

Aggies Get Favorite's Role In Annual Turkey Day Clash

By RONNIE GREATHOUSE
Battalion Sports Editor

A 15-year-old tradition was broken this year when the Aggies were picked as favorites over the Texas Longhorns, but Southwesterners will tell you "it don't mean a thing."

The University of Texas is an underdog at Kyle Field for the first time since 1939 in the 62nd renewal of the Southwest Conference's oldest and bitterest rivalry. The series dates back to 1894 and shows the Longhorns holding a big edge with 40 wins to 16 for the Aggies and five ties.

Tomorrow's nationally televised Game of the Week begins at 1:15 p.m. A play-by-play description of the game can be heard over WTAW with Kern Tipps bringing a running account of the action.

A&M can gain its first SWC championship in 15 long years by defeating the Steers. A defeat would hand TCU the title, providing the Horned Toads clip their arch-rivals, the SMU Mustangs, next Saturday.

Texas is trying to escape its most dismal season since 1938, and brings a 4-5 season record into the Turkey Day battle. The Longhorns rank third in the conference race at present with three wins and two losses.

On the other hand, the Aggies are enjoying their best season since 1941. They currently rank eighth in the nation on the Associated Press poll and have a fine 7-1-1 won-lost mark to show for the season. A&M paces league play with four wins, no losses and a tie.

The last time A&M had a chance to win the title was in 1943. That year the Cadets also boasted a 7-1-1 record going into the Thanksgiving bout. Texas won the game, 27-13, and the title.

In 1915 Texas had a great ball club. It had lost only one game all year, and that was a one-point decision to Oklahoma. Texas had slaughtered Rice earlier in the season, 59-0, and Rice had beaten the Aggies, 7-0. The two teams met on Kyle Field. A&M won it 13-0.

Both teams have made good use of the breaks so far this season. A&M has been the prime exponent of taking opponent's bobbles and turning them into touchdowns. The Cadets have intercepted 17 passes, recovered 23 fumbles and blocked five punts.

The Longhorns, too, have given a good account of themselves. They have recovered 23 fumbles and intercepted five aerials. Texas has an amazing record for cashing in on these mistakes. Of the 17 touchdowns scored by the Steers in Southwest Conference play, 11 resulted from fumbles, pass interceptions and poor punts.

Texas has been guilty of some costly errors themselves, having had 18 passes picked off and has lost 12 fumbles.

The game shapes up as a battle between Texas' talented Joe Clements and Walter Fondren and A&M's bevy of ground gaining backs. Clements is the leading Southwest Conference passer to date with 772 yards gained on 62 completions. He has passed for five TD's and his passes have averaged 12.5 yards per completion.

Menan Schriever, Texas' all-conference end candidate, leads the loop in pass receiving. Schriever has caught 19 passes for 262 yards.

Texas' super-sophomore, Fondren, is among the conference's best in several departments. He is third in ball carrying with 479 yards on 87 trips. Fondren has averaged 5.5 yards per carry.

Fondren is fifth in total offense with a total of 569 yards. He is fifth in punting with a 37.2 average, third in punt returns, third in kick off returns and third in pass receiving. His 41 points scored this season are good enough to rank him second in that department.

Aggie fullback Jack Pardee is fifth in SWC rushing with a total of 438 yards on 78 carries. Jimmy Wright, despite his poor percentage of pass completions, has hit his mark at crucial times. He has passed for six touchdowns and his tosses average 15.1 yards. His timely throwing won the SMU and

Rice games. In size the two teams are virtually equal, with the Longhorns holding a slight edge. On paper the Aggies rate the nod. A&M has the second best ground attack in the conference and has gained an average of 232.6 yards per game. Texas has the lowest average gain rushing in the league.

Texas boasts the conference's top passing average per game with 132.8 yards. A&M's is lowest at 46.1. A&M and Texas have gained

278.7 and 270.7 yards per game on offense respectively.

