

Ags Regroup For SMU

"If it wasn't for tape and bandages, we couldn't play."

The quote belongs to Texas A&M Football Coach Gene Stallings.

"We are hurt, sore, tired and beat up," Stallings said matter-of-factly in a Tuesday press conference. "Mentally, we'll be ready to play SMU, but I don't know about the physical part."

At the same time, Stallings voiced doubts about the injury bugaboo in the Mustang corral. He was talking about the ailing Jim Hagle, a fleet Pony halfback, and Pat Gibson, a defensive back.

"If I were guessing, I'd bet Hagle will play," Stallings remarked. "Crutches are pretty easy to come by."

The Aggie coach had praise for the Maroon's offensive line.

"Our offensive line played better against Arkansas than against Baylor," he said. "At least the players graded better."

Stallings cited tackle "Mo" Moorman, Kovar and guard Don Koehn for good showing. All graded 70 or better."

About Moorman, who had the problem of staving off Arkansas' All American Loyd Phillips on defense, drew further comment from Stallings.

"Moorman graded well in the Arkansas game," he said. "Phillips didn't move him out blocking, and Phillips didn't make a heck of a lot of tackles either."

Somebody asked the coach if opponents run the other side of the line much in an effort to evade Moorman's maulings.

"When they run from 'Mo' to Rolph Krueger (225-pound soph from Bryan) they are not picking an easy one to run against."

Getting back to the game at hand, Stallings said the Ponies have good personnel and team speed, as well as a 3-0 loop record.

"I'd say their strong suit is the fact that they have a lot of sen-

iors playing," he noted. "Mac White is a real good quarterback and he likes to run the ball more than Jon Brittenum of Arkansas. That Jerry Levias is a dangerous

receiver and a good passer too." "SMU has a pretty good offense," he added with emphasis. "Their personnel is as good as anybody's in the league."

Stallings revealed no plans for changes in the Aggie lineup against the Methodists. "We're playing the best we've got," he said.

Quarterback Edd Hargett, A&M's sophomore hurler, was lauded for showing a lot of "cool" against the Porkers.

"I thought about taking him out late in the game," Stallings remarked. "But he was not doing a bad job. I didn't want to hurt his confidence. Hargett did a good job of keeping his poise although our receivers missed many of his passes."

Saturday's another day, however, and the Aggie targets are no doubt putting glue on their hands to make the ball stick against SMU.

Upwards of 60,000 fans are expected in the Cotton Bowl to see if the Aggies will regain their winning ways or if the Mustangs steamroll closer to the Southwest Conference championship.



HARGETT SETS RECORD

Despite the Aggies' Saturday loss to Arkansas, quarterback Edd Hargett established an A&M passing record, chalking up 1,192 yards in seven games to break the old record set by Charles Milstead in 1958.

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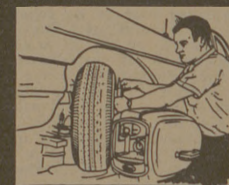
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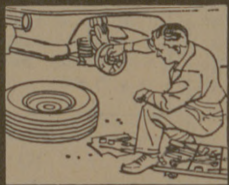
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