

smu running backs history

SMU Running Backs History: A Legacy of Power and Precision

smu running backs history is a fascinating journey through decades of college football excellence. Southern Methodist University (SMU), an iconic program in the heart of Dallas, Texas, has produced a rich lineage of running backs who have left an indelible mark on the sport. From explosive rushers to versatile backs who could catch and block, the legacy of SMU's running backs is deeply intertwined with the evolution of the Mustangs football program.

Exploring the history of SMU running backs offers more than just a glance at statistics; it reveals how these athletes shaped the team's identity and influenced college football in the Southwest Conference and beyond. Let's dive into this storied history, spotlighting the players who made SMU a powerhouse and uncovering the traits that defined their roles on the field.

Early Days: Laying the Foundation for Mustangs' Ground Game

In the early years of SMU football, the running game was the cornerstone of the offense, as it was for many teams during football's formative decades. The Mustangs leaned heavily on tough, relentless backs who could pound the ball up the middle and wear down defenses.

The Pioneers of SMU's Backfield

Back in the 1930s and 1940s, players like Doak Walker, who later became a College Football Hall of Famer, showcased the potential of SMU's backfield. Walker wasn't just a running back; he was a triple-threat athlete, excelling in rushing, passing, and kicking. His versatility and dynamic playmaking helped garner national attention for SMU and set a high standard for future running backs.

Walker's influence extended beyond the gridiron, inspiring generations of Mustangs' backs to embrace versatility and athleticism. His legacy proved that running backs from SMU could shine not only with speed and power but also with finesse and football IQ.

The 1980s: The Golden Era of SMU Running Backs

The 1980s marked a golden era for SMU running backs, coinciding with the Mustangs' rise as a national contender. The team became known for its high-powered offenses and explosive rushing attacks, often spearheaded by some of the finest backs in college football.

The Pony Express and Legendary Backfields

The nickname “Pony Express” refers to the dynamic duo of Eric Dickerson and Craig James, who terrorized defenses during the late 1970s and early 1980s. Though Dickerson started his SMU career in the late 1970s, his impact was felt well into the 80s. He was a force of nature—combining size, speed, and vision to rack up rushing yards at an astounding rate.

Craig James complemented Dickerson perfectly with his own blend of power and toughness. Together, they created one of the most formidable running back tandems in college football history, helping SMU compete at the highest levels and solidify its reputation as a rushing powerhouse.

Impact on the NFL and Beyond

Both Dickerson and James transitioned successfully to the NFL, with Dickerson eventually earning enshrinement in the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Their success highlighted SMU’s ability to develop NFL-ready talent, particularly in the running back position.

This era also saw other notable backs like Reggie Dupard and Zach Line, who carried the tradition forward with their own unique skill sets. Dupard’s versatility and Line’s intelligence in the backfield showed the evolving nature of the running back role at SMU.

Key Characteristics of SMU Running Backs Through the Years

What has consistently defined SMU running backs throughout their history? Several traits stand out, illustrating what it takes to succeed in this program.

- **Versatility:** Many SMU backs have been multi-faceted players, adept at running, catching passes, and blocking.
- **Durability:** The physical demands of the Southwest Conference, and later the American Athletic Conference, required backs who could handle heavy workloads and tough defenses.
- **Football IQ:** Understanding blocking schemes and reading defenses was crucial, especially in offensive systems that prized adaptability.
- **Explosiveness:** Speed and agility to break through lines and turn short gains into long runs were hallmarks of Mustangs’ rushers.

These qualities combined to make SMU running backs some of the most respected and effective players on the field, contributing to team success and individual accolades.

Modern Era: SMU Running Backs in the 21st Century

In recent decades, the role of the running back at SMU has continued to evolve, reflecting broader trends in college football offenses. While the ground game remains important, SMU backs today are often expected to be just as effective in the passing game as they are in rushing.

Emergence of Dual-Threat Backs

Running backs like Zach Line, who played from 2008 to 2011, exemplified this new breed of Mustang backs. Line was not only a reliable rusher but also a dependable receiver out of the backfield, contributing to a more dynamic and unpredictable offense.

