

# Jay, Aggie Offense Seek Consistency

## Clemson Offers Tough Opposition Saturday at 1:30 p.m.

By TED BORISKIE  
Assistant Sports Editor

The big question waiting for the Aggies when they face Clemson in South Carolina Saturday at 1:30 CDT will be "Can Mike Jay and the A&M offense finally settle down and play like every-

one knows they are capable of playing?"

Head Coach Emory Bellard seems to think so.

"Losing is a sickening experience anytime," he said after last Saturday's loss to Boston College. "There is a point where fighters

get a gut full of losing and respond, and I know we have a bunch of fighters.

"Our main problem is inconsistency. We show a little spark and then we play so-so."

Jay knows a lot of the talk of inconsistency must be about him. After playing a relatively solid game against LSU two weeks ago, he returned to Kyle Field for a hot and cold performance against Boston College. Jay is the leading passer in the Southwest Conference and is able to hit receivers Carl Roaches and Richard Osborne on long bombs but has only 383 completion norm.

Jay is 20th in the nation in total offense with 428 yards passing and 86 yards rushing.

The Aggies have three of the Southwest's leading running backs in Skip Walker, Alvin Bowers and Bubba Bean. Walker is presently 10th in the nation and tied for first in the SWC in scoring and is second in the conference in tandem offense. Bowers is fifth in the SWC in rushing while Bean, who is not a statistical leader, turned in a great performance against Boston College, coming back from a thigh injury suffered early last month.

Reserve fullback Bucky Sams is also beginning to come back from an injury suffered this summer and will probably be used more in the next few weeks. Halfback Ronnie Hubby does not have a tremendous amount of total yardage but is running for 4.4 yards a try and has a touchdown for his only pass of the year.

Wide receiver Roaches is second in the conference in kickoff returns after setting a SWC record last week with 193 yards in four returns. He has also

racked up 219 yards on nine pass receptions including a 60-yard touchdown gallop against LSU.

Tight end Osborne has seven receptions thus far for 126 yards and a touchdown.

The interior line is led by center Ricky Seeker who led the blocking for Roaches' 100-yard opening kickoff return against Boston College. Joining him on the line will be Bruce Welch at guard and Glenn Bujnoch and Dennis Smelser on tackles.

The other guard position is normally occupied by senior Bud Trammell. However, due to an injury suffered in practice last week, his status is questionable. If he is not able to play, he will be replaced by freshman Billy Lemons, who filled in at guard against Boston College.

Though only a freshman, Lemons did an admirable job against the Eagles.

"He started off a little shaky," said Bellard of Lemons, "but he got better and better as the game went on. I'd say he played a good game."

The Aggie defense is led by crowd-pleaser Ed Simonini. From his linebacking slot, Simonini leads the Maroon and White in tackles with 52, including 19 stops against Boston College. Joining him at linebacker are Garth Ten Napel and Kenny Stratton, who is second on the tackle list with 37. Reserves sure to see action are John Paul McCrumby, coming off an outstanding game against Boston College, and Lester Hayes, who, with a 9.4 hundred, is probably the fastest linebacker in the nation.

The front four is the most in-

jury riddled area on the team with one starter definitely out and another not playing at full strength. Out is defensive end Blake Schwartz who will be replaced by Paul Hulin. The other end is occupied by Don Long with Tank Marshall performing as swing man in reserve. At the tackles are Ted Lamp and Warren Trahan, who played sore-wristed for part of the game against Boston College and is expected to do the same against Clemson. Relieving him will be freshman Jimmy Dean. The defensive line was further weakened this week when top reserve Kent Krueger left the team in search of a more idyllic life. Moving up to second string following the loss of Schwartz and Krueger are freshmen Brad Burnett and Terry Willis.

The Aggies have another conference leader in the person of Pat Thomas, who leads in interceptions. Cornerback Tim Gray and safety James Daniels each have one interception and safety Larry Ellis leads the defensive backs in tackles with 22 thus far this season.

