

Wilson's return spoiled

By MARK PATTERSON
Battalion Sports Staff

It rained on Tom Wilson's homecoming parade last weekend in Lubbock.

Returning to his alma mater as the football coach of Texas A&M, Wilson led his Aggies against the Texas Tech Red Raiders in what was described as a game of survival in the Southwest Conference. The loser would probably be out of the SWC title chase.

The Raiders survived, the Aggies didn't.

"I'm very disappointed for the team," Wilson said at his weekly press conference Tuesday. "I'm disappointed because this team has done a lot of good things so far this year. We still have a chance to be a good football team. Things just haven't gone our way so far."

With a record of 2-3 (0-2 in SWC

play) the Aggies are in danger of suffering their first losing season in six years. It was back in 1973 when the Aggies went into the red, posting a 5-6 season record, 3-4 in conference play.

"We've made some bad plays that caused us to lose this season, but we have to look at things from a realistic standpoint," Wilson said. "We've lost three games by a total of 12 points, two of those games by one point. We're mature enough to know that if we took a couple of plays out of those games, we could easily have won them all."

"We still have the opportunity, with six games left on the schedule, to do some good things this season."

Wilson saw some good things in the Aggies' loss in Lubbock last weekend. The coach pointed out that Mike Mosley had one of his finest games as quarterback for the Aggies. Also, no member of the offensive unit suffered an injury in the

Tech game. For the first time this season, the Aggies will field the same offensive unit that started the previous week's game.

"At least the offensive line will have two weeks to work together," Wilson said of the unit that has been hardest hit by injuries. "Bryan Dausin (making his first start) did a good job at quick guard for us last week. And moving Philip Simpson to the quick tackle position turned out to be an excellent move."

"In fact, the only minus Simpson had were not related to blocking assignments but to busted plays. Those mistakes are understandable for someone who hasn't played the position before."

Wilson also saw some things that disappointed him in the Tech game. Foremost, the confusion on the Aggie sidelines with time running out in the game. Also of concern were the two long touchdown drives Tech was able to put together in the

final quarter to pull out the win.

"I'm discouraged and concerned about the coaching error on the sidelines at the end of the game," Wilson said. "We should of had an opportunity to kick a 49-yard field goal at the end of the game to win."

"We got the ball back but had too much confusion on the sidelines. With 14 seconds left, our field goal unit ran on the field and we couldn't get it back off in time to run one play and stop the clock."

"Another concern was Tech's ability to hold on to the football on the two long touchdown drives in the fourth quarter. They did a good job keeping our offense off the field."

Wilson said the long drives were not due to any defensive breakdowns.

"They weren't doing anything different on the two drives. They just made some big plays. They made a couple of first downs by inches to keep the drives alive. Defensively, we just couldn't stop them."

One decision made by Wilson has been analyzed and talked about since the game's final gun. Leading 20-9, Wilson chose to go for a two-point conversion rather than kicking an extra point. The Aggies missed the conversion try and lost by a point.

"I've never second-guessed myself on that decision," Wilson said. "We have a chart that has been tested through the years that coaches rely on. It gives point differences and what to do in certain situations. The coaches checked the chart up in the press box and, leading by 11, the two-point conversion was the way to go."

"If we had been successful, Tech would have been forced to score one touchdown, go for two, and kick a field goal just to tie us. I thought it was the right choice."

Aggies head for tourney

By CAROLYN BLOSSER
Battalion Sports Staff

The women's softball team heads to Fort Worth Thursday to compete in the State Championship Tournament hosted by Texas Wesleyan College. The Aggies are seeded second behind Texas Woman's University, last year's national champion.

The Ags will be riding on momentum when they enter the state tournament, which marks the end of their fall season. Last weekend in Nacogdoches they won the Stephen F. Austin Invitational tournament, defeating TWU 1-0 in the championship game. A&M's victory ended TWU's incredible winning streak of 15 consecutive tournaments over the last two years.

Earlier this season A&M lost to TWU 1-0 in the championship game of the TWU Invitational in Denton. On their way to last weekend's championship, the Aggies gave up only two runs in five games. Lori Stoll, A&M's premier pitcher, came within one out of a perfect game against Baylor Saturday. She walked the next-to-last batter, but held on for a no-hitter in the 6-0 win.

A&M then defeated the University of Texas at Arlington 4-1, earning the right to face TWU for the championship. Stoll again pitched for the Aggies, and based on her performance in that game, was named the tournament's Most Valuable Player. She allowed TWU only one hit while striking out 11.

In Friday's play the Aggies defeated Trinity 11-1 and Texas Wesleyan 8-0, with A&M pitcher Irene Mach going the distance in both games.

Three A&M players named to the all-tournament team were Nancy Sullivan, Shannon Murray and Carrie Austgen.

A&M will be taking a 25-5 record into the State tournament. The

winner automatically goes into the Regional tournament next spring as a seeded team, thereby receiving a bye in the first round.