Other notable modern backs include Xavier Jones and Braeden West, who brought a mix of power and versatility to the field in the 2010s and 2020s. Their ability to adapt to changing offensive philosophies helped SMU maintain competitiveness in a landscape dominated by spread offenses and high-tempo play.

Developing NFL Talent

SMU's reputation for producing NFL-caliber running backs remains intact, with recent players making strides toward professional careers. The program's focus on skill development, strength conditioning, and strategic playcalling helps prepare running backs for the demands of the next level.

Coaches often emphasize fundamentals, vision, and ball security, ensuring that Mustang backs can contribute immediately and sustain long careers. This commitment to player growth continues to enhance SMU's standing as a breeding ground for talented, well-rounded running backs.

The Cultural and Community Impact of SMU Running Backs

Beyond the field, SMU running backs have often played significant roles in their communities and in shaping the culture of the program. From leadership within the locker room to engagement with fans and local organizations, these athletes represent the spirit of SMU football.

Many former SMU backs have returned to campus to mentor young players or contribute to community outreach programs. Their stories inspire current athletes to strive for excellence both on and off the field, reinforcing the program's values of character, dedication, and teamwork.

Lessons from SMU Running Backs History for Aspiring Players

For young athletes dreaming of following in the footsteps of SMU's great running backs, several lessons emerge from this rich history:

- **Embrace versatility:** Developing skills beyond rushing can make you indispensable to your team.
- **Focus on durability:** Maintaining physical fitness and resilience is key to long-term success.
- **Study the game:** Understanding offensive schemes and defensive tendencies elevates your play.
- **Lead by example:** Success comes not just from talent but from work ethic and leadership.

These insights reflect the qualities that have historically made SMU running backs stand out and continue to be relevant in today's game.

The story of SMU running backs history is a testament to the dedication, talent, and evolution of a football program that has consistently prioritized strong rushing attacks and versatile athletes. From legends like Doak Walker and Eric Dickerson to modern stars making their mark, the legacy of Mustang running backs continues to thrive, inspiring future generations to carry the torch forward.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is the all-time leading rusher among SMU running backs?

Eric Dickerson is the all-time leading rusher at SMU, amassing over 4,000 yards during his collegiate career in the late 1970s.

Which SMU running back was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame?

Eric Dickerson, a former SMU running back, was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1999 due to his outstanding NFL career.

How did SMU's running backs perform during the 'Pony Express' era?

During the early 1980s, the 'Pony Express' backfield featured Eric Dickerson and Craig James, who combined for record-breaking rushing yards and helped popularize SMU football.

Who succeeded Eric Dickerson as SMU's leading rusher in the 1990s?

Ricky Bell emerged in the 1990s as one of SMU's top running backs, continuing the school's tradition of strong rushing performance.

What impact did SMU running backs have on the team's success in the 1980s?

SMU running backs, notably Eric Dickerson and Craig James, were central to the team's offensive dominance in the 1980s, leading to multiple bowl appearances and national recognition.

Have any SMU running backs made significant contributions in the NFL?

Yes, several SMU running backs like Eric Dickerson and Zach Line have had successful careers in the NFL, making notable contributions on their professional teams.

What style of running backs has SMU historically produced?

SMU has historically produced versatile running backs known for a combination of speed, power, and receiving ability, fitting well into dynamic offensive schemes.

How has the role of running backs at SMU evolved over the decades?

The role of SMU running backs has evolved from primarily power runners in the 1980s to more versatile backs who contribute in both rushing and passing games in recent years.

Who are the current standout running backs in SMU football history?

Recent standout running backs at SMU include Braeden West and Ke'Mon Freeman, who have continued to build on the school's rich rushing legacy.

Additional Resources

SMU Running Backs History: A Legacy of Resilience and Talent

smu running backs history is a compelling narrative that showcases the evolution of a key position within Southern Methodist University's football program. Over the decades, the Mustangs have developed a reputation for producing running backs who combine agility, power, and strategic vision on the field. This history reflects not only individual athletic achievements but also the broader shifts in college football tactics and SMU's fluctuating fortunes as a program.

