

Red Raiders to invade Kyle Field Saturday Sherrill plans to start Marshall, Smith

by Frank L. Christlieb
Sports Editor

As linebacker Bobby Stroger stood by his locker after Thursday's workout in Kyle Field, it didn't take him long to state one of his team's main objectives for the remainder of the season.

"Staying healthy," he laughed. But just to make sure one of his teammates felt likewise, Stroger asked for another opinion.

"Right Rusty?" Stroger asked starting sophomore linebacker Rusty Nettles, who had just come in from the one-hour practice session.

"That's right — we've got to stay healthy," Nettles said without a moment of thought.

"We have the material we need," Stroger continued. "We just have to use it. If we can get everybody back who's hurt so they can contribute, then we'll be in good shape. I don't see anything else wrong with our team."

For those who aren't aware of the Aggies' situation, the injury problems have increased by the week. Going into Saturday's Southwest Conference opener with Texas Tech, the Aggies have four injured players: tight end Mark Lewis, fullback Earnest Jackson, tailback Johnny Hector and tailback Thomas Sanders.

Only Lewis will be out for the season, but the absence of three top offensive performers has given Coach Jackie Sherrill his thinnest-ever supply of running backs.

But Sherrill's emergency backfield corps of George Smith, Mike Marshall, Elvis Walker and Jimmie Haw-

kins has come to the rescue of an injury-plagued offense that has averaged 450 yards a game.

Smith and Marshall will start against the Red Raiders in Saturday's game, which kicks off at 2:45 p.m. The two combined for 121 yards in last week's 38-27 triumph over Louisiana Tech.

The game will be televised on CBS-TV, with Vern Lundquist doing play-by-play and Steve Davis serving as the color announcer.

Injuries aside, the Aggies might have a little more wind in their sails at this point in the season, but the Red Raiders' boat is picking up speed rapidly.

The Aggies have won their last two games after a season-opening 38-16 loss to Boston College. After scoring 99 points in victories over the University of Texas-Arlington and Louisiana Tech, Texas A&M has proved its that its offense has the ability to move the ball up and down the field.

But like Marshall said Thursday, "This (the Southwest Conference) is a whole new ballgame."

On the other hand, the Red Raiders have endured losses to New Mexico and Baylor by a total of 15 points. In last week's loss to the Bears, Texas Tech's defense allowed only 54 yards and four first downs during the second half.

The Red Raider offense, criticized for its inconsistency after an opening 14-0 defeat at the hands of New Mexico, has gained 764 yards the last two games. In Texas Tech's 31-30 victory over Air Force, quarterback

Jim Hart led the team on touchdown drives of 73, 80 and 79 yards.

So although the Aggies appear to have an edge on paper, the Red Raiders' performance of late brings them a feeling of confidence about this weekend's game.

Besides, Tech coach Jerry Moore and his squad members still around from last season remember that they nearly defeated the Aggies in Lubbock. The Red Raiders' 17-10 halftime lead evaporated as Texas A&M won 24-23 with a late two-yard touchdown run from Johnny Hector.

Quarterback Gary Kubiak, whose offense gained 490 yards against the Red Raiders in last year's victory, said this year's team features talent and a fine-tuned defense.

"They've played extremely well during the last two weeks," Kubiak said. "They've got a good defensive front with Gabe (Rivera, nose guard) and he's got some friends up there with him, too."

"They'll be the toughest defensive front we've faced all year."

Split end Don Jones, whose seven receptions last week were good for 60 yards, said the Aggies will face their toughest foe thus far.

"Anytime you're in the Southwest Conference, you're going to play against top-quality athletes," Jones said. "So, our execution has to be up to par in every phase of the game."



staff photo by David Fisher

Aggie defensive end Paul Pender goes high to block a pass from Louisiana Tech quarterback Matt Dugigan in last week's 38-27 Texas A&M victory. Strong safety Billy Cannon watches as the throw is released. Texas A&M faces Texas Tech here at 2:45 Saturday its Southwest Conference opener. The Aggies have a 2-1 record and Jerry Moore's Red Raiders are 1-2.

Hart not flashy, but a team leader

by John P. Lopez

Battalion Staff

An old song is floating around Lubbock these days.

You can hear coaches and fans alike singing "You've gotta have heart." But they spell 'heart' H-A-R-T — as in Jim Hart.

An old 1-9-1 football record is also floating around in Lubbock.

And you can hear coaches and fans talking about relief.

But they spell relief H-A-R-T — as in Jim Hart.

The Texas Tech Red Raiders must have Jim Hart at quarterback if they want to redeem themselves of a lowly 1981 record.

Hart is not a great passer or a great runner, but he can do both adequately and he's a team leader. Red Raider Head Coach Jerry Moore says Hart has "intangibles" that give him an edge over most quarterbacks. He says Hart does things to win games that don't show up on the stat sheets. He says he's a winner.

Hart hopes Moore is right.

"As a quarterback you always want to be a leader and be someone that everyone can rely on," Hart said Thursday in a telephone interview. "When I go out on the field I play each play like it's going to be the last one of the game. I go all out. I'm not a real rah-rah type of player but I try to lead by example."

Hart almost didn't have his chance to lead the Red Raiders at all. As a freshman he had the unenviable job of being backup quarterback to Ron Reeves who holds almost every Texas Tech passing record. As a sophomore, the Red Raider coaching staff didn't think Hart had what it takes to be a quarterback, so they moved him to cornerback on defense. And last year, Moore decided he wanted Hart back at quarterback — but not just yet. Hart was redshirted.

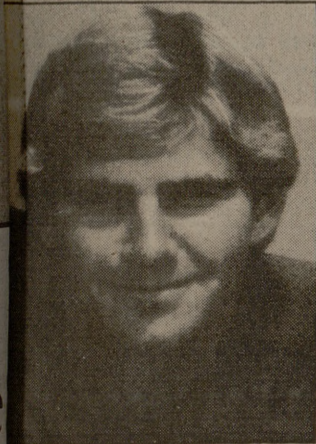
"It's always tough when you're sitting on the bench and you want to be playing," Hart said, "but we had a good quarterback last year (Reeves) and the season didn't turn out to be

so good, so it really turned out for the better. Now I have two more years of eligibility and there are only 10 seniors on this year's team.

"The biggest problem I had before I started playing defense was being able to recognize what's going on. So after I played defense for a year and ran all the coverages, it made it easier for me to recognize the coverages when I started playing quarterback again.

"I became much more aware of the mental part of the game and it was a bigger help to me than anything could have been. At the time I didn't think so, but

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Texas Tech QB Jim Hart leads Raiders against Aggies

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