

the sports

Ags tangle with Horns

By SEAN PETTY
Battalion Sports Editor

Well, it's here for the 86th time. And if Saturday's Texas A&M-University of Texas game is like most of the preceding 85, no one knows what might happen.

But it looks like the outcome of this year's game may be a little more predictable than in the past for 11 very good reasons. To give you a hint, all 11 reasons wear burnt orange and white and will line up opposite the A&M offense. Give up?

These 11 reasons represent the No. 3 defense in the nation or the Great Wall of Texas. Last week, the Longhorn defense gave up a total of two, count 'em two, first downs to the Baylor Bears. And both of those came in the second half.

The 'Horns probably should have had all 11 on the all-Southwest Conference first defensive team but the orange hue may have looked a little strange.

Aggie Coach Tom Wilson summed up the feeling of the game best in a rare statement. "It's going to be very, very difficult for us to win this

game.

"Texas has the best technique defense I've ever seen," Wilson said. "They play well at every position and have a very balanced defense."

Wilson has the same problem every coach the Longhorns have faced this season has had and that is, trying to find a weakness in their defense.

"There's just not any particular weakness in their defensive scheme," Wilson said. "The big thing is they are so experienced and know what to do in all situations. In fact, they are bigger than any Texas defense in recent years. What can I say, they're just a great defensive team."

very important. The only edge we have statistically over Texas is in our punting."

The Aggies answer to the Texas defense is speed. Quarterback Mike Mosley, tailback Johnny Hector and receivers Gerald Carter and David Scott will try to run past the Horns.

"They have so much speed it's unreal," said Texas Coach Fred Akers. "I really wonder if there is another team in the country as fast."

So it's speed vs. defense and which will rule only time will tell in this 86th meeting.

So how do you attack Texas?
"You just have to execute. Trick plays aren't particularly the answer, you just have to line up and get after it."

"The kicking game is going to be

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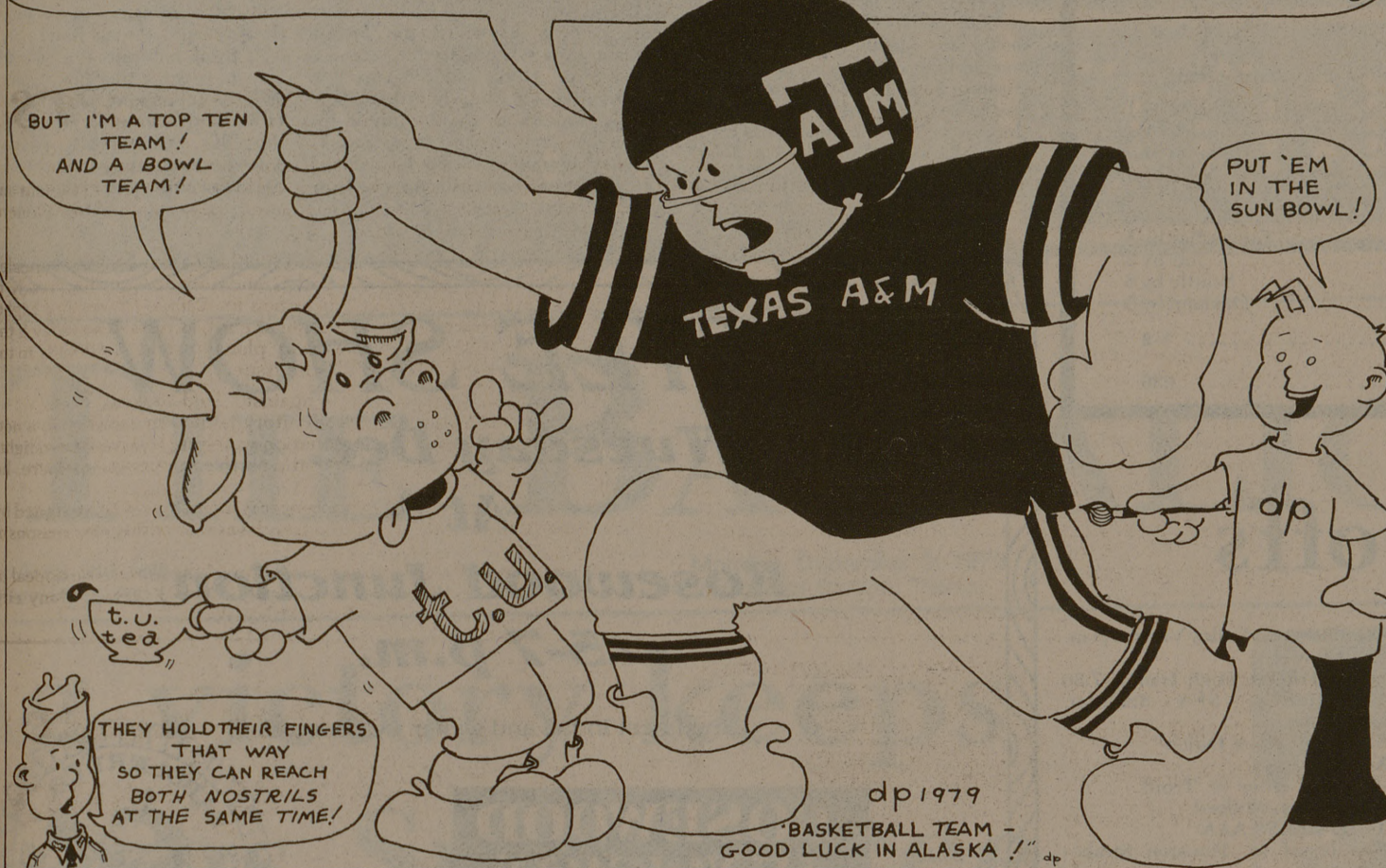
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Metzger loses four fingertips

