A&M-Texas will play for keeps

By PAUL MCGRATH

There was a riverboat gambler who once seemed to be having a run of bad luck one night. Although his wallet hadn't been too severly scathed, he hadn't been playing his cards as aggressively as his reputation would have one believe.

Gaining confidence, the gambler's opponents began raising the stakes, hoping to recover past losses. But, their strategy began working against them as they cleaned out each other while somehow the gambler stayed in the game.

The remaining player knew a drawn out game would be to the gambler's advantage, and thus chose to end the contest in a final, winner-take-all hand.

Nervous fingers dealt the cards as winding streams of perspiration lined the face of the gambler's opponent. With every chip on the table, the gambler then proved why taking risks was his profession.

After counting his winnings and excusing himself from the table, the gambler was asked how he managed to become the winner after such a bad start. The gambler replied, "I don't start playing for serious until the stakes are serious."

Saturday, the University of Texas and Texas A&M will meet for the 84th time and the stakes will be "for serious." The number one ranked Longhorns and the 12th ranked Aggies have more on the line than just national rankings.

The winner will be awarded a trip to the Cotton Bowl while the loser goes to the Bluebonnet. However, the Aggies must also defeat Houston before making any plans about going to Dallas.

The activities on Kyle Field would be heated anyway, despite the prestige at stake. The game is one of few instances when the A&M-Texas Cold War turns hot. Some see it as a battle of doctrine; liberal versus reactionary, Greek versus Corps member. Whatever, the rivalry is as fervent as a Southern Baptist revival.

The Longhorn attack is laced with talent, including Heisman candidate Earl Campbell and receivers Johnny Jones and Alfred Jackson. Campbell has a string of nine consecutive 100-yard games going, but if the Aggies hope to slow down Texas by stacking against the run, they may find themselves fried on the pass. The Aggie secondary has proved vulnerable and a consistently strong pass rush has not developed to compensate.

The high-octane running game of the Aggies, fueled by fullback George Woodard and halfback Curtis Dickey, must penetrate a Texas defense which has allowed only one rushing touchdown this year. A key personnel match-up will be Texas' standout defensive tackle Brad Shearer against either Doug Holmes or Kenny Kirk. Aggie center Mark Dennard will probably double team on Shearer, but that tactic hasn't stopped Shearer all year.

Oklahoma is the only other Texas opponent this year which has run the Wishbone and the Horns kept them from scoring a touchdown. Thus, the Aggies might have to rely on the passing of quarterback David Walker to open up the ground game.

Coach Fred Akers team has been impressive, but not invincible as six turnovers against Baylor would show. A similar performance this week would be well greeted by Aggie partisans. Like all so-called "big games", penalties, turnovers and injuries will go a long way in determining the outcome.

Woodard Dickey Hamilton

Aggie notes . . .

George Woodard and **Curtis Dickey** are nearing 1,000 yards rushing and if they make it they'll become only the 8th combo in the NCAA history to do so. Woodard needs only 31 more yards for 1,000 while Dickey needs 104 in the final two games.... A&M's 606 rushing yards against TCU leads in the nation this year in that category.... A&M's 687 yards of total offense against TCU set a SWC mark, beating Texas' output against SMU in 1969 by 11 yards... Thus far this year, A&M has set 9 school offensive records and tied one and has a shot at breaking 10 more.

Tight end **Chuck Carr** and CB **Jimmy Hamilton** injured knees in the TCU win and are doubtful for the Texas game. QB **David Walker** rested bruised ribs last Saturday but will be ready for Texas. Coach Emory **Bellard:** "I was happy that we finally got a chance to get some of the younger players in the ball game (at TCU). **Mike Mosley** did an excellent job (at QB) for the first time out. I thought **David Beal** was impressive, too.:

