

Stallings Wary Of Pony Passing

By RICHARD CAMPBELL
Aggie Coach Gene Stallings expressed concern Tuesday at his weekly press conference about the high octane offense of the SMU Mustangs, who the Ag-

gies tangle with Saturday afternoon in Dallas.

"I'm really worried because they are the kind of team that moves the ball well on everybody," Stallings said. "We will be facing the best passing attack in the nation and we plan a few surprises to help stop it."

The Aggies limped out of their 25-22 loss to Arkansas with more injuries to key personnel. Jack Whitmore will be out for the year with strained knee ligaments, Tommy Maxwell will miss practice this week with a badly bruised leg, Harvey Aschenbeck will not practice because of his knee, and All-American linebacker Bill Hobbs will miss practice and possibly the SMU game with a recurring back injury. Larry Stegent (shoulder), Barney Harris (leg), and Bob Long (shoulder) will all miss contact work. Jimmy Adams also has an undetermined injury to his wrist. Stallings singled out Mike DeNiro, Lynn Odom, Edd Hargett, and Bob Long for their play in the loss to Arkansas.

Coach Stallings would not elaborate, but said only that new personnel would see action on the A&M defensive unit Saturday in the Cotton Bowl.

When asked about the difference in the Aggie pass defense this year compared to last year's

team, Stallings pointed to the better quality of passers that A&M has faced last this year.

"Last year we picked off 27 passes in 10 games and this year we have only 9 in seven games," Stallings said. "I believe that the passers are getting better and that they are throwing the short pass more than they used to. When you throw the short pass, he continued, it is less likely to be intercepted than a long one."

"Overall, we have given up about the same amount of yardage on defense but we haven't been getting those interceptions

and turnovers as often. Arkansas said that our pass rush was the best they had faced all year so we must be rushing the thrower better.

"I think the real problem lies in the fact that we have to play a zone defense against the pass because we do not have the speed to play a man-to-man. When you do this, you have to drop back seven men and rush just four. The bad thing about a man-to-man is that when a defensive man gets beat, it usually means a touchdown."

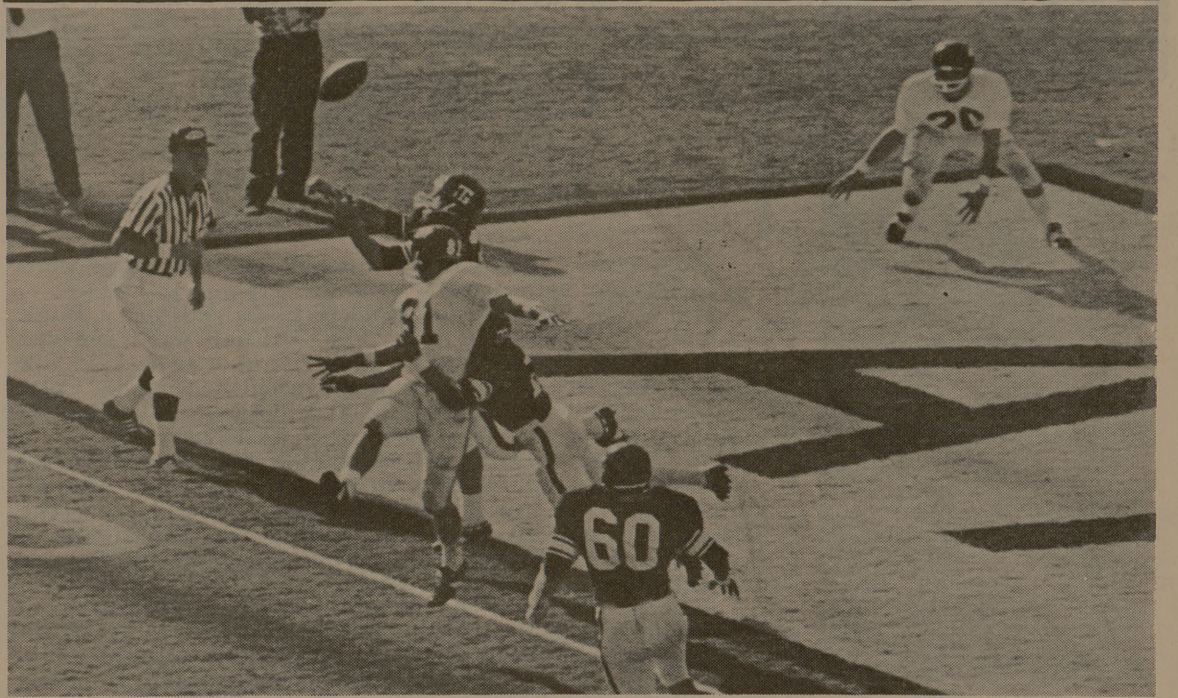
SMU Quarterback Chuck Hixson is the nation's leading thrower with 195 completions in 341 attempts and is expected to hit the airways heavily Saturday against the Ags. Also in the Ponia's arsenal is the third leading rusher in the conference, Mike Richardson, who has gained 565 yards in 124 carries for a 4.6 average.

The leading receiver for the Mustangs is dangerous Jerry Levias, the national leader with 61 catches for 892 yards. He is followed by Ken Fleming with 436 yards on 42 receptions and Richardson with 32 for 375 yards.

"We respect Hixson and Levias highly," Stallings said. "He throws real well and with the five receivers they send out, he usually hits someone quick. And Levias is just as dangerous after he catches the ball.

The Aggies had a good workout Monday according to Stallings and Stegent was running well.

"I think we will probably have a stronger rushing attack for this game than in the past because all of our key players have almost healed," he said.



WATCH THE BALL

Tom Sooy (tackling) and Ross Brubacher (going for the ball) combined to stop Arkansas on this two-point extra point try in the third quarter. Brubacher intercepted but could not return the extra point attempt. Going over to defend for the Aggies is Buster Adams (60) while the Arkansas receiver looks for the ball. (Photo by W. R. Wright)

Kansas, Tenn. Top Teams For Cotton Bowl

DALLAS, Tex. (AP) — Cotton Bowl officials were reported Tuesday to be considering Kansas and Penn State, both undefeated, and once-tied Tennessee as prime choices for the visiting spot in the Cotton Bowl New Year's Day.

Official invitations are forbidden by the National Collegiate Athletic Association until the Monday before a team plays its final game or on the third Monday of November, whichever falls first.

The Dallas Times Herald said the three teams were on the most wanted list even though Kansas, Penn State and Tennessee are being heavily courted by other bowls.

Razorback Back-Of-Week

Arkansas quarterback Bill Montgomery won this week's Associated Press Back-of-the-Week award by a margin any political candidate would envy — it was a landslide.

Montgomery's campaign platform was simple: He went out and passed the Texas Aggies silly in the second half, completing 16 of 20 in the final two quarters to rally the Razorbacks to a 25-22 victory.

The slick Hog sophomore finished the game with 20 comple-

tions in 28 attempts for 258 yards and two touchdowns.

While Montgomery was dazzling the Aggies, Texas defensive tackle Leo Brooks was getting acquainted with SMU's Chuck Hixson, the nation's leading passer.

Brooks led a four-man Longhorn rush that dropped Hixson for losses on eight occasions. Brooks was in on four of them, including one where he reached out and grabbed Hixson from a horizontal position.

Brooks edged teammate Charles Speyrer for the AP's Lineman-of-the-Week honor.

Montgomery admitted he played better against the Aggies than in previous games, but he was so elated over his protection he was repeating himself.

"Our receivers did a tremendous job of getting open," he said. "And I had tremendous protection, tremendous protection. That is what makes the passing game."

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