



Paul Arnett

Arkansas finally visits Aggieland

By PAUL ARNETT
Battalion Sports Editor
It's been three years since Arkansas came out of the hills to play the Aggies at Kyle Field. It couldn't have happened at a more opportune time.

Very simply, Arkansas has a fine football team, coach Emory Bellard said. "I'm glad that we are playing them at home. Arkansas has an excellent quarterback in Ron Cagnini. He is the only passer in the conference who is hitting better than 50 percent of his passes."

The experience of this season has helped Ron become a more complete quarterback. He had some injuries last year that kept him out of the line-up. Right now he is one of the best quarterbacks in the conference.

Add to that an excellent running game and a great offensive line, and you have a sound offensive football team.

The Razorbacks have an outstanding defense as well. They are ranked second in the conference in total defense and first in the nation on scoring defense. The Razorbacks are allowing just over six points an outing.

"Their defense is as quick as anybody's in the country," Bellard said. "They make a lot of big plays. It is pretty indicative of their strength that they are allowing only six points a game. Add to those stats an extra ingredient named Steve Little."

He helps your defense by keeping the opposition backed up in their own end of the field. And how he helps the offense is quite obvious.

It is even more obvious the Aggies will need to stop runningback Ben Cowins. The junior tailback has rushed for 901 yards, while averaging almost six yards a carry.

"Cowins is just a great runningback," Bellard said. "He has the speed, balance and strength that makes up a superstar. Cowins runs to daylight real well and accelerates

when the hole opens. Give him a half of a step, and he's gone."

Arkansas coach Lou Holtz describes the Texas A&M football team in much the same manner. "They are only one half of a football from being the number one team in the nation," Holtz said. "Offensively they have great speed, and the wishbone offense is a tough offense to stop if that ingredient is involved. David Walker can throw the daylight out of that ball."

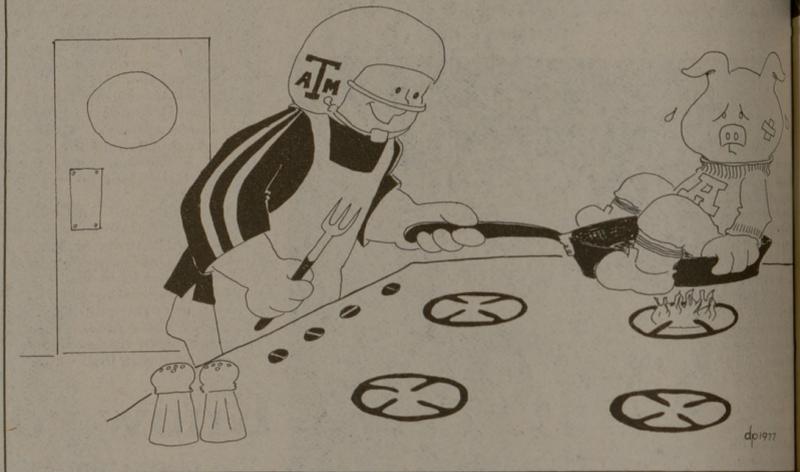
He will need to if the Aggies are to do well. Against a defense like Arkansas' A&M will need to have the element of surprise.

"I don't know whether we will surprise them or not," Bellard said. "If some of the things we are working on work, then it will surprise them. If they don't, then it won't."

One thing that has worked out for A&M is the open date. The Aggies had some men who were hurting, but a week of rest has almost everyone ready to go. Only Thomas Gregory will miss this week's game.

"The open date did us some good," Bellard said. "I know it helped David Walker, Johnnie Donahue and Mark Dennard. All of those guys needed some time off. I'm glad we had the week off. It has helped us in our preparation for Arkansas."

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Tough to say and play against

By D.D. GRUBBS

In these days of high-stepping, fast-moving, break-away running backs, cannon-armed quarterbacks, and long-range field goal kickers, it's difficult making a name for oneself if you are "D"—none of the above. For Texas A&M sophomore offensive guard Ed Pustejovsky, it's doubly tough. He not only plays a position that frequently goes unheralded, but also has a name that even his own coaches have a hard time pronouncing.

Pustejovsky (pronounced pu-JOV-ski for the record) saw limited action as a freshman last year, substituting for starting left guard Craig Glendennig, but was still one of

eight freshmen to earn a varsity letter in 1976.

As a tackle at Spring Branch High School in Houston, Pustejovsky made all-District and all-Greater Houston. The adjustment to college ball, he admits, was every bit what he expected.

"In college, everybody is as big as you—or bigger. I had to learn a whole new offense and all the blocking schemes that go with it. When I finally got into the lineup last year, I was really scared. Once I got rolling, however, I didn't have time to think about being nervous—I just had to do my job."

Playing behind a pair of outstanding guards in Craig Glendennig

and Dennis Swilley last year made that learning process even more valuable.

"They both helped us young guys out a lot, both on and off the field. They gave us pointers and made suggestions on how to use our own abilities to the best advantage."

Pustejovsky feels the Aggie offense has reached its peak now and will be as tough as ever in their final four games of the season.

"We've opened up the offense a lot in the past couple of games. The defenses have been keying on Dickey and Woodard, but now David Walker (A&M's senior QB) is running the ball real well and they have to keep an eye on him now too."

And what about this week's game against Arkansas?

"I think they're just as tough as Texas. They shift around a lot on defense and line up in variations, so we'll work hard on our recognition this week. We've already got a big advantage in playing them here at Kyle Field—it's a big emotional lift for us to play in front of our home bunch."

One interesting—and somewhat unusual—aspect of the Aggies' offense is that fullback George Woodard, at 280 pounds, outweighs everybody on the offensive line by more than twenty pounds. One would think that might add a little incentive for the 6-2, 239-pound Pustejovsky to execute his block and get out of the way when Big Woo comes through.

"I really don't think about George running over me. Besides, any fullback that runs into you with a full head of steam is liable to bowl you over. I will say this: I have had



Ed Pustejovsky

George land on me in a pileup guarantee, he's a heavy one."

Pustejovsky takes a very positive view of the rest of the '77 season.

"Right now, we have to go to Arkansas and then just take one at a time. My personal goal is to maintain my consistency and prove on a weekly basis. As we want to keep our offense at the peak pace it's at now and do whatever it takes to make the Cotton Bowl."

If broadcasters find it difficult pronouncing Ed Pustejovsky's name, they can be comforted by the fact that they at least don't have to line up against him for sixty minutes of football—an undesirable task. Pustejovsky will be facing for the next couple years.

Ag cross country team finishes fourth in meet

The Texas A&M cross country team competed in the Southwest Conference meet in Waco Monday. The Aggies finished in fourth place behind Arkansas, Rice and Texas

Layne Mitchell, Tom Glass, Higgins and Ross Oliver finished 6th, 32th, 34th and 40th, respectively.

"We are very proud of our men performed," Aggie coach Tom Nelson said. "Kolin Mitchell were super. Our team a lot better than anyone expected."

Tech. For the Aggies, Manford Kohrs finished third with a time of 30 minutes and 15 seconds. Aggies

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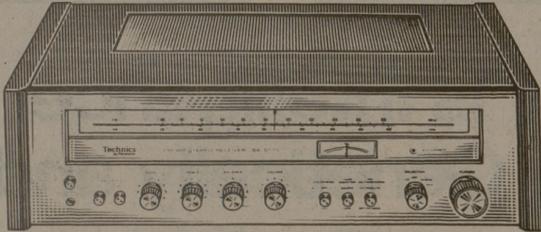
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