Heisman Trophy doubtful for quarterback Joe King

Joe Mac King

A new name has been added to the list of Heisman Trophy candidates: that of Joe Mac King from Mineola, miracle worker of the Texas A&M offensive unit. His nomination was submitted by John Kelly, manager of the Holiday Inn in Houston, on the marquee in front of the motel.

"Mr. Kelly is an old friend from Mineola and called me to congratulate me after the Baylor and SMU games," King said. I had no idea he was going to do that, but the bad thing was I didn't even get to see it. We passed right by it on the way to our motel and a bunch of players saw it and told me but I couldn't get over fast enough to see it for myself."

King, who runs the 40-yd dash in "I'm ashamed to tell anybody" and throws the ball like a "dying quail", feels his chances are "slim to none" but did get a "funny feeling to know someone would do something like that for me."

Joe Mac takes no credit for the past success on the part of the Aggies during the last half of the season.

"The team's gotten together as a whole," he said. "We have all the confidence in the world in each other and know we can do the job. The linemen open great holes and give me all the time I need to throw, the backs are running the ball real well and the defensive unit makes the big play whenever we need it. What more can you ask a football team to do?"

A victory on Thanksgiving Day will make the already astounding season seem like an exhibition season in comparison with the Super Bowl.

"I think our chances of beating Texas this year are from good to excellent," King said. "It won't be easy, but neither is any victory in the conference. We will have to play just like we've played in the last three weeks, maybe even better. We will have to keep them from sustaining drives and eating up the clock. The main thing we'll have to do is going to be holding on to the football for longer periods of time than we have been. We've got to control the football and be able to score on long drives."

In his career at A&M, Joe Mac's record as a starting quarterback has been 9-2. His freshman year, he led the Fish to a 5-0 season, last year when Lee James was hurt, he lost 18-17 and this year he's gone 4-1. His biggest asset many feel is his leadership ability.

"He leads by example," said Charley Crawford. "When he comes out on the field, you know that something is going to happen, you know he'll move the football. He's a great guy and never refuses to speak to even the lowliest of players when he sees them."

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