

the sports

Aggies to face explosive Cougars in Astrodome

By SEAN PETTY
Battalion Staff

explosive. That is the word that Texas A&M University head football coach Emory Bellard uses to describe the University of Houston program.

When the two teams meet for the first time in many years, explosion is the right word.

Saturday night will mark the first time the Aggies and Cougars have met each other in the Astrodome. The two teams have battled each other almost evenly for the last 17 years. The Aggies came into the stadium with a one game lead in the all-time series record. The Aggies have won three times at seven wins for A&M, six for Houston and three ties.

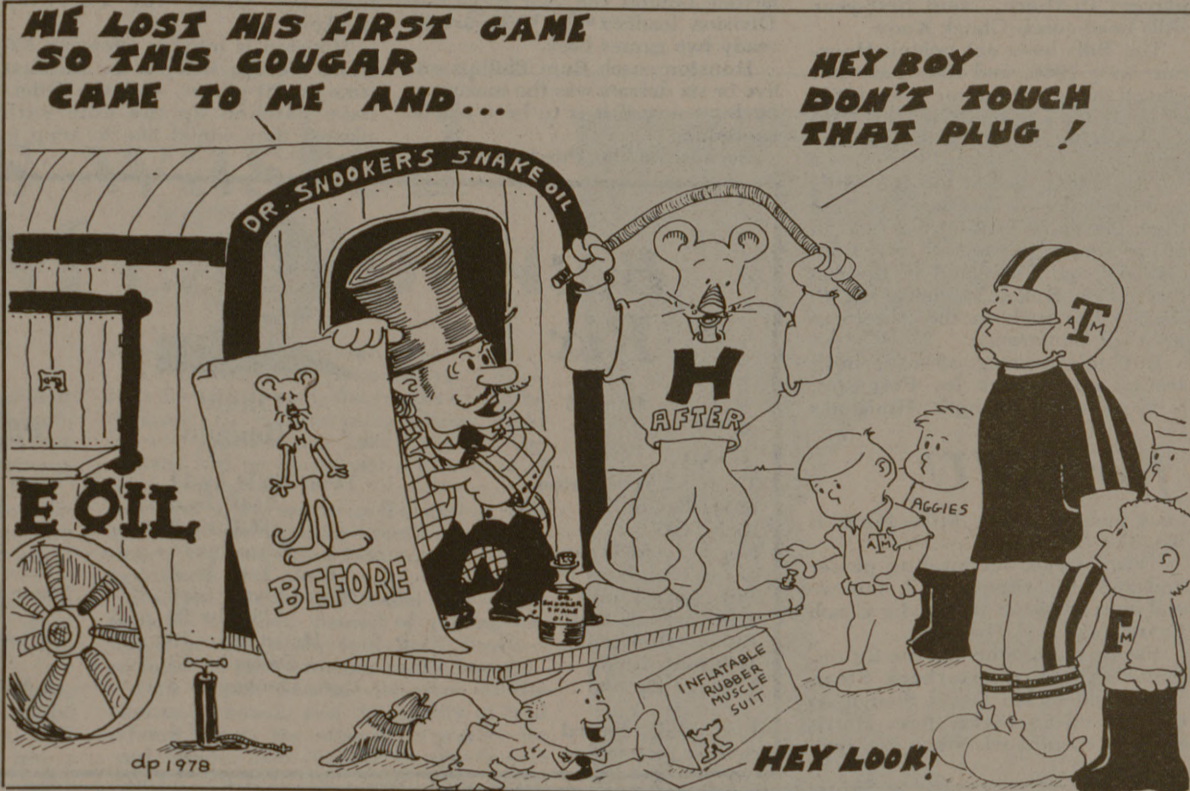
There is one more major aspect in Aggie-Cougar history. No team has ever won two games in a row. The Aggies hope to change this tradition in Houston.

There will be some old faces returning to the Houston lineup. And there will be some newer faces. Houston would not like to see again, Aggie quarterback Mike Mosley, as a freshman, took over the Aggie offense in the second quarter of last year's game in the Astrodome. The Aggies were down 10-0 at the time and the young quarterback ignited the offense by rushing for 109 yards and two touchdowns. The Aggies defeated the Cougars 27-7 on national television.

That was last year. The Cougars came again with the services of seasoned leaders, senior quarterback Danny Davis and junior quarterback David Hodge. Davis set the pace last season with a shoul-der injury and Hodge did not play for personal reasons.

It is the fuse that ignites the explosive offense. He is a senior quarterback and makes plays happen.

Danny Davis can stay right on the field and look great," Bellard said. "He has the ability to get out of the back and make the big play that will you. He is a very smart quarterback."



Davis led the Cougars to the 1976 Southwest Conference championship and provides solid leadership.

