

THE BATTALION

Bellard Says At Press Conference Nebraska Will Be Ready For Aggies

By BILL HENRY
Battalion Sports Editor

Beating Nebraska is never an easy assignment but especially after the Huskers lose the game before yours.

That is what the Aggies are faced with this Saturday afternoon in Lincoln.

"It's not an easy task anytime but it will be exceptionally tough

this week," Bellard said Tuesday in his second weekly press conference. "They have a great football team. They have great offensive and defensive players as well as a great kicking team and a great coach. You can't do much better than that."

Bellard is not giving up before the ball is put into play by any means but he is giving the Husk-

ers what they're due.

Before last week's 20-17 upset at the hands of UCLA, Nebraska had not lost a game in over two years and were the pre-season pick as the team to beat again in 1972.

"Our team gained confidence last week against Wichita and it answered a lot of questions both the players and the coaches had," he said. "I saw the things that I thought were there during work-

outs."

The Aggies' new head coach was pleased with what he saw in his opening debut win over Wichita.

"We did make some mental errors but the errors were made going full speed and those kind of mistakes can be eliminated. We were able to see where we are and where we're going. We're not the finished product yet by any means but we do have some players that can play football for us and we're going to get better as time goes on."

Bellard singled out several players in the Nebraska lineup including the fabulous Johnny Rodgers.

"Rodgers is probably the best big-play football player in the nation," he said. "He can break a game open from almost anywhere on the field and from numerous different positions. He runs the ball well from the backfield, catches well and is a great return man for punts and kick-off."

Noseguard Rich Glover, consensus All-America last season and a scheduled repeater this year, also drew comments from Bellard.

"Having him on your team is like having an extra player he's so quick."

Aggie players got rave reviews from Bellard also as he singled out senior quarterback Lex James, junior defensive tackle Bill Wiebold and senior middle linebacker Grady Hoermann.

"Lex played real well having

his pitchouts on target and timely in what you could call adverse conditions with the field being so slippery. Wiebold graded 100 per cent for his defensive play and Grady had a great game getting two interceptions and some great tackles.

"Overall, the defense graded very high against Wichita."

Some adjustments will be made this week in practice on the A&M kickoff coverage team. Wichita scored both its touchdowns due to a lack of coverage by the Aggies.

"We'll definitely have to make some radical improvements with our kickoff team as we'll be kicking to the best return man in the nation in Rodgers," Bellard said.

Bellard said his Aggies plan to do what UCLA did in beating Nebraska this week.

"UCLA just played steady, patient football and waited for the breaks," he said. "They played consistent and capitalized on five Nebraska turnovers. We are not going to prepare any differently than we did for Wichita State; we'll just be looking at a different defense."

It should be noted that UCLA's head coach, Pepper Rogers, scouted the Bellard Wishbone last spring and began using it this season.

If UCLA borrowed something from A&M, maybe A&M can borrow something from UCLA—like the secret on how to beat Nebraska, since they discovered it.

Aggies Lead SWC In Offensive Stats

DALLAS—Just like you'd expect, the Wishbone T is the leading Southwest Conference offense at this early point in the 1972 season and the Arkansas receiver is the most productive pass grabber.

But the difference is that the Wishbone T belongs to Texas A&M and the Arkansas receiver is really the OTHER Arkansas receiver.

The Aggies became the SWC's most offensive crew after the three-team start of last Saturday, rolling up 432 yards in total offense and 363 yards on the ground in a 36-13 victory over Wichita State. It was a satisfying opening for the Aggies under new head coach Emory Bellard, one of the chief builders of the Texas Wishbone T formation before moving on to College Station after last season.

And the Arkansas passing game, effectively throttled by the talent-laden Southern California in the Trojans' 31-10 victory at Little Rock, still managed league leaders.

Jim Hodge and SWC receiving champ Mike Reppond each grabbed seven Joe Ferguson aeriels, but Hodge proved the biggest threat by netting 127 yards on his receptions to Reppond's 59 yards.

Ferguson, the 1971 passing champ with almost twice as many completions as runner-up Bruce Gadd of Rice (160-87), opened with an even wider spread over Gadd. Ferguson hit on 19 of 36, while Gadd was hitting on eight of 17 in Rice's 14-13 victory over Houston.

A&M's Mark Green, who converted from quarterback to tailback midway of last season with instant success, kept up the good work in his debut as a Wishbone halfback. The 6-4 junior from Odessa rushed for 165 yards, well ahead of runner-up John Coleman, the Rice freshman who amassed 84 yards against Houston. It was Green's best day as a collegian, eclipsing the 161 yards he gained last year against SMU when he rushed a conference record 41 times.

Green claims leads in two other statistical categories, tying with Edwin Collins of Rice for the scoring lead with 12 points each and leading in kickoff returns with a 30-yard average.

Gary Whitehead of A&M took the tandem offense (yards gained rushing and receiving) lead with 74 yards. Whitehead's total 1971 production was 12 yards in two carries, in the Wichita State game; last Saturday against Wichita he rushed for 54 yards and caught two passes for 20 more.

Teammate Grady Hoermann likewise improved his statistical record by grabbing the interception lead with a pair of thefts. In two previous varsity seasons Hoermann had snared only one interception, 16 games earlier in his sophomore season against Baylor.

Punters Mark Williams of Rice, who led the SWC last season, and Robert Murski of A&M are in a dead heat after one game. Both punted five times, both totaled 194 yards for a 38.8-yard average.

TCU Sports News Service Picks Aggies Close To Top

FORT WORTH—For the first time in six years a Southwest Conference school other than the University of Texas has been given the nod as the prospective SWC grid champ—Arkansas.

The Razorbacks of Frank Broyles are the choice in the poll conducted annually by the TCU Sports News Service, taking the honor away from Texas for the first time since 1967.

On nine occasions since the poll began in 1934 the poll's selection has been accurate. On three other years the media's choice finished in a tie for the championship, including the 1968 tie of Texas and Arkansas.

Seventy-five of the 104 media voters picked the Hogs in the No. 1 spot with seven others predicting an Arkansas tie for first. Texas and Texas A&M followed Arkansas in the second and third spots. The Longhorns took a total of 17 first place votes for an outright championship, not

including six tie votes. Texas A&M had three first place votes and five ties.

Texas Tech and Rice, the sixth and seventh choices, garnered the only other first place votes with one each.

Texas Christian and Southern Methodist were pegged as the fourth and fifth choices with the Horned Frogs getting a 436½ point total to SMU's 389.

Baylor had the lowest prediction point total with 154½.

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- Sept. 25-29 T - Z
- Oct. 2-6 Makeups

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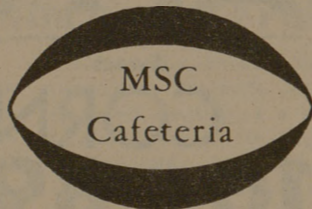
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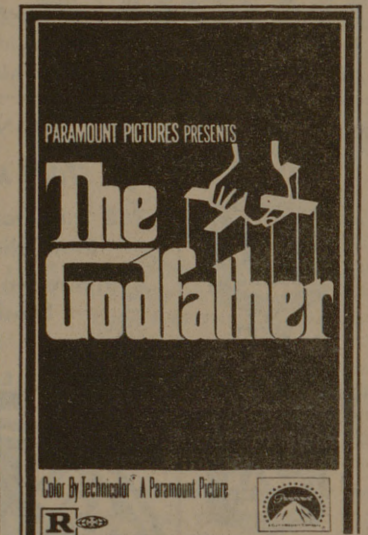
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