A&M has the best pass defense in the SWC, having allowed opponents only 72.2 yards per game.

"I don't know whether we're up or not. We'd better be though, I'll tell you that," said Coach Paul Bryant. "If we don't win it'll be the saddest Thanksgiving around here in a long time."

Both teams appear to be in fine physical shape for the game. Two A&M players are on the doubtful list. Tackle A. L. Simmons and end Bobby Marks were on the injury list this week.

Texas' Fondren is still nursing bruises received in the Baylor game and aggravated in the TCU game.

Joe Youngblood, right halfback, will probably not see action tomorrow, nor will fullback Larry George, who injured his knee in practice last week.

Charley Brewer, senior quarterback, has had considerable success in passing against A&M in the past two years. His long passes to Gilmer Spring and Carlton Massey two years ago at College Station set up two TD's. Brewer passed to Youngblood and Schriever last year for two touchdowns.

The Aggies finished up contact work Monday and put in 40 minutes polishing their offense and defense yesterday. Coach Bryant termed the final days of practice this week as "satisfactory."



HONORARY CAPTAINS—Aggie honorary captains for this season, shown with Coach Paul (Bear) Bryant, are the six seniors on the team. Left to right are Billy Pete Hudleston, Herb Wolf, Gene Henderson, George Johnson, Henry Clark and Donald Robbins.

An Open Letter To The Aggies

This Thursday A&M will possibly be in 50,000,000 living rooms. This Thanksgiving day we will have some 35,000 guests on our campus. Though each will come temporarily to see or to look at the ball game, they will take away with them a living impression of us.

This is not a plea for good behaviour, but a request that we be ourselves at our best.

We don't want to forget, in our haste or excitement, our traditional friendliness to everyone, or the need for courtesy toward strangers. We need no reminder that the rivalry between the University of Texas and A&M has always been sharp. But we must remember that the actions of each of us is a reflection upon A&M's honor.

If we can remember the rule of the "Three C's"—keep cool, keep calm, and keep collected—then each of us will have assisted in making this the greatest Turkey Day in A&M's history.

Not only will the eyes of the Southwest be upon us, but also those of the entire nation. So, it's up to us, Old Army. We can do it if we but try.

Scotty Parham
President, Student Senate
Allan Greer
President, Senior Class
Dick Howard
President, Junior Class
A. G. Newby
President, Sophomore Class
Neill Perry
Freshman Yell Leader

The Battalion

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Five Get FSA Achievement Awards

Five Faculty Distinguished Achievement Awards of \$500 each were presented yesterday during ceremonies held in Guion Hall. Dr. David H. Morgan presided.

The awards, established this year by the Former Students Association through its A&M Development Fund, went to Travis J. Parker, professor of geology; Robert L. Skrabanek, associate professor of rural sociology; Fred E. Ekfelt, professor of English; Wayne C. Hall, professor of plant physiology; and W. D. (Pete) Hardesty, business manager of student activities.

NOMINATIONS WERE submitted by faculty and students and selections were made by a faculty committee.

Parker, Ekfelt and Skrabanek were selected through teaching achievements; Hall, through the field of research; and Hardesty

through his cooperation with students in their extracurricular functions.

Plaques emblematic of the award were also awarded to the five men. The teaching award plaques read: "In recognition and appreciation of his ability, personality and methods which have resulted in distinguished achievements in the teaching and in the inspiration of his students."

The plaque for student relations read:

"In recognition and in appreciation of his unselfish and sympathetic interest in the welfare of individual students which has been helpful and inspiring."

THE RESEARCH PLAQUE read:

"In recognition and appreciation of his distinguished achievement in research performed in addition to his duties as a teacher."

W. L. Ballard of Longview, president of the FSA, made the presentation and O. T. Hotchkiss of Port Arthur, immediate past president, explained the program.

Parker's nomination read "His ability to interest his students in his subject and hold their interest throughout the term, while giving them a sound basis for their subsequent courses in Geology is outstanding."

