### Long road ahead for Texas A&M

# Wilson praises Aggies' performance

By MARK PATTERSON

m Wilson boasts a record that an claim in all of football. He's eated and untied as a head h. His latest victory was over Mustangs of SMU. And Wilson about those same Ponies in

the team showed in the pressituations we encountered st SMU," Wilson said. "Inad of splitting apart the team ngether as a unit. A game like

oad this season. e Aggies begin the longest part e road next week when they to Arkansas to face the Razor-The Aggies will need every-healthy for the contest if they o defeat the Hogs. With the of Curtis Dickey to the line-Aggies will be at full

gth for next week's game. he week layoff effected Curtis' ance in the early part of the good shape. ension about streaching out and

"He carried the ball 33 times in the game and (David) Brothers carried 11 times. That's 44 times our is developing into a fine quarter-back.

"Mike Mosley is getting better SMU was tailback carried the ball in the game. The tailback has to do that in our I-formation attack and Curtis knows that. He needs to be strong and stay

was most pleased with the was most pleased with the return of Dickey to the Texas A&M backfield the Aggies are at full strength at both running back positions. With a full stable of troops Wilson has decided on who will play what position.

'We've moved Brothers back to ill be a big plus for us on down fullback and he and (Raymond) Belcher will play that position. Dickey and (Adger) Armstrong will play tailback. Those four will be our starting backs.

"We'll try and play both sets of backs, Dickey and Belcher and Brothers and Armstrong, but the combination really doesn't matter. Plus we have (Temple) Aday and (Holly) Wilson and the others backing these four up. So we're in pretty

only natural that if you're hurt shape at the quarterback position miss a game you'd have ap-Mosley is hitting on 60 percent of ming confident about what his passing attempts this season re doing. But Curtis seemed to while adding 280 yards rushing.

and better every week he plays," Wilson said. "He's reading coverages in the defensive secondary that usually takes a long time to

"He's learned to drop back and look for his receivers and when they're covered he's going to this secondary receivers. Plus he's so dangerous when he drops back to pass because of his ability to scramble. He's really maturing as a quarterback.

One player that could not be happier about Mosley's passing success is tight end Russell Mikeska. Satur-day against SMU Mikeska had his best game as an Aggie, making six catches for 90 yards.

'Russell wasn't necessarily our primary receiver on his pass pat-terns," Wilson said. "When Mike makes the fake into the line and pulls up to pass he has three people to throw to. We went into the game wanting to get the ball to Mikeska and the coverage dictated that we could. Mike did a good job reading the SMU defense and getting the

"Russell is a gifted athlete with good hands and we have to utilize

Another talent utilized against SMU was that of Tony Franklin. Franklin was called upon to kick a 29-yard field goal with one minute in the game to defeat the Mustangs. At the time his coach had little to say to the kicker.

In that situation there's not a whole lot you can say," Wilson said. "It seems like the more you say the worse pressure you can create. So I just gave him a pat on the butt and wished him luck. And he went out and did it.'

One sore spot for the Aggies continues to be David Appleby's punting. Though Appleby averaged 41.9 yards per punt Saturday many of his attempts landed short and got Aggie

to the Appleby's problem.
"David hasn't kicked the ball well all year and David knows he hasn't kicked well," Wilson said. "Tony (Franklin) has been working on his

kicking the ball better. He's just in a slump and on occasions he has begun preperations for the Hogs. kicked well. He'll have to perform "We've closed practices to pre-

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bounces. Wilson poses no solution these last three games because of the importance of the punting game. I think he'll come around. But then, I have to think that he

The last three games against Arpunting in practice and I'm confident that we have two punters on mine if the Aggies' 1978 season is a s team.

"But I've seen signs that David is king the ball better. He's just in a success. The first on the list is Arkansas in two weeks. With an off-week this Saturday the Aggies have

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pare for them," Wilson said about Arkansas. "We're getting their last three game films and I'm going to Waco this weekend to see them play Baylor. But they haven't really changed much offensively or defensively from last year.

"Our team has confidence in themselves but great respect for Arkansas. This team knows that from here on it's going to be a battle. But then, that's what football is all ab-

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#### ronger as the game went on. And according to his coach, Mosley Dallas struggles for playoffs

United Press International ALLAS — The 1978 NFL sea-opened with the Dallas Cowcrushing the Baltimore Colts, Coach Tom Landry has apparregretted it ever since.

don't think there is any questhat the Baltimore game was worst thing that could have hap-ted to us," Landry said Tuesday. more was not anywhere near otball team at that time than it They were completely diszed because of injuries and r things.

tcame so easy that it looked like could beat the world. But we en't playing the world." obvious point is that Landry

ks his team became so compla-tafter that victory that trouble almost sure to follow. d that trouble has come along

6-3 record that leaves Dallas gling to make the playoffs didn't feel that way (that his m was ready to beat the world)," dry said. "I knew we were at a d level, but we were not at the evel we had to be to fight off the

We are actually pretty fortunate be where we are. At least we are hin striking distance (one game ind the Washington Redskins in

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boys remain within striking distance thanks to those same Baltimore Colts, who upset the division leading Washington Redskins Monday

'I think the Baltimore win was helpful," Landry said. "I've said all along that I wasn't particularly concerned how others were playing, but that it was more important how

we played.
"If we can play well enough we will get in the playoffs and that's what concerns me the most.

"But the game Monday night helps us because it gives us another shot in the East. It is in our hands now so that is encouraging. Hopefully it will motivate our players to prepare better, to play better and to

And, in a bit of a quirk, the Cow- do everything you have to do better to be in the right position.

Motivation and momentum are the big issues around Cowboysland lately and Landry, like any other coach, wishes he knew how to instill such ingredients into his team.

"We have been getting a lot of theories," Landry said with a grin, "and I appreciate them.

"At the start of our season the players were playing hard. But I don't think they recognized the op-

position would be so good.
"I don't think I have ever seen teams play as they have against us. Miami (a 23-16 winner over Dallas last Sunday) was motivated as if

were a Super Bowl game for them. "Until we accept that kind of a challenge we will still fall short."



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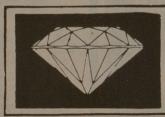
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