

Improved Aggies are still hurt by key injuries

By JOHN CURYLO
Battalion Sports Editor

Coach Gene Stallings noted improvement in the Aggies in the TCU game, but he told his weekly news conference that injuries would be a problem in the preparations for the visit of the Baylor Bears to Kyle Field Saturday afternoon.

"Our offensive line play was better," he said, "but Todd Christopher only played ten plays before he got hurt. At that time, he had nine plusses and just one minus, by our grading system. After the game, Robert Gerasimowicz almost couldn't take his shoe off. That's two pretty good players of the five starters in the line."

Commenting on some of the changes he made for the game, Stallings admitted that the offense was helped. Joe Mac King played quarterback, Hugh McElroy tailback, and two tight ends were used, with Mitch Robertson starting.

"I was pleased with the effort of Joe," the coach said, "except for just three bad passes, which were intercepted. Hugh did a pretty good job at tailback. It's just a matter of how long he can play where."

Stallings announced that Rob-

ertson received one of two stars given out by the coaching staff this week. Robertson was cited for good blocking, his excellent pass receiving, and for getting off four punts under pressure. Charlie Murphy, a sophomore from Monahans won the other one for making a tackle on the goal line that hurt us."

Several players, including Grady Hoermann and David Hoot, earned stars, but lost them.

"Grady had a lot of tackles," Stallings explained, "but he also had a pass interference penalty and a personal foul called against him. David played a fine game, but he made several errors on the goal line that hurt us."

Seven players who started the first game for the Aggies were discussed in regard to injuries. Joey Herr, who cracked a collarbone in the LSU game, is practicing and may start Saturday. Steve Burks, hurt against Texas Tech, can practice, but his running is still hampered.

Christopher and Gerasimowicz

both are listed as doubtful this week. There is a possibility that defensive end Kent Finley, another victim of a knee injury against the Horned Frogs, may not see action against Baylor.

"I don't think Lex James will

be well enough to play," Stallings reported, referring to his ailing quarterback. "Also, Hugh McElroy is sore and battered from the beating he took against TCU. He hasn't practiced yet this week, but he'll probably be ready by Saturday."

In addition to these, Cliff Thomas, who sprained a knee in the Nebraska game, will be work-

ing out this week. Fullback Doug Robbins, who made several good runs against TCU before being hurt, is still doubtful. Bruce Best and Bud Trammell still have their injured knees in casts and are out indefinitely.

Stallings said that the offensive backfield was questionable as to personnel. The physical condition of James, Burks, and

Thomas would change the picture, but that Doug Neill is still in solid at fullback.

With the Aggies working out at 3:30 p.m. three days a week, the question was brought up concerning King. A vet student, much of his afternoon time is taken up by the heavy academic load required.

"Last week and this week, he's gotten out early and gone back to finish up some other time," Stallings explained. "He's at the point now where he's got some labs that are practical stuff. He can do that other times during the day. We're not asking him to cut a class to be on time for practice, but at the same time, we won't change our practice times for one player. Everybody else is here to get an education too."

Baylor had an open date last week, and Stallings said that this would help the Bears, since Coach Bill Beal has changed to the Wishbone offense. Plagued with injuries, it is expected that some of their injured players will be ready by Saturday.

"They've got fine speed at their halfback positions," Stallings explained. "They were throwing at the beginning of the year, but now they run a lot with the Wishbone. They just started running it against Arkansas, so we don't know how good they are. Also, they're awfully physical on defense."

Explaining the contrasting halves in the game with the Horned Frogs, he said that A&M "misses so many tackles the first half." Asked about the decision to kick a field goal in the third quarter instead of trying to make a first down and a touchdown, Stallings said he felt scoring at all was important.

"The team needed to make some points," he said. "Three's a whole lot better than none. The momentum of making a field goal is better than not making it with fourth and four to go."

AP awards A&M grad Jack Pardee week's individual defense honors

By BRUCE LOWITT
Associated Press Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP)—"It's not fair to single any individual out . . . I got my interceptions because the quarterback threw the ball to me," said Washington linebacker Jack Pardee, whose three pass thefts gained him honors Tuesday as the National Football League Defensive Player of the Week.

Pardee's outstanding performance led an airtight defensive unit that paved the way to the unbeaten Redskins' 20-0 victory over the St. Louis Cardinals Sunday, their fifth in a row.

The 14-year veteran, a 6-foot-2, 225-pounder from Texas A&M, topped New Orleans cornerback Delles Howell and Baltimore linebacker Ted Hendricks for The Associated Press award.

His Washington teammates awarded him a game ball for the third time this season. And on Monday he got something better—a greeting from President Nixon.

Pardee and his wife, Phyllis,

and their children, along with linebacker Maxie Baughan and center George Burman and their families, appeared at the White House for a special tour of the executive mansion and ended up in a brief meeting and picture-taking session with the President.

Pardee insisted he shouldn't be singled out for his work against St. Louis, "not when cornerbacks Mike Bass and Pat Fischer shut out John Gilliam, Mel Grey and Jackie Smith" of the Cards. "And when the line is putting on a good rush, the linebackers can drop and try for the interception."

His three thefts were his best single-game showing as a pro, raising his total for the year to five, one less than his all-time high in 1967 when he was with the Los Angeles Rams. The 'Skins now have 13 interceptions, only two below their entire 1970 total.

Pardee was among the raft of Rams who followed their coach, George Allen, to Washington this year. Allen, carefully molding a defensive unit which, because of its high average age, has been dubbed the "Over-the-hill Gang," has sent the Skins off to their best start since 1940.

Also earning nominations were Willie Lanier of Kansas City, who made nine unassisted tackles and five assists in the Chiefs' 38-16 victory over the Pittsburgh Steelers, and Jack Gehrke of Denver, who recovered a pair of fumbled punts inside the San Diego 10-yard line as the Broncos edged the Chargers.

Norton is selected for Hall of Fame

The late Homer Norton, coach of the 1939 Texas A&M national championship football team, will be inducted into the National Football Foundation Hall of Fame here Saturday in pre-game ceremonies at the A&M-Baylor game.

Norton coached at Centenary from 1920-33 and A&M from 1934-47. His Aggie teams won 82, lost 53 and tied nine.

Wilbur Evans, a member of the Honors Court of the National Football Foundation, will make the presentation to Mr. Norton.

The induction of Norton brings to six the number of players and coaches from A&M who now have been enshrined in the Hall of Fame. The coaches and years served include D. X. Bible, 1917-28; and Matty Bell, 1929-33. The players are Joel Hunt, 1925-27; Joe Rount, 1935-37; and John Kimbrough, 1938-40.

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To be eligible to purchase the Texas A&M University ring, an undergraduate student must have at least one academic year of residence and credit for ninety-five (95) semester hours. The hours passed at preliminary grade report period on October 18, 1971 may be used in satisfying the ninety-five hour requirement. Students qualifying under this regulation may leave their names with the Ring Clerk, Room Seven, Richard Coke Building. In turn, will check all records to determine ring eligibility.

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