

Razorbacks' Strength Basically A Mystery

By Richard Campbell
Battalion Sports Editor

Coach Gene Stallings, although visibly more relaxed after Saturday's 24-0 whitewashing of the Baylor Bears, was apprehensive when talk turned to the Arkansas Razorbacks, the Aggies' foes this week.

"I really don't know how good Arkansas is," Stallings said Tuesday in his weekly press conference, "but I'm afraid that they are really good."

"It would not be fair to say that they have not been tested this year," he said, "because they were for a while against both Baylor and TCU, but I would say strong team."

The Baylor win, only the second in six games for the Aggies this year, was discussed by Stallings in a tone similar to other press conferences. The impression was that the players were not really playing harder than they

have in the past but rather that they managed to stay away from those costly mistakes which have plagued them in the past.

"We got some interceptions (four) which helped us," Stallings said, "and our punt returns were big ones for us."

"We made more big plays in this game but I wouldn't say that it was our best defensive effort. I would say that we are a better football team than we have been at any time this year."

"If I had to pick out one thing which we did better, it was to throw them for more losses than we have," he said. "They were forced into more long yardage situations and that helped us."

Again the Aggie defense, though not playing spectacularly as they have in the past, did perform with

the consistency they have shown in the last five games. It was the first time this season that A&M has held an opponent scoreless and the first time since the TCU game of 1967 when the Aggies won 20-0. Several players received praise for their play against the Bears with end Mike DeNiro and safety Dave Elmendorf getting special note.

"DeNiro played pretty well and we got to the passer more with him in there," Stallings said, "and that Elmendorf is a real football player—he has not had a bad game."

Others on the defensive unit winning praise were the Odom brothers, Lynn and Van, in the center of the line. Jim Piper, who probably had one of his best games at defensive end, Steve Luebbenhusen, starting at rover for the first time, David Hoot who is improving every week, and Buster Adams, the defensive signal caller and linebacker.

Stallings also stressed the intangible factors that figure into the game of football when discussing the upcoming game with the Razorbacks in Fayetteville.

"They (Arkansas) were down when they played Baylor and

Baylor gave them a scare," he said. "But they'll be up for us. It's their homecoming game, they've had three weeks to get ready for us, and it's going to be on regional television, so they'll have plenty of incentive Saturday."

What Stallings meant about the Razorbacks having three weeks to prepare for their meeting with the Aggies was their open date after their game with Baylor and then a non-conference clash with Wichita State last week, which they won handily.

Bill Montgomery, the Razorbacks' passing whiz, and Chuck Dieus, their talented split end, are both question marks for this week's game but Stallings thought that they might see action.

"Both of them were suited up last week against Wichita State and both participated in the pregame drills," he said, "so I imagine that they'll both be ready."

Linebacker Cliff Powell, a 6-1, 210-pounder, was picked out by Stallings as a real fine player. He is the defensive captain for the Razorbacks and is the leader in tackles and assists. Fullback Bruce Maxwell (6-1, 218) was

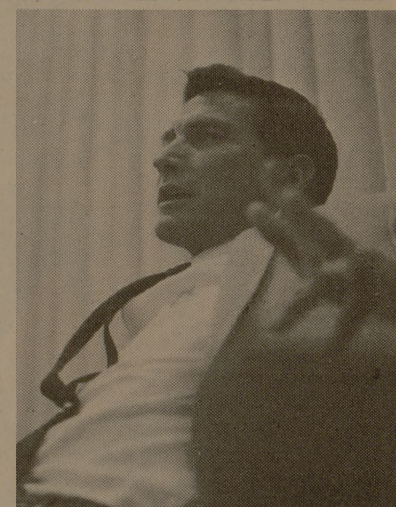
also picked out along with tailback Billy Burnett (6-0, 185).

"They have a big middle linebacker (Powell) who is a fine player," Stallings said, "and their fullback (Maxwell) is outstanding and Burnett gives great effort on every play."

"Their offensive line will average close to 230 pounds and they

block well. Their defensive team is also outstanding."

The Aggies came out of the Baylor clash with a rash of injuries and at this stage are not in good shape physically. Monday, Larry Stegent, Andy Phillely, Robin Davis, and Winston Beam all missed practice and six others couldn't have practiced full speed.



STALLINGS

When the Houston Astros had finished their June home stand they had turned in 26 victories in their last 32 home games.

Can-Am Climax Set For Nov. 9

International road racing careens toward a grand climax for 1969 in the Nov. 9 running of the Texas International Canadian-American Challenge Cup 210-miler on a new multi-million dollar super speedway here. The final race of the 1968 Can-Am caravan produced the most fireworks, and this easily could happen again.

Last year this continent-spanning junket reached the end of the line at the Stardust Grand Prix in Las Vegas, which dripped drama from the moment the SCCA's big Group 7 sports cars were flagged into action.

Denis Hulme, the winner, was fortunate to avoid a multi-car accident on the pace lap that was triggered when Mario Andretti's Lola Ford rubbed fenders with Bruce McLaren's MK-8B Chevrolet. When the smoke for this drifted away on the desert breeze, Chris Amon has been knocked from the race 200 yards after launching a new 6.2 liter blood-red Ferrari 612 on its maiden junket.

Motschenbacher walked away with minor burns.

McLaren was forced to pit several times for body repairs and with them went his chances to nose out Hulme in a point-fund scramble for the series crown which he'd won in 1967. Mark Donohue, who also had a chance to win the fat Can-Am set going into that finale, didn't complete the pace lap.

