

sports

Rice-A&M affairs: a lot of history

By DAVID BOGGAN
When Texas A&M met Rice in its 1976 football game at Kyle Field, the result was a high-scoring, record-breaking contest.

The Aggies set a school record with 526 yards rushing and 622 yards of total offense. George Woodard scored four touchdowns and rushed for 188 yards. Tony Franklin kicked five field goals. Rice's all-America quarterback Tommy Kramer passed for three touchdowns and ran in two more. The final score was 57-34 in the Aggies favor.

The year before in Rice Stadium, the Aggies were down at halftime 14-13, but came back and held Rice scoreless in the second half. A&M won 33-14.

In the 1974 meeting of the two teams the high point of the day did not occur during the actual game, which the Aggies won 37-7, but during half time. Aggies who were

there recall with fire in their eyes the way the Marching Owl Band (MOB) poked fun Aggie traditions in their own special way and brought Aggie fans to their feet in rage. (The MOB has not been to Kyle Field since.)

So who knows what to expect this Saturday in Rice Stadium when the Aggies and the Owls meet for the 62nd time?

Some things are certain. The Aggies will be strongly favored to defeat the Owls with an aggressive offensive game and with defensive containment of a young Owl offense that has averaged only 238 total yards in six games.

The Aggies won't have Tommy Kramer to kick around anymore. Rice's all-America quarterback has graduated and gone pro, and in his place is freshman Randy Hertel. Hertel has completed 67 of 154 attempted passes for 659 yards and four touchdowns. He has been intercepted nine times. Hertel considers himself to be, like his pre-

decessor, a strong passing quarterback.

Rice has receivers capable of catching Hertel's passes, too. Junior wide receiver David Houser has caught 26 passes for 420 yards and two touchdowns. Freshman flanker Darrell Mouton has caught 6 passes for 113 yards. They lead Rice's receiving squad with averages of 16.2 yards per catch and 18.9 yards per catch, respectively.

The Owls will start a young offensive backfield. Along with freshmen Hertel and Mouton are sophomore

freshmen running backs Calvin France and Laney Royal.

Cooper, who missed last week's Texas Tech game due to disciplinary suspension, has run 69 times for 337 yards and three touchdowns. France has carried the ball 11 times for 22 yards and Royal has run 124 yards on 28 carries.

Rice has allowed 284 points to be scored on them in six games, while only scoring 71 points. They have a 0-3 conference record, losing to Texas, TCU and Texas Tech. They

are 1-5 for the season, having defeated Idaho in their opening game of the season.

On the other hand, the Aggies' 2-0 in conference play and 4-4 the season. While they make mistakes, the Aggies look good. This game should provide a chance for Emory Ballard to change the mistakes, to experiment both offensively and defensively and play some of the younger players.

But as recent history has shown with Rice you never know. The game is at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Mad dash for free agents

United Press International
NEW YORK — Baseball's Man of the Moment, Reggie Jackson, freely admits his faults. He has never tried making anybody believe he's a Willie Mays in the field. When he first reported to Baltimore last year, he told Earl Weaver, "I don't know what you heard about my work in the outfield, but I'm not as good as you think I am." After watching Jackson in the field awhile, the Orioles' manager said, "he's right." Like everyone else, though, Weaver is in love with Jackson's bat.

The Best Team Money Can Possibly Buy isn't through buying yet, meaning the Yankee dollar will be in great evidence again two weeks from now when the clubs start falling all over themselves, seeing which of the free agents they can make instant millionaires in the re-entry draft. Bowie Kuhn, like big brother, is watching for any signs of tampering, so George Steinbrenner

is being especially careful about mentioning any free agents who may appeal to him. But the man who spent all that money to get Reggie Jackson, Catfish Hunter and Don Gullett thinks any criticism by other owners of the way the Yankees went out and bought themselves a world championship is nothing more than sour grapes.

"Free agency is part of baseball," says Steinbrenner. "That makes it every bit as much of the game as what takes place on the field. You saw San Diego, Montreal, California and Kansas City competing right up there with us in the last free agent draft, didn't you? I think you'll see Cincinnati in there this time."

Last year, there were only 24 free agents to choose from. This year, with six-year players and certain minor leaguers thrown in, the total probably will run closer to 100. The four top players available are reliever Rich Gossage, who did so well for the Pirates this year, outfielders Lyman Bostock and Larry Hisle, who wrapped up the World Series finale for the Yanks Tuesday night. Gossage's asking price with the Pirates was \$2.7 million over seven years, with \$500,000 of that up front, at which point they wished him luck.

All different kinds of conditions are being written into player contracts these days. One National League club has a provision included whereby the salary of one of its players is reduced \$25,000 if he smokes tobacco of any sort. He chews all he likes, though.

Tug McGraw knows exactly how the Dodgers feel losing the Series, having felt the same himself when the Phillies were beaten by them in the National League playoff. "It's like a death in the family," says the Phil's reliever. "There are three phases you go through: shock, depression and acceptance and of the three, I'm not sure which is the worst."

Thurman Munson can't help but be about being traded to Cleveland. He can be close to home. To be with the Indians and to give the players to give the Yanks in and secondly, they're having enough trouble paying Wayne's \$2 million salary without adding another one like Munson. Now if Yankee President Gale Sayers wants to go back to Cleveland, another story.

I like the story Tim Lincecum, the Phillies' popular reliever, about the time he and Bob Gossage were with the Cardinals and over to talk with some of the owners at one of the club's minor league camps. "There was this one pitcher who said everything was fine and he had no trouble at all with him but once he got into a ballgame, he became aware of all the people in the stands he couldn't throw to any more," relates McGraw.

"Gibby listened, then pointed his own arm and said to this pitcher, 'there's an artery here, runs all the way up clear across your shoulder and down the bottom of your back. When you get into a ballgame, there's a tendency for the bottom of your back to become tight and even curl up a bit. That's because you're getting tense, you get caught up in the game and not relaxing. Once you tense, you get caught up in the game, you're a fan now and you have to remember is that you're getting paid to be a player, not a fan.'" What Gibson was telling young pitcher was that there are other places he could choke besides the throat.

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