

the sports

It's shoot-out time in Austin

Expect unexpected of Horns and Hogs

By MARK PATTERSON
Battalion Staff

It might come down to the final minutes before the winner is decided, as it did in the 1969 game and in last year. Or it might be a run of victory, like it was in the 1974 game between the two schools. But no matter what happens it probably be the unexpected. It says when the University of Texas hooks up against the University of Arkansas in their annual shoot-out.

Put aside the fact that Texas has won 10 of the last 11 meetings between the two schools. Arkansas' last victory since 1966 was a 31-7 win in 1971. Even that year Hank Broyles' Hogs finished second to the Longhorns in the Southwest Conference race.

Put aside last year's meeting

as a gauge for Saturday's game. Those were a different set of Texans who made the trip to Fayetteville. You might remember they had a man by the name Campbell carrying the ball back then. He rolled through the Hogs for 188 yards in the 13-9 Longhorn victory. This year he's gone.

His absence has been quite apparent on offense for Texas thus far. The Longhorns are averaging 225.2 yards per game rushing this season, fourth in the conference. Texas ranks sixth in the conference in total offense with a 324.8 yards per game average.

But the offense hasn't been the main factor in Texas' 4-1 season and eighth place national ranking. The defense has been the key.

For most of the season the Horns led the nation defensively. Since their loss to Oklahoma two weeks

ago, Texas has slipped to third within its own conference. It trails Texas A&M and Arkansas.

Over on the other side of the Astroturf, the Arkansas Razorbacks are still riding the momentum from their 31-6 victory over Oklahoma in last year's Orange Bowl. Because of their 11-1 finish last season the Hogs have spent much of their season ranked in the top four of national polls. The Razorbacks will take a 4-0 record and a lofty third place ranking into Austin's Memorial Stadium Saturday.

"Everyone knows Arkansas is a good football team," Texas coach Fred Akers said. "They have been awfully conservative in their games up to this point, but they have outstanding personnel."

"They do have quite a stable of running backs. They have two good quarterbacks (Ron Calcagni and

Kevin Scanlon) who they seem to have confidence in and both seem very capable. We know full well what Calcagni can do, but we haven't faced Scanlon yet. In short, Arkansas is big, fast, good and experienced."

Most of their offensive experience rests in their offensive backfield. And the leader of the ground crew is senior running back Ben Cowins. Cowins, coming off his second consecutive 1,000-yard season, is averaging 6.5 yards per carry this season, but has only handled the ball 60 times in Arkansas' four games.

"Some backs carry the ball 48 times a week," Holz said, "but we have more of a team concept. Ben may only carry the ball 12 times a game, as he did last week against TCU when he only played the first half. He gets his yardage quickly."

"There are some great running

backs in the country, but as far as a complete, total football player, I've never seen a better one."

The Razorbacks enter the game well rested, coming off of an open date last Saturday. The Hogs will be at full strength with Cowins and Jerry Eckwood at running backs and Calcagni taking snaps.

"Arkansas doesn't make out the schedule but this sure is a good time for them to get everybody healthy," Akers said. "But it worked out well for us too. We needed to play a game after Oklahoma. (Texas defeated North Texas State last week 26-16.) We needed to make some improvements in several areas and last week gave us a chance to do that. But I wouldn't mind having a week or so at this time of the year to get everyone well."

The Longhorns will have an off week after their SMU game Oct. 28.

Texas has been doing the quarterback tango this season, shuffling Randy McEachern and freshman Donnie Little in and out of its first five games, trying to decide on a starter. This week McEachern will get the start, after he came off the bench to rally the Longhorns to a come from behind victory over NTSU.

"Randy started the week off as our

number one quarterback," Akers said. "As I've said before he's tough to move out of there. But we'll continue to evaluate both all week before we settle on a starter."

Whoever goes against the Razorbacks, he better be ready for anything thrown at him. When these two teams meet, anything goes. History documents it.

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Big Brother watching Holmes

Ever you should bump into Ernie Holmes, tell him that his brother Doug is doing just fine at Texas A&M's starting right offensive guard.

Ernie, who for seven seasons was a member of the famed "Steel Curtain" defense at Pittsburgh, keeps tabs on his younger brother's progress as an Aggie. At the beginning of Doug's freshman year in 1976, Texas A&M offensive line coach Bob Stanley received a telephone call. "This is Ernie Holmes, my Doug doin', starting yet?" asked the deep voice at the other end. Stanley replied that Doug was doing, along, very well but was still a freshman and had not yet won a starting job. "Do I need to talk to Ernie?" Ernie asked sternly. No, Stanley told him, he'd be all right.

Each year, at the beginning of the season, Stanley received the same call from the elder Holmes. This year Stanley was able to report that Doug would be A&M's starting right guard.

Actually, Doug Holmes became a starter five games into the 1977 season. After the Aggs' grueling spring training period last year, he had retained the role and has become one of Texas A&M's most improved players.

"I feel comfortable at the position



Doug Holmes

Holmes believes that the best is yet to come.

"I think we get better as a unit every game, he said. We still haven't reached our full potential, however, but by the end of the season I think we will have proven just what we are capable of."

After closing out his high school career at Burkeville High, Holmes narrowed his college choices down to Texas A&M and Pittsburgh.

"Ernie kind of wanted me to go to Pitt so we could see each other play more often but my mind was made up when I attended a game at Kyle Field. The spirit was just tremendous and I thought to myself, 'Man, if I could just play here...'"

And play he has — much to the satisfaction of Bob Stanley.

"Doug's best assets are his quickness and body balance," Stanley said. "He also has that deep-down determination that makes him want to excel. Doug isn't very big but we as coaches never really notice his lack of size just by the way he performs on the field."

Holmes also feels that his size

(5-11, 230) is no handicap.

"A little guy can do as much as a big guy as long as he wants to bad enough," he said. "It all boils down to just getting the job done."

The Aggies boast one of the quickest backfields in the country, with speedsters Curtis Dickey at halfback and Mike Mosley at quarterback. Does that put any added pressure on Holmes?

"None whatsoever," he said. "I know they'll do their job and I'll do mine. As long as the play is executed properly there are no problems."

Although Holmes admits that not receiving the same public acclaim as a running back or receiver is at times disconcerting, he feels that team effort is more important than individual laurels.

"Everyone gets a big charge out of winning and that takes a whole team," he said. "I also get my personal satisfaction from putting a linebacker or safety on the ground and watching Curtis or another back break a long run."

One year ago, the Aggies were preparing to take on the Baylor Bears, just as they are doing this week. Doug Holmes made his first start in an A&M uniform against Baylor in 1977 and from two standpoints nothing has changed, Doug is still a starter and big brother Ernie is still watching.

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