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Sportsfolio

By PAUL McGRATH

Texas A&M and the University of Houston last met in 1965 at College Station. Both teams were successfully managing to dodge the top 20 that year without much effort, but a contest involving the two natural rivals was bound to be a crowd pleaser.

Making the defensive calls for the Cougars that day was a feisty man filled with as much competitive spirit as his 5-7 frame could hold. Melvin Robertson was in his first year under Bill Yeoman at Houston and has some recollection of the game, which A&M won 10-7.

"I recall we were on about the five- or six yardline near the end of the game and had a chance to win it as time was running out. But we threw an interception or something like that and we lost the game," he said.

Robertson was with Houston for 12 years before transferring to Texas A&M with Emory Bellard in 1972. During his stay at UH the Cougars were widely known for offenses that were strictly high-octane. However, Robertson wants it also known that the Cougars ranked 12th nationally in overall defense during his stay there.

In 1967 the Cougars stole a spot on the national football scene by beating No. 2 ranked Michigan State 36-6. Certainly Robertson could take much of the credit for that victory as well as the manner his defense treated Ole Miss in the Archie Manning era. The Cougs broke Manning's arm in successive seasons, proving its only rational to stick with a winning strategy.

Houston took a great deal of criticism for their 100-6 win over Tulsa. Robertson recalls that the Astrodome scoreboard was not equipped to handle three digits and that some time following the game, Tulsa Coach Glen Dobbs fired his defensive coaches.

Yeoman and his offensive coaches received a lot of flack for running up the score. Robertson and his aides amusingly tried to avoid the protests by wearing tags indicating they were defensive coaches and not responsible for the mammoth score.

Robertson still maintains friendships with the Houston coaches, but he says these feelings will not be present Saturday when he is on the side of the field opposite his former employer.

"We may be good friends at the (coaching) clinics but this week it's all out war. None of them are my friends this week," he said.

"This is our first conference game. If we drop it, they're 2-0 and have a big jump on everybody and we're in a lot of trouble," Robertson said.

He said he had no special feeling about the game other than the fact is the Aggies' first in Southwest Conference play this year.

"I didn't recruit any of the players there now; they're all new. If there's any rivalry, it's between the kids between me and Bill Yeoman. Bill Yeoman's not going to play for neither am I," he said.

Robertson's 4-3 defense made A&M No. 1 in the nation in total rushing defense last fall. They were only No. 2 the year before that. At present, they are in the top spot again, but Robertson says his defense will need one of its best games to shackle the Cougar offense.

"They're a fine football team and they're always ranked high in defense," he said. "They're an aggressive, big play football team."

The "big play" attack is due to the personality of Yeoman and Robertson. "That's just the way it is. It doesn't matter if he's backed on his own two-yardline, he'll throw the bomb," Yeoman, by the way, calls all of the offensive plays himself.

Little matter, say Robertson. "With them, you're ready for 'em." Picking the Aggies, with either of the Davids (Shipman or Walker) at quarterback, should give the Cougars more than they can handle. The A&M defense, virtually untouchable against the pass, should again control the tempo. And then there's a named Woodard. Look for an overflow crowd in Rice Stadium on a lot of disappointed Cougar fans after the game. A&M by 21.

Arkansas versus Tulsa. The Razorbacks proved something by beating Oklahoma State without their starting quarterback. The Aggies by 25.

Baylor plays Illinois (upset victory over Missouri) in one of the highest games this week. Baylor by 7.

Hayden Fry's North Texas State squad takes on SMU, the team forced to coach until he got the job. Too bad, Hayden. SMU by 10.

Nebraska hosts TCU. Ha, ha, ha. The Huskers by 35.

Steve Sloan's Texas Tech Raiders face New Mexico State. Chalk up number two for the team with the double T on their shirts. Tech by 17.

The passing arm of Tom Kramer will not be enough to defeat the Bayou Bengals of Charlotte. The Owls should fall by at least 14.