Weather Today

CLOUDY

A slight cold front arrived early this morning cooling the area. Forecast is cloudy all day with winds from the northwest. Yesterday's high was 86 degrees and low 62 degrees. Readings at 10:30 a.m. were 61 degrees.

Skrabanek's dean said "He is the young man who took over a course which was in distress, made the boys like it, made them feel that they were getting a lot out of it, and at the same time did not permit it to become a 'grade point' course."

EKFELT'S NOMINATION stated "He holds his students to high requirements and at the same time stimulates them to extra work. He has a rare capacity of attracting students to personal conferences. Seldom is there found a professor who takes the extreme interest in his own field while at the same time maintaining an all-around interest in the knowledge that he feels is necessary to the students."

Hall was selected because his work is "recognized as the highest type of practical experiments. His interests revolve chiefly about the

effects of major environmental influences, such as temperature, light, and water, on the growth and reproduction of crop plants. As a teacher, he is recognized for the thoroughness and clarity of his presentation of highly technical material."

Hardesty's nomination and selection on the basis of individual student relationship declared "as Business Manager of Student Activities, he is directly responsible for the proper conduct of the business affairs of more than 200 student societies and clubs, besides many other activities. His advice and good judgement are sought by students of all classes."

THE FSA plans to increase the awards to \$1,000 for the presentation ceremonies next May for winners during the present school year.

Sarran's Condition Critical

James Sarran, sophomore student from Brownsville, who was injured in an accident Monday morning, was reported by authorities at St. Joseph's Hospital this morning still in critical condition. He had not regained consciousness this morning after spending a restless night, authorities said.

His parents arrived Monday night and are at his bedside. To help pay expenses, collections are being taken up throughout the campus. The Student Senate, with Wayne Young acting as coordinator, is sponsoring the collections from students. Money should be turned in to Young.

Another collection is being held by J. Gordon Gay, YMCA secretary, for faculty members and others who wish to make a contribution. Money should be sent to him at the YMCA.

Travis Bryan Jr. of Bryan donated \$500 to the fund this morning.

Waco F&R Club Hears Butler Talk

Dr. O. B. Butler, of the Animal Husbandry Department, spoke to the Waco Farm and Ranch Club last week on "The Influence of Conformation and Fatness on the Yield of Wholesale Cuts of Beef."

TWO STUB CHECKS

Students must show both student activities stub and I.D. card at both gate and ramp, said Pat Dial, business manager of the Athletic Department.

Reserve seat tickets will not be honored in the student section, he said.

World's Largest Bonfire Burns At 8

Ten days of work, sweat and blisters will go up in smoke tonight when senior yell leaders light the oil soaked Aggie bonfire at 8.

Main speakers for the occasion will be P. L. (Pinky) Downs, official college greeter; Jim Owens, assistant head coach; and the 1955-

56 yell leaders. A reading of the Last Corps Trip will follow the speeches. More than 10,000 persons are expected to be on hand to witness the burning of the world's largest bonfire.

Hundreds of students have worked either on the drill field stacking

logs or in the cutting area for the past ten days, in keeping with Aggie tradition. The bonfire symbolizes the burning desire of every A&M student to beat the University of Texas on Thanksgiving Day.

Advisor to the project has been

Lt. Col. Taylor Wilkins, assistant commandant. Paul Holladay, head yell leader, has been in charge of construction.

Armor units will guard the bonfire until time for the ceremony to begin. They also will pour the oil needed to ignite the huge logs.

The privilege of guarding Kyle Field was revoked by the Athletic Department yesterday because of the continued loss of property in

the area.

Wood for this year's bonfire was given by Dr. J. E. Marsh, head of the College Hospital and Dr. L. P. Gabbard of the Agricultural Economics and Sociology Department. The center pole, which is 60 feet in height, was donated by S. J.