Understanding the trajectory of SMU's running backs provides insights into the university's recruitment strategies, offensive schemes, and the cultural significance of football in Dallas and the Southwest Conference. The running back position at SMU has been instrumental in many of the Mustangs' most memorable seasons, earning accolades and setting records that continue to influence the program today.

The Early Years and Foundation of SMU Running Backs

SMU's football program dates back to 1915, with running backs playing a pivotal role in the team's offensive strategies from the outset. In the early to mid-20th century, the running game was the centerpiece of most collegiate offenses, and SMU was no exception. During this era, players often demonstrated a combination of toughness and versatility, required to excel in multiple facets of the game.

One of the earliest standout running backs was Doak Walker, who played in the mid-1940s and became a legend not only at SMU but in college football history. Walker's outstanding performance earned him the Heisman Trophy in 1948, a prestigious recognition that spotlighted SMU on the national stage. His dual-threat capability—excelling as a runner and a kicker—set a high standard for future Mustangs running backs.

Doak Walker: Setting a High Bar

- Heisman Trophy winner (1948)
- SMU's first All-American running back
- Influential in establishing SMU's offensive style centered around versatile backs
- Inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame, underscoring his lasting impact

Walker's success helped cement the importance of the running back position within SMU's offensive identity and inspired generations of players who followed.

The Golden Era: The 1980s and the “Pony Express” Legacy

Fast forward to the 1980s, a transformative period for SMU football and its running backs. The Mustangs became known for a dynamic backfield that combined speed and power, epitomized by the “Pony Express” duo of Eric Dickerson and Craig James. This backfield partnership not only propelled SMU to national prominence but also redefined expectations for collegiate running backs.

Eric Dickerson, now an NFL Hall of Famer, was a powerhouse who combined breakaway speed with exceptional vision and durability. His collegiate career at SMU was marked by record-breaking rushing yards and touchdowns, laying the groundwork for his professional success. Alongside Craig James, Dickerson formed a tandem that was difficult for opposing defenses to contain, contributing significantly to SMU’s offensive dominance in that era.

Impact of the “Pony Express” on SMU Football

- Elevated SMU to a top-ranked program in the Southwest Conference
- Increased national media attention on SMU’s offense
- Inspired offensive coordinators to emphasize multi-back systems
- Left a legacy influencing running back recruitment and development at SMU

Despite the eventual NCAA sanctions and the infamous “death penalty” that hit the program in the mid-1980s, the legacy of these running backs remains a highlight in SMU’s history.

Post-Sanctions Era: Rebuilding and Emerging Talents

After the NCAA’s suspension of the SMU football program following repeated violations, the program faced significant challenges in recruiting and performance. However, the running back position continued to be a focal point in the rebuilding efforts during the 1990s and early 2000s.

While the immediate post-sanction years did not feature standout stars matching the heights of Dickerson or Walker, several running backs contributed to the gradual restoration of SMU’s competitiveness. Players like Zach Line and Darius Johnson emerged as effective ball carriers, known for their work ethic and consistent yardage gains.

Key Features of SMU Running Backs in the Rebuilding Phase

- Emphasis on versatility and pass-catching ability
- Focus on durability and ball security to minimize turnovers
- Adaptation to changing offensive schemes that incorporated more spread and passing elements

This period reflects a broader trend in college football, where running backs are required to be multifaceted athletes capable of contributing in various offensive scenarios.

Modern Era: SMU Running Backs in the 21st Century

In recent years, SMU running backs have continued to make their mark both on the collegiate level and in professional football. Players like Trey Williams and Xavier Jones have showcased the Mustangs' ability to develop talent capable of competing in the highly competitive American Athletic Conference.

The contemporary SMU offense often integrates a balanced attack, relying on running backs not only for rushing yards but also for blocking and receiving out of the backfield. The recruitment focus has shifted toward athletes who combine speed, agility, and football IQ, reflecting the increasing complexity of modern college offenses.

