associated Press No. 7 – Michigan.

Army continued on to notch wins over Pennsylvania (14-13) and Navy (38-0), and so finished their 1949 campaign with a record of 9-0-0 and a final #4 national ranking from AP. Meanwhile, Fordham dropped outings against Boston College and Rutgers, before the Rams bounced back with a season-ending 34-6 win over NYU to finish 1949 with a 5-3-0 record. The Army football program would continue on down the road to greatness, battling Oklahoma for the top place in the Associated Press poll in the 1950 season, while Fordham would slowly drift into oblivion. After the Rams posted a great 8 and 1 season record in 1951 (with wins over Missouri, Dartmouth, Boston College, and Temple – their record marred only by a 33-20 loss to Syracuse), mounting losses on the field and at the box office forced the New York City-based university to discontinue varsity football for 15 years. When the gridiron sport was resumed on a varsity level, it was on a deemphasized basis, all the home games being played in a small on-campus stadium

Today, Fordham is a member of the Patriot Conference. The schedules now include former headliners of yesteryear such as Lehigh, Lafayette, Holy Cross, Bucknell, and Colgate, as well as non-conference games with Princeton, Columbia, Yale, Harvard, and Brown. The Jesuits, who run Fordham, are satisfied that the modest football program is now a true extra-curricular campus activity. What does swell up their pride more these days is the architecturally-stunning new \$10 million library on the Bronx campus, and a growing complex of Fordham University buildings set right in the heart on New York City's renowned Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in downtown Manhattan.

## The "T" Comes To Texas

By Ray Schmidt

Many college football fans still lament the departure of the legendary Southwest Conference, although the successor organization – the Big 12 – has garnered a lot of fans with its extremely competitive two division structure. But the fact is, that the true blue Southwest Conference (SWC) devotee will never for a moment believe that the great late-season showdowns that usually settled the SWC title can ever be replaced.

Most long-time followers of the SWC remember many a great team and many a great season in the old circuit, and the history of the conference was typified by a seemingly endless line of great offensive powerhouses. One of the best – and also one that is often overlooked – was the 1947 team from the University of Texas. That season the Longhorns, under new head coach Blair Cherry, cast aside the single wing style of offense and switched to the popular T-formation. What came about from this radical change was a high-scoring machine that nearly swept the

table in the Southwest Conference in 1947 – until one of those always-anticipated late-season collisions – along with bringing to the forefront one of the all-time best passing quarterbacks of college and professional football history.

Blair Cherry had been a three-sport star athlete for Texas Christian in the early 1920s. He entered the ranks of football coaching at the high school level in Texas, and his first job came in 1926 at little Ranger High. After three seasons there (1926-28), Cherry moved to Fort Worth North High in 1929, before moving to Amarillo High in 1930. After taking his first team all the way to the state championship game, Cherry moved into the elite of the prep coaching ranks as he guided his Amarillo teams to three straight state football championships (1934-36), while losing just one game during his last four seasons there. He was considered a serious candidate for the University of Texas job in 1937, but instead the school's administration turned to the already-legendary Dana X. Bible as its new head football coach in 1937. But Cherry then wisely accepted an assistant coaching spot on Bible's staff.

After Bible finally got the Longhorns back among college football's elite after 1939, he retired and selected Cherry, who had been groomed for the head job, as his successor in 1947. Offensively, Bible had stuck with the old single wing style in the face of a growing national switch to the "T," but the old coach didn't become a legend by ignoring the tides of progress. As early as 1945, as a by-product of preparing for teams that had already made the conversion, Bible had his freshmen teams working on the new style formation under the direction of assistant coach Eck Curtis, who would remain on Cherry's staff.

