

JAMES DUBCAK (81) and Greg Thompson (32) of the A&M defensive unit put a big rush on Wichita State quarterback Bob Renner in season opener on Kyle field Saturday night. Renner was able to complete passes for only 85 yards against the A&M defense as the Ags won 41-14. (Photo by Steve Bryant)

Postgame comments ...

Ag Sophs, veterans shine in opening win

By JOHN CURYLO
Battalion Sports Writer

After A&M defeated Wichita State 41-14 Saturday night, Jimmy Sheffield, the Aggie punter, told Coach Gene Stallings that he felt he should go work out, because he didn't get to play during the game.

The last home opener that the Aggies won was 1956 when Gene Stallings was a senior.

These two points, added to the fact that there were no interceptions thrown by the Aggie quarterbacks, made the victory that much sweeter.

"Wichita had a pretty good team," Stallings said, "and I thought we played pretty good, too. The thing I liked best was that we got to play a lot of players. I thought we hit pretty good and they did too. There are a lot of things we have to improve on before we can be a good football team. Several boys ran well and the blocking had to be pretty good."

The question on many people's minds was the performance of the Aggie sophomores. There weren't too many being asked after the game. Of the 57 players used during the game by the Aggie, 28 were sophomores.

"I thought (Lex) James was a great quarterback tonight and a great football player," said Ben Wilson, the Wichita State coach. "He came up with some beautiful plays when they needed them, and he played well in the clutch."

"He did most of the calling by himself," Stallings said. "He did draw a couple of delay penalties, but that was more because it's the first time out and he wanted to make the right call."

"Boy, was I nervous before the game," James said. "I settled down once I got hit, though. I thought the line did a good job of blocking."

Brad Dusek, another sophomore back, opened his college career wearing number 44, the first Aggie to wear that number since John David Crow, the Heisman

trophy winner, who played for A&M in 1957. Dusek responded by carrying 11 times for 83 yards.

"I must have been nervous at the start," Dusek said. "I know I wasn't running hard, but I think I settled down as the game went on."

"I thought Brad did alright for his first game as a sophomore," Stallings said. Dusek's longest gain went for 27 yards.

Another pleasant position for the Aggies is split end Hugh McElroy, who came to A&M without a scholarship and won a position on the team. He caught three passes for 67 yards, the longest being for 35.

Dave Elmendorf, the Aggie safety, returned a kickoff 44 yards and a punt 34. McElroy ran end around for 25 yards, his only rushing play of the night.

"The McElroy boy made some good plays," Stallings said. "We put that end around in yesterday (Friday) in the rain. And that Elmendorf is some kind of a runner."

"I really thought I was going to break all the way on the first punt return," Elmendorf said. "The blocking was just great."

Roy Kirkpatrick was converted recently from tight end to tailback. He carried twice for 15 yards.

"There's a guy that's played tailback for a week and a half," Stallings said of Kirkpatrick.

"I really did like it back there," Kirkpatrick said. "It was great fun."

Steve Burks was the leading ball carrier for the Aggies. The junior from Dumas gained 96 yards on 17 carries. He scored the first touchdown this year for A&M.

"The line had some good holes opened," he said. "I just picked holes and ran. I think our youngsters, especially in the line, matured a lot during the game."

The game was a good varsity debut for Pat McDermott, the soccer-style placekicker from Dallas. He connected on two of five

field goals, 25 yards and 31 yards, and kicked five extra points.

"He did a good job," Stallings said. "The ones he missed weren't by much."

Looking ahead, the Aggies face LSU, Ohio State, and Michigan in the next three weeks, all games being played at the home stadiums of these powers. What changes will be made to adjust to these foes?

"We need to work on our pass protection," Stallings said. "It seems like every time Lex threw the ball there was somebody hanging on."

"A lot of phases we have to improve," he added, "but everybody played well. I thought we hit pretty good."

"I think we've got everybody in the right spot now," he said. "It's just a matter of getting the right production out of them."

Tigers blasted by Dallas team

The Dallas Carter Cowboys used 371 yards total offense Friday night to defeat the A&M Consolidated Tigers 46-6.

The Consolidated Junior Varsity used their tough defense to defeat Normangee 18-0 Saturday afternoon at Normangee. The freshmen team was beaten 30-0 here Thursday night by Conroe.

Rugby team invited to Colorado Meet

The Texas A&M rugby club has been invited to participate in the annual Aspen Rugerfest at Aspen, Colorado, Oct. 10 and 11.

It is the second tournament of national stature that they have been invited to as a representative of the conference.

Formal practice for the club is slated to begin Wednesday at 5 p.m. on the drill field according to a spokesman for the club.

A team meeting will be held Sept. 22 at 8 p.m. in the Memorial Student Center, the spokesman said.

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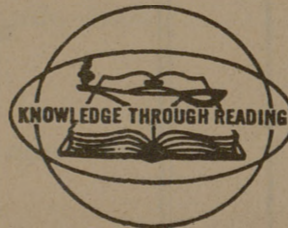
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