Highlights of Recent SMU Running Backs

- Trey Williams: Known for explosive speed and versatility, contributing significantly during his tenure.
- Xavier Jones: Demonstrated consistent production and leadership, embodying the qualities SMU seeks in a backfield leader.
- Emphasis on complementary roles, with running backs contributing in special teams and pass protection.

The SMU running backs history in the modern era illustrates a program that continues to evolve, balancing tradition with innovation in player development.

Comparative Analysis: SMU Running Backs Versus Peer Programs

When compared to other programs in the Southwest and American Athletic Conference, SMU's running backs have often been characterized by their resilience and adaptability. While programs like Oklahoma and Texas may boast more prolific rushing attacks historically, SMU's running backs have distinguished themselves through a combination of

individual talent and contributions to team dynamics.

Moreover, the Mustangs' ability to produce NFL-caliber running backs, despite periods of sanctions and resource limitations, speaks to the quality of coaching and player development within the program.

Pros and Cons of SMU's Running Back Development

- **Pros:** Strong emphasis on versatility; history of producing NFL talent; integration into balanced offensive schemes.
- **Cons:** Program interruptions affecting recruitment; less consistent national spotlight compared to powerhouse schools.

This analysis underscores the unique challenges and opportunities inherent in SMU's football program and its running backs.

The history of SMU running backs is a testament to the university's enduring commitment to football excellence. From legends like Doak Walker and Eric Dickerson to modern standouts, the position has been central to the Mustangs' identity on the gridiron. As SMU continues to compete and evolve in the landscape of college football, its running backs are likely to remain a critical element of both its past legacy and future ambitions.

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smu running backs history: Who's #1? Christopher J. Walsh, 2007-09-27 There's nothing quite as controversial in American sports as college football's national championship, making it common fodder for talk around the water cooler as well as loftier debates among professional journalists in the sports pages. Walsh takes a comprehensive view of over a century of controversy, breaking teams down into one of three categories: perennial powers, contenders, and former greats. He then reviews the ten most controversial championships, suggests candidates for the best overall football program, and concludes with some thoughts on the future of the BCS. A comprehensive appendix lists national champions since 1869; AP and USA Today/UPI final polls; final BCS standings; first-team All-Americans; and College Football Hall of Fame inductees.

smu running backs history: College Football John Sayle Watterson, 2020-10-13 The rules of the game have changed in the past hundred years, but human nature has not. In March [1892] Stanford and California had played the first college football game on the Pacific Coast in San Francisco . . . The pregame activities included a noisy parade down streets bedecked with school colors. Tickets sold so fast that the Stanford student manager, future president Herbert Hoover, and his California counterpart, could not keep count of the gold and silver coins. When they finally totaled up the proceeds, they found that the revenues amounted to \$30,000—a fair haul for a game that had to be temporarily postponed because no one had thought to bring a ball!—from *College Football: History, Spectacle, Controversy*, Chapter Three In this comprehensive history of America's popular pastime, John Sayle Watterson shows how college football in more than one hundred years has evolved from a simple game played by college students into a lucrative, semiprofessional enterprise. With a historian's grasp of the context and a novelist's eye for the telling detail, Watterson presents a compelling portrait rich in anecdotes, colorful personalities, and troubling patterns. He tells how the infamous Yale-Princeton fiasco of 1881, in which Yale forced a 0-0 tie in a championship game by retaining possession of the ball for the entire game, eventually led to the first-down rule that would begin to transform Americanized rugby into American football. He describes the kicks and punches, gouged eyes, broken collarbones, and flagrant rule violations that nearly led to the sport's demise (including such excesses as a Yale player who wore a uniform soaked in blood from a slaughterhouse). And he explains the reforms of 1910, which gave official approval to a radical new tactic traditionalists were sure would doom the game as they knew it—the forward pass. As college football grew in the booming economy of the 1920s, Watterson explains, the flow of cash added fuel to an already explosive mix. Coaches like Knute Rockne became celebrities in their own right, with highly paid speaking engagements and product endorsements. At the same time, the emergence of the first professional teams led to inevitable scandals involving recruitment and subsidies for student-athletes. Revelations of illicit aid to athletes in the 1930s led to failed attempts at reform by the fledgling NCAA in the postwar Sanity Code, intended to control abuses by permitting limited subsidies to college players but which actually paved the way for the free ride many players receive today. Watterson also explains how the growth of TV revenue led to college football programs' unprecedented prosperity, just as the rise of professional football seemed to relegate college teams to minor league status. He explores issues of gender and race, from the shocked reactions of spectators to the first female cheerleaders in the 1930s to their successful exploitation by Roone Arledge three decades later. He describes the role of African-American players, from the days when Southern schools demanded all-white teams (and Northern schools meekly complied); through the black armbands and protests of the 60s; to one of the game's few successful, if limited, reforms, as black athletes dominate the playing field while often being shortchanged in the classroom. Today, Watterson observes, colleges' insatiable hunger for revenues has led to an abuse-filled game nearly indistinguishable from the professional model of the NFL. After examining the standard solutions for reform, he offers proposals of his own, including greater involvement by faculty, trustees, and college presidents. Ultimately, however, Watterson concludes that the history of college football is one in which the rules of the game have changed, but those of human nature have not.

