

the sports

Tigers bring All-America aerial attack

By SEAN PETTY
Battalion Staff

The Texas A&M Aggies will have their anti-aircraft guns loaded and ready Saturday when the Memphis State Tigers bring one of the strongest passing attacks in the country to Kyle Field.

The Tiger's aerial assault is directed by an AP All-America quarterback and an AP All-America wide receiver who could spell double trouble for the untested Aggie's defensive secondary.

Tiger quarterback Lloyd Patterson is the field general who owns most of Memphis State's passing records. Patterson was never expected to play quarterback for the Tigers who recruited him as a defensive back. Patterson has the most yards passing in a season (1,563), most touchdown passes in a season (14), most career yards gained passing (3,668), most career touchdowns passes (26), most career total offense (4,026), and most any other passing record you can think of. Patterson's offensive ability does not stop at his arm. He has rushed for 358 yards

"He reminds me of Joe Theismann when he was at Notre Dame. He can be scrambling around and then all of a sudden he will plant that foot and unload quickly and accurately."

Patterson's prime target is 6-foot-3-inch Ernest Gray who is considered to be one of the top two receivers in the country along with SMU's Emanuel Tolbert. Gray broke a 27-year-old NCAA record for average yards per catch and had six touchdown catches.

"In my opinion, Ernest (Gray) is the best receiver in the nation," Bugbee said. "That is the opinion of some pro scouts, too. This year he's averaging 25 yards a catch. He's got 4.5 to 4.6 speed (in the 40-yard dash) and takes long strides and is real deceptive, especially to shorter defensive backs."

Memphis State's only other offensive threat is sophomore fullback, Richard Locke who has rushed for 214 yards this season averaging 4.9 yards per carry.

"We haven't been running a tremendous amount this year," Bugbee said. "I expect we will pass about 20 to 25 times this week."

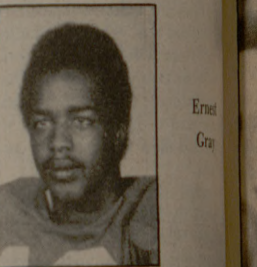
Although the Tiger's offense may depend entirely on its success in the air, coach Bellard is concerned.

"If you're not careful, Memphis State can burn you," Bellard said. "They mix things up and give you lots of different offensive looks. They can lull you into a false sense of security and then zap you."

The Tiger's biggest problem lies with their defense. They are very young and have given up a total of 61 points in three games. And facing the fourth ranked rushing team in the nation (Texas A&M) is no time to have a big question mark hanging over your defense's head.

"We are a pretty young football team," said Bugbee. "Against Houston, our group of young people played great for four quarters. Against Mississippi State, those same young people looked like they had never seen the option in their life. The roof just fell in."

Memphis State has not had much luck against teams from Missouri this year. The Tigers come to Kyle Field with a 1-2 record losing an opener to Ole Miss 14-7 and a third contest 44-14. But the Tigers have had good luck against the West Conference teams this year.



Ernest Gray

beating the mistake-fumble-bound Houston 17-3.

"Our defense has no experience depth-wise," Bugbee said. "Houston had a lot of fumbles and penalties that hurt them. Our weakness is in the loss of two top defensive players, Larry Keith Simpson (cornerback) and Keith Butler (linebacker)."

The Tigers are a big play team. Their statistics show 68 touchdowns this season, four have come on the longest pass in the history of the school, a 91-yard touchdown pass from Patterson Gray against Houston at another school record.

Coach Bellard is concerned about the Tiger's defensive front line. They have two fine linemen, Pete Scatamacchia (noseguard) and Wayne Weedon (tackle), he said. "They are not as big as the College or Kansas but they are well drilled, cohesive ball players."

Hopefully, the Aggie defense will stall the "Lucky Lloyd" Patterson (as his teammates call him) at the octane I-Wish ground attack game out the yardage and puts the game on the board.

The first Aggie home game matches the Patterson-Gary combination against the Mosley defense. It should be an interesting afternoon.



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Water polo results

The Texas A&M water polo team has been touring California for the past week. Wednesday, the Aggies defeated San Francisco State 12-10.

Thursday afternoon, the Aggies regrouped and defeated the University of Pacific 12-9. Dutchy Kueteman led the scoring for the Aggies with four points. Coach Dennis Fosdick said Vicente Tavarez played "an outstanding game at goalie" for Texas A&M.

Hayward. The Aggies were defeated 12-10. Again, Sampson led the Aggies' scoring with seven points.

Thursday morning, the Aggies suffered an eye injury to Mike Newsom and a hand injury to Bob Leland while playing Cal State

Conference notes

Texas leads defensively

There's a bit of a gulf between the top defensive leaders in the Southwest Conference through the first three weeks of the football season and, not too surprisingly, the undefeated teams are the big defensive leaders.

While six teams are showing potent and versatile offenses, Texas, Texas A&M and Arkansas are far ahead in defense and all three stand 2-0 after two games. Texas is the SWC's total defense leader with an average yield of 117.5 yards per game and 1.8 yards a play. The Aggies are second at 149.0, while allowing foes only 2.3 yards a try. Ar-

kansas stands third at 185.0 yards per game, while Houston is a distant fourth in giving up 321.5 yards a game.

Offensively, the Cougars took the lead in their big victory over Utah and are now averaging 449 yards per game. Five others range from 404 yards to 346 per game, as the offensive leaders are showing more balance between the run and the pass than in previous seasons.

Houston is gaining 277.5 yards on the ground and 171.5 passing. Baylor stands 146 running and 213.5 passing. Texas is 216 rushing and 125.5 passing, and Texas Tech is 121

rushing and 134.5 passing.

Texas A&M is a distant fourth in giving up 321.5 yards a game and passing for 87, but the Aggies are competing at 54.2 percent and in their 24 efforts have gone 22 touchdowns.

Four SWC teams are averaging better than five yards an attempt, and Arkansas is a shut-out team at 4-0.

Individually, Texas A&M's Dickey opened up a rushing lead for Baylor's Greg Hawthorne and Mike Ford in completion of Eckwood. Dickey is averaging 7.2 yards a game and 6.2 a try in scoring on three touchdowns in the Aggies' 37-2 victory over Baylor College. Those scores also gave key the SWC scoring lead with an average of 12 points per game.

Baylor's Steve Smith leads the Mike Ford in completion of game, 16.0 to 15.7, and Doug Cunningham has surpassed in three games to 14 for SMU's Emanuel Tolbert.

Texas' Russell Erbeben, the national punting champion, led over the SWC lead for the first this season by averaging 43.9 yards a kick.

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