

Ags Meet Ponies In A&M Corral

The Aggies get another look at wide-open offense and bruising defense Saturday afternoon when they host the SMU Mustangs on Kyle Field at 1:30. Both teams were pre-season

picks for second division berths in the SWC, but the Ponies have earned themselves a 2-1 record with wins over Texas and Rice and a loss to Texas Tech. Their Tech loss came in the closing minutes of a see-saw battle, as did the Aggies' two weeks before. SMU is 3-2-1 for the season.

The Aggies, sporting a 2-5 season mark without a conference win in four starts, have been plagued all season with a lack of size, speed and ability. Now they have accumulated the longest injured list in the SWC.

Out for the season are Dan Westerfield and Jack Pyburn. Those sidelined for at least one more game are Grady Allen, John Reynolds, Lloyd Curington and Bill Barker.

Added to these are the walking wounded which include, to one degree or another, the majority of Aggie gridgers. John Nilson has been playing for weeks with a broken hand, Joe Wellborn has

a broken thumb and a number of other players have leg injuries. "But," says Aggie Head Coach Gene Stallings, "morale isn't a problem and I think it will be a good, close ball game."

The professional oddsmakers have given the Mustangs a seven-point nod going into the contest, putting the Aggies in the familiar role of upset-seekers.

Ken McLean continues his record-setting pace in pass receiving, and Harry Ledbetter will be at the quarterback post to handle the field general chores. Defensive standouts Jerry Kachtik, Joe Wellborn and John Nilson will also be on duty to try and corral the Ponies.

SMU's offense features an "I" formation with two split ends, one flanker back and one back in the slot. Director of this option-oriented setup is quarterback Mac White, a 5-10, 175-pound junior who excels both running and passing.

Every member of the Pony backfield can run the hundred in less than 10 seconds flat, with wingback John Roderick the team's quickest individual at 9.3.

Evidence of the team's explosiveness was shown during the TU game last Saturday when they were at least 23 yards from the goal on every scoring play. That closest score was a field goal.

SMU Sports Publicity Director Junior Eldredge says, "The Mustangs are the kind of team that can lose eight yards on a second down, and on the next play make up the eight and add 10 more."

Coach Stallings described the Aggie opponents as a team that places more emphasis on the element of surprise than on perfect execution.

Stallings said the Aggies' preparation for Saturday's game consisted mainly of working over game plans in sweat clothes. For the second straight week, the Aggies had no contact work as a precaution against injuries.

SMU, likewise, didn't work out in pads during the week, feeling that this deep in the season contact work shouldn't be necessary.

In the SMU backfield Saturday will be White at quarterback, Jim Hagle at tailback, Roderick the wingback and Mike Tabor at fullback.



FROM THE Sidelines

By Larry R. Jerden

"I've got spurs that jingle, jangle, jingle . . .", or so the Fish are singing these days. Yep, its Mustang corraling time again, and this year it may turn out to be quite a chore for the hard-hit Aggies.

A year ago the Mustangs were doing good to field a team. A lot of the boys that are making it big for them this year were ineligible, and the ones that weren't were injured. Something like this year's A&M team.

But the Ponies have got their top men in action. Health isn't a problem, neither is morale nor lack of the prime football ingredients: size, speed and ability. Not that they're invulnerable to physical harm. It just doesn't seem to slow them up very much. Take Dennis Partee for example.

Partee is a 6-2, 190-pound sophomore that handles the SMU kicking chores. So far this season he's hit 12 of 12 extra points and three of eight field goals for a total of 21 points.

After planting his foot into the pigskin on the opening kick-off against TU last week, he was hit in the face by a Longhorn player's face bar. Such was the impact of the blow, his face was instantly bloodied and teeth were knocked in every direction. If this bothered him, no one in the stands, or on the gridiron, could tell it from his kicking.

He went back into the game often enough after that to make all but the last kick-off, kick four extra points and make one of three attempted field goals. He's a pretty dedicated player. The Aggies have won three of their last four SMU games, something they can't claim about too many opponents.

The SMU record of 3-2-1 for

the season looks even more impressive when one looks at whom they've defeated . . . and with whom that tie was.

They battled Purdue 14-14 when the Big 10 team was number one in the nation, beat Rice as expected and upset Miami and TU.

Phil Scoggin, the remarkable Aggie punter, is rolling along about a yard per kick over his last season's average. He wound up the '64 campaign with a 39.8 yard average and has a 41.7 mark so far this year.

Scoggin says he'll listen to pro offers if they're good enough and quick enough. They'd better hurry, though, because the talented senior has a Marine commission waiting for him in January. He would accept a pro offer and turn down the commission, though that would automatically make him a private in the reserves.

Ed Breeding had his 22nd birthday Wednesday. He's a man of many positions this year, having played middle guard, offensive end, defensive end and, against Arkansas, offensive tackle.

Aggie basketball will get underway Dec. 2 with a home game against Trinity University. The Cadet roundballers continue after their opener with three straight home games against Southwest Texas (Dec. 6), Cougar High (Dec. 9) and Memphis State (Dec. 13). The Fish open their season when they tangle with the Memphis State frosh the night of the varsity game.

Handballers Name H. Diaz President

Aggie handballers returned to action Wednesday night with the first meeting of the A&M Handball Club.

The club elected Hector Diaz president, Jim McAfee vice-president and Glynn Donaho secretary-treasurer.

A post-Thanksgiving open tournament was planned with trophies and prizes to be awarded. Matches with TU, Rice and other opponents were also discussed.

The handball ladder was also rejuvenated. Interested players may place their names and addresses in the challenge box in DeWare Field House.

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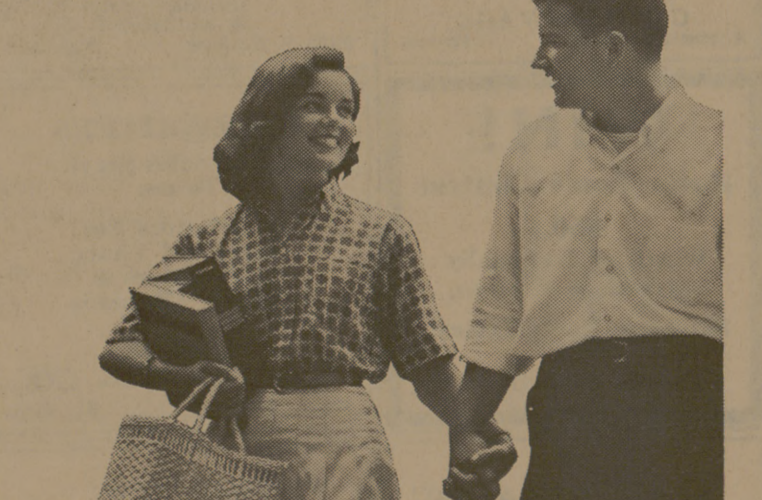
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