

Stallings Says TCU 'Fine Team'

By Richard Campbell
Battalion Sports Editor

Yesterday, the senior starters on the Texas Aggie football team got the day off from practice to regroup after their disappointing 13-9 loss to the Texas Tech Red Raiders in Lubbock Saturday night.

"They were beat up and sore and had a lot of contact against Tech," Coach Gene Stallings said Tuesday at his weekly press conference.

"It doesn't mean that we're necessarily going to work more with the sophomores and juniors, we're just giving them a deserved rest."

Stallings was generally pleased with the Aggies' performance against the Red Raiders with the exception of some costly mistakes.

"The kids played pretty well," he said. "The line blocked better than it has in some time, we just got some of those silly penalties like pass interference and piling on and those three pass interceptions."

"Of course, I'm disappointed that we lost the game, but many of the players graded well after

viewing the films. It was the second game in a row that we have rushed for 200 or more yards."

Players singled out by Stallings on the offensive unit were Andy Philley at strong tackle, who "played his best game;" Jim Parker at weak guard, who "had one of the better games he has had; Ross Brubacher at tight end, Larry Stegent at tailback and Marc Black at fullback all "played well."

For the defensive unit Stallings had particular praise.

"You know that our defensive team has given up only about one touchdown per game for the last three games," he said. "And that's not bad effort."

The Aggies held the Red Raiders three times on third and one situation and the pass defense performed ably, picking off two passes themselves.

"I guess our defense is maturing faster than our offense," he said. "Of course, defense is easier to play than offense, because if you have 11 real hard-nosed players they can play good defense. But offense requires something extra to do well."

"On defense, the Odom brothers, Lynn and Van, are fine football players. Billy Bob Barnett played pretty well and Jim Piper always does a good job. Steve Luebbehusen was in on 15 tackles and he didn't even start."

Stallings admitted that there is really nothing to be done to correct the kinds of mistakes caused by penalties.

"I don't know what to do," he said. "Penalties are a hard thing to correct. It would be easy to correct if it was the same player over and over, but it isn't."

"I know the answer is not taking out the player who commits the violation. If Larry Stegent fumbles or Buster Adami holds on defense you don't jerk them out."

"I may not be smart, but I'm not that stupid," Stallings joked.

Again the Aggies escaped without any serious injuries, with only Jimmy Adams and Lynn Odom due to miss any practice sessions. Adams suffered a thigh injury and Odom has a muscle pull at the back of his knee but both are expected to be ready for Saturday's clash with Texas Christian.

Speaking of TCU, the Frogs are favored by five points and

Stallings thought that estimate was about right. This year's seniors have never lost to TCU but Stallings thought that they are the best TCU team they've had since 1964.

"They have a fine football team for not winning any games," he said. "Of course, they have a tough schedule. It would be hard for anyone in the nation to win against Purdue, Ohio State, and Arkansas."

"As far as their personnel goes, that Judy (soph Steve) is a fine quarterback. I don't know if Bulaich (halfback Norm) will be ready against us but he is a fine runner."

Jimmy Sheffield again drew praise from Stallings for his punting performance against the Raiders. He punted six times for a 45.5 average and has raised his overall average for the year to 40.7 on 34 kicks.

Alfred F. Pisano Jr will coach the U. S. Military Academy lacrosse team next season. He succeeds James F. Adams, now lacrosse coach at Pennsylvania.



HARDWAY FOR NO GAIN
Sophomores Van Odom and Steve Luebbehusen combined to drop Tech's Danny Harway for no gain early in the third quarter. Odom intercepted a pass in the second quarter and returned it for 28 yards. Luebbehusen was in on 15 tackles for his best performance of the year. (Sports Photo by Mike Wright)

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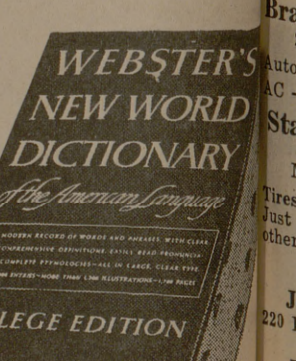
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