

## SWC running at sizzling pace

Ninety-eight point six may be a normal body temperature, but it represents a sizzling pace among Southwest Conference runners.

That is how many yards Texas fullback Steve Worster has averaged rushing in each of Texas' five victories this season and it is enough for him to take over the SWC rushing leadership this week.

In all the rush to the rush last weekend, defending rushing champion Bill Burnett of Arkansas also made some strides without taking a stride. The senior tailback went from third to second with his 81.6 average, although he didn't play in the 62-0 breeze over Wichita State.

### Finals today

Wednesday afternoon will see two championship games played. I-1 plays L-1 at 5 p.m. for the Class B ping pong championship. Keathley plays Puryear for the Class C bowling title at 6:00.

Several new sports began this week. In class A&C, basketball, ping pong and horseshoes all started. Football and bowling began in Classes B&D.

A&M's first powder puff football game will also be played Wednesday afternoon at 5. The two women's teams will be clashing on Field 5.

Worster romped for 170 of the SWC season high of 500 yards against Rice's SWC-leading defense Saturday night. The Texas senior moved all the way up from fourth place last week as teammates Eddie Phillips (No. 3) and Jim Bertelsen joined him among the SWC's top seven rushers.

With Worster leading the Texas troops, the weekend warriors accentuated the SWC's return to the rush. To date SWC schools have gained 58 per cent of their yardage on the ground, compared to only 50.2 per cent last year and 50.8 per cent in 1968.

mann has a bad ankle on one leg and a bad knee on the other.

"On the other hand, Brad Dusek ran harder and blocked better against Baylor than he has in a while," Stallings added. "He's finally getting well for the first time since Wichita." Dusek has been slowed by a pulled hamstring for the past six weeks.

Jimmy Sheffield had another good week punting, but the coach pointed out that it's possible he could have punted too well at times.

"It's hard to cover a long punt," Stallings said. "We need to kick it shorter and hold it up there longer. Here's our offensive line, who've been playing a series or two of plays. They just can't cover a punt that far down the field well. If they get strung out, one good block springs the runner."

He had a lot of praise for Baylor's performance and the crowd. An estimate at mid-week

set the crowd at 25,000, but 41,000 showed up by kickoff time.

"Baylor played pretty good against us," he said. "The week off that they had really helped them. Everybody was healthy and rested. They played good, but we helped them."

Looking ahead to this week's game against Arkansas, the Aggies face a formidable offensive combination of split end Chuck Dicus, quarterback Bill Montgomery and tailback Bill Burnett.

"Burnett is a tough runner. You can hit him and grab him, and he'll stumble, but he comes out of it running every time. He'll hit the goal line sideways, in the air, or flat on his face, but he scores that way," Stallings said. "Montgomery is the best in America on third down plays. If they're in a long yardage situation, he can get it. He does a great job. He's probably the best we'll play against this year," he added.

himself, and we just weren't running it well at all."

Defensively, A&M changed from their four-man line with three linebackers to a different setup, more because of problems with injuries to key personnel than for any other reason.

"Defensively, we had to make the changes because Todd Christopher and Mike Lord couldn't play, Steve Luebbehusen only played a few plays, and Grady Hoermann's sort of hurt," Stallings said, "so we went to a five-man line with two linebackers. In fact, the trainer told me the day after the TCU game that he didn't think Robert Murski and Ed Ebrum would be able to play against Baylor, so I worked Brad Dusek some at defensive back last week."

