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Spring drills continue

By SEAN PETTY
Battalion Sports Staff

We've all heard the phrase, "April showers bring May flowers." Well, Texas A&M head football coach Tom Wilson is hoping these rainy spring football drills will help the Texas Aggies blossom into a Southwest Conference championship contender by the fall.

Wilson has spent the entire spring cultivating his crops, making sure everything is in its proper place for the fall football harvest.

And it is during the spring drills when Wilson has the chance to experiment and weed out all the errors and weak spots because he knows there will be no time for mistakes come September.

The Wednesday afternoon practice was spent concentrating mostly on the younger players to see what kind of depth the Aggies will have next year.

"I felt like we needed to give some of the younger players more playing time today because some of them haven't been able to play that much in our Saturday scrimmages," Wilson said. "This also gave us a

chance to rest some of our first team players so that they will be able to go full speed on Saturday."

Wilson has made a lot of changes this spring, switching linemen from defense to offense at will. The most recent change was moving freshman Kevin Kennedy from offensive to defensive line and sophomore Tim Ward from defensive to offensive line.

"We just have to make sure we've got the right people in the right places," Wilson said. "We've got to have the best 22 men on the field by September."

"We're just not blessed with the depth that some of the other schools in the conference have. I feel very good about the first teams, both offensively and defensively. But beyond that, we're in trouble."

Changes and experimentation seem to be the key terms for the Aggies this spring. Besides moving players from position to position, Wilson has also installed a new numbering system on offense along with some new formations. And Wilson said the new system has caused some problems.

"The younger players made the same mistakes today that the first team made at the beginning of spring training," he said. "I think today helped the young players a lot and they are going to be ready on Saturday."

Wilson had more than one reason to play the younger men on the team Wednesday. It seems the spring practices have taken their toll on some of the players and Wilson must work around the walking wounded.

"We've had so much contact this spring," Wilson said. "We have to get things down and you can't do it by going half speed. We've had comparable talent going against comparable talent all spring and when you do that, you get some people hurt." In other words, Wilson has run the number one offense against the number one defense.

Wilson commended halfback Temple Aday and fullback Roger Wiley for continuing to practice although both have been hampered by injuries. Quarterback Mike Mosley is in the hospital with the flu but, according to Wilson, will play

in the scrimmage on Saturday. "We're bungled up," Wilson said. "I think we'll just have to go against defense this Saturday. We're hurting so much."

"We have very few players on the field this spring and we just keep giving 100 percent hitting like crazy. The player attitudes are great and they're aggressive all spring."

Wilson has lost one more player but not to injury. Curtis Dickey will spend the rest of this spring running track for Charles Thomas. Dickey will even play in the annual Maroon and White game April 27th.

"I don't really think the practices would help Curtis much," Wilson said. "It'll hamper his running in any way, I know what Curtis is on the football field and that's spring training is all about."

The Aggies will scrimmage at 10 a.m. Saturday at Kyle Field. The finish spring training next week the Maroon and White game at Bryan's Viking stadium.

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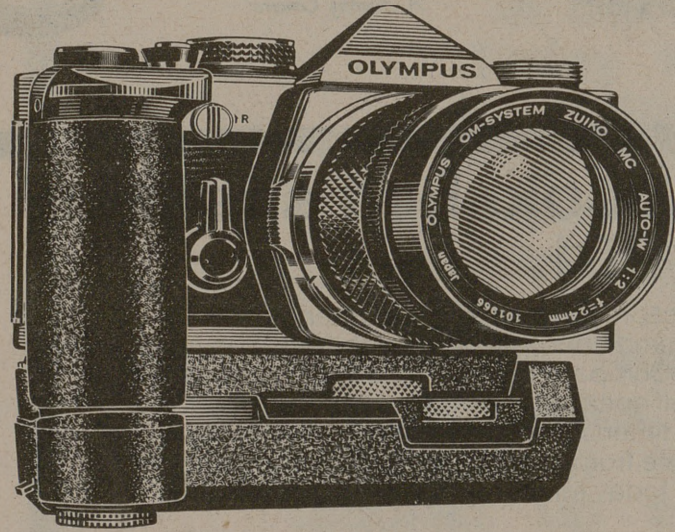
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