

# Sports

TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds

## First SWC game for A&M

# Ags travel to Raiders' lair



By RITCHIE PRIDDY  
Sports Editor  
The Texas Aggies travel to the Texas plains this weekend to face the Texas Tech Red Raiders in Lubbock.

The game will be the first Southwest Conference game for the Aggies, and the second for the Red Raiders. Saturday, Tech lost a close game to Baylor 28-15.

No team has ever won the conference title with two losses, so

the Raiders will be fighting to stay alive for the conference title.

Last week the Raiders gave up over 500 yards in total offense to the Bears, but they also managed to pick up over 350 yards.

The Raiders are led by quarterback Ron Reeves, who is considered one of the strongest, most poised quarterbacks in college football.

Reeves has passed for over 3,700 yards in his career, and so far this season has hit 35 of 84 passes for 444 yards and two touchdowns. Reeves has thrown only three interceptions.

"Ron is a very talented quarterback, very strong and has a lot of poise," head coach Tom Wilson said. "If you give him the time to pass he's going to hurt you. Most people really try to put the pressure on him but if you let down he can burn you."

First-year head coach Jerry Moore has installed the I-formation and running back Anthony Hutchison has responded well, gaining 425 yards on 74 carries. Hutchison is the number 10 rusher in the nation with an average of 141.7 yards a game.

Wilson said that the Raider offense centers around Reeves and Hutchison, and that if the Aggies could stop them, they would be shutting down about 90 percent of the Raider offense.

The Aggie defense is currently number three in the conference against the rush, giving up an average of 70.7 yards per game.

The defense is led by linebackers Mike Little and Bobby Strogon. Little has 32 tackles and Strogon has 27 so far this season. Strogon was named by the coaches as defensive player of the week for his efforts in Saturday's game.

The Ags will be hard-pressed to

stop the passing arm of Reeves and the running of Hutchison, but Wilson said his team will be ready.

"The attitude of the team is really starting to come around. We're beginning to play now and have fun as well. We've learned a lot of lessons the first three games and we will be ready for the Raiders."

The Aggies will be without the services of safety Jeff Fuller and defensive end Paul Pender. Both suffered torn knee ligaments in last week's 43-7 win over Louisiana Tech. Fuller was originally thought to be lost for the year but Wednesday doctors said the tear was slight and he could possibly be back at full speed within a month.

However, Pender's injury was worse than first thought and after having undergone surgery Tuesday, he'll be out for the year. Wilson said that the senior could possibly receive hardship status and play again next year.

Freshman defensive tackle Ray Childress broke his hand in the Louisiana Tech game but will play with a soft cast against the Raiders.

The Raider defense is last in the conference, giving up over 1500 yards so far in three ballgames. But Wilson isn't convinced that it's entirely bad.

"Their defense is very aggressive and shows a lot of stunts and blitzes. It's the kind of defense you worry about playing. Some times it will give up the big play and other times it makes the big plays. It's the kind of defense that can hurt you because you never know what it is going to do."

It is led by 6-foot-3 260-pound defensive tackle Gabe Rivera. The Raiders scrapped last year's 5-2 defense and went to the more versatile 4-3 defense, which allows Rivera's talents to be used more

extensively. Rivera finished with 70 last year and shows no sign of aging down this year. However, Rivera has not had the kind of success so far that is expected of him.

"Gabe has not gotten off to start we wanted him to," Tech defensive coach David Knaus said. "He had an outstanding game against New Mexico, but nobody else seemed to have noticed him. We have got to find a way to make him more effective against the opposing offense."

Middle linebacker Terry 6-foot-1, 218, led the team in tackles last year with 78 and was the linebacking corps. Strongly Tate Randle is considered many to be vying for all-American honors this year. Ironically, Raider's pass defense is currently in last place in the conference.

Knaus doesn't have any idea about how to stop the Aggie passing attack of Hector and Jackson. "Both are outstanding ball players. The only thing we can do is stop them from making a stop them is lock them up and on for dear life."

The Aggies have an established passing game now, and with running of Earnest Jackson, Hector and Thomas Santos, Texas A&M should have a balanced team.

Wilson said the key to the offense would be the intensity level players will have. He and his staff have talked to the players about their intensity, and last week coaches decided to turn the offense loose. The results were impressive and Wilson sees a continuation of high-level intensity.

Saturday's game in Lubbock Jones Stadium begins at 7:30 p.m. Midnight yell practice will be Friday night at South Plains Stadium just off Loop 289.

## Carpenter to join Giants

United Press International  
EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Rob Carpenter understandably didn't carry the ball too often alongside Earl Campbell, but he's certainly made quite an impression on his new boss.