Against TCU, Woodard rushed for 163 yards, Dickey got 175 and Mosley 98. Then **David** Brothers had 65, FB **Eddie Hardin** 35 and split end Darrell **Smith** 32. Woodard scored twice to become A&M's all-time TD maker with a total of 32. CB Mike **Williams:** "It was a great challenge going one-on-one against **Mike Renfro.** He and QB **Steve** Bayuk are the best combination I've been against *this year.* In my opinion he (Renfro) won our battle".....Kyle Field's press box can't hold all the newsmen wanting to staff the Aggie-Texas game. Among out-of-staters will be *AP, New York; Chicago Tribune, Chicago Sun-Times, Washington Post, Sports Illustrated.*

Tony Franklin's 10 points (1FG, 7 PATs) against TCU gives him 217 for his career and moves him past **Steve Worster** of Texas (216 in 1968-70) into the No. 4 spot in SWC history. He needs 8 points to break the school record of 224 set by **JOEL HUNT** in 1925-27 and to pass Hunt on the all-time SWC list.... The Aggies this year are averaging 399.1 yards per game in total offense and 322 per game in rushing.... In 66 games as a head college coach, Emory Bellard has yet to see his team play a tie. A 3-point difference has been the nearest. He has an overall 43-23 won-loss record.

With either the Cotton or Bluebonnet coming up, A&M will be playing in its third straight bowl game. A&M was in the Liberty after the '75 season and the Sun after the '76 season. A&M has put in 697 total plays this year and has lost 17 fumbles, one for every 41 plays, except some of the fumbles were on kickoffs, punts, etc.

TCU middle guard **John Wade:** "Woodard runs straight. He has no cuts to the right or left, but then he doesn't need them." With Texas and Houston still to come into Kyle Field, A&M will wind up averaging around 54,000 fans for five home games this year. and, in a stadium that has 49,700 permanent seats. The stadium is due to be enlarged following the 1978 season.....

Texas A&M's women's basketball team breezed through its first three games of the season and visited Prairie View A&M Monday at 5:15 p.m. in an effort to bring an undefeated record into its home opener against Texas Southern next Monday at 5:15 p.m. in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Under new coach **Wanda Bender**, the Aggie Ladies have trounced Wharton Junior College 82-42, St. Mary's 55-29 and Southwest Texas 80-58. The ladies have demonstrated a balanced attack with six different players having three-game totals of at least 20 points. Sophomore **Pat Werner** leads the team with 26 points and an 8.7 average. Next are junior **Cindy Gough** and junior **Sheree Christian** with 8.0 averages followed by sophomore **Von Bunn** at 7.0 and senior **Karen Muskiet** and junior **Margaret Byrne** at 6.7. Gough is the leading rebounder with 28 in three games, closely followed by sophomore **Susan Kimbro** with 27. Gough is also the leader in assists with 14 while Bunn leads in steals with eight.

The Texas A&M men's basketball team opens its 1977-78 season next Monday against Angelo State at 7:30 p.m. in G. Rollie White Coliseum. The Aggies then host Southwestern Louisiana Dec. 1, Houston Baptist Dec. 3 and Sam Houston State Dec. 6.

Women do ell in soccer

Falling into the spirit of women's eration, Texas A&M is unknowgly represented by a women's soc- team.

With 14 returning players from t year's team, the Ags have found emselves successful, having ced third out of sixteen teams in e Austin Invitational Tournament ld on November 5 and 6.

In the first game of the tourney, &M tied the Houston Raiders 1-1 th the lone goal coming from therine Hyatt. They lost on tieeaker penalty kicks, despite a mendous effort by Ag goalie, Ann Maistre.

The Aggies regrouped, however, d downed the San Antonio Suns in game two. Trudy Eckstein d the hot foot for the Ags with ree goals followed by Patsy rner with two unassisted goals, d Catherine Hyatt with one. yatt, Turner and Janet Horton all ded the cause with assists.

A&M once again proved themves the superior squad as they nked the Austin Beats 2-0. Eckin and Hyatt scored for the victors d were aided by assists from billa Irwin and Rhoda Savage.

In the consolation finals, A&M pped Austin 3-1.

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