



Battalion photo by Pat O'Malley

Crushing blow

Texas A&M's Eugene Sanders levels Arkansas quarterback Ron Calcagni in last Saturday's game. Sanders will be one of 15 seniors who will be playing his last game in Kyle Field for the Aggies against TCU. Kickoff for the TCU-Texas A&M game is 1:30 p.m. Saturday.

Cowboys and Redskins do battle

DALLAS — Dallas has been rolling pretty good of late and the Washington Redskins have had problems winning but no matter how they have been playing the thing usually goes down to the gun when they meet.

Cowboys coach Tom Landry expects nothing to change Thursday when Dallas and Washington face each other in the most critical game of the season for both teams.

"It should be just like the last time we played them," Landry said Tuesday, referring to a 9-5 Washington win early in the season. "I just hope we win this time."

"It will be hard hitting. And it will be emotional."

But things seem to be a little different going into this game. Earlier in the year Washington was unbeaten and the Cowboys were playing with little intensity.

The Redskins, however, have won only two of their last six games and Dallas has perked up.

"Washington started out with a lot of flair," said Landry. "They were getting the turnovers, they

were getting the big play. They were showing enthusiasm.

"But sometimes when you get off to a great start you flatten out. Then you usually come back fairly strong before it is over."

"The thing is that they have a veteran team that has fought a lot of battles. They have won a lot of games in the end with field goals and by picking up fumbles and running them in and things like that."

"That type of experience can be a significant thing."

As to his own team, Landry is a little more chipper these days than he was at midseason when the Cowboys seemed to be a question mark for the playoffs.

"I think since our Minnesota game we have been on an uptrend," said Landry. "I think we have

played much tougher, stronger than we have all year.

"You reach a point where you have to say to yourself are you going some place or not. I don't care if you are champion or not you have to make that decision somewhere along the way."

"If you make it you will have a positive upturn. Our team came to a point where they knew they were going to have to get going if they were going to get in the playoffs and that has been the difference."

The key to the upturn has been the play of the offense, which has moved the ball well the past two weeks. But the thing Landry would like to see most is the domineering type of defense play the Cowboys demonstrated in the playoffs last season.

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'Good time' expected at bowl

By SEAN PETTY
Battalion Staff

After Texas A&M University accepted the invitation to the Hall of Fame Bowl in Birmingham, Ala., many people may be wondering just what the Hall of Fame Bowl is.

You remember that you didn't set your feet up in front of the television on New Year's Day to watch this great post-season game. No, it didn't come in between the Orange Bowl and Rose Bowl while you stuffed yourself at the dinner table. Just what is this game and whose hall of fame is it? And how could you have missed it?

Well, the truth is, the Aggies will be playing in the second annual Hall of Fame Bowl on Dec. 20. The first game featured Maryland and Minnesota drawing a crowd of 43,996 to Legion Field which holds 77,000.

You say you still never heard of it and that you are wondering if it's even going to be shown on television this year.

You can rest assured that it will be shown on television and for those making the road trip, the best part is there will be no problem getting tickets for the game. Just think, no

waiting all night for tickets and no trying to find senior ticket books. Officials hope to draw 60,000 to watch the Aggies battle Iowa State. That leaves approximately 17,000 seats for all the good Ags who might decide to make the trip on the 19th, the day before the game.

So before you disregard this bowl game as a nothing bowl, you must realize what bowl games are good for, no matter how big or how small.

First of all there are only 13 post-season bowls. That means only 26 teams in the country attend. Texas A&M is fortunate to be able to go to one of the post-season bowls and it is an honor.

Second, bowls bring in money to the school's athletic program. Last year the Hall of Fame Bowl paid each team \$175,808 and if it draws 60,000 this year, it will pay each team \$250,000. Bowls are big business.

Third, as is the case of the Aggies, bowls are set up to entertain and allow the players to have a good time. Although some bowls decide the national championship and how the final season rankings come out, others are set up to give good teams

who have worked hard and played well all season a chance to play some more.

And for some senior Aggie football players, this will be the fourth bowl in as many years, which is an honor in itself.

The Aggies realize that it is not the Cotton Bowl or Orange Bowl, but it is another game that they must prepare mentally and physically for. They also realize they are going to Birmingham to have a good time.

"We just like the chance to play," said senior Russell Mikeska. "We're glad we can go to a bowl and it doesn't really matter which one. We were happy to get the invitation after losing to Arkansas."

"We've worked too hard this season to sit at home. Plus I know that we are going to have a real good time because all of the bowls are fun."

"The bowls are set up to let us have a good time and all the people involved make sure we do. I feel lucky to have gone to four bowls."

The Aggies will challenge the Cyclones from Iowa State who are a member of the Big Eight Confer-

ence and have an impressive 8-3 record.

"I'm looking forward to meeting a Big Eight team," said Cody Risien. "We were super thrilled to find out about the invitation to the bowl and I know we will have a good time. This may be the wrong attitude to have going into the game, but I think the whole team is going there to have a good time."

"It really worked out great," Risien said, "the bowl is before Christmas and there isn't really a lot of pressure involved so it should be a really good time."

So this year's bowl theme for the Aggies seems to center around having a good time and why not? They have worked since early August pounding heads each week and each Saturday with many disappointments and many good memories. It has been a long season for the Ags with some heartbreaks and the chance to put it all behind them and enjoy themselves has presented itself. And like any red-blooded American, they will jump at the chance to loosen up. They deserve it.

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