Randy Haddox has firmly established himself as field goal and PAT man after outstanding performances in all three games.

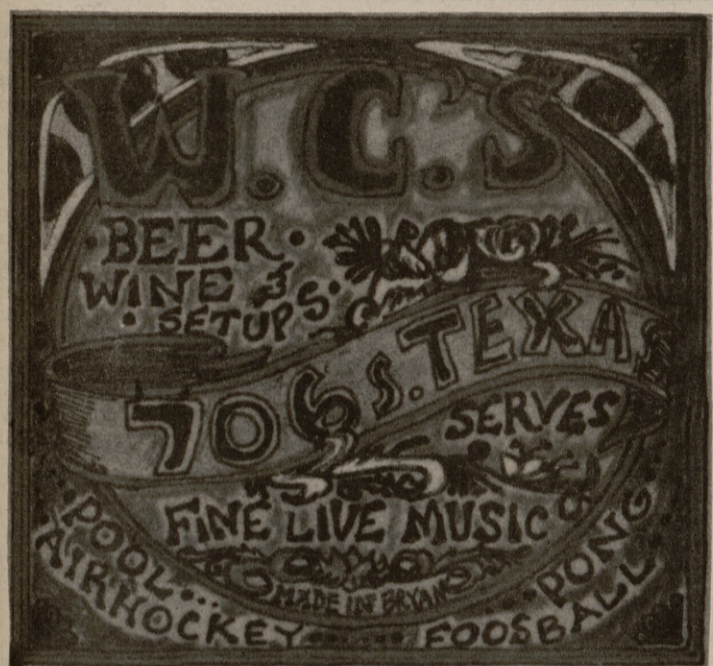
Mark Stanley is punting at a 40.1 norm which is good enough to lead all other conference punters.

"All we need is consistency," said Bellard, "but we won't know when we will get it until we already have it."

The Aggies feel South Carolina is as good a place as any to find the elusive continuity.



WORLD RECORD PERFORMER Mario Andretti studies notes after posting a new closed course speed mark of 214.158 MPH during trials for Saturday's Texas Twin 200. (Photo by Ken Stroebel)



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## Speed Mark Falls During TWS Trials

Mario Andretti, driving an Offy-powered Viceroy Special broke the world closed court speed record Thursday with a 214.158 miles-per-hour run.

Andretti's record dash came during qualifying for the United States Auto Club championship 200-mile race. The race is the first part of a USAC doubleheader scheduled Saturday at Texas World Speedway.

Andretti, of Nazereth, Pa., topped the old mark of 212.766 miles per hour set here last April by Bobby Unser.

Andretti was the 16th of 30 drivers who were attempting to earn one of the race's 26 starting positions. His record run was made under overcast skies and came on his second qualifying lap. His first lap speed was 213.460 which also bettered the previous high.

The starting lineup for Saturday's Indy car race will be the fastest field of cars in motor racing with the 26 cars having an average speed of 202.190 miles per hour. Nineteen of the 26 starters qualified at over 200 miles per hour.

Starting next to Andretti in the first row will be Lee Kunzman of Guttenberg, Iowa. Kunzman's speed was 212.703 miles per hour in his Cobre Firestone, Eagle Offy. Rounding out the top qualifiers were Johnny Rutherford, Gordon Johncock and Lloyd Ruby.

Bobby Unser, former holder of the track record, failed to make the starting lineup on his first qualifying lap. His engine gave out a cloud of smoke as it enter-

ed the first turn and Wayne Leary, his chief mechanic, said later the engine burned a piston.

Andretti said after the race that he did not think the old mark would be broken.

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### PEANUTS

By Charles M. Schulz

HERE'S THE WORLD WARI FLYING ACE WAKING AT DAWN.

HE CLIMBS INTO THE COCKPIT OF HIS SOPWITH CAMEL...CONTACT! THE ENGINE COUGHS ONCE AND THEN STARTS WITH A ROAR!

ROWR!

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT GUEST COTTAGE OF YOURS, CHUCK!