

Meet in Liberty Bowl

Ags, USC clash in Memphis

By PAT EDMONDSON
Battalion Sports Writer

1967 was a glorious year for football at Texas A&M University. It was then that the Aggies defeated Texas in the memorable Thanksgiving Day game, earning them a trip to the Cotton Bowl. They met the Crimson Tide of Alabama in the post-season activity and came home with a 20-16 victory.

In 1975, the Ags will make their 21st bowl appearance since that day in Dallas eight years ago. On Dec. 22, they travel to Memphis, Tenn. to take on the University of Southern California in the 17th annual Liberty Bowl Classic.

Since its origination in 1959, the Liberty Bowl has not only brought outstanding football to American viewers, it has placed much emphasis on the spirit of freedom and rights of man. Incidentally, the Liberty Bowl is the only official athletic event designated as a national Bicentennial event by the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission.

The Ags finished the regular sea-

son with a 10-1 record, while the Trojans completed their schedule with a 7-4 mark.

Each team will be coming off season-ending losses. Arkansas snuck up on A&M in the season finale, 31-6, to earn a share of the Southwest Conference championship and a berth to the Cotton Bowl. UCLA will represent the Pacific Eight Conference in the Rose Bowl after its 26-22 win over the University of Southern California.

This will be the second time the two schools have met. USC beat the Aggies 31-7 in 1964 in a game played at Los Angeles.

For the Aggies, it will be their ninth bowl appearance. They have played in the Dixie Classic, the Cotton, Sugar, Orange, Gator, and Presidential Cup bowls. They have maintained an overall 5-3 bowl record.

The Trojans will be making their 21st bowl showing, but their first in a bowl other than the Rose Bowl. Before the season, Pac-8 and Big 10 committee members voted to allow schools along with the conference

champion to compete in post-season activity. Southern Cal holds a 14-6 record in the Rose Bowl.

For USC Head Coach John McKay, this will be the final college game of his illustrious 16-year career at the school. He announced in mid-October his intent to jump to the expansion Tampa franchise of the NFL and will bow out after the contest.

The Aggies will operate from the wishbone with formations of the I as they have all year. USC uses the I and slot formations.

Southern Cal will be led by all-American junior running back Ricky Bell, who led the nation in rushing. Vince Edwards, also a junior, is an admirable performer and will call the signals at quarterback.

A&M's 80.3 average per game in rushing defense earned them top honors in that department over the entire nation.

The injury situation will look as it has most of the year for both squads. Aggie senior center Henry Tracy is still out with a detached retina.

Mike Jay, plagued with a fractured vertebra, has been working out, but is listed as doubtful for the contest.

USC running back Ricky Bell sustained a slightly sprained ankle in recent workouts, but is expected to start. Mike Burns, a No. 2 rover, has a broken finger and is doubtful. Right cornerback Ted Roberson and outside linebacker Mario Cellotto, who suffered injuries early in the year, are also doubtful starters. Roberson has torn cartilage in his knee, while Cellotto is recovering from a broken leg.

All 105 members of the Aggie squad will make the trip to Memphis.

A sellout crowd in excess of 50,000 is expected in Memorial Stadium for the 8 p.m. kick-off.

It will be televised nationally by ABC with Bud Wilkinson, Keith Jackson, and Bill Flemming announcing. The bowl will also be broadcast by Lindsey Nelson over the Mutual Radio Network, and aired overseas by the Armed Forces Network.

Ara sees possibility of future job in pros

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Ara Parseghian has ruled out a return to football coaching for 1976 but is leaving his options open.

"There are facets about coaching that remain in my blood," the former Notre Dame coach said Tuesday. "The involvement with people, the preparations for games, the games themselves.

"I am committed next year to a program on which I am completely sold — a series of family-oriented television shows devoted to young kids. As for 1977, I will review my options then and make a decision."

Parseghian, who built an enviable record in 11 years at Notre Dame before stepping out voluntarily at the end of the 1974 season, announced that he was joining Viacom Enterprises as host of a new television series.

The series, to be started next fall, will be a half-hour program highlighting instruction and competition involving young athletes. It will be distributed nationally as "Ara's World of Sports."

Viacom is a former CBS affiliate which has produced such TV series as "Hogan's Heroes" and "I Love Lucy."

Mustangs face NCAA probe into recruiting

Associated Press

DALLAS — Southern Methodist was scheduled to appear before an NCAA committee on infractions Wednesday in California in regard to an investigation into the Mustang athletic program.

The NCAA is checking into SMU's recruiting involvement with former Dallas South Oak Cliff High School quarterback Roderic Gerald, now at Ohio State.

SMU president Dr. James Zumbege, faculty representative Dr. Douglas Jackson, Athletic Director Dick Davis and head football coach Dave Smith will be at the meeting.

Davis said future comments on the NCAA investigation would have to come from SMU attorneys.

"I've been advised by counsel not to make any statements," said Davis.

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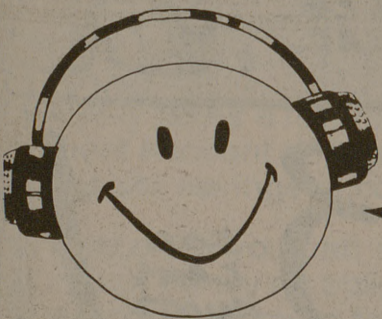


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