

Sports

Wilson not too pleased with defense

Ag offense awesome; ready for SMU

By RITCHIE PRIDDY

Sports Editor
Talk of Gary Kubiak's feat and the Ags' 51-26 win over Rice still filtered through the air during coach Tom Wilson's weekly press conference, but the attention clearly centered around this week's A&M-SMU matchup.

Texas A&M entertains the Mustangs Saturday in the Aggies'

most important game of the year.

Texas A&M whipped Rice 51-26 Saturday to run its record to 5-2, 3-1 in the Southwest Conference race. Meanwhile, SMU dropped its first game of the year, losing 9-7 to Texas in Dallas. The Mustangs are 6-1 on the year and 3-1 in conference play.

SMU is on probation for recruiting violations and is not eligi-

ble for post-season play. That, however, does not keep the game from being important.

Coach Wilson praised his team's efforts in Saturday's win and said the Aggies are starting to show themselves.

"Our offensive output was impressive," Wilson said. "I've felt that for several weeks that we were close to exploding."

The Aggies rolled up 486 yards in the effort, giving the Ags a 398.1 yard average per game. Kubiak is the number 10 passer in the nation, averaging 134.3 yards a game with his total of 1,143 yards and 10 touchdowns. He ranks 21st in total offense, accounting for 1,372 yards and a game average of 196 yards.

Kubiak passed for six touchdowns and ran for another Saturday and was rewarded for his performance by being named the offensive player of the game by the coaching staff.

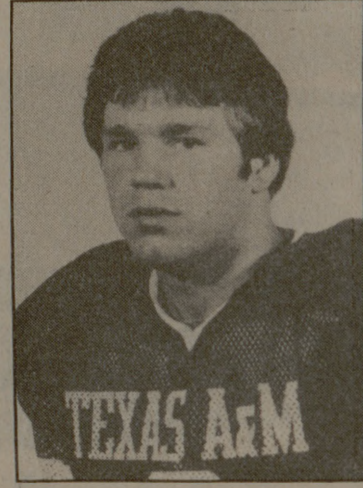
Defensive end Jon van Sant was recognized as the defensive player of the game for his aggressive play, while linebacker Greg Berry was named the specialty teams' player of the game.

Although pleased with the win, Wilson said his team needs to improve defensively.

"Our defense totally dominated them (Rice) the first half," he said. "But, the second-half breakdowns were not very pleasing."

The Aggies took a 31-7 halftime lead and virtually shut the Owls down during the first half, yielding only 96 total yards. However, the Owls finished the day with 379 total yards, only 18 on the ground.

"We haven't played a game this year in which our offense and defense played extremely well



Gary Kubiak

said. "It should be very exciting to see those two backs against our SMU and Texas A&M are virtually even statistically, each having one of the top offensive and defensive teams in the conference. That means that the kicking game may play an important part in the outcome of the game."

"All coaches say it, but it's true, the kicking game is vitally important," Wilson said.

He went on to say that he was pleased with the Texas A&M kicking game. Punter Buzzy Sawyer, he said, is continuing to punt the ball well and will play an important role in Saturday's game.

Place-kicker David Hardy is the leading scorer on the team with 10 points but has had problems with his consistency.

Hardy missed an extra point Saturday's game (the ball was spinning on the tee, causing him to shank it) and Wilson met him on the sideline.

"In a game like that you gotta find something to get mad about," Wilson said. "I've been concerned with that part of our kicking game all year."

Wilson said a missed extra point or field goal could possibly mean disaster against any of the teams the Aggies will face the remainder of the season and he wants to make sure every attempt is good.

Overall, Wilson said he was pleased with his team, saying the good things are beginning to happen.

"Going into the year we hope we could peak at this time of the season," Wilson said. "Hopefully, we'll be able to put it all together this weekend."

Women's cross country team prepares for state

By RICK STOLLE

Battalion Staff
In a cross country meet that was little more than preparation, the Texas A&M University women's cross country team finished fifth at the Texas Invitational Meet.

As proof that meet times have improved drastically, the time for the fifth-place Aggies would have easily won the meet two years ago.

"That sort of tells you how ev-

erybody in the state is really improving on their times," said Aggie coach Bill Nix.

The relay meet had two one-mile stretches, one mile and a half stretch, one half mile stretch and a final two-mile stretch.

"The last three girls really ran well," said the Aggie coach. "They were exceptional and came close to having the fastest times in their divisions."

The University of Texas women's team followed closely by Abilene Christian University, UT at Paso and the University of Houston.

"We stayed after the meet and practiced for a couple of hours," Nix said. "The state meet will be there next week and we used the time for preparation."

The coach said all the women have had good days on the run but the problem is putting it all together on the same day.

"We really have a good team," Nix said. "All we have to do is get everybody to peak on the same day."

The state meet will be run on the same track Saturday at Georgetown. The Aggies will compete against some of the same teams they ran against the weekend. Texas, North Texas State, Texas Tech, the University of Texas at San Antonio, A&M, Rice and Baylor are all scheduled to compete.

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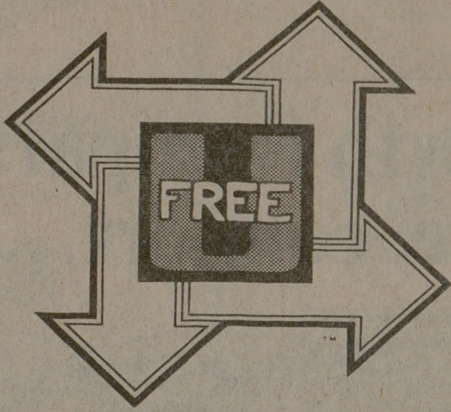
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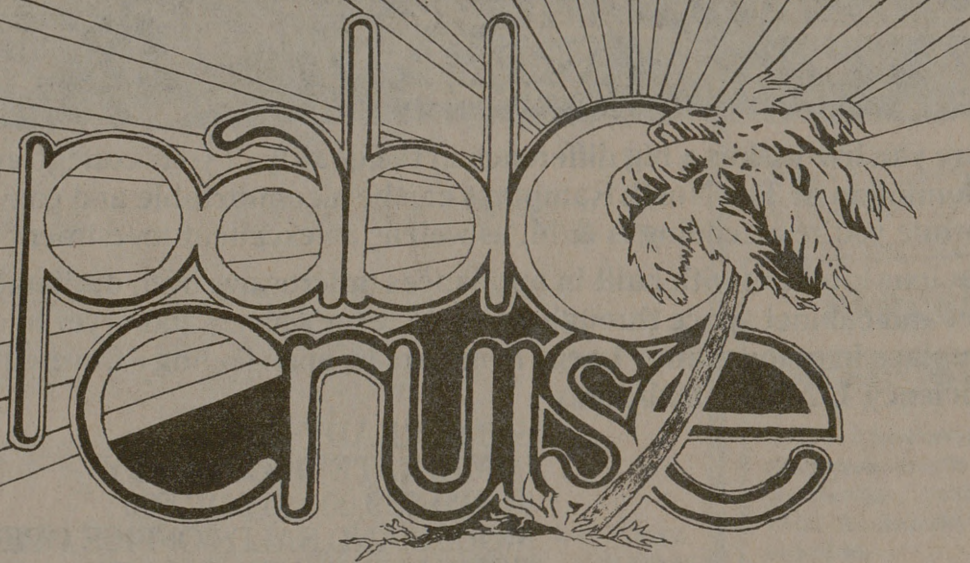
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