

Stanley makes presence felt in national rankings

By PAUL McGRATH
Staff Sports Writer
Some guys just have to get their kicks before the day is done.

Mark Stanley just happens to be among them.
However, Stanley gets his in other ways than just raising hell.

He does it kicking a football. Stanley's punting was important in deciding the victory over Texas Tech. The Red Raiders had to start from the shadow of their goalposts several times due to Stanley punts.

In what may have been his best career game, Stanley averaged 47.9 yards per kick before the national television audience. His shortest punt went 41 yards while his longest went 61 yards and into the endzone. Not one of the punts was returned past the Tech 17 or for more than nine yards. Tech's best field position after a Stanley punt was their own 22.

"I don't know how you could punt the ball better than Mark Stanley did today," said head football coach Emory Ballard after the game.

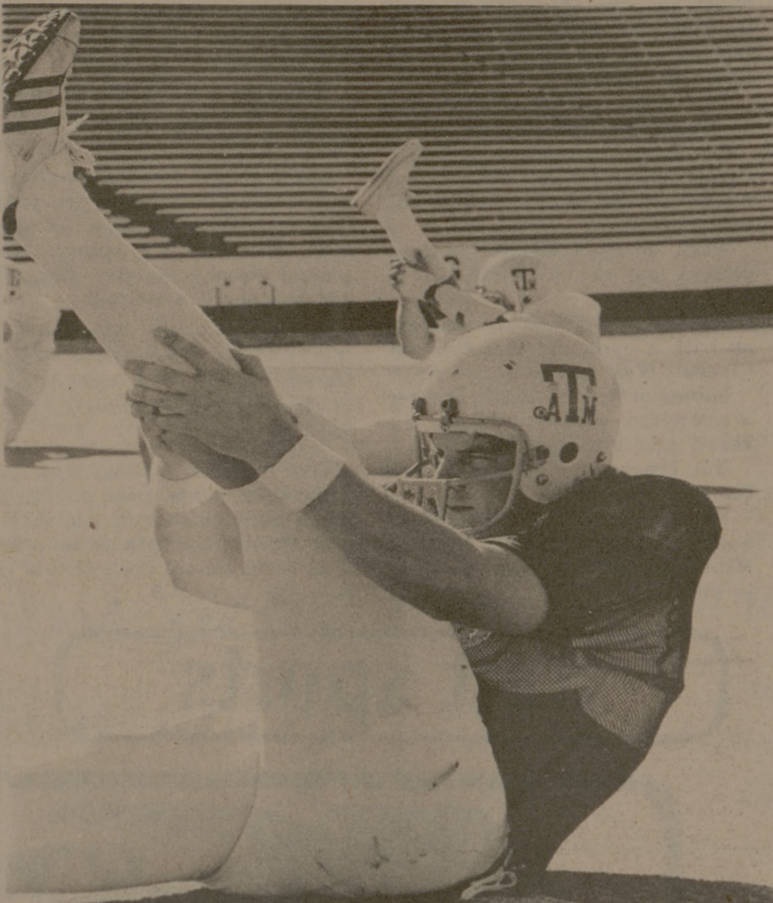
Stanley began as a non-scholarship freshman, but before long became the Aggie punter and kickoff man. He is now in his junior year and is making his name heard on the national punting charts. His 43.4 average is fourth in the nation and tops in the Southwest Conference.

"I'm glad," said Stanley concerning his ranking, "but I'd be a fool to say I'm satisfied with that spot. I'd like to be number one."

Last year Stanley was fourth in the SWC with a 38.2 average but the A&M punt coverage team set a national record by allowing an average return of 1.3 yards. Despite his obvious pleasure in earning the national ranking, Stanley says he would rather see the coverage team ranked than himself.

Stanley feels he kicks best under pressure, when a rush is on. He tries to get each punt off at the same speed. This compensates for possible heavy pressure since he knows for sure when a rush will be coming. Stanley praises center Matt Freeman for his accuracy in snapping the ball back. Stanley emphasizes the grip, the approach and the follow through of the leg as being essential to punting.

Stanley says he would like to get a pro contract as opposed to being a free agent. If he does receive one, he'll be one of those lucky people who gets paid for getting their kicks.



THE NATION'S 4th best punter Mark Stanley loosens his kicking equipment as he does stretch exercises at practice. Stanley is averaging 43.4 yards per punt; Washington's Skip Boyd is leading the nation with a 44.2 norm. (Photo by Steve Krauss)

Aggies play tonight against The Bunch

The Bunch will attempt to gang up on the water polo team tonight in an 8 o'clock match at the Wofford Cain Pool.

This will be the Aggies' second to

last home game of the year. The final home contest will be Oct. 24 against the College Station Water Polo Club.

The Aggies defeated The Bunch previously on the road by a 15-2 count. The Bunch, consisting of Houston pre-med students, was defeated recently by the University of Texas, a team which coach Dennis Fosdick's Aggies clobbered 15-1.

The Aggies have a home record of 1-0-1, with the victory over Texas and a tie last Saturday against the Alumni. The Water Polo team is 7-2-1 overall.

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