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Sports

Wilson says Kubiak's status still unknown

Ags, 'Horns hurting but ready

By RITCHIE PRIDDY
Sports Editor

Throw out the records, The University of Texas is coming to town and records or bowl invitations don't mean a thing.

Texas, 8-1-1 and heading for the Cotton Bowl, faces the 6-4 Independence Bowl-bound Aggies tomorrow at 2 p.m. in Kyle Field.

The game, rich with tradition, takes on a different meaning to both teams. The Aggies have won the past two years, 13-7 and 24-14. No Aggie team has ever been able to beat the Longhorns three years in a row and the 'Horns are not ready to see that happen.

Injuries, like so many A&M-Texas games of the past will play a role in the game.

The Aggie injury situation has improved somewhat and everyone should be healthy with the possible exception of quarterback Gary Kubiak.

Kubiak remains a question mark for the Aggies. The junior quarterback suffered a slight shoulder injury on his passing arm against TCU and still could miss the game.

Kubiak, however, said his arm has been feeling better and, if there's any way possible, he will start against Texas and play 100 percent healthy.

Head coach Tom Wilson said that his quarterback status is still up in the air but he is confident of Kubiak's ability to fight off the injury.

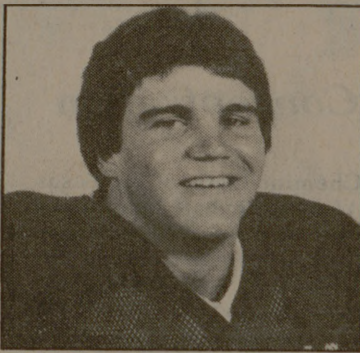
"I'm going to say that knowing Gary, with the mental toughness that he has and the 'want to' that he has to participate in this game, that he's going to be ready."

In case Kubiak is not ready to play Wilson will alternate John Elkins and Marvin Wesley at quarterback.

Safety Billy Cannon, linebacker Mike Little and running back Johnny Hector were held out of the TCU game because of minor injuries and will be ready to play tomorrow.

Up until now the Aggies have been, for the most part, injury-free. However, Wilson said that changed with the TCU game as more than one player came limping off the field at one time or another.

Besides Kubiak's injury, Elkins suffered a mild concussion, as did



John Elkins

safety Mark McQueen.

The most serious injury, however, was to free safety Chris Brown. Brown was hurt while tackling a TCU ballcarrier and fractured his neck. He was able to walk to the sideline but a few minutes later was taken to a Fort Worth hospital where doctors diagnosed the injury as a fractured vertebrae.

Although not suffering any permanent damage the injury ended Brown's football career. He will remain in the hospital in Fort Worth for about three weeks.

Safety Jeff Farrar said, on behalf of the team, that anyone wishing to send a letter or card to Brown may send it to him at the following address: Chris Brown, Fort Worth Medical Center Room 320, 1300 W. Cannon, Fort Worth, TX 76104.

"It would be great to let him know that the 12th Man was really behind him," he said.



Chris Brown

The Texas Longhorns are faced with a much more serious injury situation, teamwise, than are the Aggies.

The 'Horns lost their starting defensive tackles Kenneth Sims and Mark Weber to injuries a few weeks ago and will have to start sophomores Ralph Darnell and John Haines.

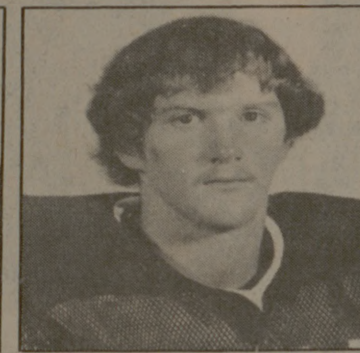
In addition, running back Rodney Tate will not play Thursday because of a deep thigh bruise.

Listed as questionable are wide receiver Maurice McCloney and defensive backs Mike Hatchett and Bobby Johnson.

The Longhorns are coming into the game with the number two defense in the nation behind Pittsburgh. The 'Horns are giving up an average of 234.4 yards per game, 96.8 on the ground.

