

Hadnot had to play

I was handed a ballot and was asked to vote for this year's Heisman Trophy winner, I would pencil in Tech's James Hadnot as my choice.

Because of the long season ahead, I could only pencil in his name right now. But from the performance I saw against the Texas Aggies Saturday night, Hadnot proved he may be deserving of football's highest honor.

The senior from Jasper totaled 299 rushing attempts, a 3.5 yards-per-carry average. But the story on Hadnot's worth went largely unnoticed by the 52,468 fans at the game.

While the Texas Tech fans were cheering their team's victory and Aggie rooters were trying to understand the outcome, most at the Stadium didn't see Hadnot running towards the Tech locker room. It was a struggle for him to get there.

Hadnot was hit in the right calf way through the fourth quarter and suffered a deep muscle bruise. He lasted the duration of the game but had to be helped to the locker room by two of the Tech managers.

With assistance, Hadnot went from reporter to reporter answering all the questions asked him after the game. But back at his locker, away from the television cameras, the pain showed on his face.

Hadnot missed workouts Monday and Tuesday before the Aggie game with a knee injury. He practiced Thursday and Friday and played the game against the Aggies despite the knee injury and muscle bruise.

For that reason alone, Kong, as called by his teammates, proved his importance to his team. Tech's two touchdown drives in the fourth quarter, No. 86's number called eight times. And each time Hadnot was given the ball he responded with the yardage needed, picking up three first downs in the quarter to keep the drives alive.

"I know what I have to get and I'm going to get it," Hadnot said. "If less my everybody on the line makes their blocks, or if it's a stalemate at the

viewpoint

By Mark Patterson

line, I know I'll get my two or three yards every time. If I keep my end of the bargain up I know we'll move the ball."

"It's hard to stop 240 pounds coming right at you," said Tech quarterback Ron Reeves of his starting fullback. "Calling his number is our safest bet."

"They were stacking up against his best plays and he was still getting hurt and he played hurt and did what was asked of him."

Hadnot realized the importance of the A&M game to the Red Raider's season. He knew that a victory was essential to the success of the team this season. And he wasn't going to let a leg injury keep him out of such an important game.

"Everybody's been down on us this season," Hadnot said of the Raider's 1-2-1 start. "Everybody wanted to give up on this team. We had something to prove against the Aggies."

Hadnot had another motivational factor for the Aggie game. Going into Saturday's action, Hadnot was ranked as the sixth best rusher in the nation, averaging 128.8 yards an outing. The Aggies' Curtis Dickey was rated as nation's second best with a 135.5 yards-per-game average. With Dickey sitting out most of the game with a leg injury, Hadnot

"won" their head-to-head confrontation.

In the Raider's opening game of the year, against the University of Southern California, it was Hadnot vs. Charles White in the rushing matchup. White left the game early with a leg injury.

Dickey, White and Hadnot are all seniors this season. All have impressive rushing statistics and all ought to be considered as Heisman Trophy candidates. But Hadnot doesn't feel he's in the same class as the other two runners.

"All three of us are good runners," Hadnot said of the comparison, "and we're all doing what we can to help our teams. But I shouldn't be compared to those guys. Those two are unbelievable."

"I'm not a better runner than Curtis Dickey. He combines his speed with his power. I'm not that fast. I'm just a power running back trying to get whatever I can whenever I get the ball."

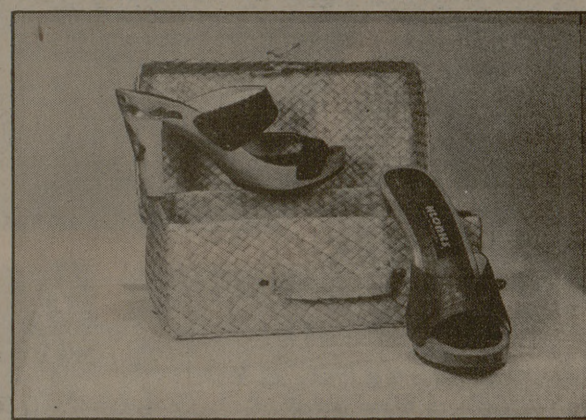
He'll have a lot more chances to prove his worth as the season continues. If he continues to show the courage and strength he showed against the Aggies Saturday night, James Hadnot may have a date at New York's Downtown Athletic Club next spring.

A&M-Tech scoring summary

Texas A&M 0 14 6 0—20
 Texas Tech 3 3 3 12—21
 Tech—FG Adams 22
 A&M—Dickey 1 run (Hardy kick)
 A&M—Mosley 8 run (Hardy kick)
 Tech—FG Adams 27
 Tech—FG Adams 42
 A&M—Carter 6 pass from Mosley (pass failed)
 Tech—Cummings 5 pass from Reeves (pass failed)
 Tech—Tyler 8 run (run failed)
 A—52,468

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This week's SWENSEN'S player of the week is Aggie quarterback Mike Mosley. Mosley had what he called, "the best game I've ever played" against the Texas Tech Red Raiders. Although the Aggies lost 21-20, Mosley led the Aggies in rushing with 96 yards and had 132 yards passing. Mosley also scored one touchdown on an eight-yard run in the second quarter.

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.36	AA	ROUND	396
.38	AA	ROUND	432
.40	AA	ROUND	456
.41	AA	ROUND	520
.42	AA	ROUND	574
.43	AA	ROUND	588
.73	AA	ROUND	602
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.59	AA	PEAR SHAPE	999
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.64	AA	PEAR SHAPE	999
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