Wearing Spurs Yet

ONE MIGHT THINK, looking at Virginia Tech's football schedule the past three weeks, that the Blacksburg school's season was on the verge of ending.

Two weeks ago Southern Methodist's Mustangs came charging into Lane Stadium, putting the Gobblers in Lane Stadium's most exciting game. Tomorrow Oklahoma State's Cowboys come riding into Lane Stadium.

SMU and Houston are members of the Southwest Conference, and Tech, like most teams, favors counting its Gobblers. The Mustangs were beaten by the Gobblers; the Cougars were beaten by the Cowboys. The Gobblers' greatest passing show ever seen in the Old Dominion or any other universe was the game against SMU. The 240-pound Oklahoma State's quarterback was the second highest in major-college history, surpassed only by the U. of Cincinnati's Greg Teeuwen against Ohio U.

Oklahoma State belongs to the toughest football college during Big Eight football and has just completed its season and attempted only 29 punts. They have an average game total of 427 yards. The runners have averaged 381 yards a game.

When Stout Steve Was Runner

LEAVE US HOPE the Cowboys don't come riding into the exhibition bowl.

The last Art "Pappy" Lewis, who coached Washington & Lee and West Virginia, and who played under the late Steve Owen, was regarded as Tech's greatest back for 23 years, used to tell a story about Stout Steve, as Owen came to be known.

Onem, born and reared in Indian territory, wanted to be a jockey until he grew up. The boy was small, and after he finished high school, he rode into End, Okla., to attend Phili- phus on which track he went (the early 1920's) as a football team.

One day Owen went to a practice session after waiting for a while on a muddy course. His Oklahoma City hitchman Johnny Mahlbusch, if he could participate. The Phillips team was prac- ticing the most popular "punt- block drill" being used by many teams. Mahlbusch quickly decided to use Owen as "punt- blocker.", a punter, blocker.

"Okay cowboy," the coach said, "get back there, catch the ball and run away from the block.

Owen grabbed the punter and ran through the Phillips players some 70 yards across a field. He was back with the ball when he was met by these coach's words: "Pretty good run, cowboy. Now try it without your spurs.

Gobblers Remember Blackman

THE COWBOYS' RUN with the wishbone-T formation which was installed only this fall. Strange thing about the Cowboys' spring practice. Dave Smith, former SMU assistant coach, says they have an Oklahoma signal which reminds him of Georgia's Blue Bombers of the pro Canadian League, was brought in last January by Coach Floyd Goss to be the offensive coordinator.

Goss took over the athletic directorship from Hall B. placed Smith in complete charge of spring practice and later named Smith tech's coach. Referring to spring practice the coach said: "In working with the squad, we felt good enough and made the decision to switch to the wishbone. How does it click? Hopefully in the coming fall.

"First of all, Oklahoma State's athletic publicist, Pat Quinn, said we returned last year's offensive line almost intact. We feel that will be the case in the coming season. Then we have a remarkable quarterback in junior Bert Blackman."

"Bert is small (180 pounds) and, though he was a fine, high-scoring quarterback at Tulia High, he wasn't recruited too heavily. The recruiters would watch him and say, "He don't have enough legs." Bert Blackman, the quarterback, is was equally as good last year as a sophomore until an emergency situation" (Tech's quarterback) "wasn't ready."

"Steve is our leading rusher this season, averaging better than five yards a carry." The Gobblers remember Blackman well. His 64-yard touch- down against Louisiana Tech last year in Stillwater was the Cow- boy's victory margin over the Gobblers.

Fine Sophomores and...

QUINN SAID TWO consecutive good freshmen squads, plus senior linemen, "will put the University of Oklahoma in the college 

"The sophomore line in Oklahoma State football is a great football team," placed the University of Oklahoma's football in the company. The seniors include George Palmer (6-1, 208), who did 

"The line led the Oklahoma State offense, the team defeated Boston College, 24-0, and later defeated Florida State, Smith, recruited from Midland, Texas. Palmer is averaging 7.3 yards a carry and is second to Blackman in rushing yardage this year."

Those running backs enabled coach Smith to switch last year's leading backfield, including a "hasty" line change back in the season. Smith, another Texan, stands 6-1 and weighs 190. He was Tech's brightest star as a rookie. He is pictured as one of the two high school prospects in Texas. Again, let's hope the Cowboys leave their spurs in the Stillwa-