

Stallings says the Aggies are still a good team

JOHN CUYLO
Battalion Sports Editor

Before the season began, Coach Stallings said that this year's Aggies had a chance to be a very good football team. Now, with only conference games left, the Aggies stand 1-3. Has the outlook changed any?

"I still think we're good," he said. "This bunch has a chance to be better than the '67 team. We need to play better play from the quarterbacks. Throwing over the heads of the receivers and carrying the passes wouldn't have happened had Mark (Green) been practiced more."

After the 17-0 loss to Cincinnati Saturday night, many people wonder what has happened to the team. Stallings indicated at his weekly news conference Tuesday that he doesn't doubt his squad's ability.

"We're practicing as good now as we have all year," he explained. "The Cincinnati game probably made people appreciate the experience of Mark and Tim Trimmier. Injuries have hurt Lex, but he worked out Monday and should be ready for the Texas Tech game."

The coaching staff gave out six stars this week, indicating outstanding play in the last game. Defensively, Boice Best, Steve Luebbehusen and Lee Hitt were stars. Best got his for what Stallings called "good pass rushing and outstanding plays on the quarterback." The Houston junior also recovered a fumble. Lueb-

behusen made 17 tackles and Hitt intercepted a pass, his third this year, tying him with two other players for the conference lead.

On offense, two linemen were cited, in addition to Hugh McElroy. Todd Christopher had 15 knockdowns while blocking from his left guard spot, and center Robert Gerasimowicz had 13. McElroy earned his for the punt return that was called back.

"I'm not penalizing him for a bad call by the referee," Stallings said. "We've run the game film over and over again, and there wasn't a clip on the play. We think Mac deserves a star, because that was a good run. He's a threat every time he gets his hands on the ball."

Elaborating on the officiating in the game, Stallings explained that judgement calls are just that, and this one was a bad break for the Aggies.

"They (the referees) will make some and they'll miss some," he said. "There's not too much that can be said when they think there's a penalty and you don't. It's one of those things."

A&M had six fumbles in the game, and several times, there were apparent breakdowns in the blocking, but Stallings said that a lot of offensive players graded high, but not all of them at the same time. He added that there was some confusion on the signal for the center to snap the ball.

"A lot of times we were going on first sound," the coach said, "and Cincinnati's defensive play-

ers were hollering, trying to confuse things. I'd say it happened about eight or nine times. It was frustrating to the offensive line, and it caused fumbles. The quarterback wasn't ready for the ball, but the center had to snap it, or we'd be off sides. I talked to the officials about it, but they never called a penalty."

No players were hurt in the Cincinnati game, and James, Mike Lord, and James Dubcak are expected to be ready for the Texas Tech game. In comparing this game to LSU, Stallings said that LSU was more disappointing, because the team did some good things this time, and they "didn't do anything well against LSU."

In the Texas Tech Red Raiders, A&M will be facing a team that also has a 1-3 record, offensive problems, and a good defense.

"Tech is better than their record indicates," Stallings said. "They're getting some of their injured people back, too. They played a good game against Texas, and this should be a defensive battle. Our kicking game will be very important. This should be a fine ball game. I'm glad I'm going to see it."

Numerous stories and remarks have appeared about the lack of support the defense is getting from the offense, and Stallings was asked if there was any animosity or dissension on the team about it.

"No, and there won't be either," he said. "There's no hostility, because it's all A&M, not offense or defense."



BACK TO PASS in Saturday's Cincinnati game is sophomore quarterback Tim Trimmier (11). The San Antonio Lee product completed seven aeriels for 109 yards. Applying pressure for the Bearcats are Ron Bryant (74) and Randy McBride (78). (Photo by Mike Rice)

Nebraska top ranked in nation again; Texas meets Oklahoma in big battle

By The Associated Press

Texas, No. 3 behind Nebraska and Michigan again this week in The Associated Press College football poll, takes on No. 8 Oklahoma in one of two games between ranked teams Saturday.

The Longhorns, who swamped Oregon 35-7 last Saturday, held onto third place with three first place votes and 818 points, just 68 behind Michigan which received five No. 1 votes from a national panel of 55 sports writers and sports broadcasters.

National champion Nebraska, which has been No. 1 since the season began, garnered 43 first place ballots and 1,058 points after blitzing previously unbeaten Utah State 42-6.

Auburn and Colorado received two top votes each to move up one notch to No. 4 and No. 5 respectively. Notre Dame, which had slipped from second to fourth in the previous poll, skidded to seventh despite a 14-2 victory over Michigan State.

The other undefeated teams in the Top Ten are No. 6 Alabama, No. 9 Penn State and No. 10 Georgia. The other Saturday contest between ranked teams pits No. 11 Washington against No. 19 Stanford. Stanford plunged from 10th place last

week after losing to Duke 9-3, now No. 14, while Washington moved up from 15th with a 52-14 trouncing of Illinois.

Southern California, with a 2-2 record after a 33-20 loss to Oklahoma, was dropped from the rankings and was replaced by No. 20 Toledo, 4-0 after squeezing past Ohio 31-28 for its 27th straight victory spanning three seasons. No. 12 Arizona State and No. 18 North Carolina are the only other unbeaten teams in the lower bracket.

The Top Twenty teams, with season records:

1. Nebraska	4-0
2. Michigan	4-0
3. Texas	3-0
4. Auburn	3-0
5. Colorado	4-0
6. Alabama	4-0
7. Notre Dame	3-0
8. Oklahoma	3-0
9. Penn St.	3-0
10. Georgia	4-0
11. Washington	4-0
12. Arizona St.	3-0
13. Tennessee	2-1
14. Duke	4-0
15. Ohio St.	2-1
16. Louisiana St.	3-1
17. Arkansas	3-1
18. N. Carolina	4-0
19. Stanford	3-1
20. Toledo	4-0

Oklahoma Governor Hall makes strong protest about television blackout of football classic

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—Gov. David Hall sent a strongly worded telegram to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Tuesday urging that the ban on televising the Oklahoma-Texas football games in Oklahoma be lifted.

OU officials announced Monday that the NCAA had forbidden televising Saturday's Cotton Bowl clash because it would conflict with several other Oklahoma college games.

Hall termed the NCAA ban

"arbitrary" and, in a telegram to Walter Byers, executive director of the NCAA, urged the blackout be lifted.

To support his plea, Hall offered these three points:

One—"Your reported conclusion that televising this game would detract from the attendance of games in Oklahoma is disagreed upon by this office and others in Oklahoma. We would expect negligible changes in attendance patterns at these games."

Two—"By televising the game in Texas, many loyal Oklahoma fans will be driving to that viewing area at great expense and will add to already heavy hazardous highway traffic conditions. Personal safety of Oklahomans is involved."

Three—"The many people in Oklahoma have recently made additional financial contributions to the state to support education. One of the tangible benefits is the enjoyment of watching teams of our universities compete."

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