When Cherry took over the reins for the 1947 season, one of the first things he did was switch the Longhorns to the T-formation offense. Cherry's choice for the quarterback slot was non other than Bobby Layne, who had been capably playing tailback since arriving after a sensational prep career at Highland Park High in Dallas. While always an outstanding passer, Layne was not a particularly gifted runner, but relieved of that responsibility in the T, he soon began to glitter at the quarterback spot. After working on the T in spring practice, Cherry took his senior quarterback to Chicago in the summer of 1947 in order to study the College All-Stars and the Chicago Bears as they practiced using the T. With 15 former players returning from the service, Cherry had 32 ex-lettermen on hand when pre-season camp opened. Always a stickler for physical condition, Cherry drilled his team through grueling workouts, described as the toughest in school history.

The conditioning all paid off on September 20 when, with the temperature hitting 98 degrees, the Longhorns stomped Texas Tech by a score of 33-0 in the season opener. The Texas offense was described as having "dazzling speed, tricky running and clever field generalship." Byron Gillory and Billy Pyle broke off sensational runs, scoring a pair of touchdowns each, but it was Layne who was singled out as the cog that made the new T-formation offense move. The following weekend, for the first time ever the Longhorns flew to an away game, where they blasted an up-and-coming Oregon team by a score of 38-13. Layne connected with a pair of

touchdown aerials to Gillory, and another of 48 yards to end Max Bumgardner.

In week three of the 1947 season came an expected major test for Texas, as the Longhorns played host to a very rugged North Carolina team that was led by the dazzling Charley Justice. But, before 47,000 shirt-sleeved fans, the Longhorns shocked the college football world as they handed the Tar Heels a 34-0 pounding. Layne directed three long drives, getting Texas on the scoreboard quickly with a long, looping 44-yard touchdown pass to Gillory. Halfback Randall Clay scored a pair of TDs, while running mate Tom Landry chipped in one. Meanwhile, the Longhorn defense allowed Justice a mere 18 yards rushing and 81 yards passing. George White of the Dallas Morning News wrote that, "Not in many a day has a team been seen in this section with the finesse and deception that the Longhorns displayed."

The next weekend brought the final non-conference outing, as Texas (now the AP #3) met up with powerhouse Oklahoma in a controversy-filled game before 46,000 fans at the Cotton Bowl. With the score knotted at 7-7 just before halftime, Texas pounded the ball 58 yards to the Sooner three behind Layne's passing. With one second left on the clock Layne pitched out to Clay who fumbled the ball, but after a scramble Clay picked up the ball and ran in for the touchdown and a 14-7 lead. Coach Bud Wilkinson of Oklahoma and most of his staff charged the officials, contending that Layne's knee had touched down before he got off the pitch. The rest of the way the grandstands, outside the student sections, were the scene of fights and taunting between the rival fans. When Clay scored his second TD of the day in the fourth quarter to give Texas a 14-point lead, the irate Oklahoma fans began to pelt the field with bottles and seat cushions. The players and officials retreated to the center of the field until the onslaught stopped, but when the game ended it was necessary to have a police car drive to the center of the field to pick up the officials and safely get them out of the stadium. Layne had completed 8 of 11 passes for 129 yards, while the Texas offense had also pounded out 177 rushing yards in its 34-14 win.

The Longhorns then opened their quest for the Southwest Conference title, knocking off Arkansas, 21-6, and Rice, 12-0, in the first two outings. With rainy conditions holding down the passing, the Longhorns rolled up 307 rushing yards against Arkansas. After Clyde Scott raced 47 yards to give the Hogs an early lead, the Texas defense did not allow the opposition past midfield until the final 90 seconds. Back in Austin, the game against Rice was a major struggle with the defenses prevailing, as the two teams slugged it out all afternoon. Passing took a back seat in this struggle, as Layne was only five of 14 for 60 yards with Bumgardner and Jim Canady scoring for Texas. In the third quarter the defensive pounding took its toll on the two teams, as there were fumbles or interceptions on six of seven plays, five of them CONSECUTIVELY.