Through 20 games the Longhorn defense has not yielded a 100-yard game to any individual.

The success of the Texas de-



Billy Cannon

fense has largely been due to the efforts of middle linebacker Doug Shackle, Sims and safety William Graham.

Shackle leads the team in tackles with 116, 86 unassisted. Sims has 110 (81 unassisted) and Graham has 104 (81 unassisted).

In addition, linebacker Jeff Leiding has 98 tackles.

The defensive line, although young (two juniors and two sophomores) averages 6-4 and 248.

The linebackers appear to be the strong point of the Texas defense now that Sims and Weber are gone. Bruce Scholtz, Shackle and Leiding make up the line-backing corps and have taken up the slack since Sims and Weber have left.

The Baylor Bears have had the most success against the 'Horns, rolling up 345 yards, despite losing 34-12. In that game the Texas secondary came up with six interceptions.

The Aggies are averaging 40 yards per game in total offense. They have the chance to become the most productive Aggie team in history.

Behind a solid offensive line, the Aggies have built a solid record, averaging just over 300 yards per outing.

Several times this season line has dominated the defense, enabling running backs like Earnest Jackson to run 860 and 716 yards, respectively.

Running back Thomas Sproles is the third leading rusher with 327 yards.

Kubiak has become one of the leading passers in the nation, averaging 133.2 yards per game. He's thrown 11 touchdowns and has a 54.5 percent completion record.

Split end Mike Whitwell, leading receiver with 25 catches for 633 yards and three touchdowns. Hector is next with 22.7 points per interception for 214.

The Aggies have a scoring average of 23.4 points per game, holding opponents to 16.6 points per game.

Texas, on the other hand, averaged 22.7 points per game, but only 13.3 per game.

The Longhorn rushing lead by tailback A.J. Jamison has managed 226 yards per game. Jones has 834 yards on 150 carries for a 4.4 average, but has been bothered by nagging injuries. John Walker, often substituted for Jones has 536 yards on 118 carries.

Cannon charged with assault pleads guilty, pays fine

By RITCHIE PRIDDY
Sports Editor

Sophomore safety Billy Cannon was involved in a fight last Thursday around midnight with a San Houston State University student in a Huntsville fast food restaurant and, according to The Associated Press, was charged with assault.

According to police reports Cannon shoved Don Slocum, a junior music major, through a plate glass window after an apparent argument.

Slocum received a "busted lip and knot on his head." In addition, a cut on his leg required 18 stitches to close.

Cannon cut his shoulder and received 14 stitches. He was held out of action in last Saturday's 37-7 win over TCU but is scheduled to start tomorrow.

According to witnesses Cannon then began to walk off, ignoring a security officer's warnings to the contrary.

Around 3:30 a.m. Friday morning Cannon turned himself in to Huntsville police where he was charged with assault and evading arrest. The evading arrest charge was dropped and Cannon pleaded guilty to the assault charge.

He was fined \$155 in court costs according to the Huntsville Item and placed on one year deferred adjudication. In addition, he was ordered to pay Slocum \$430 and the restaurant \$350 for damages.

Teammate John Kellen was also involved in the incident and was charged with public intoxication and fined \$106. Disciplinary action has been taken against Kellen and he will not be allowed to play Thursday.

"I have found out that he was charged with public intoxication and that obviously is an infraction of our rules," Wilson told the AP.

"I am also aware of the Billy Cannon situation—that he was in a fight and was fined."

"We went up to Huntsville and went over to the Jack-in-the-Box and Billy got into a little scuffle," Kellen said. "It's really been

blown out of proportion. "Disciplinary action has been taken against me," he said. "I won't be able to suit up in Texas game."

Kellen said that action taken against him because of sed curfew and the other charges.

Contrary to police reports Cannon said the incident occurred around 11 p.m. Thursday. Huntsville police, however, the time was "around midnight later." Kellen also said the incident occurred before the curfew.

Wilson said that no disciplinary action will be taken against Cannon and that he will play Thursday.

"If Cannon was out (in a few) he would be in violation of the curfew and would not be allowed to play," he said.

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