New York coach Ray Perkins Wednesday said the former Houston running back has agreed to report to the Giants today and praised the five-year pro as a winning football player.

To make room for Carpenter, the Giants released veteran tackle Tim Stokes, who was signed as a free agent Sept. 9. Stokes suffered a miserable game against Washington Sept. 13, filling in for injured Brad Benson and Jeff Weston and was used sparingly the past two weeks.

Carpenter was acquired by the Giants Tuesday in exchange for a draft choice but the 26-year-old back balked at the deal, saying he was mulling retirement rather than joining his new club — which

is in desperate need of a consistent running attack.

He spoke with Perkins Wednesday and said he will report Thursday in time to prepare Sunday's game at Giants Stadium against the Green Bay Packers.

"I inquired about Carpenter's availability during our first weeks of training camp but Oilers said no," Perkins revealed. "Now he's become available. I'm very pleased. I think he's a real good receiver, but he's more than that — he's a player."

"He's got good, not great, speed and he goes about things in an intense manner. I think he's a clutch, pressure player. He's a winner."

The Giants are averaging 2.8 yards per rushing attempt. Carpenter, who led all rookies with 652 yards in finished second in rushing behind Campbell among Houston players last year while catching 43 passes.

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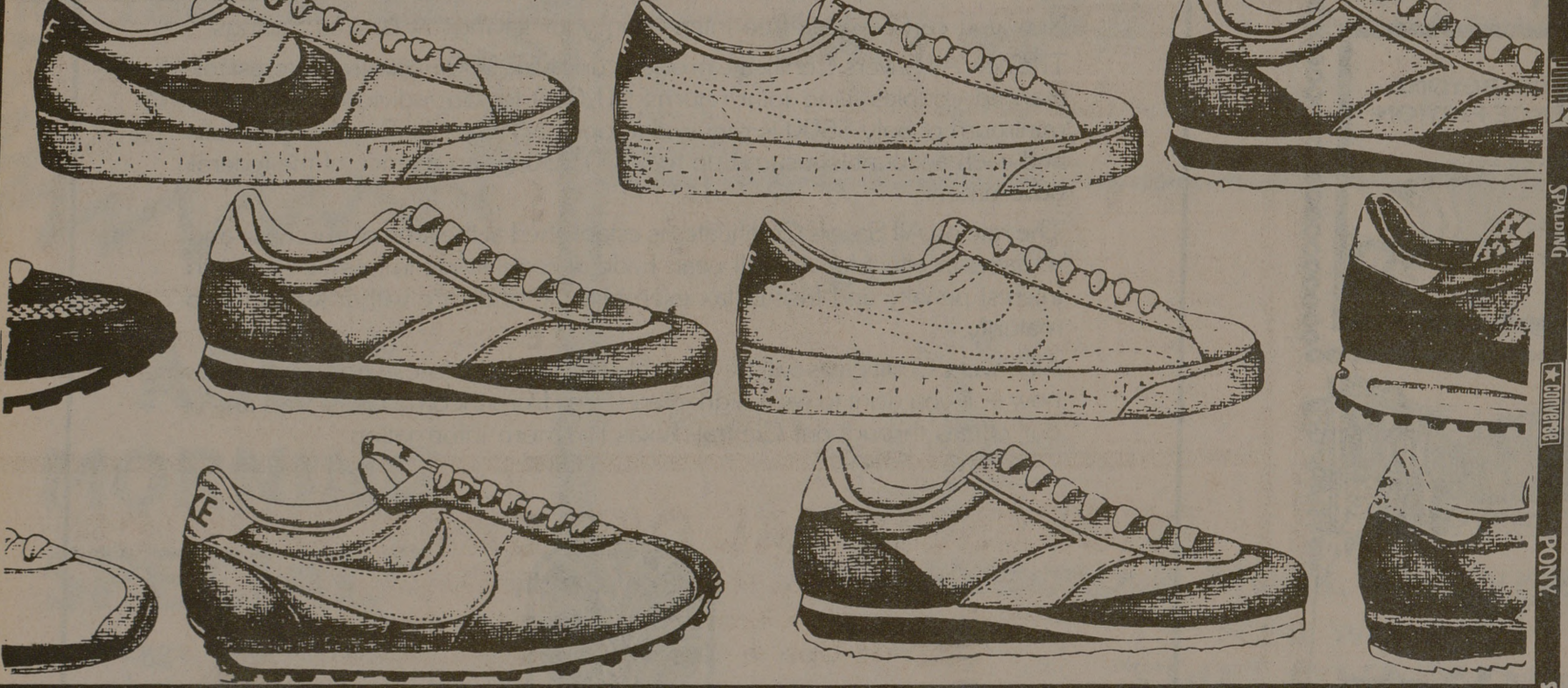
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