smu running backs history: *The Alcalde* , 1998-11 As the magazine of the Texas Exes, *The Alcalde* has united alumni and friends of The University of Texas at Austin for nearly 100 years. The *Alcalde* serves as an intellectual crossroads where UT's luminaries - artists, engineers, executives, musicians, attorneys, journalists, lawmakers, and professors among them - meet bimonthly to exchange ideas. Its pages also offer a place for Texas Exes to swap stories and share memories of Austin and their alma mater. The magazine's unique name is Spanish for mayor or chief magistrate; the nickname of the governor who signed UT into existence was The Old Alcalde.

smu running backs history: *The 50 Greatest Players in New England Patriots History* Robert W. Cohen, 2018-09-01 Perhaps even more than the Boston Red Sox, the New England Patriots are the team of the entire northeast from Rhode Island to Canada. Here, sports historian

Robert W. Cohen ranks the 50 best players to ever take the field for the Patriots. Who can forget Wes Welker, Troy Brown, Jim Nance, Ted Bruschi, and Tom Brady. They're all here in this fascinating collection of bios, stats, quotes from opposing players and former teammates, photographs, and recaps of memorable performances and seasons. This book is a must-read not only for Patriots fans, but for all fans of professional football.

smu running backs history: History of the NFL First 100 Year's You Sure Started Somethin' R.D. Griffith, 2021-12-16 Are you searching for a book about American Football that has it all? R. D. Griffith will take you on a comprehensive drive through the history and highlights of American Football, its salient details, from its inception at the turn of the century to its centralized embodiment now in the modern era, the NFL. He will share with you the challenges the game faced through the Great Depression and two World Wars, including the spicy anecdotes of the people comprising the great game of American Football throughout the years.

smu running backs history: The 50 Greatest Players in Philadelphia Eagles History Robert W. Cohen, 2019-08-26 The 50 Greatest Players in Philadelphia Eagles History examines the careers of the 50 men who made the greatest impact on one of the NFL's most iconic and successful franchises. The author ranks, from 1 to 50, the top 50 players in team history. Quotes from opposing players and former teammates are provided along the way, as are summaries of each player's greatest season, most memorable performances, and most notable achievements.