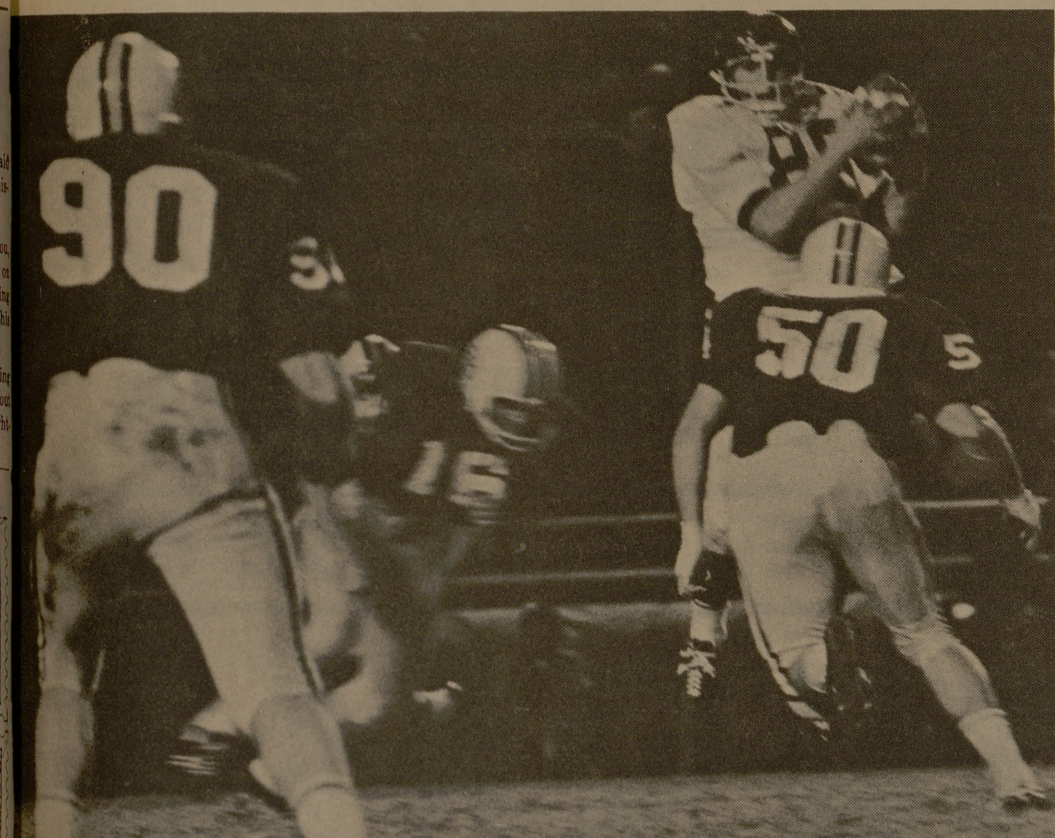
Stallings said Max Bird, Van Odom and Dennis Carruth played well, and that Murski, Hoermann, and David Hoot intercepted passes. He added that the changes he made were not meant to fool the opposition, but to benefit the Aggies.

"If you can block, it doesn't matter if you have a four- or a five-man line defensively," he said. "You have to be able to block against a defense whether it has even-man line, an odd-man line or if it stunts a lot. I didn't make the changes as a surprise, I did it to help us."

Injuries have plagued the Aggies all season and have played havoc with Stallings' plans for the year. He ran down the list of A&M's hurt players and commented on each:

"Dennis Carruth hurt his one good leg. Gary McCaffrey definitely cannot play yet. Tommy Deaton has his leg in a cast; he got hurt in practice. I don't know yet about Christopher and Lord. Chris Johnson can't do anything yet; he's been hurt for five weeks. Mike Bellar has the flu. Joey Herr hurt his Achilles.

"Doug Robbins has had high fever for some time now. Winston Beam hurt his leg and couldn't play against Baylor. Grady Hoer-



HOMER MAY leaps high as he grabs a pass, but waiting for him when he lands are Harold Rodgers (50) and Phil Beall (16) of Baylor. Roger Goree (90) moves in on the scene. May grabbed three passes for 76 yards in Saturday's game and is the sixth leading receiver in the Southwest Conference with 21 catches. (Photo by Steve Bryant)

## Ag mistakes overshadow improved play

JOHN CURYLO  
Assistant Sports Editor

Injuries, mistakes and an injured Baylor team combined to make the score 29-24 against the Aggies, but good effort and some helpful changes make the picture brighter as the Aggies improved over the past two weeks.

"Our team has improved a lot since TCU," said Coach Gene Stallings at his weekly press conference Tuesday. "We simplified the offense for Lex (James). We didn't change it sooner because we were successful in our first four games. After one bad game,

you can't just drop everything. You have to base your judgment on overall performance, not just that one bad game."

Stallings said Brad Dusek, Homer May and John Gardner played well for the Aggies offensively, and that some changes in the structure of the offense helped the Aggies move the ball better than they have in the past few games.

"We took out the triple option," he said. "We were practicing it a lot, but we weren't using it enough to justify that much practice. Lex was second-guessing

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