

Kevin's Korner



By KEVIN COFFEY, Sports Editor

There is a silver lining in every cloud, or so I am told, and perhaps by the end of next week I'll think the experiences of my trip to Clemson, S. C., were funny, but I didn't think that Saturday night.

The trip to Clemson for this writer promised to be interesting from the very start. Through the efforts of Marvin Tate, associate athletic director, and John Hopkins, Aggie Club executive vice president, I was to board the annual Aggie Club Charter plane in Dallas.

Things went wrong from the very beginning. Our photographer and I disagreed on where the front of Walton Hall was and after rounding him up, we barely made our connecting flight to Dallas. We were scheduled to leave Love Field at 8 a. m. and did well to get away at 9:10. Only an hour and ten minutes late, not too bad.

When the flight over the ground, the fun began. Bloody Marys and Screwdrivers were served by a knockout stewardess who would not take no for an answer (about taking a drink I mean). Breakfast was tolerable, which is rare on an airplane and everything seemed to be smoothing out.

We got to the game about 10 minutes before kickoff after an hour's ride through some of the prettiest country I've ever seen.

Since the Aggies won the game and I made it back to the bus on time I knew everything was going to go well. When we arrived at the airport an airline representative said we would be in for a short delay while "minor adjustment" was made on the big bird. Minutes have a way of stretching into hours and after many drinks and many hands of black jack it was decided we needed another plane. To make a long story short, eight hours in Greenville-Spartanburg Airport is no fun. I did manage to finish reading "Semi-Tough" (which I strongly recommend) and I also managed to lose a few dollars somewhere along all those hands of black jack.

I only bring this up because I am trying to put off predicting this week's games. After the bath I took last week, I am becoming leary of this crystal ball I bought before the season started. Well here goes:

This week is the toughest one yet. Four of the six games involving Southwest Conference teams have point spreads of less than a touchdown.

Texas' annual clash with Oklahoma is the top game in the SWC this week. The 11:50 p. m. kickoff will draw a capacity crowd at the Cotton Bowl as well as a national television audience. Oklahoma won the last two which has got to get Darrell Royal's goat. This game pits two outstanding defensive teams and I would be surprised by an high scoring affair.

Royal and losing just don't get along. The former OU star has participated in 22 of the 67 Texas-OU games. He posted a 2-2 record as a Sooner and a 12-4 record while coaching the Longhorns.

Oklahoma coach Barry Switzer enters the clambake for the first time as a head coach.

Texas is 2-1 and ranked 14th in the nation with OU 2-0-1 and sixth ranked.

The Bookies have Oklahoma a six point favorite in what should be a classic defensive battle. OU won 27-0 last year but they were ahead only 3-0 deep in the third quarter. OKLAHOMA 14, TEXAS 10.

Saturday's Baylor-Arkansas game finds the Bears trying to break a five year Razorback win streak. Oddly enough, Baylor leads the all time series 26-24-1 but Hog coach Frank Broyles stands 10-4-1 against the Baptists.

Baylor has shown signs of a strong running game behind Gary Lacy's 404 yards in the four Baylor games. It also appears that the Bears are healthy again after taking a beating against Oklahoma in the season opener. Both teams are 2-2 and both won last weekend with Baylor over Florida State 21-14 and Arkansas downing TCU 13-5.

Kickoff is scheduled for 7:30 p. m. in Waco's Baylor Stadium. Baylor is a three point favorite with 35,000 expected to be on hand for the Bears' conference opener. BAYLOR 24, ARKANSAS 17.

Excepting the A&M-Tech game, the remaining games involving conference teams should be runaways.

The University of Houston hosts Virginia Tech tonight at 7:30 in the Astrodome. UH is 4-0, the only undefeated team remaining in the SWC. The Coogs are ranked 13th in the nation and climbing. SMU smashed VPI 37-6 and it looks like UH is tougher than the Mustangs. HOUSTON 42, VIRGINIA TECH 0.

Rice hosts Notre Dame at 7:30 Saturday night in Rice Stadium with over 65,000 fans expected to take a glimpse of the perennial national power.

The Irish stand 3-0 and ninth ranked while Rice is 1-2. Rice was expected to be the leading passing team in the conference but Owl coach Al Canover became disenchanted with JC transfer Fred Geisley and freshman Tommy Kramer is slated to get his first starting nod.

Notre Dame is just too tough for the Owls and tougher than the 18 points the odds makers give Rice. NOTRE DAME 38, RICE 7.

