

sports

Statistics don't matter now

By MARK PATTERSON
Battalion Staff

Texas is going to win, Aggies.
The final score of Saturday's game will be 37-9. With the win, Texas will advance to the Cotton Bowl to face Notre Dame for the national championship.

Earl Campbell will rush for 152 yards and score two touchdowns against the Aggie defense. The Texas receiving corps of Johnny "Ham" Jones and Alfred Jackson will collect 91 yards on four catches against the Aggie secondary, and score one touchdown.

No, I'm not skeptic, but if Saturday's game was played on paper, the above would be true.

The given figures are the Texas Longhorns' averages through their 10 games this season. It's all down on paper and the statistics don't lie.

But wait Aggies, there's hope. As seen in the past, statistics don't mean a thing when these two teams meet in their annual slugfest. Facts and figures take a back seat to the happenings on the field when the Horns tangle with the Aggies.

This year the Aggies may have an added advantage for the game. Texas' punter/place kicker Russell Erleben is doubtful for Saturday's game. Erleben's leg is still bruised badly enough that he hasn't suited up for practice in two weeks. As of Tuesday he was still on crutches.

Erleben's absence will severely hurt Texas' kicking game. His conference leading punts have kept the opposition deep in their own territory when Texas had coughed up the football (on those few occasions).

But the Aggie defense has found itself and is causing the opposition to do some coughing.

Safety Carl Grulich is still in the painful position of leading the team in tackles with 112. Painful because

the statistic shows that the opposition is getting through the defensive line and the linebackers before the secondary is stopping them.

But Grulich's lead position is in jeopardy. Linebacker Roderick Reed, off a series of impressive performances, now has 110 tackles on the season. Close behind Reed is another linebacker, Kevin Monk, who has 95 tackles on the year.

The linebackers are beginning to make their presence known to the opposition. Monk, Reed and company will have to play to their potential if they hope to stop Earl and Texas on Saturday.

There will be a new face in the Aggie secondary this week. Due to the injury to Jimmy Hamilton in the TCU game, Wadine Miles will step in at right cornerback against the Longhorns this week.

But on the offensive side of the Aggies team, history could be made this weekend.

Never, in the history of the Southwest Conference, have two backs from the same team gained 1,000 yards in a single season. That is, until this year.

Playing out of coach Emory Belard's "slow, dead and stoppable" offense are two backs on the verge of rewriting the record books.

Fullback George Woodard has rushed for 969 yards through the nine games this season. His counterpart, halfback Curtis Dickey, has gained 896 yards on 153 carries this year.

In order for the two backs to break the record against Texas this weekend, Woodard has to carry the ball seven times and maintain his average of 4.8 yards per carry.

Needing 104 yards, Dickey has to carry the ball 20 times with his 5.4 yards per carry average to top the 1,000 yard mark.

So that is one statistic that the people will be following throughout the Texas game this weekend. If the two maintain their figures, the record should be broken this weekend.

But as we all know, averages and records don't mean a thing when Texas and the Aggies go to war.



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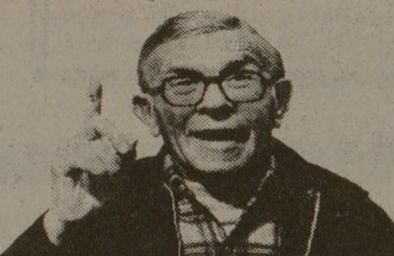
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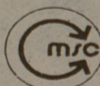
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