

Ag quarterback on injured list

By JOHN CURLY

Saturday's game against SMU may have been the best scoreboard game the Aggies have had since upsetting LSU back in September, but the price paid in injured personnel may not make it worth while.

There is a possibility that the Aggies will have neither Lex James nor Joe Mac King ready to play Saturday afternoon when the Rice Owls visit Kyle Field.

"Lex has something wrong with his right elbow, and Joe Mac's got the same thing on his left elbow," said Coach Gene Stallings. "I can't really say whether they'll be able to play Saturday or not. We'll just have to wait and see. I have Joe Mac scheduled to practice today, but Lex won't be able to. However, we're not going in full pads, so that doesn't really say much about Joe Mac's condition. Anyway, I'm working Brad Dusek at quarterback today, just in case we need him."

Dusek played quarterback in high school and some on the Fish team, so the position is not unfamiliar to him. However, he only threw seven passes last year and one this year. Kyle Gary, a junior squadman, is also listed on the roster as a quarterback.

"Had we gotten the ball again in Dallas, I would have gone with Kyle Gary," Stallings said. "Joe Mac couldn't remember anything, and Kyle's been working at quarterback. I'm not afraid to use him." Gary, 5-11 and 170, played high school ball at Dallas Bryan Adams, where he was all-county.

"Joe Mac did an excellent job," Stallings said. "I have no complaints about his performance. He went in when we needed him and did all that was expected of him. He really took a beating."

Stallings praised the defense for holding offensively potent SMU to only two field goals and for giving the A&M offense the best field position they have had all season.

"Van Odom did a pretty good job at linebacker for never having played there before," he said. "We had some other good defensive performances, too. David Hoot intercepted three passes; that may not be a record, but it sure is a good average. Max Bird played well, and James Dubeak

made some good plays. Bruce and Boice Best did a good job, and Todd Christopher came up with some real good plays."

Getting back to a familiar topic this year for the Aggies, Stallings announced that the list of injured who missed practice Monday numbered 14. He said that he thought everyone would be ready by Saturday, with the exception that he wasn't sure about King or James. He added that Dave Elmendorf wouldn't practice Tuesday, but he was sure that the senior safety would be ready to play Rice.

"We have a lot of injured that we don't count any more," he

continued. "Tommy Deaton, Chris Johnson, Cliff Thomas, Mike Lord, and Andy Philley are all out, and they don't figure in our day-to-day workout plans." He announced that Johnson, injured in the LSU game, would be operated on either Wednesday or Thursday. "He'll have the cartilage removed from his knee," Stallings continued. "The reason we waited so long was that we were hoping the knee would repair itself, as it often does. It doesn't make sense to operate until you have to. Also, I understand that cartilage is like an appendix; it doesn't hurt you any to lose it."

In regard to the unusual number of pass interference penalties in Saturday's contest, Stallings pointed out that it is purely a judgment call.

"It depends on what angle you're at," he explained. "I'm not sure I know what pass interference really is. It's all a matter of interpretation. You can ask 10 different officials and get 10 different definitions."

Stallings also commented on last Thursday's visit to the Corps area by the football team. The cadets passed in review for the players, and then the athletes were the guests of the Corps at dinner, several players eating

with each company or squadron.

"The players really enjoyed themselves," the coach said. "I had a lot of them tell me what a good time they had and how much they liked visiting with the Corps. I want to thank the Corps for everything they've done this year in supporting the team. I really appreciate it."


Looking ahead to Rice, the Owls are a team plagued with injuries almost as much as the Aggies. They have a good team, although they are 0-4 in SWC play. They return 10 offensive starters, and their depth chart has 15 seniors listed on the first two teams.

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UT-Arlington scored 68 runs in the first inning and 55 in the second. The Aggies tallied 64 runs in the first inning and then finished up with 67 runs in the second.

Leading batsmen were Jagadeesh Sonnad, Palany Harish and Vijay Reddy. Reddy, Deepak Bhamhani and Yedi Bale were leading bowlers.

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