Then in the fateful closing moments of the race, Jim Hall, the famed owner-designer-driver from Midland, tangled with Lothar Motschenbacher's Chevrolet going into turn one at 150 miles per hour, flipped and landed upside down in the desert. Jim's injuries included two leg fractures, a dislocated jaw and burns.

Ebrom Has His Happiest Night

The happiest day of Ed Ebrom's life came when a Texas A&M football coach offered him a scholarship. Well... maybe the second happiest, because the Karnes City sophomore was about as happy as you can get after intercepting two passes and returning one for a touchdown in A&M's 24-0 victory over Baylor.

"It's about time," Ebrom said in a jubilant Aggie dressing room as his teammates ribbed him. One teammate sent a young fan over to ask Ebrom, "Are you the guy who put Karnes City on the map?" "That's me," Ebrom beamed.

The performance by the 5-10, 180-pound defensive back came as no surprise to A&M coaches. Ebrom stepped into a starting berth on the first day of spring training and has been there since.

He had played every down on defense until suffering an injury in the fourth quarter against TCU. At first it was feared that he had a cracked collarbone which would have put him on the shelf for the rest of the season. Fortunately it turned out to be nothing more than a calcium deposit which had been chipped away, and Ebrom was back in pads for the Baylor game.

"It seemed like Baylor worked on my side a lot," Ebrom said. "I guess they were testing to see how much the injury affected me." As Baylor discovered, a little pain can't stop Ebrom.

"Ed's an emotional football player," coach Gene Stallings says. "That's the kind I like. Ed's getting better every week. He's going to be a real good one before he's through."

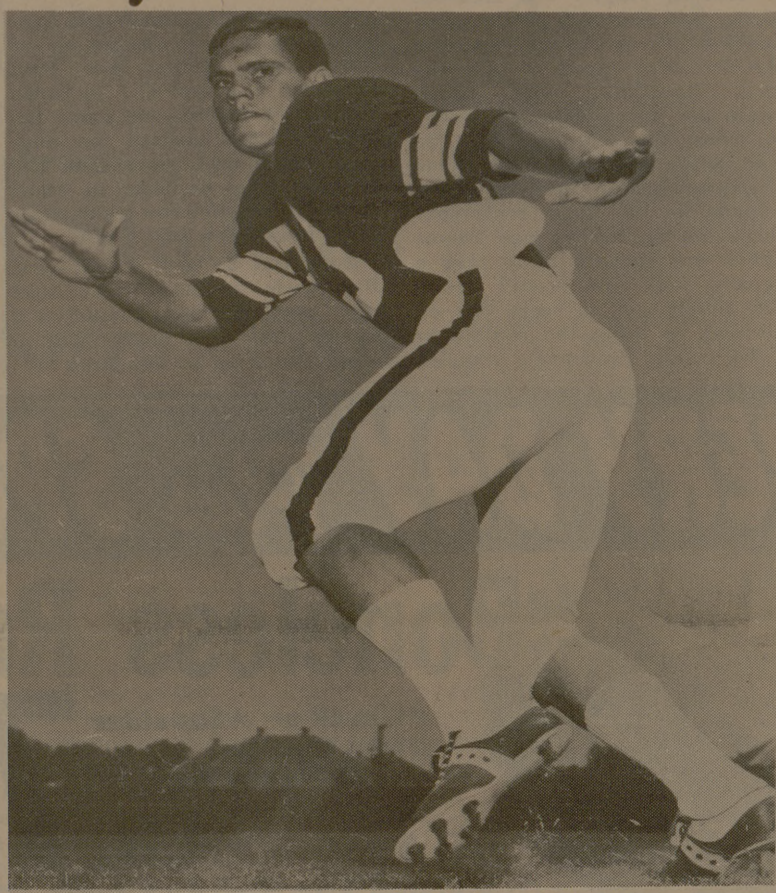
Ebrom was a halfback on offense and defense at Karnes City and even played a little quarterback for coach Jerry Elledge, himself a former Aggie. "I always wanted to go to A&M," Ebrom says. "When they offered me a scholarship it was the happiest day of my life. Now that I've been here awhile, it's even better than I expected."

Ebrom worked with weights during the summer to build up his strength, and also worked out on a trampoline to improve his quickness.

He had some problems early in the season by playing too far off the offensive man. But a little confidence and a little experience has remedied that.

When the Aggies play Arkansas in Fayetteville Saturday, Ebrom will be sticking close to his man and hoping more happy days are ahead.

Player of the Week



ED EBROM

Ed Ebrom is the Batt's Player Of The Week after his performance in the Aggies' 24-0 win over the Baylor Bears in the first home game for A&M this season.

Ebrom intercepted two passes, one which he returned 44 yards for a touchdown and the other for a save in the end zone. The 5-10, 180-pound defensive halfback is one of the many sophomores which dot the Aggie roster.

A native of Karnes City, Ebrom was an all-district defensive halfback, tailback, and quarterback two years in high school. He was all-district three years in basketball and holds the school record in the pole vault.

The performance against the Bears came as no surprise to the Aggie coaches because they had pegged Ebrom for stardom after his fine year on the unbeaten freshman team last season.

A hard-nosed tackler, the sticky defensive halfback is in on many tackles in the open field and in the season opener against LSU, he was in on 13 tackles.



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