

The Houston Astros drew 2,151,470 fans for their first season in the Astrodome. It was the second best figure in baseball.

### Baseball, Books Attracted Scoggin

Back when he was a sophomore at Denison High, Phil Scoggin was a candidate for the quarterback position.

"My coach, Charley Jackson, told me a quarterback should be able to run, pass and kick. Well, I couldn't run or pass very well so I decided to learn to kick."

That he did learn to kick is evidenced by his current standing among Southwest Conference punters.

His first help in punting came from Denison High assistant coach Bill Long, who had been a top flight punter for the Oklahoma Aggies.

Scoggin didn't stay at quarterback. He wound up as a guard-linebacker but he still did the punting.

When he was graduated he accepted a football scholarship at Murray Junior College in Tishomingo, Okla. He was a linebacker and punter there one year but after the fall semester he decided to transfer to Texas A&M.

"I made the move on my own. I wanted a good education and knew I could get it at A&M. Too, I was interested in baseball and knew that A&M was a top flight baseball school."

Scoggin will get his degree in accounting in January but he never did see any action in baseball. "I just wasn't good enough to make it."

Annually at Aggieland, the military corps and the civilian students clash in a football game called the "12th Man Bowl." It usually is staged between Thanksgiving and Christmas. Back in the fall of 1963, Scoggin joined the corps for the annual battle and he boomed one punt that went slightly more than 80 yards.

Some varsity football coaches were in the stands and that kick made them seek out Scoggin after the game to see if he might be interested in punting for the Aggies.

Last year he kicked 73 times for a 39.8 average. But he had two blocked and they were costly, against LSU and TCU.

Against LSU in this year's opener, he had another blocked. But, it simply was because the blocking broke down. Since that time the line had kept the foes out and Scoggin has been booming the ball downfield.

"I have a lot of confidence in the line now," he says. "I'm getting good snaps and I don't worry about someone breaking through the line."



#### MEET THE PRESS

Aggie Head Coach Gene Stallings emphasizes a point during his weekly press conference in the Lettermen's Lounge. The mentor keeps pressmen up to date on the team's progress each week with insights on his experiences as a first-year head coach.

### Royal-LSU Link Rumors Discounted In Louisiana

NEW ORLEANS, La. (AP) — Reports of an alleged secret

drive by Louisiana State University alumni to get rid of football Coach Charlie McClendon were squashed Tuesday by persons in position to know.

The reports, circulated here following back-to-back defeats of LSU's team, asserted McClendon would be fired and either Darrell Royal of Texas or former professional quarterback Y. A. Tittle hired to succeed him.

A New Orleans sportscaster, Hap Glaudi reported Gov. John McKeithen offered Royal a con-

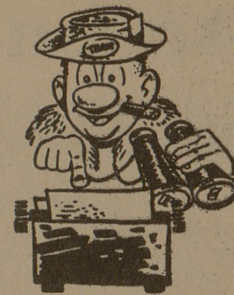
tract to coach at LSU for 10 years and \$1 million.

An aide to McKeithen, who currently is on a trade mission in Argentina, said the governor "is completely unaware of this" report.

Tittle, from his home in Palo Alto, Calif., said he knew nothing of the reports.

LSU officials said they "won't dignify" the reports by commenting.

McClendon is in the first year of a five-year contract at an annual salary of \$21,500. He became head coach in 1962 when Paul Dietzel went to Army.



FROM THE

## Sidelines

By Larry R. Jerden

The big question among Aggie grid fans at the moment is who's gonna start at quarterback against Rice Saturday. Only one man can make the decision, and at his weekly press conference Tuesday, he wasn't saying.

Aggie mentor Gene Stallings said, however, that the decision to start either Harry Ledbetter or Eddie McKaughan depended on their performances in practice this week.

In comparing the two, he said: "Ledbetter has been progressing well, is a fine leader and very competitive. He threw better in spring practice and this fall (than McKaughan), but of course McKaughan threw better in the SMU game."

"McKaughan has more speed on the ground, but Ledbetter is a tougher rusher. Both the boys have been practicing at the position, but Saturday was the first chance we've had to go with another quarterback."

In the bad news department, Stallings gave word that Bill Sallee, the starting wingback, would be out for the Rice game and possibly for the Turkey Day affair. He suffered a thigh injury in the SMU game, though it wasn't discovered till Sunday.

Lloyd Curington may be back Saturday, but Stallings doesn't want to rush him back into action too soon. He was running in practice, but still seemed a little stiff.

Line-up changes for this week include Tom Murrell to weak guard on offense, Bob Barnett to middle guard and Don Koehn to weak tackle.

The coach's idea of football strategy is to win on the ground, passing when necessary to complement the ground game.

"I hate to go into the game with the idea of winning in the air," he said. "I try to move on the ground. To throw and throw... well, there's nothing wrong with it, it's just the way I believe."

Ground minded or not, the Aggies are blessed with their most prolific receiver in history.

Dude McLean now owns A&M records for most passes in a game (11), most yardage received in a game (160), most passes caught in a season (46), most passes receiving yardage in a season (675) most passes caught in a career (59) and most passing yardage caught in a career (690). All this with two games to go!

And an ole Army "Howdy" Jim Butler, the new sports editor of the Bryan Eagle. Jim fills these columns two years ago at the Batt sports editor and since has been working on the staff at the Beaumont Enterprise.

Then there's the ever-present rumors of DKR getting offered from certain ex-winning football schools. The latest is a reported \$1 million offer from LSU. But persons "in position to know" say there's nothing to it.

These rumors, circulated by newsmen in hope of a scoop, do nothing for the coaches involved or their teams. Royal has done a fine job for the Sips, and Gene Stallings describes him as "an asset to the Southwest Conference."

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