"You judge a quarterback like a coach," Houston head coach Bill Yeoman said. "You judge him on how many games he wins. Danny's (Davis) a winner."

Hodge is the leader of the Houston headhunters. He is captain of the Cougs' defense.

"He is going to be as good a linebacker as there is walking around in the nation," Yeoman said. "He is terribly strong."

Although Mosley has never played against Hodge, he said he has total respect for him.

"He will take your head off," Mosley said. "We watched him in the films and that guy can hit as hard as anybody."

The Cougar-Aggie rivalry is one

that sparks a little more enthusiasm in the fans and players than even a regular conference game. Some of the Houston players shaved their heads this week to get a little more spirit into the practices.

This game is very important to Coach Bellard and the Aggies, also. They will be putting their unblemished record on the line at the Cougars' home field. It will be the hardest task the Aggies have faced all year.

"Houston is a fine team with lots of skilled football players," Bellard said. "They are explosive and have all the ingredients to be an explosive ball club."

"They have good receivers, a big offensive line and darn good running backs. They come at you with a basic attack and hit and hit until they see daylight and they're gone."

"We have not played a team that

poses a combination pass and run threat like Houston," he said.

What about their only loss to Memphis State, is there any comparison of the two teams?

"There is an ace over deuce com-

parison of Memphis State and Houston," Bellard said. "The strength of the two is not an issue because Houston is so much stronger."

"Houston had a bad opening day. They made a lot of mistakes and had some penalties that killed scoring drives. We can't count on them to make those mistakes this week."

The Cougars have not lost a game since the opener with Memphis State. In fact, they went to Florida and knocked off 10th ranked Florida State two weeks ago.

"They totally dominated Florida State throughout the game," Bellard said. "They have a fine defense and their offense scored the first three times they got the ball."

The Aggies take the second best defense in the nation to the Dome Saturday. There is a bit of irony involved here because defensive coach Melvin Robertson started his collegiate coaching career at Houston under Bill Yeoman. He coached at Houston from 1965 through 1971.

The Cougars come into the Dome to play their second home game after beating Baylor in Waco last week. It was not an easy victory as Houston rallied in the final three minutes to win 20-18.

"I don't think that we were wildly pumped up at Waco, but our young people were able to gather themselves sufficiently to get the win," Yeoman said. "I don't think our offensive people went into the game in the right frame of mind. This is

Armstrong hurt

Aggie halfback Adgar Armstrong is not expected to start in Saturday's Texas A&M-Houston game. The 220-pound senior received a severely bruised knee in last week's Texas Tech game. Freshman Temple Aday, 190 pounds, will get his first collegiate start in place of Armstrong.

In other lineup changes, Preston Dickson will be at center, replacing Ed Pustejovsky who sprained a knee in practice this week. James Zachery will play right defensive end, replacing Eddie Heath who suffered a leg injury in a motorcycle accident.

WC coaches argue about tournament site

United Press International
HOUSTON — Southwest Conference basketball coaches are split over whether to move their highly anticipated post-season tournament from Houston's Summit to San Antonio's HemisFair Arena in 1980.

Radio KTRU's Shelby Metcalf reported that the coaches' disagreement is the result of the pressure of the disagreements. The coaches, and some of the fans, are not on the same page. Embellished after eight of the nine head coaches met in a closed-door session Monday at the SWC official and two athletes from Rice University.

"Whereas, if you bring a team in here, and you're in a hotel and you've broken your schedule, it's different."

Sutton was one of several coaches to say the decision whether to move the tournament was being made more difficult because of past success.

"All of us have concern too that the people of Houston have done such a marvelous job in promoting the tournament. There are question marks anytime you move. You ask, 'Hey, can they do the same thing in San Antonio?'"

The SWC's contract to play the springtime tournament at the Summit was for three years beginning in 1976. Both years it has been played in Houston, Guy Lewis' Cougars advanced to the finals. Last season Houston won the tournament by beating Texas, the eventual NIT champion, and Arkansas, the third-place finisher in the NCAA

tournament.

Lewis listened to arguments favoring a move and then said, "In the interest of fair play and trying to even this tournament up, I'm going to move my team out of the dorm next year and move them into the Houston Oaks (Hotel)."

Rice coach Mike Schuler indicated officials of HemisFair Arena should prove they can match the attendance and excitement generated at the Summit.

HemisFair Arena is presently increasing its seating to 16,000.

Coach Gerald Myers of Texas Tech appeared to line up with Sutton and Lemons for the move to San Antonio. A&M's Metcalf appeared to side with Schuler and Lewis for keeping the tournament in Houston. Coaches Jim Haller of Baylor and SMU's Sonny Allen gave no indication which way they leaned. TCU's Tim Somerville was not present.

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