Sportsmanship Award Back

By BUDDY HERZ
Thresher Editor

After three days of seemingly endless bickering and behind the scenes strategy, the Southwest Conference Sportsmanship Committee, in their annual Fall meeting in Dallas during the Cotton Bowl Festival, by a vote of 7-1, restored the Conference's Sportsmanship Trophy to an annual award basis.

Old System Objections

The present system which took effect January 1, 1960, is an improvement over the plan devised in 1953 but terminated last spring due to the method of choosing the "most sportsmanlike" school. Swapping votes, failure to fully discuss promoting sportsmanship due to the pressure of antagonizing a would-be voter, and ineffective criteria for judging were raised as objectives to the old method of voting.

Under the rotation system adopted last spring, the trophy rotated to the chairman school, which was determined by alphabetical order, as a symbol of the work done by the chairman and sportsmanship among "all" Conference schools. Prior to the Dallas meeting, The TCU Skiff and The Rice Thresher had waged a campaign for a return to the voting system.

A&M Cries Out

In the first business session, Johnny Johnston, editor of The Battalion, student newspaper of Texas A&M, set the tone of the meeting by opening his sportsmanship report with the suggestion that the Committee served no purpose under the present system. He reminded representatives of the various schools that A&M fostered the idea of a Sportsmanship Trophy and the Committee had been derived to elect the recipient of the Trophy.

Editor Johnston explained, "To nullify the awarding of the Sportsmanship Trophy is to destroy the basis on which the Committee was built."

The SMU Plan

Proposed by SMU, the new plan is a combination of the good points of the old voting method and rotation method. In essence, it is:

(1) The chairman school of the committee will rotate in alphabetical order (Arkansas, Baylor, Rice, etc.)

(2) A junior from each school who served on the committee will remain of the committee the following year to provide continuity. His election will be left up to each individual. The members of the committee are: President of the Student Body, Editor of the campus paper, head cheerleader, varsity athletic representative, junior representative, and the new senior representative.

Voting Via Code

(3) Voting will be on a 4-3-2-1 basis, using the Sportsmanship Code (printed below) as criteria. A maximum of twelve points can be received from team conduct and twelve points from crowd and student body conduct.

(4) In voting, each school must state the reasons for the rating which he给予 each conference school in the various categories. The chairman school will count each ballot and the ballots will be discussed at the winter meeting. This proposal was presented by the Rice delegates to facilitate matters.

Not For Self

(5) No voter may vote on his own school—but can, and is expected, to criticize his sportsmanship if the situation justifies it.

(6) The system of sportsmanship reports following each varsity contest between Southwest Conference schools will be continued.

(7) The winter ballot will include voting on football only, the spring ballot on basketball, and the spring sports. The two ballots will be combined in determining the school to receive the trophy.

Reports On Rice

During the first day's business session, Bob Boesman of SMU, executive secretary of the committee, read excerpts from reports turned in by each conference school concerning sportsmanship at football contests with other conference schools.

Reports on Rice were as follows:

From Texas—Longhorn delegates apologized for crowd conduct during game.

From Baylor - Rice's sportsmanship during the Baylor game was one of the finest exhibitions of sportsmanship seen in the past few years.

From Arkansas—although Arkansas did not have many representatives at the game, Razorback cheerleaders were welcomed cordially and treated warmly by Rice students.

From A&M - Sportsmanship was generally good at the game. (It is possible that the weather was too cold and rainy for anyone to take the trouble of participating in any unsportsmanlike act.)

From SMU—Sportsmanship at the game was fair, although lacking because of the enthusiastic support given Rice by its student body. The Mustangs criticized themselves for the extended griping on the decision that Don Meredith had crossed the line of scrimmage before passing for what would have been SMU's winning touchdown.

From TCU—Rice sportsmanship was generally excellent. Horned Frog delegates thanked Rice for a telegram wishing TCU luck in an intersectional battle.