

sports

# SMU hopes history repeats itself

By PAUL ARNETT  
Battalion Sports Editor

*Now this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning.*  
—Winston Churchill

Texas A&M returns home from a long road engagement to play the SMU Mustangs. It marks the real beginning of the Southwest Conference (SWC) season.

"Every game from here on in is an important one," coach Emory Bellard said. "We won't be taking the SMU Mustangs lightly. They have a damn fine football team."

"They do a lot of things well. On offense SMU has the best passing quarterback (Mike Ford) in the conference. Add to that fact, tailback Arthur Whittington, and you have a very balanced attack."

The Ponies are averaging 120 yards per game on the ground and 85 yards per game through the air ways. That is a well balanced attack, considering a freshman is at the helm.

"I have a lot more to learn," quarterback Mike Ford said. "But I think I have done a good job since my start against TCU. That game started the real confidence builder for me."

The Aggies need a confidence builder this weekend. Nothing could help them more than defeat-

ing the Mustangs. But that won't be an easy task. SMU is a much better ball club than the Rice Owls. And that was a team A&M played poorly.

"I thought we did a lot of things well against Rice," Bellard said. "We made some mistakes on offensive drives, but our defensive secondary played a darn good game."

"Our team has been making progress this year. We keep making mental mistakes that stop us from reaching our potential. Our team does things that give the opposing team new life. Often we'll have the team in a hole, but then make a mental mistake which gives them an extra advantage."

The Mustangs received an unforeseen advantage earlier in the week. George Woodard, A&M's great fullback, strained a hamstring muscle and is doubtful for tomorrow's game.

"He pulled his hamstring muscle on Monday," Bellard said. "Right now I do not know what his status will be tomorrow. Eddie Hardin is the starting fullback as of now."

Hardin, in his start against Texas Tech, did an adequate job. He, along with the rest of the Aggie team, will have to do better than that in order to defeat the Mustangs.

The real season begins tomorrow. If the Mustangs upset the Aggies, it is the end of the beginning for Cotton Bowl dreams.



Head Football Coach Emory Bellard . . . was interviewed by an ABC News team during practice on October 25. The interview centered around the now famous kicking style of

Tony Franklin. The interview will be shown on the ABC Evening News with Barbara Walters on Friday November 25.

Battalion photo by Larry Sharp

By MARK PATTERSON

Readers, take a walk with me down memory lane. Think back three years ago to the 1974 football season. On a rainy November afternoon the Aggies played the SMU Mustangs in a SWC matchup in the Cotton Bowl.

SMU entered the game with a 2-2 conference record while the Aggies were in first place in the conference, 4-0, and hopeful of a conference title. The stage was set for the game.

Though the actors were present, the Aggies forgot their lines that afternoon. The Mustangs went home to Dallas with a 18-14 upset victory over A&M.

That loss to SMU would eventually knock the Aggies out of the Cotton Bowl and give the Baylor Bears, who were defeated by the Aggies that year 20-0, the conference championship, with a 6-1 conference record. The Aggies ended up 5-2 in the conference, eventually losing to Texas in the last game of the season.

The loss to SMU in 1974 was coach Emory Bellard's first and only loss to the Mustangs, going into tomorrow's game.

In 1977, SMU stands 2-2 in conference play while the Aggies are 3-0 and tied for the lead in the conference. Does tomorrow's setting sound familiar?

SMU would like nothing more than to add another mark to Bellard's loss column. But in order for SMU to repeat its performance of

1974, it will have to play two solid halves of football Saturday.

In last week's game, the Mustangs played a solid first half of ball against the University of Texas. The Ponies went into halftime trailing the number one team in the nation 20-7. But with 6:11 remaining before the intermission, the Mustangs led 7-0. Four turnovers later the wall had caved in and the Ponies never recovered in the second half.

But the Aggie game is a new start for the Ponies and they'll be ready to play. Conference leading quarterback Mike Ford attempted 46 passes against Texas, completing 21. The sellout crowd tomorrow will be treated to another aerial show by the SMU freshman. Ford has averaged 29 passes per game this season.

When SMU turns to its ground attack, tailback Arthur Whittington or slotback Emanuel Tolbert usually get the call. Whittington is the number six rusher in the conference with a 74.7 yards per game average.

Challenging the A&M offense is an SMU defense that has allowed an average of 23.6 points per game. Led by two-year letterman Pitt Choate at linebacker, the SMU defense will try to shut down the Aggie offense as it did in the 1974 game.

But that game was played four years ago by virtually two different teams than the two that will take the field tomorrow.

So readers, we must turn our sights to the present and hope for the best.

Kickoff is at 1:30 p.m.

## A&M rugby teams face hectic weekend schedule

The Texas A&M Rugby Team traveled to Houston only to suffer its first loss of the season to the defending Texas Rugby Union Champions, the Houston Heathens.

This weekend the Rugby Club will send a team to participate in the San Antonio 7-side tournament. Twenty to thirty teams are expected to be involved.

On Saturday, November 5, rugby action will come to College Station

with the A&M women's rugby team hosting a tournament. The men's team will play an exhibition game that same weekend with the Dallas Rugby Club. The rugby games are played on the Main Drill Field, and the Club welcomes everyone to come out on Saturday and watch.

Anyone who wishes to come out to try their hand at rugby is very welcome. If you are interested, call Craig Belew, club president, at 845-4568

## Pistol team finishes fifth

The Texas A&M Pistol Team journeyed to Arlington for the Fall UT-Arlington Invitational Pistol Meet. Three schools entered in the first pistol competition of the 1977 school year: UT-Austin, UT-Arlington, and Texas A&M.

The Aggies entered two teams of 5 persons each, plus three individual competitors.

UT-Austin received first and third place trophies, while UT-Arlington took second place.

Five was also the magic number for the Aggies in the individual rankings, as the top A&M shooter took fifth place. UT-Austin finished first and second in the individual competition, with UT-Arlington finishing third and fourth.

The next scheduled competition will be a Southwest Conference Invitational Meet at Texas A&M on Saturday, November 5, in the Kyle Field Indoor Smallbore Range. Firing will begin at 9 a.m. for the first relay of shooters.

# Owning a townhome vs renting an apartment: an alternative with sound financial advantages for the parents of A&M students.

If your son or daughter is a student at Texas A&M University, you may want to consider investing in an April Court townhome in Bryan-College Station.

The financial advantages of townhome ownership vs. apartment rental are obvious: depreciation and interest save taxes; inflation and community growth encourage property appreciation.

And there are certain intangible advantages of April Court townhouse living compared to renting an apartment. It's usually quieter in a townhome. There's more room for living in April Court than most apartments. There's less hassle for parking than many high density College Station apartments. There's more wooded outdoor space for recreation or reflection. No pet restrictions. Washer dryer connections in some models. Interior finish materials are of better quality than many low budget apartments. And there are less rules, less restrictions to frustrate and irritate young adults who are perfectly capable of managing their own life without the supervision of a property manager only two or three years their senior.

If townhome ownership is a viable alternative for housing your A&M student, you will want to visit April Court without delay. Only 24 units will be available for the fall term. Forty additional units will be completed by spring. One and two bedroom models, starting at \$21,500, are still available.

For additional information, call Perry Schuller or Bob Lozica at 524-1973 (Houston) or Linda Berger at 846-5701/Bryan.

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