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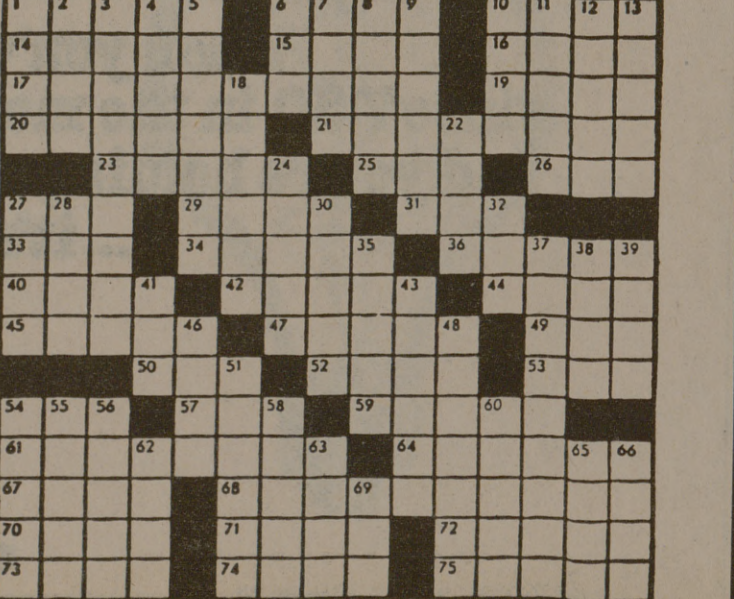
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1 Rousing agent: Var.
6 Easy and fluent
10 Geom. fig.
14 Positive electrode
15 Not any
16 Winglike
17 Meat concoction
19 The dishes available
20 Ill. ----
21 Diverts
23 Narrow cuts
25 Light refreshment
26 Infant
27 Female person
29 Pack neatly
31 Costume: Informal
33 Meadow
34 Pert. to tissue
36 Charge as a debt
40 --- and crafts
42 Angered
44 One: Prefix
45 Sat for a portrait
47 Take objection
49 Play division
50 Ball of something

DOWN
52 Forefather
53 God: Prefix
54 French lick, for one
57 Legal matter
59 Give instruction to
61 Feeling remorse
64 Skin abrasion
67 Tijuana cheers
68 Results of dull razors:
2 words
70 Canvas structure
71 Irish lake
72 Experience
73 Hardens
74 Oboe
75 Causes to go
DOWN
1 Musical notes or dog
2 Monogram: Abbr.
3 Settees
4 Standard of perfection
5 Hold firmly to a purpose
6 African antelope
7 Lady's husband
8 Mercator

PROF BEAM STREW
RENA ALTA AWAKE
ITERATION DOZEN
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SPANISH AREA
SATOUT SLIDER
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TULIP LONG STARE
ALGAE OBOE ET TA
GLAND RENT DESK

enlargement 39 Lug
41 Apply stitches
43 Constraint
46 Tapered seam
48 Arrives at 51 More
54 Detects
55 Martique volcano
56 Concerning
58 Saw logs in the night
60 Desire eagerly
62 Fanatics: Suffix
63 General effect
65 Remain undecided
66 Superlative endings
69 Communist



Women play on the road

Women's sports will be seeing a lot of competition this weekend.

The women's volleyball team will be traveling to Austin to compete in matches against Texas Lutheran College and the University of Texas.

Last Tuesday night in Beaumont the Aggies split matches, as they defeated Rice 15-12, 15-1 before losing to Lamar University (last year's State Champion) 15-6, 10-15, 12-9, with the last game being called on time.

Lamar, losing only one of its players from last year's Championship team, will probably be the Ags' toughest foe in zone competition this year, along with the University of Houston.

The Aggies will be taking a 2-2 record into this weekend's competition.

The women's tennis team will head to Houston this Friday and Saturday to compete in matches against the University of Houston.

Members of this year's tennis team include last year's returnees Dessie Samuels, Ginny van der devel, Gwen Thomas, Mar Guerra, and Ellen Flake.

Carol McAllister, Betty Shillock, Debbie Odum, Elise Richardson, and Susan Schilling round out the rest of the team. McAllister played on last year's women's interstate legiate basketball team. Shillock transferred to A&M from Tyler College while Odum transferred from Baylor.

Coach Ellen Buchanan says the year's team has more depth than ever before, and an improved level over last year.

The women's softball team will travel to Denton this weekend to compete in the Texas Woman's University Tournament.

The Aggies won last weekend's Sam Houston State Tournament, giving them a perfect 7-0 record for the season.

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