



GEORGE WOODARD

TONY FRANKLIN

CURTIS DICKEY

Aggie notes . . .

Statistically, this week's game with Houston could be the most significant in A&M's history. It could produce A&M's all-time leading rusher, all-time leading scorer, the SWC's most prolific rusher and mark the first time in SWC history for a team to have two backs with more than 1,000 rushing yards.

Junior FB George Woodard needs 40 rushing yards to surpass Bubba Bean's 2,846 total of 1972-75. He has 1,050 this year, the first time ever for an Aggie to have two 1,000 yard totals twice. (He had 1,153 last year. Kicker Tony Franklin has 221 career points and needs four more to pass Joel Hunt's 224 total of 1925-27. Woodard needs 10 more carries to become the busiest rusher ever in SWC. He has 596. The record is 605 by SMU's Wayne Morris in 1972-75. Soph HB Curtis Dickey needs 81 yards to reach 1,000 this year and join Woodard at that magic number.

Franklin's four extra points against Texas gives him 35 for the season and breaks A&M single season mark of 34 by Darrow Hooper in 1950. Woodard's two touchdowns against Texas extends his A&M career record to 34 and ranks him fourth on all-time SWC list behind Bill Burnett of Arkansas, Doak Walker of SMU and Steve Worster of Texas. Woodard and Franklin have one more year while Dickey still has two.

The 295 points scored by A&M is fourth best season total in the school's history. The team needs 31 yards against Houston to be the most prolific rushing team in A&M history. A&M needs 223 total offense to break the school mark in that category.

"Earl Campbell is a dandy," said Emory Bellard. "I've never seen a better one." Kevin Monk, A&M senior linebacker. "My one word description of Texas is awesome." Texas DT Brad Shearer. "It was a tough game. The Aggies have one helluva offense." Coach Fred Akers (to his squad) "I'm

proud of you. You defeated a good football team today." Texas SID Jones Ramsey: "Even when we had 40 points, I was still scared to death." A&M QB David Walker: "I don't think Texas has the best defense we've faced. Michigan probably did."

Emory Bellard: "Houston has a fine football team. They had injury problems early, but they've made adjustments to a new quarterback and they'll be extremely tough. Southern Cal has as much talent as any team in America. It is difficult to see how they could have lost four games. Anybody who plays them has a headache." George Woodard: "Texas has the best defense in the SWC but Arkansas was quicker with their linebackers. Campbell deserves to be all-American. He's strong upstairs, has great strength and speed." A&M Phil Bennett: "Some people say take away Earl Campbell and Texas would be just another team. I'd put our offense up against any in the nation. I'm just disappointed we (the defense) didn't hold up our end." Seniors at A&M and Texas leave with a 2-2 standoff after their four years. It'll be a "bring-your-lunch along" sports day Saturday at Aggieland. A&M's women play S.F. Austin in basketball at 12:30. A&M and Houston play SWC football at 3:05 and A&M's men play Houston Baptist in basketball at 7:30. A&M's Emory Bellard said he would be in favor of a clock like the pros use to avoid delay of game penalties. "I think it would be very helpful. Everyone would benefit." OT Frank Myers will play in the Senior Bowl game in Mobile, Ala. And, Myers and LB Kevin Monk will play in the Japan Bowl. A&M's all-SWC candidates? How about OT Frank Myers, OT Cody Risien, C Mark Dennard, OB David Walker, FB George Woodard, HB Curtis Dickey, K Tony Franklin, CB Mike Williams, LB Kevin Monk, Saf Carl Grulich, Saf Kenneth Taylor. All deserve strong consideration.

sports

Another good year for Tony

By D.D. GRUBBS
It's time to check in on that barefooted kicker from Texas A&M. The one, you might remember, who holds the NCAA record for longest consecutive field goals of 64 and 65 yards.

Although that particular statistic does not appear in any of the record books, Tony Franklin, the Aggies' junior placekicker, lays claim to a host of other records that stand as pretty sound evidence for his case of being one of the best kickers in college football history.

Franklin, with 12 games remaining in his career, holds or shares 19 NCAA, SWC or A&M records. Among those national marks are most field goals of 50 yards or more in a career — 14, most field goals made from 60 yards or more, both in a game and a career — 2 (those were the 64 and 65 yarders made in succession against Baylor last year), and most field goals made in a 3-year career — 43.

His 65-yarder was an NCAA record until a couple of his counterparts from the SWC — Russell Erxleben of Texas and Steve Little of Arkansas — both kicked 67-yarders earlier this season. This year, Franklin is 14-24 on field goals and a perfect 35-35 on extra points. He currently leads the team in scoring with 77 points.

Statistics and records are important to the 5-9, 175-pounder from Fort Worth. He views them as the most effective way to set goals for himself and assess his own performance.

"I've hit 14 of my last 19 field goal

attempts and haven't missed an extra point all year. I scored 81 points last year and already have 77 this season so it looks like I'll improve my point production which would be very satisfying. There are so many goals I want to reach before I leave A&M."

The two he's got in mind in particular are the SWC mark for career points scored — 294, held by Bill Burnett, running back for Arkansas from 1968-70, and the NCAA record for most field goals in a career — 53, held by Steve Little. Both records are well within reach as Franklin currently has 221 career points and 43 career field goals with a season to go yet.

Despite all his accomplishments, Franklin has been cast into a back seat role because of the feats of Erxleben and Little this season.

"It's a rare thing, having three of the nation's top kickers in the same conference," says Franklin. "People keep reminding me what the others are doing but the fact is we are all doing our best. Steve's had an exceptional year and Russell's one of the best punters in the nation. He's had more field goal success this year also."

There is a friendly rivalry between Franklin and Erxleben, which adds to the already intense competition between the two schools. ABC-TV has also expressed an interest in doing a special feature with the two kickers on a fishing trip or some sort of outing together to possibly show at halftime of a future A&M-UT contest.

Franklin uses a simple system in preparing himself to kick a field goal. After setting the tee seven yards behind the line of scrimmage, and stepping off his paces — two back and two to the side — he begins the most crucial part of readying himself.

"I've got to block out the other team, the fans, everything, and concentrate on the spot I have marked on the tee. I especially like to kick in tight situations — I think I kick better under pressure."

Offensive back coach Donnie Wigginton also works with Franklin and notes consistency as his primary attribute.

"There are a lot of kickers who don't work nearly as hard as Tony.

He kicks 100 balls a day and knows that to be a great kicker, he has to come through time after time. He's been a slow starter every year but has done a tremendous job each year. The main thing is he realizes he's just as good as his next kick."

This week, the Aggies host Houston in their final regular season game. Last year the Cougars downed A&M 21-10 and Franklin admits there are special feelings behind this contest.

"They gave us a tough slap in the face a year ago. Then they showed up at the A&M-UH basketball game here last year chanting '21-10'. That got us a little fired up and we're not going to let it happen again this year."

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Marriot Hotel likes Texas Longhorns

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