smu running backs history: Fast Copy Dan Jenkins, 2001-04-01 In 1935 Betsy Throckmorton's father lures her from a New York job with Time magazine back to Claybelle, Texas, with the promise that she can be the editor of his Claybelle Standard-Times. Betsy brings along her husband, Ted Winton, an easterner and Yale graduate to whom she is constantly explaining Texas. Ted will run Ben Throckmorton's radio station, KVAT, where Booty and Them Others sing in rivalry with the better known WBAP Light Crust Doughboys. In Texas, it's the middle of the Depression and the Drought. And Prohibition is barely over, liquor still a controversy. Every city has its hobo camp, and Claybelle has the Star of Hope Mission. But it is also the time of new oil money, high living, infidelity, and tangled love triangles. Betsy and Ted chain-smoke and drink often and long, they wouldn't miss a Paschal High School or TCU football game, they party at the Casino on Jacksboro Highway, and dine at Claybelle's Shadylawn Country Club. Betsy is a serious journalist though, and she sets out to change the paper, clashing with the managing editor when she claims international not state news belongs on page one. She clashes with the columnists when she tries to sharpen their leads. The Texas Murder Machine becomes her big story, when she suspects that Texas Rangers may be killing innocent young men to collect rewards offered by the Texas Bankers Association. Betsy's journalistic determination leads to a personal tragedy that changes her life forever—and makes her a determined, relentless newswoman. Fast Copy is a page-turner that combines romantic comedy with the best of the thriller genre. But it's much more. Dan Jenkins captures Texas in the mid-1930s with a clarity that brings it alive, and his affection for Texas, Fort Worth, and TCU are revealed on every page. Only a native like Jenkins would include the minute details of a TCU-SMU game, the new zephyr stainless steel railroad train, the T&P railroad station, the Fort Worth Cats, and LeGrave Field. His portrait of Claybelle and its leading society folks is tongue-in-cheek funny and right on the mark. Texans should treasure this book for years to come.

smu running backs history: Bigger Than the Game Michael Weinreb, 2010-08-05 A mesmerizing look at the year when American athletics went corporate, villains replaced heroes, and sports stars became superstars. Greed and excess defined the 1980s, and the sports world was no exception. Shifting from the love of the game to the love of money, athletes made the transition from representing honor and humility to becoming brash and branded. Capturing the stories of headliners who capitalized on this trend, Bigger Than the Game charts the rise (and sometimes spectacular fall) of four athletes over the span of one of the most dramatic eras in sports. Meticulously researched, with stirring, you-are-there reporting, Bigger Than the Game assembles a cast that includes Jim McMahon, who took the Chicago Bears to Super Bowl glory despite his penchant for partying and his aversion to following the game plan; Brian Bosworth, the university of Oklahoma linebacker who

mugged for the cameras while calling the NCAA a communist organization; Bo Jackson, who pursued promising careers in both pro football and baseball; and Len Bias, poised to ensure the Boston Celtics' dominance but died of a cocaine overdose just one day after the draft. Also packed with portraits of folk heroes such as Refrigerator Perry and Michael Jordan, Bigger Than the Game offers a riveting ride for every sports fan.

smu running backs history: Penn State Bowl Games Tommy A. Phillips, 2021-06-11 With play-by-play coverage of every Nittany Lion bowl game, this book chronicles Penn State football's vibrant history all the way back to the 1923 Rose Bowl. The team broke the color barrier at the Cotton Bowl in 1948, finished undefeated after back-to-back Orange Bowl victories in 1969 and 1970, and reigned over the college football world with national championships in the 1983 Sugar Bowl and 1987 Fiesta Bowl.

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smu running backs history: Indianapolis Colts Lew Freedman, 2013-08-15 A complete illustrated history of the National Football League's Indianapolis Colts, including the team's early era in Baltimore--Provided by publisher--

smu running backs history: More Tales from Aggieland Brent Zwerneman, 2005 More Tales From Aggieland, a compelling collection of stories and anecdotes compiled by Zwerneman, who has covered the Aggies for a decade, offers readers insight and plenty of humor on a wide range of A&M sports and events, including Parker's splendiferous leap. On the heels of Zwerneman's successful Game of My Life: 25 Stories of Aggies Football, More Tales from Aggieland relates entertaining narratives from athletes over the decades who dearly love Texas A&M and also reveals intriguing stories to the Aggies faithful. For example, read about the recent discovery, deep in the bowels of Kyle Field, of a long-lost Sugar Bowl trophy, an elegant memento from A&M football's lone national championship season in 1939. People had their minds on things other than athletics, said Jim Sterling, a member of the 1939 team--speaking of the Great Depression and the impending world war, and why the trophy probably was lost in the first place. Now, from out of the dungeons of old Kyle, that sterling silver reminder of A&M football's most glorious day is basking in the light of Aggieland once again. Read about this and other fascinating and often fun chronicles from Texas A&M sports in More Tales from Aggieland.