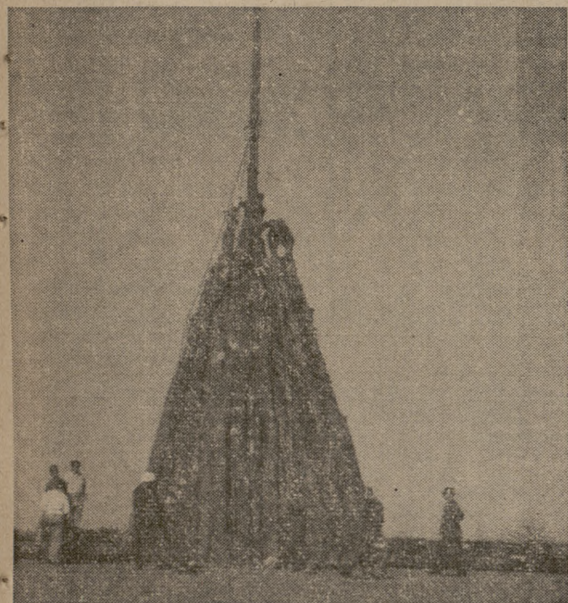
Buchanan of the Civil Engineering Department.

According to Holladay, this bonfire is larger than last year's. "It is not quite as tall," he said, "but it is bigger around."

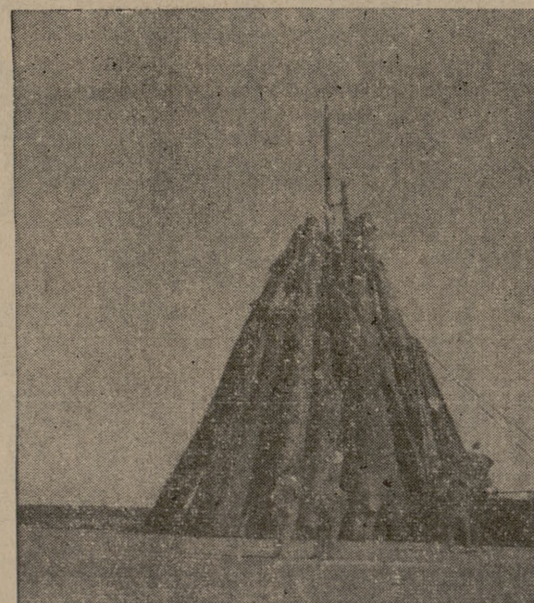
Excellent weather conditions have prevailed during the bonfire

period. This is the first time in about 20 years that it hasn't rained during the building of an Aggie bonfire.

Humble Oil Company's "Texas In Review" television newscast will carry a report on all phases of this year's bonfire.



FROM NOTHING—The bonfire, as it looked Saturday, was a puny little stack of logs. Although many students attended the Fish-Shorthorn game in Austin Saturday, work continued. Power saws were running from dawn to dark to keep ahead of the haulings.



IT GREW—By Sunday, the bonfire had grown to this size and was beginning to show resemblance to Aggie bonfires of the past. Trucks hauled logs all day Saturday and Sunday and cutting continued through Monday.

3 Aggies' Poems Accepted By NPA

Three students at A&M have had poems accepted for publication in the annual Anthology of College Poetry, according to Dennis Hartman, secretary of the National Poetry Association.

The poets and their poems are James M. LoCaste, senior from College View, "Soldier"; Oswald H. White, junior from Texas City, "Peace of the World"; and William R. Buckley, senior from Sherman, "Tehuacana Creek."

The Anthology is a compilation of poetry written by college men and women around the nation, representing every section of the country.



AND GREW—Monday, the bonfire had grown enough to be officially declared larger than last year's by Paul Holladay, head yell leader. Without the help of the weather man and several winch trucks, work would have been kept to a minimum.



AND GREW—Finishing touches were applied late yesterday afternoon as the Aggie bonfire grows to become the world's largest bonfire. Logs will be soaked with oil beginning at 5 this evening and will be ignited at 8 tonight.