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the sports

# Big battle for 13-AAAA title

United Press International  
It's the type of game usually seen only in post-season play. But Lake Highlands' coach Joe Bob Johnson says it's the best type Texas high school football to be found anywhere.

He's talking about District 13-AAAA, and the competition to be played for the third straight weekend Friday night when his 10th-ranked Wildcats meet the 2nd-ranked Plano Wildcats. The game highlights the weekend schedule of Texas schoolboy football, and matches the only rated teams against each other this week.

"Our kids know where we stand, and I'm sure Plano is aware of the importance of the game, too," Johnson told UPI. "It won't be hard to get either team ready. It's just a matter of which team executes the best and doesn't commit mistakes."

Two weeks ago Plano defeated Highland Park in the first of three big weekends in the district race. Last week Highland Park defeated Lake Highlands. This week's game, therefore, is extremely important to both Lake Highlands and Highland Park if they both hope to overcome the quick start taken by Plano, state champions in 1977 and runnerup to Houston Stratford last year.

Another Class AAAA powerful district, West Texas' 5-AAAA, also has two ranked teams in action this week — No. 1 Abilene Cooper takes on playoff-rich Odessa Permian and 8th-ranked Midland Lee goes to San Angelo. Other games matching top-rated teams find Class AAA's Jasper at Silsbee, and Class A's China Spring at Moody. Kenedy, the top-ranked Class AA team, has



A handful of Red Raider

Texas A&M defensive end Jacob Green and the rest of the Aggie defense swarm over Texas Tech quarterback Ron Reeves. The Aggie defense will have its hands full this Saturday when the sixth-ranked Houston Cougars come to town for the first A&M home game of the year.

# Hector jumping right in

By KURT ALLEN  
Battalion Sports Staff

If a veteran football player was asked what it's like to be a rookie, he'd probably say he spent most of his time listening to the coaches, learning his plays, staying out of trouble and playing very little.

That pretty well describes the routine of Texas A&M tailback Johnny Hector, except for one important difference. Unlike many rookies, Hector has not only played in a game, he's started one as well.

The 5-11, 185 pound freshman's chance came this past Saturday against the Texas Tech Red Raiders in an important game. Senior Aggie tailback Curtis Dickey had been bothered all last week by a dislocated thumb he suffered in the Memphis State game.

During pre-game warmups in Lubbock, Dickey had trouble handling the football and Texas A&M head coach Tom Wilson elected to go with Hector instead. While he was thrilled to be able to start, Hector said he was not surprised.

"Of course I didn't know for sure I would start until just before the game," Hector said. "But I had a feeling I might since Curtis didn't get to work out much last week. Coach Wilson sort of hinted at it, because he kept telling me to be prepared, that I probably would get a chance to play."

As far as learning is concerned, Hector said he probably hasn't had to absorb as much knowledge as some freshmen, since he played in an I-formation offense while in high school at New Iberia, La. He added that the only position he played there was tailback.

"I know it sounds strange, but that's all I've ever played," he said. "I'm not like some guys who've played both offense and defense, sometimes at two or three different positions on each team. I think that's given me a chance to work on perfecting my style more. I consider myself sort of a 'jitter-bug' runner."

The funny thing about it all is that during my senior year in high school, I didn't get all that much playing time. After our first five games, we were blowing out a lot of teams, so I'd only play in the first half."

Even so, Hector, who has run the 40-yard dash in 4.4 seconds, gained over 1,300 yards his senior season, including a game high of 188. His performance gained him all-District recognition, as well as all-state and all-America honors. It also made him one of the most sought-after backs in the country.

"Yeah, I was recruited by quite a few teams, including Ohio State, Notre Dame, Oklahoma, as well as Texas, LSU and Texas A&M. I didn't want to be too far from home and it finally boiled down to choice between Texas, LSU and A&M."

Hector said he preferred the Aggies over Texas after visiting the A&M campus. The only thing that kept him from going to LSU was the problems with going to LSU. "I was excited when the recruiters told me that Curtis (Dickey) was a senior and that I'd probably play a lot in my freshman year. It meant a lot to me since most of the players leaving after this year, it means I'll have a good shot at being a starter for three years."

Hector said he would also like to shot at making the Aggie track team as a long jumper. While in high school, he consistently made jumps of 25 feet. He also participated in the triple jump, with a consistent average of 48 feet. However, he won't get a chance to show off his skills in that event.

"I'd sure like to run the triple jump, but the coaches tell me I don't have that event in this conference. I don't know what the real is, but I guess it really doesn't matter. I'm happy enough now with what I'm doing."

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