smu running backs history: African-American Sports Greats David L. Porter, 1995-10-30 African-American athletes have played a significant role in the development and popularity of American professional sports, and have encountered numerous obstacles on the road to athletic success. This is the first comprehensive multi-sport biographical dictionary of African Americans who reached the pinnacles of success in their sport. It contains more personal and career profiles of African-American sports greats than are found in any other single source. Biographical profiles of 166 noted athletes, coaches, and administrators in team and individual sports include both Ristorical figures such as Jesse Owens and Satchel Paige and contemporary stars such as Charles Barkley, Ken Griffey, Jr., Michael Jordan, Jackie Joyner-Kersey, Shaquille O'Neal, and Emmitt Smith. Forty-four sports historians contributed the colorfully written biographies, which blend both personal background information and athletic career accomplishments. All information is current through the middle of 1995. The dictionary covers the contributions made by African-American greats in football, baseball, basketball, track and field, boxing, wrestling, auto and stock car racing, golf, thoroughbred racing, tennis, cycling, and figure skating. More than two-thirds of the entries represent team sports. The dictionary is organized alphabetically by person. Each colorfully written profile is 800-1,000 words in length and traces the subject's personal life, family and educational background, personal struggles, career accomplishments, records set, statistical data, awards and honors, and overall impact; and features lively quotations by and about the sports luminaries. Each entry contains a handy bibliography of books and articles about the subject. Biographies of managers, coaches, and club executives describe their teams, statistical achievements, accomplishments, strategy, and sports impact. A general introduction traces the historic struggle of African-American

athletes in professional and Olympic sports and appendices provide alphabetical listings of biographical entries and entries by sport. A selection of photos complement the profiles. For the sports fan or librarian, this is a first stop for biographical information that captures the personality of the athlete and includes all the pertinent information about his or her accomplishments. It is an essential addition to the reference sections of junior high, high school, and public libraries.

smu running backs history: *Blue Ribbon Football Yearbook* Chris Dortch, 2005

smu running backs history: Longhorn Hoops Richard Pennington, Denton A. Cooley, 1998-01-01 Longhorn Hoops documents the history of basketball at the University of Texas. For men's basketball, Richard Pennington goes season by season, describing every game the Longhorns have ever played from 1906 to 1998. He does the same for women's basketball, except for the first two chapters, which cover longer spans of time leading up to the establishment of basketball as a varsity sport for women in 1974. Pennington demonstrates that Texas basketball, while always secondary to King Football, actually has a long and colorful history. Beside stories of games won or lost, points scored, and rebounds collected, Pennington recalls the orange-and-white stars of yesteryear--from Clyde Littlefield to Reggie Freeman--and brings the greatest teams to life, including the unbeaten Steers of 1924, the Final Four team of 1947, Harold Bradley's 1963 team, Abe Lemons' 1978 NIT champions, and Tom Penders' 1990 Longhorns. Perhaps the most interesting story in Longhorn Hoops is how Anna Hiss, director of women's physical education at Texas from 1921 to 1957, helped lead a nationwide movement against intercollegiate competition for women, which shut down UT women's basketball for several decades and made progress in the 1960s and 1970s much more difficult. Some determined co-eds got it going again, and, with the energy and direction of women's athletic director Donna Lopiano and coach Jody Conradt (whose teams have won more than 700 games), the Longhorns built a powerhouse program that reached its apex with an undefeated team in 1986, winning the NCAA championship with the heroics of freshman star Clarissa Davis. Basketball, as Pennington notes in his preface, is the most beautiful sport of all, and its history at the University of Texas has now been told. This comprehensive book features a foreword by Dr. Denton Cooley, the world-famous heart surgeon who helped the Longhorns win an SWC title in 1939.

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smu running backs history: The USA TODAY College Football Encyclopedia 2009-2010 Bob Boyles, Paul Guido, 2009-08 The most comprehensive resource on college football ever published.

smu running backs history: The History of American Football Allison Danzig, 1956

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Dear Faculty and Staff, As part of our ongoing

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