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In SWC night game

Ags challenge Razorbacks

By JOHN CURLY
Battalion Sports Editor

The Aggies travel to the Ozarks tomorrow to face the top team in the Southwest Conference and the eighth-ranked team in the nation, the Arkansas Razorbacks, in a night game in Little Rock.

The 45th football meeting of the two schools finds A&M trying to salvage what they can of the season after losing five straight.

Arkansas, meanwhile, will be trying to gain more national recognition and better the 3-0 record they have compiled in conference play.

Coach Gene Stallings, in his seventh year as head coach of the Aggies, has a 1-5 mark against the Hogs. Arkansas' head man, Frank Broyles has been the Razorback coach for 13 seasons, compiling a 104-34-1 slate.

With injuries to Lex James still keeping the junior out of the quarterback picture, Joe Mac King again gets the call as the key to the Aggie offense. He has completed 12 of 39 passes for 169

yards, while running with the ball 19 times for a net of 27.

Hugh McElroy and Mark Green share time at tailback, along with Steve Burks. Doug Neill and Marc Black will be the fullbacks, and these five lead A&M in rushing.

Neill has 279 yards in 74 tries, Black has gone 179 yards in carrying 45 times, Green has added 139 yards in 57 carries, Burks has run 30 times for 106 yards and McElroy has crossed the line 20 times for 72 yards.

McElroy is the return specialist, having run back nine punts for 93 yards and 13 kickoffs for 381 yards. The Houston senior has caught seven passes for 92 yards.

The other receivers will be wingback Joey Herr, split end Robert Murski and tight end Homer May. This trio will be spelled by Rick Spencer, Billy Joe Polasek and Mitch Robertson.

Murski leads all A&M receivers with 12 catches for 139 yards. May is second, having 99 yards on eight receptions. Herr has caught six aeriels for 84 yards, although he has played in only three games.

Robertson does the punting for the Aggies, and the Abilene sen-

ior is fifth in the conference, having dropped three places with his wind-hampered performance against Baylor. He has kicked 52 times this year for a 38.1 yard average.

The offensive line will have its work cut out for it, and last week's job against the Bears should help their momentum. Buster Callaway and Skip Kuehn will be the tackles, with Marshall Herklotz and Ralph Sacra ready to substitute for them.

Leonard Forey starts at right guard, and Todd Christopher, recovering from a knee injury, will be at left guard. Mike Park is ready to fill in at either position, having played well last week. Robert Gerasimowicz is at center after missing the Baylor game due to a hurt knee. Ted Smith is number two behind him.

Defensively, the Aggies are third overall in the conference, but they have had more plays (483) run against them than any other team.

Max Bird and Mike Lord will start at the ends, but Kent Finley has recovered from an injury and may see a lot of action. The tackles are Boice Best and Van Odom, with Dan Peoples and

James Dubcak behind them. Bill Wiebold and Mike Bruton play middle guard.

Grady Hoermann and Steve Luebbehusen have played well all season at the linebacker spots, and they will start tomorrow night. Lord and Dennis Carruth may spell them at times.

The defensive secondary, all former high school quarterbacks, has Lee Hitt and Bland Smith at the corners and Brad Dusek and David Hoot at the safeties. Hitt is tied for the conference interception lead with four, and Dusek has three. They should get the chance to pick off a few more in Little Rock, since Arkansas quarterback Joe Ferguson has thrown 155 times in seven games.

Pat McDermott, whose 53 yard field goal against Baylor set a new school record, will be handling the placements for the Aggies, along with Roberto Payan. Mike Bellar will be kicking off.

To win, A&M must contain the league-leading Arkansas passing attack, coupled with a vicious ground game. The Aggie offense must avoid giving up the ball on three plays to keep the pressure off the defensive unit.

Longhorns try to knock off unbeaten Mustangs; Owls face Texas Tech and TCU plays Baylor

By BILL HENRY
Assistant Sports Editor

Southwest Conference action reaches the halfway point this week with two teams without a conference loss. Only Southern Methodist and Arkansas have unblemished SWC records.

SMU will meet the Texas Longhorns in the Cotton Bowl in an afternoon contest which will be the Ponies first severe test. SMU holds a 3-4 mark overall while being tied with the Razorbacks in the SWC conference mark in the loss column. The Mustangs have defeated both Rice and Texas Tech in fourth quarter heroics. Texas is becoming healthy again as proven by its 39-10 demolition of Rice in Houston last Saturday. To entertain any chance of a bowl bid, the Longhorns must not lose another game all season. SMU's offense leaves a lot to be desired and the defense is not one of the better ones around the league. The Ponies do however have that little bit of luck that won them the SWC crown in 1966 and A&M in 1967. Maybe an interesting game if Texas hasn't recuperated to a great extent.

The Rice Owls fly up to Lubbock Saturday for an afternoon get-together for a game with the slumping Red Raiders. Neither team has done what it's supposed to from preseason billings. Tech was predicted to make a strong

contention for the conference crown, while Rice was not supposed to win a game. Tech won three straight after losing three straight, but then lost to SMU last week. Rice, on the other hand, beat a team (Tulane) that defeated Tech in the early goings. Being up in the Panhandle the Owls will not be as apt to win as if they were in their own backyard. The hometown advantage has taken its share of marginal games.

Texas Christian travels to Waco for a Saturday night game against the 1-4 Baylor Bears. Baylor is really licking its wounds after last week's 10-9 loss to A&M

in College Station. TCU has just come off a big loss, 66-14, to Penn State. Neither team is consistent but in overall talent, TCU has an edge. They have an offense that can move the football if it needs to. Baylor coaches have some sort of rift going with top-notch quarterback, Si Southall, and only put him in the game with it's third down and many. When he comes in he usually hits a receiver for not quiet enough for a first down, but he does move the football. TCU's defense should be rested up enough after last week to give a pretty good performance against the conference's worst offensive team.



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Oakland's Blue gets Cy Young Award

NEW YORK (AP)—Lefthander Vida Blue of the Oakland A's, who won 24 games in his first full season in the major leagues, was named winner Tuesday of the American League's 1971 Cy Young Award.

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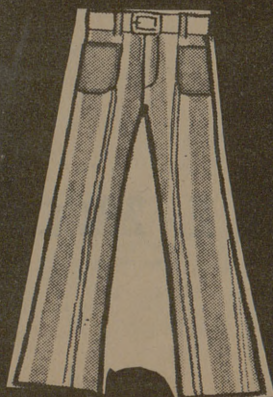
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