TCU and Idaho meet in a real battle of also-rans in the Horned Frogs' Amon Carter Stadium at 7:30 p. m. Saturday. TCU is 1-2 and Idaho stands 1-4. TCU has some injury problems with leading running back Mike Luttrell out along with several other Frog regulars. TCU is A&M's next opponent. TCU 28, IDAHO 10.

Now that the crystal ball has done its job, I think I'll make my reservations for next year's Aggie Club charter to Seattle, Wash.

Lemons Takes Advantage Of First Starting Assignment

There aren't many opportunities for freshmen to break into the starting lineup at a major university, but A&M's Billy Lemons never looked a gift horse in the mouth.

The 6-5, 280 pound offensive guard at A&M got his first starting assignment in the Aggies third game of the season against Boston College when regular Bud Trammell sprained an ankle. Lemons' performance was not a surprise to anybody.

"Billy played a real solid ball game and got better as the game progressed," said A&M head coach Emory Ballard. "He will be a great player someday but any offensive lineman needs training."

"Billy will really be a great one once he gets some experience," echo's Dennis Smelser, Lemons' running mate at right tackle.

Lemons' talents extend beyond the gridiron. He is a very accomplished singer and one of the

sharpest dressers on the young Aggie squad.

"Billy is not a shy kid and he would sing for anybody, anywhere," said Ballard. "He's quick, active, graceful, smart and agile. When you think of a man that weighs 280 pounds most people visualize a big, fat kid but Billy isn't like that. He's built solid," Ballard said.

Lemons' big play during the Clemson game was springing Bubba Bean on a 78 yard touchdown run which led the Aggies to their 30-15 victory. Bean, who finished the Clemson game with 204 yards rushing gave the credit to his blockers. "The lineman and the other backs blocked so well that it was easy to run," said Bean.

Does the pressure get to Lemons?

"I felt more at ease against Clemson than I did against Boston College," said Lemons. "They

were a little quicker than Boston but I knew more about what I was supposed to do against Clemson."

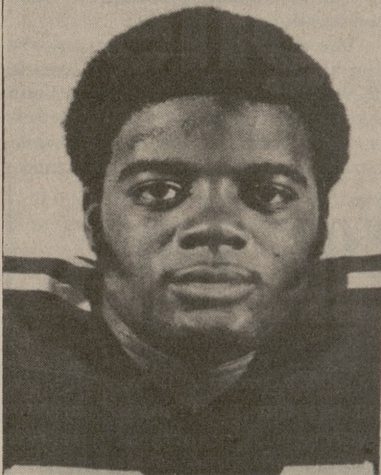
As the Aggies ready for their conference opener against Texas Tech, it will be Billy Lemons and the A&M offensive line that have a lot to say about the outcome.

Detroit Tabs Houk Skipper

DETROIT (AP) Ralph Houk became "the highest-priced manager we've had in the history of the ball club," Detroit Tiger General Manager Jim Campbell said Thursday in announcing the selection of the former Yankee skipper as manager of the Tigers.

Houk, 54, agreed to a three-year contract which Campbell said was the longest for any of the 26 managers in the 73-year history of the American League club.

Houk was not present for the announcement, but was flying in from his Florida home, the Tigers said.



Billy Lemons

Cross Country at Texas Tech

A&M cross country coach Ted Nelson will take a seven-man team to Lubbock for a dual meet with Texas Tech Saturday. The meet will start at 11 a. m. over a four-mile course.

Running for the Aggies will be freshman Jacob Fesman, junior Danny Jones, freshman Kyle Heffner, junior Marvin Maphet, senior Pat Bradley, freshman Dennis Groll and sophomore David Gillette.

"Our runners have been working very hard this fall and have been improving every week," Nelson said. "If we can get a couple more runners to move up, we should have a pretty good team."

The Aggie harriers are 1-1 for the season with a one-point loss to LSU in Baton Rouge and a victory over Baylor in Waco last weekend.

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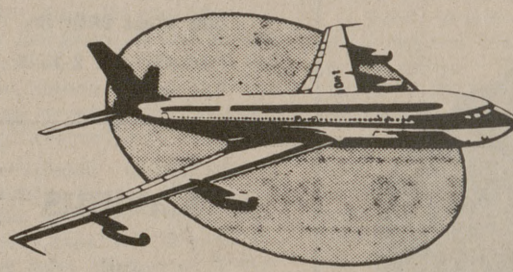
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