

Bellard wary of Illini

UI is better than most think

By DAVID WALKER
Battalion Sports Writer

When a coach meets the press he usually tells them how tough the upcoming opponent is, whether they are or not.

This was the case yesterday as Emory Bellard met the press in his weekly press conference, but this time he had some convincing numbers to back up his praise for the next Aggie foe, Illinois.

"Missouri was the number two defensive team in the nation last week and Illinois had 411 yards total offense against them," Bellard said. "You just have to be impressed with Illinois," Bellard added. "They've got a very strong offensive line, a fine fullback and two good quarterbacks. They have eight returning starters from last year's offense."

The offense isn't the only part of the Illinois attack that Bellard is worried about. "They have a great kicking game. Our scout put a stop watch on their punter and every one of his punts had a hang time of four seconds or better. Their punter is one of the premier punters in the nation."

"Defensively they contained Missouri until close to the end of the game and then only some great running plays by Missouri got to them," Bellard said.

The Aggie boss pointed out that the Fighting Illini were picked as one of the top teams in the Big 10 and that last year's 6-4-1 record was deceiving. "They lost three games in the last minute of play and could have easily been 9-2," he said.

Bellard said that Illinois ran from the 1 with "a thousand different formations."

As for the Illini defense the Aggie coach showed some concern. "We'll

be looking at a defense that we haven't seen in some time and probably won't see again this year. They come at you with an eight man front with three men deep," he said. "They stunt a lot and they are good at it. We're going to have to make some radical blocking changes for this one."

All discussion was not about Illinois. As figured, ULSU was a main topic.

"I don't think anything we did at LSU hurt us in the polls," Bellard said. "Our players worked hard for LSU and they played hard against them. LSU has a fine football team."

"I thought we would play good but I had no idea that the score would end up the way it did," Bellard said.

Bellard had praise for everyone on the Aggie team. "Our backs did an excellent job of blocking at the corners," he said.

"I thought Tony Blankenship and Mike Williams did a good job filling in for Pat Thomas, they had some big shoes to fill and did a real solid job."

"The entire defense did a great job. I thought our defensive line of Tank Marshall, Jimmy Dean, Edgar Fields and Blake Schwarz completely controlled the line," Bellard said.

The Aggie kicking game had some more trouble in the LSU game but Bellard isn't too worried. "On the missed extra point we had a lot of young players out there and when there is a lot of pressure like that


there is a tendency to kick away from them," he said. "On the blocked punt we also had some young players in the game and they just blew some assignments. We work hard all the time on the kicking game and we'll work hard on it again this week."

In the injury department the Aggies are having good luck so far. Mark Stanley missed most of last

week with a pulled ham-string but he will be ready for Saturday. Craig Glendenning is slowed by a bruised back and Pat Thomas is still trying to get over his bad ankle, he is much improved but not yet full speed.

Athletic department officials are expecting a full house Saturday for the 12:50 p.m. kickoff. The game will be regionally televised by ABC.





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Ags move into top ten again

Associated Press
Texas A&M and UCLA climbed into The Associated Press Top Ten college football ratings Tuesday following impressive weekend triumphs.

The Texas Aggies, 11th a week ago, routed Louisiana State 39-8 and moved up to eighth place while UCLA, which had been 12th, defeated Tennessee 34-28 and replaced the Vols in the 10th spot.

The biggest loser in the rankings, however, was Michigan. The Wolverines were held to a 19-19 tie by Stanford and skidded from second place behind top-ranked Oklahoma all the way to ninth.

Oklahoma, the pre-season leader, held onto the top spot by trouncing Pitt 46-10. The Sooners received 56 first-place votes and 1,192 of a possible 1,200 points from a nationwide panel of sports writers and broadcasters.

Ohio State moved up from third to second replacing Michigan while Southern California trimmed Oregon State 24-7 and went from fourth to third. Ohio State received three first-place votes and 1,031 points and Southern Cal got the first-place ballot and 954 points.

Here are the Top Twenty teams in The Associated Press college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, and season records.

1. Oklahoma (56) 2-0-0
2. Ohio St. (3) 2-0-0
3. S. Calif. (1) 2-0-0
4. Nebraska 2-0-0
5. Missouri 2-0-0
6. Texas 2-0-0
7. Notre Dame 2-0-0
8. Texas A&M 2-0-0
9. Michigan 1-0-1
10. UCLA 2-0-0
11. Alabama 1-1-0
12. Penn St. 2-1-0
13. Arizona St. 2-0-0
14. West Virginia 2-0-0
15. Arizona 1-0-0
16. Tennessee 1-1-0
17. Oklahoma S. 2-0-0
18. Stanford 0-1-1
19. Florida 1-1-0
20. Maryland 2-1-0

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