

Stallings says

Tigers could have beaten almost any one in the country

By JOHN CURYLO
The question being asked is what happened to the Aggies Saturday night against LSU?

The answer being given by Coach Gene Stallings is twofold and simple:

"We didn't play well. Then, too, Coach (Charlie) McClendon has his team at their peak at the right time. Any team in the country would have had a hard time beating LSU the other night."

Stallings added that the grass made a lot of difference in his team getting so tired as quickly as they did.

"The main thing is that they played better than we did," he continued. "Offensively and defensively. They deserve to win."

In regard to personnel, injuries have directed some of the changes that have been made this week. Joey Herr's cracked collarbone will keep him out from four to six weeks, and Hugh McElroy will start at wingback.

Max Bird hurt an ankle Saturday, and Dan Peoples will replace him if he is unable to start against Nebraska. James Dubcak probably won't be ready by Saturday, and Bud Trammell will start in his place. If this happens,

Trammell will be the first sophomore to start for A&M this year.

Other changes see Lee Hitt taking over at left cornerback and Mike Lord starting at left linebacker. Brad Dusek and Robert Murski worked out yesterday as backup punters to Mitch Robertson.

Stallings announced that four stars had been given out this week for outstanding performances against LSU.

"Hugh McElroy got a star," he said. "He returned the kick-offs well and didn't shy off a bit. He took some pretty hard licks, but he bounced right up every time."

"David Hoot was given a star for his great game at safety," the coach continued. "Mike Lord got one for causing a fumble, and Billy Wiehold earned one with seven knockdowns on the eight kickoff returns."

Stallings added that Dusek, playing safety, should have received one for his performance in making so many tackles and intercepting a pass, but that he lost it by getting beaten on two touchdown plays.

Looking toward Nebraska, the number one team in the nation, Stallings admitted that they

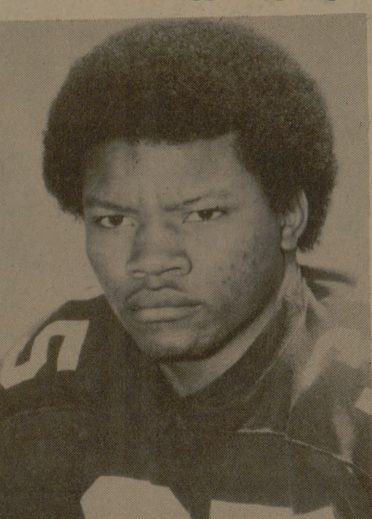
would be a formidable foe, to say the least.

"They're a great football team," he said. "They throw the ball extremely well, and they make very few mistakes. We'll have to play great pass defense. They also run with power. In order to win, we'll have to keep the ball away from them. We can't afford to be giving it up without making

McElroy sets return records

Despite losing 37-0, the Texas Aggies set a pair of school records against LSU, and you might know it would be Hugh McElroy who would be responsible.

McElroy, who caught a 79-yard pass to beat LSU a year ago, was one of the few Aggie bright spots



Hugh McElroy

at the LSU game as to McElroy's reaction to returning to Baton Rouge. Some felt he might get hurt since LSU obviously had a grudge against him. Others wondered what that danger would do to Hugh's ability to hang onto the football. The fears proved unfounded as Mac held onto the ball, broke several tackles, and bounced right up after several hard licks.

The presence of McElroy's mother and grandmother from Houston at the game may have been a factor in his favor. And the McElroy family has a history of surviving hard licks. Hugh's grandfather rode with Teddy Roosevelt's Roughriders and was the first black to publicize U.S. Savings Bonds.

McElroy himself came to A&M without a scholarship and tried out for the team after a season running track. He earned a scholarship that first year and has made a big contribution to the team since. Last season he was

he said. "I only wish we were favored by 27 points. I'd rather be the favorite than the underdog any time."

He added that the Aggies would be working on the running game more this week, because there were not enough first down plays made against LSU. The passing game should be better this Saturday, too.

There are still nine big games ahead for the senior wingback, and one of the toughest comes this Saturday against defending national champion Nebraska in Lincoln. While McElroy hopes for some big moments ahead in football gear, his biggest moment is marked with a red circle around Dec. 11, 1971. That is when he will walk across the stage in A&M's G. Rollie White Coliseum and receive a degree in Industrial Technology. And you can bet mama and grandmother will be there, too.

Hugh McElroy has come a long way since his days at Worthing High School in Houston where he was always No. 2 behind Colorado standout Clifford Branch. But Mac is playing in no one's shadow now.

Racket-ball tournament being planned if enough Aggies indicate an interest

Plans for an open racket-ball tournament are in the making, the intramural office announced Monday.

Intramural Director Les Palmer said the tournament would start when enough interest was shown. Anyone wishing to enter or have more information should come by the intramural office or call 845-2624.

Women's intramural leagues have been formed and the schedules have been established. The faculty-staff volleyball league will begin play Sept. 29 and the co-ed basketball league begins Sept. 27.

The six-team faculty-staff volleyball league will play at 7 o'clock and 8 o'clock in DeWare Fieldhouse Monday - Thursday.

Teams entered are the Fiscal Department, Agricultural Communications, Dean-o's Dolls, Agricultural Economics, Texas Agricultural Extension Service No. 1 and the Texas Agricultural Extension Service No. 2.

Teams playing basketball at 5 o'clock Monday-Thursday are: Milner's Misses, Squadron 2, Pur-year Playmates, G-1, Hart Hall, Ramp Ten Law and The Liberators.

Intramurals are heading into their second week of play in other sports. Football, handball, basketball, golf, horseshoes and bowling are all continuing every day at 5 o'clock. Each team in each of the five classes will have played at least one game by the week's end.

against the Tigers this season. The 5-8, 165-pound speedster returned one kickoff 55 yards and has four returns for 118 yards in the game.

The Aggies tied the school record for number of kickoff returns with eight set first against Ohio State last year. To McElroy's total was added 62 yards by 5-6 Rick Spencer and 26 yards by Lee Hitt for a record 206 yards. The old mark was 159 against LSU back in 1946.

There was some concern prior

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