

Paul Arnett

Offense grand...defense bland

the two best teams in the conference," summarized the sports writers of Texas. "Houston may challenge them if they find someone to replace Wilson Whitley.

"The Red Raiders have a great quarterback in Rodney Allison and their defensive secondary is outstanding. On the other hand the Texas Aggies have a great offense, and knowing the past glories of Melvin Robertson, they should have a strong defense as the season progresses.

It is now early January. All the bowl games are history.

The Texas Longhorns, winners of the SWC, were slaughtered by Notre Dame 38-10 in the Cotton Bowl. The Arkansas Razorbacks, second in the SWC, surprised Oklahoma 31-6 in the Orange Bowl. Oh, yes, Texas A&M and Texas Tech, who finished third and fourth in the SWC chase, wished they hadn't made the trip to their respective bowl games.

So much for the high hopes of September.

The Aggies were beaten badly by USC 47-28 in the Astro-Bluebonnet Bowl. The offense, minus the five turnovers, had an

outstanding game gaining over 500 yards.

"I thought we played an outstanding offensive football game," coach Emory Bellard said. "If it hadn't been for the turnovers, I felt like we would have put four more touchdowns on the board. It turned out we needed them."

It also turned out that the defensive expectations of early September never materialized. Coach Robertson failed to field 11 men who could hold the opposition. This was never more evident than last Saturday night.

A&M yielded more than 600 yards to the Trojans. USC, who hasn't had a strong rushing attack this season, had two men rush for more than 100 yards. It was the eighth time this season A&M has allowed a back to reach that pinnacle.

"The defensive problem was the same all year," Bellard said. "We just couldn't come up with the big play. USC has a great offensive team. We just couldn't defend them."

Trojan coach John Robinson agreed with coach Bellard.

"I'm not sure there's any offense harder to handle than ours when we are functioning right," Robinson said. "We came surging back just like we did against UCLA. Rob Hertel played tremendously."

Hertel made shambles of the A&M secondary. He completed 11 out of 15 passes for 248 yards and four touchdowns. He was never sacked.

"I would say that this was my best performance," Hertel said. "But I have to give credit to our line. I can

remember feeling pressure only once in the entire game."

That has been another problem A&M has had all year. Only when they gambled did the Aggies put pressure on the quarterback this season.

"Texas A&M has been suspect on the pass all year," Hertel said. "They stunt and gamble a lot, so either they make the big play or give up the big play."

Unfortunately the Aggies did the latter more than the former.

But bleak should not be the only color painted on the A&M canvas. Mike Mosley had a strong game and George Woodard ran like the Woo of old. Add to that a strong offensive line, and next season becomes less bleak.

In three months it will be early April and the beginning of spring training. Bellard has until then to find the answers to his defensive riddle.

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It was early September. Students were meandering throughout the campus adjusting to the newness of the fall semester. Professors talked idly among themselves reflecting upon their summer months, and the men who represented the Texas Aggie football team were practicing on the artificial turf of Kyle Field. It was a time of high hopes for Paul Arnett and Texas A&M are

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Top 10

United Press International

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Team	Points
Kentucky (32) 8-0	347
North Carolina 10-1	262
Arkansas (2) 9-0	230
UCLA (1) 7-1	201
UCLA (1) 7-1	179
Notre Dame 7-2	166
Indiana St. (1) 8-0	130
Syracuse 10-1	71
Louisville 7-2	61
Illinois 5-1	60

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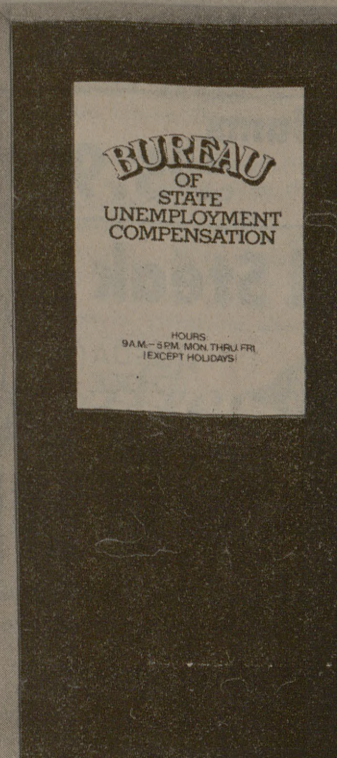
They have service and rehabilitation programs, like Reach to Recovery, the Ostomy Rehabilitation program, and voice therapy clinics. The American Cancer

Society also realizes that many people who have never had cancer need rehabilitation too. Because their ignorance of cancer makes them act the way my boss did.

That's why the ACS has local Units that help Americans understand exactly what cancer means.

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