

Rice regarded as formidable opponent by Aggs coach

By JOHN CURYLO
Battalion Sports Editor

The Texas Aggies are not resting on the laurels of three consecutive wins, and Coach Gene Stallings told his weekly news conference yesterday that he is concerned about the Rice Owls, whom A&M meets in Houston Saturday.

"They do things well," he said. "They have a good pro attack, and they throw a lot of screen passes. They protect the passer well and play aggressive defense. They are a good football team, in my opinion."

Stallings added that both quar-

terbacks, Phillip Wood and Bruce Gadd, running back Stahle Vincent and tight end Gary Butler were the top offensive players.

The coach said the Aggies played a physical game in beating Southern Methodist 27-10, but that no significant injuries were incurred. He pointed out that the win marked the offensive peak for A&M this year.

Stallings and his staff gave out 33 stars to 25 players this week, and all five of the starting interior linemen received one, but the only senior, guard Leonard Forey won two. He had 26 knockdowns in what Stallings called his best

game of the year.

"Defensively, we contained them well," the coach said. "Alvin Maxson's the leading rusher in the conference, and, with the exception of that 51 yard run, we held him to 17 yards in 16 plays."

Injuries have affected two offensive players who started earlier in the season, quarterback Lex James and wingback Joey Herr. James separated a shoulder in the Texas Tech game, and Herr cracked his collarbone against LSU, reinjuring it in the Arkansas game.

"Lex can't raise his arm to pass," Stallings explained, "but he wants to play. I'm going to look at him as a wide receiver

and a defensive back. Joey's better, but he won't be able to start. I thought Billy Joe Polasek did a good job in his place." Polasek caught an 18 yard pass from Joe Mac King for a touchdown against the Mustangs.

Mark Green broke a school and a conference record by carrying 41 times for 158 yards and two touchdowns. Stallings said, though, that he didn't realize it was a record until he heard it announced over the public address system.

With a 4-5 record, and the possibility of going 6-5, having beaten both Texas and Arkansas, and winning the last five in a row, there has been some speculation

about the Aggies being invited to a post-season bowl game.

"There's a chance that we might get to play in one," Stallings said. "We'll have to win the next two games, though. So far, they haven't exactly been flooding my office with mail."

Figures from the business office show that 10,000 tickets to this week's game have been sold here, with 5,500 of them being adult tickets and 4,500 being student and date tickets. For SMU, there was a crowd of 28,750, with a decrease of 3,000 student tickets from the number sold for the Cincinnati game. Stallings was asked if playing in Houston was almost like a home game.

"I don't consider Rice home," he said. "If we're going to wish about it, I'd rather play here. We'll probably have more fans there than any other road game. It's a Corps trip, and Houston's close, so we ought to have a good crowd."

Stallings said that in comparison with the 1967 team that won the conference championship and beat Alabama in the Cotton Bowl,

this year's Aggies have more depth, more seniors and less of the "big play" attitude that prevailed on the squad four years ago.

"The way we're playing now—aggressive and tough—has pleased me more than anything," he said. "Not getting anybody hurt has helped us, and we're not as individual-oriented as the 1967 bunch."



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BACK TO PASS against the Southern Methodist Mustangs is Aggie quarterback Joe Mac King (12). King completed five of seven passes for 117 yards and one touchdown in leading A&M to its third consecutive conference victory, 27-10. (Photo by Hayden Whitsett)

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INDIAN

Torre Most Valuable Player

NEW YORK (AP)—Joe Torre of the St. Louis Cardinals, who led the major leagues in batting with a .363 average and in runs batted in with 137, was an overwhelming choice Tuesday as the National League's Most Valuable Player for 1971.

The 31-year-old third baseman received 21 of the 24 first-place votes cast by a special committee of the Baseball Writers Association of America. Torre drew a total of 318 points compared to 222 for runnerup Willie Stargell, the major's home run king and outfielder for the world champion

Pittsburgh Pirates, who got the remaining three first-place votes.

Torre became the 12th Cardinal to win the MVP award in the 40-year history of the BBWA award. Bob Elliott of the 1947 Boston Braves and Ken Boyer of the 1964 Cards were the only other NL third basemen to win the award.

Torre also led the National League in hits with 230 and total bases with 352 to become the first NL player to lead in four categories since Stan Musial of the Cardinals led with eight in 1948.

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