

Dickey will start

By PAUL McGRATH

Texas A&M Coach Emory Ballard announced yesterday that freshman halfbacks Curtis Dickey and David Brothers will start in the Aggies' Southwest Conference opener with the University of Houston.

"They both did a good job last week," Ballard said. "Curtis performed the best of all of our halfbacks against Kansas State as far as blocking and running the ball." Dickey is the Aggies' second leading rusher behind fullback George Woodard with 95 yards in 13 carries. Brothers has 33 yards in six carries.

Ballard added that this does not mean that Darrell Smith and Adger Armstrong, the pair who started the first two games, will not see action.

On the quarterback situation, Ballard has named David Shipman to start against the Cougars. David

Walker, who guided A&M to 404 yards total offense against Kansas State after Shipman failed to produce any spark, will be ready if called upon said Ballard.

"The two Davids have an unusual relationship in respect for one another," Ballard explained. "They both want to do a good job. They both are good enough to make a contribution to the team. We're going to play both of our quarterbacks because we think they both play." He added that he had no set rotational system in mind for the two quarterbacks.

Ballard's main concern at present is Coach Bill Yeoman's Houston Cougars.

"Houston has a very talented squad of football players," he said. "They can score from anywhere on the field at any point in time."

"Defensively we will be severely tested. They are more explosive and have more horses (than the Aggies' first two opponents).

Houston puts a great deal of pressure on the defensive perimeters said Ballard, and consequently does the same to the middle of the defense.

The Cougars gained 329 yards in a losing effort against Florida last week, proving they can move the ball. However, the UH defense was embarrassed for 615 yards by the opposition.

"Houston met a combination of things against Florida who has a lot

of talented people and they're real deep. They got a couple of early scores and the game got out of hand real quick," Ballard said.

He cast a warning lest anyone be lulled into a false sense of security by the Coogs 49-14 loss to the Gators. "Losing is never a benefit. But, Florida doesn't play Houston this week, it will be Texas A&M," he said, adding that he expects the Cougars will be emotionally charged for their SWC home opener. Officials are expecting a capacity crowd of 70,000 in Rice Stadium this Saturday.

The Aggies are 6-5-3 versus Houston with the last meeting going to A&M by a 10-7 verdict in 1965. A bit of irony is connected with Ballard and Houston at another time and another place.

While a University of Texas assistant he devised the Wishbone offense and the first experimentation with his brainchild came against the Cougars in the memorable 20-20 game in 1968. Houston's defensive strategist for that game, coincidentally, was Melvin Robertson, now defensive co-ordinator at A&M.

During Ballard's coaching career San Angelo Central to state honors, one of his pupils was Gary "Moon" Mullins. Mullins later quarterbacked the Cougars to national prominence in the early '70's.

The Aggies are virtually injury-free as they prepare for the Cougars. Defensive tackle Jimmy Dean has a slight hamstring pull and Woodard has a bruised thigh, but both are expected to start. Quarterback Keith Baker, still recovering from an appendectomy, will not suit up, although he has been running plays during the weekly practice sessions.



Battalion photo by Chris

Outta my way!

George Woodard plows through a gaping hole against Kansas State, while Curtis Dickey looks for someone to block. Both

men will need their best game Saturday, as the Ags travel to Houston to play the Cougars.

Offensive line gains consistency

By MARLA GAMMON

Dennis Swilley and Company have made a trademark for themselves...consistency at the offensive line positions.

Swilley has played every position on the line in his three years at A&M and he knows that in order for the offense to look good the line must do their part.

"We know what we've gotta do," he said. "If the offense is going to look good the offensive line has got to do their part."

The line has steadily improved the past two years and Swilley feels this year the can do they're job more efficiently.

"Last year started taking some of the pressure off but week after week we didn't play on the same level, we

weren't consistent. People really got on our case about that," he said. "In the spring the line worked real hard, and now we're a lot closer this year than last year."

Swilley began playing football in grade school and played through junior high. After junior high he quit and didn't play again until his senior year in high school.

"I figured if everyone else could do so could I," he said.

Some small colleges had contacted him and then an A&M coach called and offered him a scholarship.

"It really surprised me," Swilley said. "I didn't even know where A&M was. I'd heard so many Aggie jokes I figured A&M was the last

place in the world I'd go to school." Despite the jokes Swilley decided to come to A&M for a good reason.

"If you looked ahead you could see A&M was going to have a good team," he said.

Swilley is from Arkansas and is one of many Aggies who is looking forward to this year's game with the Razorbacks.

"I look forward to going up there because down here I don't know too many people," he said. "The people I go to school with are about the only people I know."

"It feels different to know you're playing in front of a lot of people who really know you and have been around you. Maybe you'll try a little harder."

Texas is the pre-season favorite to

win the conference championship but Swilley feels the Aggies will be in the thick of it for a simple reason.

"This year's team is more of execution and running all the right," he said. "This year every is dedicated to doing things right every play. When you do you're gonna have a better team think we have a better team year than last year. It's a bunch of guys."

Swilley would like to play football if he gets the chance. He'll come back to A&M and get a degree in architecture.

"I hope to play pro ball. If the chance I'll go out and give it a try. If I don't make it I'll go back and finish my school."

— Marla Gammon

Last year for Kyle Field diamond

The Texas A&M baseball team began fall workouts last week and are busily preparing for the 1977 baseball season.

The Southwest Conference allows each baseball team to work out 20 times in a 30 day period in the fall and Coach Tom Chandler and his team are taking advantage of it.

"The real purpose in the fall is that we place a great deal of emphasis on instruction," Chandler said. "We teach a lot of fundamentals."

The Aggies are allowed to play 16 intra-squad games but SWC rules prohibit games with other schools.

According to Chandler the intra-squad games give the coaches a chance to look at some of the younger players.

The Aggies have played in the Mid-West regionals of the NCAA tournament the last two years. Last year the Ags lost to the University of Arizona in the regional finals.

Arizona eventually won the national championship.

Next spring will be the last season for the Aggies to play in Kyle Field.

"In 1978 we will move into our new baseball facility on the West Campus," Chandler said. "It will be one of the outstanding ball parks in the nation. This will mark the end of historic, old antiquated Kyle Field."

The Aggies return 10 letterman from last year's team which had a

40-13 record. The Aggies were great however in that Chandler must replace his entire starting pitching staff.

"We return quite a few veteran players," he said, "but obviously pitching losses were tremendous."

"The boys are working hard and want to carry on our fine baseball tradition at A&M."

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