

sports

Walker's become a threat



Walker

Rice did to some degree, but until then, no one had really come at us with that in mind.

"It's been a strange year. We've blown some opportunities and haven't scored as many points as most people expected. But now it seems to be turning around. We're in real good shape and I think that second half against SMU has got us going again."

Walker has 342 yards rushing and 560 yards passing for 902 yards in total offense so far this year. He is second on the all-time A&M career list in QB rushing with 860 yards, and total offense with 3,187 yards. His personal goal, besides guiding the Ags to the Cotton Bowl, is to break into the list of top ten career rushers for A&M. Right now, he is just 258 yards away from that milestone as Bucky Sams (1973-75) is currently No. 10 with 1,118. Walker also would like to get his passing percentage up to 50 percent this year. So far in '77 he is 35 for 80 (.438) and has also thrown for eight touchdowns.

The Aggies have four games remaining on their schedule, including this week's bout with Arkansas at Kyle Field. According to Walker, there are strong feelings surrounding this rivalry, as he feels the Ags still bear the scars of the 31-6 loss to the Hogs back in 1975.

"It felt good to beat them last year at their place," says Walker in reference to A&M's 31-10 victory in Little Rock. "It'll be a definite advantage to have them down here this year—we'll need all the advantages we can get."

"Arkansas has a quick, tough defense, an explosive offense, and their kicking game is liable to keep us in our own territory so we'll have to sustain some drives. There's no doubt that is a grudge match, and it's no secret that a lot of people down here don't like the Arkansas Razorbacks."

What about the rest of the season and the SWC race?

"I think a lot of people are still overlooking us," says Walker. "Texas has a lot of pressure on them with that Number-One ranking—they can't afford to lose. Having only one quarterback isn't helping them much either. I think the pro-

bation thing has hurt Houston quite a bit, but they still have a good team. All things considered, I feel confident going into these next four games."

Briefly touching on the epidemic of quarterback injuries around the SWC this season, Walker chalks it up to coincidence and hazards of the game.

"Two of the top quarterbacks in the conference got hurt early in the season, then when some others went out, it started people to wondering. It's just something that happens but you've got to play the game at full speed all the time. If you worry about getting hurt, it takes away from your effectiveness."

This year, David Walker has taken his share of licks, but through his performance and leadership, has made the Aggie offense a complete unit in every sense of the term.

By D.D. GRUBBS
At Texas A&M, they run the triple option in its purest sense. With a 250-pound fullback they have the inside power. With a 9.4 sprinter at halfback they have the outside threat. And with a set of fine receivers and a rifle-arm passer, they have the means to put the ball in the air when needed.

However, in their last three games, the Aggies have exhibited still yet another threat that makes that wishbone attack even more ominous. David Walker can also run with the ball, and that comes in handy when there are eight defenders stacking the middle or three people keying on the speedy halfback.

In the last three games (vs. Baylor, Rice and SMU), Walker has kept the ball a total of 61 times and run for 296 yards, his best performance coming against SMU two weeks ago when he rushed 27 times for 182 yards. Both figures were career highs for the senior three-letterman from Sulphur, La. and, along with a pair of TD passes, were enough to earn him AP Player of the Week honors in the SWC.

Opposing defenses around the SWC must find it difficult these days devising ways to keep the Aggie offense completely in check.

"I'm not the big breakaway threat of a Woodard or a Dickey," explains Walker. "I really thought the defenses would start making me run with the ball earlier. That was SMU's whole game plan. Baylor and

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