Then came the SWC showdown that everyone had been awaiting, as Texas (AP #3) journeyed up to the Cotton Bowl to meet undefeated Southern Methodist (AP #8) and its All-America tailback, Doak Walker. Layne and Walker had played as teammates briefly at Highland Park High, and the two would meet on collegiate gridirons on only two occasions. This one proved to be one of the great games in SWC history as the two teams battled to a virtual standstill. SMU surprised Texas with a big reverse on the opening kickoff, and then tallied first for a 7-0 lead in the opening quarter after a nice drive, as the Longhorn defense keyed on Walker. Then as the first period ended, Gillory got Texas rolling with a 40-yard punt return to the SMU 32. Layne promptly connected with a pass to Bumgardner to move the ball to the 13, and several plays later Landry hurdled into the endzone for the touchdown to make it 7-7.

The Ponies came pounding back late in the second quarter though, starting from their 27 yard line. Three plays later, Gilbert Johnson found Walker with a short pass over the middle, and the star back took it for a 54-yard gain to the one. On the next play Dick McKissack blasted in for the touchdown, and Walker added the PAT to make it 14-7 at half. As the scoreless third quarter

came to a close, Texas was on the move behind the passing of Bobby Layne. After starting from their 29 after a punt, Layne found Dale Schwartzkopf with a pass good for 21 yards, and after two more plays, the blond quarterback rifled an aerial to end Peppy Blount, who made a leaping catch for a gain of 23 yards to the SMU 22. Then, facing a fourth down, Layne struck with another pass for 12 yards to the two, and on the next play Gillory went in for the touchdown. But the attempt for the tying point by Frank Guess was missed, and SMU held on for a 14-13 win.

The stunned Longhorns bounced back in the next weeks to post wins over Baylor (28-7) and Texas Christian (20-0). Things didn't look good when Baylor recovered an early fumble and took a 7-0 lead, but Layne's passing got Texas on top and the Longhorns piled up 426 yards of offense. The Texas defense never allowed TCU any closer than its 33 yard line, and George White wrote that "the Longhorns never looked better." Then came the Thanksgiving Day finale against Texas A & M. Layne put on a dazzling performance to close out his SWC career, as the Longhorns cruised to a 32-13 win. Bobby's passing set up the second Texas touchdown, before he connected with a scoring aerial to make it 19-0 in the third quarter and then capped things off with a one-yard TD run. Immediately after the game the Longhorns accepted a bid to the Sugar Bowl.

In New Orleans, Texas took on an Alabama team which had a great tailback in Harry Gilmer; Grantland Rice later calling Gilmer "the greatest college passer" he had ever seen. On a sunny day, Texas quickly established its superiority. After Gilmer got off a 55-yard quick kick in the first quarter, the Longhorns staged an 85-yard march to their first score, with Layne connecting on a pass for 43 yards, then capping things off with a short TD pass to Blount. After Alabama tied the score before halftime, the Longhorns grabbed the lead back in the third stanza with a TD off a blocked punt. Then in the fourth quarter, Texas broke the game open when defensive end Lew Holder intercepted a Gilmer pass and returned it 25 yards for a touchdown. Less than two minutes later Layne wrapped it up with a one-yard TD plunge, and Texas came away with a convincing 27-7 victory. Layne had completely outplayed Gilmer, completing 11 of 24 pass attempts for 183 yards and adding 34 yards rushing – for which he was named the game's Most Valuable Player –

while the Alabama star was able to complete just 3 of 17 passes for 35 yards.

For the 1947 season the Longhorns had finished with a record of 10-1-0, but the sting of the SMU defeat would always haunt them. Texas finished with a #5 ranking by Associated Press (SMU rated #3), and the bitter one-point loss had cost them a chance to challenge Notre Dame and Michigan for the top spot. In the post-season awards, Layne, tackle Dick Harris, and Bumgardner, were consensus All-SWC selections; while Layne was named a First Team All-America by United Press, Sporting News, the Football Writers, Central Press, and New York News. The Longhorn quarterback had completed 63 of 115 passes for 965 yards in 1947 (#9 in the nation), and he finished his collegiate career with 210 pass completions in 400 attempts for 3,145 yards. Layne went to the Chicago Bears in 1948, eventually ending up with the Detroit Lions where he established himself in the early 1950s as one of pro football's great quarterbacks.

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