

the sports

Wilson, team healthy prior to meeting Hogs

By SEAN PETTY
Battalion Staff

Texas A&M University's football team took advantage of last week's open date to rest and repair its season battle wounds, while head coach Tom Wilson spent most of the week healing some wounds of his own.

Wilson spent a good part of last week in St. Joseph's Hospital with kidney stones but said he, along with the team is ready for Arkansas. "I feel fine now," Wilson said, "I couldn't have said that Monday but I feel fine going into the game."

Wilson said last week was spent getting all the injured players well and taking it easy.

"The team is healthy now," he said. "Ed Pustejovsky (center) is

coming back real well. He hasn't had any contact this week but he's coming off the ball quick and he should be back this week. We won't know until the end of the week."

The game with Arkansas should decide which, if any bowl, the Aggies go to.

"I really don't know where we might go," Wilson said. "I know that there are a lot of bowl representatives looking at us, and it just depends on our play this week."

"Of course, the whole bowl picture is cloudy. Even the major bowl representatives are not decided," he said. "I think that we have played well enough to be in a bowl."

Yet, the Aggies cannot look ahead to any post-season games because the game with Arkansas is going to be one of their biggest challenges of the season.

"We know what it takes to win a big game," Wilson said, "we proved it against SMU. So I think that it is going to be a good, evenly fought ball game."

"Like I said, we look pretty good going into the Arkansas game. Curtis (Dickey) is ready to go, he got all his timing and confidence back against SMU. By the end of the game, he was running with authority. He will not be back on kickoffs anymore, he gets enough contact in the game."

"The only time I want to see Cur-

tis get the ball is out of the I-formation," Wilson said.

Wilson said that Temple Aday, Adger Armstrong, Leandrew Brown and Holly Wilson have been working on receiving kickoffs.

The only negative aspect going into the game could be an injury to defensive back Darrell Smith. He didn't practice Monday due to a bruised thigh. Smith doubles as defensive back and punt returner and if he is unable to play, Aday will return punts.

The week off not only allowed the Aggies to rest, it also allowed Wilson to put some more new twists into his offense.

"Actually the week off allowed us to get more familiar with the things we're already doing," he said. "Mike (Mosley) had a couple of bad pitches against SMU and it was just because we haven't worked enough on the new parts of our offense. But we've got all our timing down now."

Wilson spoke of his young linebackers progress and how the new field goal rule has affected kicker Tony Franklin's long range attempts.

"You just don't get as many opportunities to kick long field goals with this season's new rule," Wilson said. The rule states that the ball comes back to the line of scrimmage if a field goal attempt is missed. "A team cannot afford to give up that kind of field position when they try a 50-yard field goal. The object of the game is to keep the opposing team as deep in their own territory as possible, so you can't afford to give up too much yardage."

"We have a kicker that has the potential to kick long field goals and it's a shame he can't use that skill more."

The Aggie linebackers who have improved so much this year are Doug Carr, Mike Little and Randy Harvey. Carr leads the Aggies in tackles with 100 so far this year.

"We are very happy about the way all three linebackers have improved all year," Wilson said. "They are young and have a long way to go, but we think they are playing very well."

With a big win under their belts and a possible bowl berth on the line this week, the Aggies seem ready to meet the Hogs in Little Rock. And most of the team is healthy, including the head coach.



Greased pigskin

David Brothers has trouble holding on to the ball against SMU. Brothers and the Aggies' will have to minimize mis-

takes as they play the Arkansas Razorbacks Saturday in Aggies' second consecutive televised game.

Battalion photo by Pat...

Ticket info

Student ticket distribution for the Nov. 25 Texas A&M-TCU game will begin Thursday (Nov. 16) for graduate students and seniors. Juniors will pick up tickets Friday (Nov. 17), sophomores Monday (Nov. 20) and freshmen Tuesday (Nov. 21). The change in the distribution schedule was necessary so as not to interfere with the Thanksgiving holidays.

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Oilers, Patriots battered after Sunday's game

United Press International
HOUSTON — Houston Oilers running back Rob Carpenter will require surgery to repair a torn ligament in his right knee, a team spokesman said Tuesday.

Carpenter, the team's second leading ballcarrier, was injured in the fourth quarter of Sunday's game against New England, which the Oilers won 26-23. Doctors decided Tuesday morning to operate, and Carpenter was placed on the Oilers' injured reserve list later in the day. His loss leaves Houston with two

healthy, experienced running backs for their Monday night game against Miami.

Injured running back Ronnie Coleman, special teams performer Larry Poole and defensive back Guido Merkins will work at running back behind starters Earl Campbell and Tim Wilson when the Oilers return to practice today following a two-day layoff.

No decision had been made Tuesday afternoon who would replace Carpenter on the active roster.

Carpenter, a second-year pro out of Miami of Ohio, gained 348 yards and scored five touchdowns this season. He was named to the NFL all-

star team in his rookie year.

Meanwhile, the Patriots, who were upset by the Oilers on Sunday, got some more bad news Monday —

linebacker Steve Zabel will be out at least five weeks.

Zabel's right knee was placed in a cast after it was determined he partially tore a ligament in the game. Coach Chuck Fairbanks said the knee would stay in the cast until Dec. 1.

"At that time, he will be reexamined," Fairbanks said. "We hope he will be available for the Miami game (Dec. 18)."

Fairbanks said a contorted knee in the Houston game appeared correct. Safety Tim Fox was tied for making an illegal block on Oiler punt. Fairbanks at first

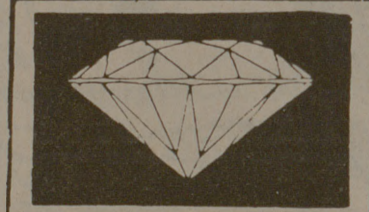
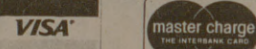
thought to place Zabel on the injured reserve, rendering him inactive for the rest of the year.

Fairbanks said defensive tackle Richard Bishop dislocated his finger on his left hand but showed up ready for the game Sunday in New York against the Jets.

The Patriots, 8-3, share first place in the AFC with the Dolphins. Houston, but collapsed in the second half and lost the game in final minutes.

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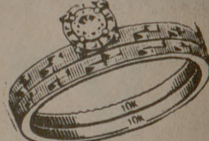
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