Reminiscing on a sports-filled vacation:

It started with a simple touch football game in Galveston, and ended almost tragically in Gregory Gym. In between there were hours of watching television, plus the Blue-Grey game in Montgomery and the Sugar Bowl festival in New Orleans, including the football game, basketball tournament, and track meet. If any one event stands out in the memory, it has to be Ron Vander Kelen's duck-to-darkness assault on credibility.

The Sugar Bowl provided a classic example of football Arkansas style. One of our most vivid memories of the game is a third-quarter rollout by Glynn Griffin, when Arkansas tacklers swarmed him, flinging themselves at the Ole Miss quarterback. They didn't tackle him; the Mississippi all-American was simply knocked over.

**THIS IS WHY ARKANSAS** wins so many football games and does it so consistently: they play the game with a near-unmatched fanaticism. But Arkansas tacklers not only pursue; they also have that unforgettable drive which launches them at a ball carrier like a starved wolf attacking sheep. Ole Miss ball carriers, known for their determined running, were knocked backwards all afternoon by the kamikaze-like Arkansas defense.

The sportswriters' consensus seemed to be that Arkansas' sheer determination was all that kept the score respectable, that Ole Miss was the better team but Arkansas' tenacity was just as legitimate. This description is amazing; especially when one considers that the game was tied twice, at 3-3 and 10-10, came within five yards of being tied a third time, and wound up only 17-13.

Our interpretation was that Ole Miss had its greatest day on an afternoon when Arkansas was only average, and still won by a mere four-points. The Rebels may be better—may be—but not by much.

Other vacation thoughts: the saturation of the football bowl market became evident during the holidays... name the bowls: Sugar, Cotton, Orange, Rose, Gator, Bluebonnet, Tangerine, East-West, North-South, Blue-Grey, Crusade, Challenge, Hula, and the tropical twins, the Gotham and Liberty... anything can be killed by too much of too good a thing; we beseech the NCAA to keep its product scarce and therefore valuable.

**TEXAS OWES RICE** a vote of thanks for that 14-14 tie... imagine the Longhorns in the Cotton Bowl as the number one team in the nation... after the bowls, we rate the nation's elite: Alabama first, then Ole Miss, Vander Kelen, Arkansas, Southern Cal (five more minutes and the Trojans would have lost by two touchdowns), LSU, Oklahoma... who can argue anyone missing?

The AFL made the big-time with its dramatic double overtime sudden death playoff, but the NFL's championship was just as rugged... Houston and Dallas probably could break even in NFL competition... the AFL playoff was the best game of the holiday season, but Alabama played the best football... Wisconsin-USC was colorful, but wasn't football...