Unlike Texas, most teams in the country hold their state tournaments in the spring — their only season of play — while A&M plays both a fall and spring season.

The state tournament ends the Aggies' fall season. They begin their spring season with a doubleheader at home March 7.

A&M's leading hitters going into the state tournament are Carrie Austgen (.426), Rhonda Reese (.384) and Melody Pritchard (.295). Austgen leads the team in RBI and also set a new fall record of 13 stolen bases. The old record was 11.

Lori Stoll carries an 11-2 pitching record into the tournament. She

leads the team with 73 strikeouts and has a seemingly run-proof ERA of 0.33. Irene Mach is 7-1 and Treshan McDonald 7-2.

Leading A&M defensively this season are shortstop Nancy Sullivan and catcher Rhonda Reese.

A&M and TWU seem to have the best shot at the state title this weekend.

"We're pretty even," says A&M coach Bill Galloway of the two teams. "If we can maintain our pitching and our offense, I think we have a great shot at the championship."

TWU has won the state tournament the last two years while the Aggies have finished second.

"We're hoping to win this year," Galloway said. "Third time's a charm."

Aggies host Horns tonight

By CAROLYN BLOSSER
Battalion Sports Staff

Texas A&M's women's volleyball team will host the University of Texas at Arlington (UTA) in a 3-out-of-5 game match Thursday night in G. Rollie White Coliseum. Play begins at 7:30.

The Aggies are still looking for their first win at home. Last Wednesday A&M lost here to the University of Texas three games to one. The week before, the Ags failed to win any matches in the tournament they hosted against Lamar and UTA.

It's been a see-saw season so far for A&M's young team, whose record now stands at 14-10. The Aggies have shown they have the potential to be one of the better teams around by beating nationally ranked Hous-

ton and other top teams in the state. But their play has been marred by inconsistency, and at times, mediocrity.

Last weekend the Aggies played well, finishing third in the Lamar Invitational Tournament in Beaumont. They began play Friday night against Lamar, losing a close match 15-9, 12-15, 13-15.

A&M won the rest of their pool play, defeating Nicholls State, San Jacinto Community College, Alvin Community College and Rice University.

In A&M's semifinal match against Houston, starter Nancy Dunn had to sit out because of illness, a loss which coach Dave Schakel said "broke our concentration." A&M lost the match 5-15, 7-15, but went on to defeat Texas Lutheran College

for third place.

"We played well this weekend so we're getting there," Schakel said. "We've improved our blocking along with our defense and passing. We still need to improve our serving and spiking."

Perhaps the Aggies' biggest test yet in the still-young season will come this weekend when they travel to Houston to compete in the University of Houston Invitational Tournament. Teams from all over the country will be competing in the 20-team tournament, including Purdue, Ohio State, Alabama and New Mexico State.

A&M will begin its pool play Friday, facing the University of Pittsburgh, Oral Roberts University, University of Illinois and Baylor.

Top teams are touchdown happy

United Press International

NEW YORK — The Top 10, which played a game of "Can You Top This?" Saturday, returned in almost exactly the same order in the fifth weekly Board of Coaches' college football ratings, announced Tuesday.

Five of the nation's top seven teams rang up at least 38 points this past weekend, and top-ranked Southern Cal was not going to be outdone. The defending national champions walloped Washington State, 50-21, to retain their No. 1 ranking with 25 first-place votes and 506 overall points from the 35 coaches participating.

Alabama and Oklahoma remained second and third, respectively, after impressive victories and Nebraska, which crushed New Mexico State, 57-0, vaulted past Texas into the No. 4 spot. The Longhorns went to

fifth after beating Rice by a "mere" 26-9 margin.

The rest of the Top 10 stayed in position, with Houston, Washington, Ohio State, Notre Dame and Florida State all winning Saturday.

The Trojans, 5-0, who have remained in the No. 1 slot all season, trounced the Cougars Saturday for their 13th straight victory.

Alabama, 4-0, also on a 13-game winning streak, picked up eight first-place votes and 487 points after a 38-0 drubbing of outmanned Wichita State.

Oklahoma, 4-0, retained third place with a 49-24 rout of Colorado and ex-coach Chuck Fairbanks. The Sooners received 451 points.

Nebraska's big victory moved the Cornhuskers, 4-0, ahead of Texas with one first-place vote and 402 points. The Longhorns, unbeaten in three games, picked up the remain-

ing first-place vote and 345 points.

Houston, 4-0, squeaked past Baylor, 13-10, but held on to sixth with 305 points, and No. 7 Washington, 5-0, blanked Oregon State, 41-0, and received 303 points.

Ohio State, 5-0, had a surprisingly tough time in subduing Northwestern, 16-7, and picked up 243 points to stay ahead of Notre Dame. The Fighting Irish, 3-1, received 234 points after a 21-13 triumph over stubborn Georgia Tech. Florida State, 5-0, remained 10th with 220 points after crushing Louisville, 27-0.

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