United Press International
HOUSTON — Infielder Roger Metzger, a standout defensive play-couraged on by the San Francisco Giants next season, severed the tips of four fingers on his throwing hand Thursday in a household power saw accident.

Metzger and his severed right-hand fingertips — placed in salt and ice — were rushed 60 miles from his hometown of Brenham, Texas, to St. Luke's Hospital in Houston.

Surgeons, in consultation with Metzger and his wife, Tami, decided against reattaching the severed portions — which were described as being severed at the first knuckle.

Doctors said Metzger emerged from surgery to close the wounds in good condition but his future in baseball was unclear.

"It was the conjecture of all the doctors that it would be a risky and somewhat useless situation to re-secure the fingers out there in that they would never have the use they had before," said family friend John Potter at a news conference not

attended by doctors or family.

"Dr. (Michael J.) Epstein made no guarantees but said there is better than a 50-50 chance he can grip a ball and swing a bat with that hand," Potter added.

However, Potter also said "I don't think the doctors know at this point whether he'll be able to function as a shortstop. His career's in the hands of the good Lord."

Potter said the accident occurred at about 2:30 p.m. while Metzger was using a band saw to cut wood for construction of a storage cabinet in his garage.

He said Metzger "evidently hit a knot in the wood or some freak accident happened and he did sever all four fingers on his right hand."

Potter said Metzger's housekeeper helped the player seek medical attention and a neighbor discovered the fingertips in the home's garage and took them to the Brenham hospital where Metzger was initially treated and taken by ambulance to Houston.

The surgery at St. Luke's last an

hour and 15 minutes and was performed by Dr. F. Don Parsa.

"He never lost his spirit or zest. He still had a little humor," said Potter. "The last thing Roger said to be before he went into surgery was 'We're still going to party Saturday night.'"

Potter said Giants' manager Dave Bristol had been notified and several baseball friends, including pitcher Joe Niekro of the Houston Astros, had called but Metzger was unable to take telephone calls.

He would likely remain in the hospital until Saturday, Potter said.

Metzger alternated at shortstop with John LeMaster this past season with the Giants and was heavily counted on for the coming season.

He was born at Fredricksburg, Texas and established a major-league record for consecutive error-free games by a shortstop — 59 — in 1976.

Metzger, 6-foot and 165 pounds,

hit .251 in 94 games last season. He batted 259 times with 65 hits and drove in 31 runs and stole 11 bases.

Metzger began his career with the Chicago Cubs in 1970 and played the next seven seasons with Houston Astros until 1978, when he was traded to the Giants. Metzger has been known as an excellent defensive player with less-than-average hitting skills.

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Spurs' Silas fined for missing Hawks' game

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — James Silas, captain of the San Antonio Spurs, was fined \$2,000 for not showing up for the team's Tuesday night game against the Atlanta Hawks, it was reported Thursday.

"I got fined," was all Silas would say about the incident in which he failed to notify Coach Doug Moe that he was missing the game to be with his wife, Hazel, who gave birth to a baby the day before the game and required additional surgery.

The (fine) amount is not important. I was doing what any father would have done in the situation,"

Silas said.

However, Moe said that all Silas had to do was let the team know and he would have been excused for the game. The coach would not discuss any details of the punishment.

"The only rule we've ever had is that a player let us know where he is," Moe said. "We've never denied a player the privilege of missing a practice or a game."

Silas' decision to be missing in action coincided, also, with his demotion as a starting guard. Moe had announced before Silas went AWOL that he would start rookie Mike Evans against the Hawks.

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