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News Service of the Southern Baptist Convention

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75-02

Bears Defeated**'Promised Land' Less Than  
Hospitable to Baylor**

By David A. Risinger

DALLAS (BP)--After more than 40 years of "wandering in the Southwest Conference wilderness," Baylor University found the "promised land" of the Cotton Bowl a little less than hospitable as the Bears fell to Penn State, 41-20, in the New Year's Day classic.

But, although rain clouds hovered low over the Cotton Bowl, many Baptist observers, after the sting had calmed a little, realized that not even the 40-day Genesis flood or the 41-point Penn State flood could completely dampen the spirit of the "Green and Gold" of the world's largest Baptist university.

For it was back in 1924 that the school, one of 71 affiliated with the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools, last laid claim to the Southwest Conference football championship under the leadership of Frank Bridges.

In intervening years, Baylor, owned and operated by the Baptist General Convention of Texas, took seven trips to bowl games but the SWC title and the accompanying Cotton Bowl invitation seemed always just beyond the reach of the bear claw.

Jack Sisco of Corsicana, Tex., who played on the 1924 SWC championship squad, is one of those who, in retrospect, was not demoralized by Baylor's loss, after leading 14-10 with five minutes left in the third quarter.

"Well, we came this far and my hat's off to Grant Teaff (Baylor's head coach) and his players. I've always wanted to live long enough to see someone try to hire a Baylor football coach away, someone try to scalp Baylor tickets and Baylor win the Southwest Conference."

All of these things happened in what Texans are calling Baylor's "cinderella year."

The coach, Teaff, barraged by national coach of the year recognition and other honors, refused an offer to succeed Jim Carlen as coach of Texas Tech University, Lubbock, a bigger and wealthier Southwest Conference school.

Teaff, an active Baptist deacon and Sunday School teacher, in his third year at Baylor, put together an 8-3 record after a surprising 5-6 start his first year and a dismal 2-9 record in his second try.

Dallasites were overwhelmed in one way or another by the fanfare of Baylor fans. "Do we have to put up with this every 50 years?" quipped a newspaper columnist, referring to the interval between the school's two SWC championships.

The Dallas community, however, was impressed with the Christian example Teaff and his players exhibited throughout the Cotton Bowl pre and post game hoopla.

On the Sunday prior to the game Teaff spoke before the Southern Baptist Convention's largest congregation, First Baptist Church, Dallas.

At the same time, Baylor President Abner McCall and members of the football team were leading the worship service at Park Cities Baptist Church.

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The Dallas Bear backers were anxious to show the team a pre-game relaxed, good time. One of the good times almost turned sour when a comedian did a satirical takeoff on Evangelist Billy Graham.

Teaff saw little humor in it and was at the point of having the whole group walk out.

Graham, arriving in Dallas to act as grand marshal for the Cotton Bowl parade, responded to Teaff's loyalty.

Asked who he was rooting for, Graham replied, "I have to be a little careful about that situation. Penn State was founded by Evangelist George Whitefield. . . . Many of my friends are Penn State fans and Pennsylvania, of all the states, provides the greatest financial support for my work.

"However, I am a Baptist and half-Texan, so if I were forced to choose between the teams, I would lean a little toward Baylor," Graham conceded.

The world famous evangelist once commented that God helped him everywhere but on the golf course and the same thing apparently holds true on the football field, where Baylor fell to an aroused Penn State squad.

But the Bears weren't losers according to Penn State Coach Joe Paterno.

"They are a team which plays with poise and fairness," Paterno said. "Teaff hasn't developed a fluke team for just this one year. The Bears are here to stay."

He added, "Over all, the team members display a quality and character that goes beyond just being good athletes."

Few Baylor fans will dispute Paterno. Certainly not the likes of Jack Sisco.

"I've seen it (Baylor's re-emergence) now, so maybe the good Lord will come and get me now," he said.

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(BP) Photo will be mailed to state Baptist papers.

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SBC Cooperative Program  
Ah ad Same Period Last Year

Baptist Press

NASHVILLE (BP)--Receipts through the national Cooperative Program unified budget of the Southern Baptist Convention, for the first three months of the 1974-75 fiscal year, are running ahead of the same period last fiscal year.

Total receipts for the year to date show nearly \$10.5 million, a 6.30 percent--or \$621,472--increase over more than \$9.86 million collected in the first three months of 1973-74. That includes Cooperative Program and designated giving.

The Cooperative Program portion, which came from some 34,665 SBC churches in 33 state conventions throughout the 50 states, totals more than \$9.37 million, up 5.61 percent--or nearly one half million dollars--over more than \$8.87 million in Cooperative Program receipts for the same period last year.

Designated gifts totaled more than \$1.1 million--a 12.46 percent rise over the \$991,069 contributed last year.

For December, 1974, alone, however, contributions, compared to December, 1973, showed a decline. Total receipts, amounting to more than \$3.35 million, ran 7.01 percent lower. The Cooperative Program portion for December declined only 1.26 percent over December, 1973. It collected more than \$3.02 million, compared to a previous amount of more than \$3.06 million for December, 1973.

The designated portion, however, tumbled 16.67 percent between Decembers, showing \$323,804 in December, 1974, and \$388,570 in December, 1973.

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