





By The Associated F

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2-0 90 1-1 86 1-1 44 1-1 29 2-0 26 2-0 23

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By TONY GALLUCCI Sports Editor

The Aggies take off at nine o'clock tonight and will fly into one of the most dreaded areas known to football-playing man. But the Aggies should take less fear with them than most teams do now or Aggie teams did in the past. This year, the first in many, they return as the defending champions (so to speak) and, even better, they are picked to win

Now the chances of going into a game like that and getting blasted (remember Alabama, remember Auburn are the cries) are normally great. But the Aggies have already had their Waterloo and escaped with a win, luckier than some others. Although it may not be of particularly historical importance or even bear out over time, the fact exists that last year the Ags were never beaten (or embarrassed) twice in a row. And using logical deduction we must assume that this year's team will do likewise since they are at least as good a team as last year s.

Twice last year the Aggies attained a rather lofty but probably fairly correct ranking of No. four in the nation, only to be upset at the next game. Namely Kansas, and SMU. That number might therefore be avoided at all costs, and luckily, they go into this matchup at No.

Besides upsetting a very good team last year and shoving the "Year of the Tigers" down Cholly Mac's throat the Ags came out of the game with some added honors.

The entire Aggie offensive line was named Associated Press player of the week for constructing the runways which allowed three Aggie backs, Bean, Walker and Sams, to each gain over a hundred yards

Well, the chance is there again, Bean and Walker are back and starting, though Sams will have to play second fiddle, at least temporarily, to Ronnie Hubby.

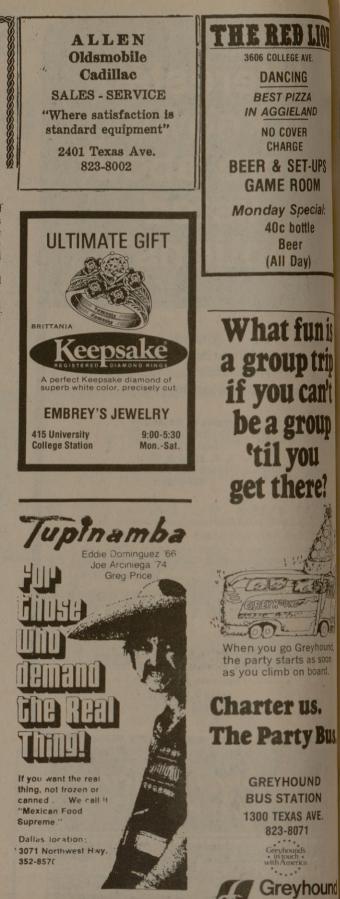
But again it will be the offensive line that everyone, especially me, will be watching. The LSU defense is tough. They held Nebraska to 10 points, of which seven came on a 34-yard drive and three on a field goal after the Huskers recovered an LSU fumble on the four. It is going to have to be a very lucky night or the Aggie secondary will have to have a field day for the Ags to run up the score. But my estimate is that there will be little more scoring in the game than the two teams did the previous week. My prediction of the score, 14-7.

The offensive line will have to have done a lot of shaping up after last weekend. The coverage is needed especially on punts, where blocking was poor. The kicking game is crucial to the cause in the Tiger pit. There must also be holes opened if the idea is to go up the middle as in last week's game. The last word is, there are no changes offensively for the game. With the depth the Aggies have, somebody must have done a good job to retain their starting position.

I hope it works. I still have the conviction that the potential is there, somebody just forgot to crack the offensive egg last week, no complaint here with the defense. If the mere shock of scoring only seven points didn't wake some people up, then hopefully the press reports and the drop in poll rankings did. Sometimes the old hobby horse is just too high.

I look for the Ags to be seething when game time comes. They can fumble all they want as long as they are honest fumbles and not screwups. I would hope that the air route is a little heavier traveled this time, lack of use hurt last week.

My heart doesn't pound as hard this week, nor do I have the butterflies which forced cancellation of several meals but I am still confident. A&M 14, LSU 7



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