

Ags Host UH Here Saturday



Lee Roy Caffey ... takes over at FB

Texas A&M's 68th football campaign opens here Saturday night when the Aggies entertain the nation's 11th ranked team, the Houston Cougars.

Kickoff time is 7:30 p.m. at Kyle Field.

Coach Jim Myers' Aggies have been rated a "dark horse" in the 1961 Southwest Conference race.

To prove a point, sports writers focus attention to A&M's experience, depth and most of all, improvement at quarterback and halfback—two sore spots in the A&M offense last season.

Houston To Be Gauge

The meeting with Houston will serve as a gauge to the Aggies' strength in the coming SWC chase. For Cougar Coach Hal Lahar has assembled a veteran club which will surely test the Cadets in all departments.

Houston plays an independent schedule, and received the 11th place ranking in one of the nation's better known magazines covering the college grid scene.

That the Aggies want to win their season's opener is reflected in what Captain Wayne Freiling

and Alternate Captain Wayland Simmons say.

Only One Bad Game

They tell of playing only one bad game last season—that against the Cougars when A&M lost the intersectional fracas, 17-0.

In no other contest were Myers' Aggies the least bit humiliated.

During the 1960 grind, the Aggies were picking up valuable experience and at the end of the season the majority of this year's returnees were in the lineup.

20 Veterans

Those veterans, all lettermen, include Ends Bobby Huntington, Pat Latham, Russell Hill, and Franklin Fisher; Tackles Simmons, Joe Eilers and Ben Krenek; Guards Freiling, Jim Harper, Jim Phillips, Keith Huggins and Walter LaGrone; Centers Jerry Hopkins and Jerry Jenkins; Quarterback Ronnie Brice; Halfbacks Bob Caskey, Jim Murphy and Ronnie Ledbetter; and Fullbacks Sam Byer and Lee Roy Caffey.

While these holdovers form the

nucleus of the Aggie team, it took the arrival of several sophomores, a quarterback who has not played a down of college football and a junior college transfer to mold the Cadets into a possible conference threat.

Keller Is Field General

Jim Keller is the field general with no experience since an all-state rating in high school two years ago. However, he has shown lots of grid savvy and today owns a first team jersey.

Running close behind Keller is John Erickson, a transfer from Tarleton State who is expected to lend aid to A&M's passing attack. Brice presently is on the third string.

The most promising sophomores are at left halfback where George Hargett and Jim Linnstaedter form formidable one-two all-the-way threats; at center where big Ray Kubala (236) has ousted Hopkins from his first team spot; and at fullback where Jerry Rogers has proved the sensation of fall training.

Rogers has teamed with Caffey to drop Byer to third string.

Caffey is listed as the star with Rogers on the second string.

Byer Is Still Good

Myers notes that in the past for fullback, it has not been play by Byer, but outstanding workout performances by Caffey and Rogers which prompted coaching staff to realign rankings.

Byer last year was Aggie's leading ground gainer with 1,000 yards on 105 carries in 10 games. Byer did not lose a game all year.

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Roger's Last Game To Be Televised

By The Associated Press BALTIMORE — Roger Maris couldn't have reached the threshold of breaking one of baseball's most cherished records, Babe Ruth's 60 home runs, in an atmosphere more unfavorable than Baltimore.

The official story of the New York Yankee's effort is scheduled to end here Wednesday night. Maris arrived Monday with 58 homers and three games against the Baltimore Orioles remaining in the decreed 154 for the record.

Mixed Emotions

Baltimoreans are bound to have mixed emotions every time Maris comes to bat starting with a doubleheader Tuesday. This is Ruth's home town and Baltimore baseball fans hate the Yankees more than any other American League foe.

Maris isn't in a confident mood himself. Baltimore's Memorial Stadium and two B-B pitchers account for his uneasiness.

Manager Luman Harris of the Orioles has nominated left-hander Steve Barber and right-hander Skinny Brown to start pitching against the Yankees Tuesday night. Milt Pappas, a right-hander, is the Oriole choice for Wednesday night.

Maris Wants Excused

Maris was going to ask Manager Ralph Houk to excuse him from batting against the south-paw Barber.

"He's rough on me," said Maris. The Yankee added: "I'm bushed and I can sure use the rest."

Houk nixed in advance any time off for Maris until the Yankees clinch the pennant. They are two victories away from it.

Maris not only has had trouble against Barber's pitches, but the other Oriole pitchers have been no bargain for him either.

.133 Average in Baltimore

In 15 official times at bat in five games in Memorial Stadium, Maris has only two hits for a puny .133 average. Neither of the hits was a homer. He did knock one out of Memorial Stadium on July 17, but it didn't count because the game was called at the end of 3 1/2 innings because of rain.

His only official homer off an Oriole pitcher was knocked at Yankee Stadium May 21 against Chuck Estrada, who is not slated to face him during this series.

HR Territory Is Tough

Memorial Stadium's home run territory is one of the toughest in the league. Although it is only 309 feet down the foul lines, the 14-foot high concrete stands curve sharply to 382 feet.

Between the 382-foot marks, there is a seven-foot wire fence with dead center 410 feet from home plate.

Mickey Mantle, Maris' teammate, has been able to knock four

of his 53 homers this season in Memorial Stadium. And two of them were off Barber. But Mantle is a switch hitter while Maris sticks to the left side of the plate.

Mantle Has Given Up

Mantle has given up hope of matching Ruth's record in the 154 decisions that Commissioner Ford Frick ruled will prevail because that was the season's schedule in 1927 when Babe hit 60.

The schedule this year is 162. Wednesday night's game will be available on television sets throughout the nation except in major league cities. The American Broadcasting Co. announced it will carry the game 8 p.m. EDT on 150 stations.

The Wednesday game actually is the 155th of the season. The Yanks have played one tie—as they also did in 1927 when Ruth set his record.

Coach Myers Will Speak

Athletic Director and Head Football Coach Jim Myers will be guest speaker at the regular monthly meeting of the Brazos County A&M Club on Wednesday night at 7:30 p.m.

Coach Myers will discuss the upcoming football season and the prospects for his Texas Aggie squad.

The meeting is open to all A&M Ex-Students and their guests. It is a stag affair, to be held at the Brazos County A&M Clubhouse on Ehlinger Drive in Bryan. The meeting will be preceded by the customary meal at 7:30.

X-Rays Reveal Phil's Mahaffey Has Skull Fracture

CINCINNATI (AP) — X rays taken Monday disclosed that Art Mahaffey, Philadelphia Phils pitcher, suffered a skull fracture over his right eye when hit by a thrown ball in Sunday's game with the Cincinnati Reds.

Dr. George Ballou, Reds' physician, said, however, that the young hurler, a native of Cincinnati, "is doing very nicely." He said Mahaffey probably will be hospitalized three or four days.

Mahaffey was hurt in the ninth inning of the game when he went into second base standing up on an attempted sacrifice by Bobby Malkmus. Cincinnati pitcher Jim Brosnan threw to shortstop Eddie Kasko to retire Mahaffey, but Kasko's throw from only a few feet away hit the Phil hurler over the eye.

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