

Sherrill says A&M in stage two

A&M gains winning knowledge

By TONY CORNETT
Sports Writer

The Aggies have entered stage two.

That's the stage when a team knows how to win.

According to Aggie Football Coach Jackie Sherrill, there are three stages to winning. The first is a team learning how to win. The second is a team knowing how to win. The third is a team fighting for the national championship.

The University of Texas, 7-2-1 and the Aggies' final opponent in this long season, has a fair amount of experience in stage three.

"They (Texas) have had two great football teams the past two years," Sherrill said. "They were not average football teams in '82 and '83 and

they're not average now. I think they have a team now that knows it can win. There are definite distinctions in levels of winning."

Sherrill has respect for the Texas football team. He also knows that Texas will be more than ready to take out the frustration of a loss to Baylor last weekend on the Aggies.

"Going into the Texas game, let me say this right off," Sherrill said. "We will not be playing the same team that played Baylor. Texas has the ability to play extremely well. Texas has the ability to play anybody. It's a game where the emotions will be there. The determination will be there."

The emergence of the Aggies as a team that knows how to win from a team that's just learning has been agonizingly slow and painful to watch. But Sherrill is happy to see that his team has learned. The 35-21 upset of TCU saw the Aggies move into the second stage and a record of 5-5-0.

"I was extremely happy for our players," Sherrill said, "because of the adversity they had gone through and the things that they had to suffer. They had all the reasons not to play well. We talk about emotions. We talk about peaks and valleys. The game last Saturday really had absolutely nothing to do with X's and O's. It was very satisfying to see them reach the point, where I think that they realized for the first time, that they know what it takes to win."

It's taken this long to get something going for the Aggies and Sherrill isn't about to make changes now just because Texas will be an emotional game. And he's certainly not about to change anything just to impress a national television audience. (The game will be televised on ESPN).

"You really can't change," he said. "You always take risks and we'll take risks Saturday in certain things. But as far as completely changing your offense? No. As far as changing your defense? No. You've got to do well what you can do. I don't play on emotions like being on national television. It's wrong to play on the emotions of your players. (National television) has nothing to do with what happens out on the field."

Sherrill says that the Aggies do have a big plus going into Saturday's

clash with the Horns. "The plus, I think, is the way (the team) performed last week," he said. The A&M go into the game pretty healthy. Tight ends Rich Siler and Duncan Webb are still limping. Eric Franklin will do the placekicking chores for the A&M as he did in the TCU game.

Defensive end Ray Childress gets Sherrill's highest praise.

"He has become as good as any player that I've been around in his position," he said. "Ray's future is really ahead of him."

Don't look for any big changes for the Aggies. It's a big game for them and they'll go with what's brought them this far. Still, there's that big emotional factor and running back Thomas Sanders is one of the few

members of the team who can say he's played on an Aggie team that beat Texas. He even scored a touchdown in that game back in 1980 at Memorial Stadium — the Aggies squashed the Horns 24-14.

"It's exciting for me to be able to play them," Sanders said. "It's an exciting game. Everybody thinks that they can't be beaten. I feel different about that. As far as I'm concerned they're not any different than anybody else. They have a good team, but if we play up to our potential we can play with them."

Incidentally, that 1980 Aggie win came after a Texas loss to Baylor and an A&M win over TCU — deja vu?

Saints negotiate to stay in Superdome

United Press International

NEW ORLEANS — A firm owned by the A.N. Pritzker family of Chicago is negotiating seriously with John Mecom Jr. to buy the New Orleans Saints and keep them in the Superdome.

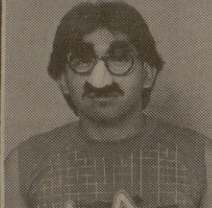


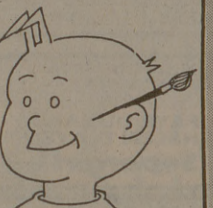


Denzil Skinner, president of Facility Management Group, a subsidiary of the Pritzker family trust holding company, said Wednesday he has been meeting for several months with president Doyle Mize of the John Mecom Companies.

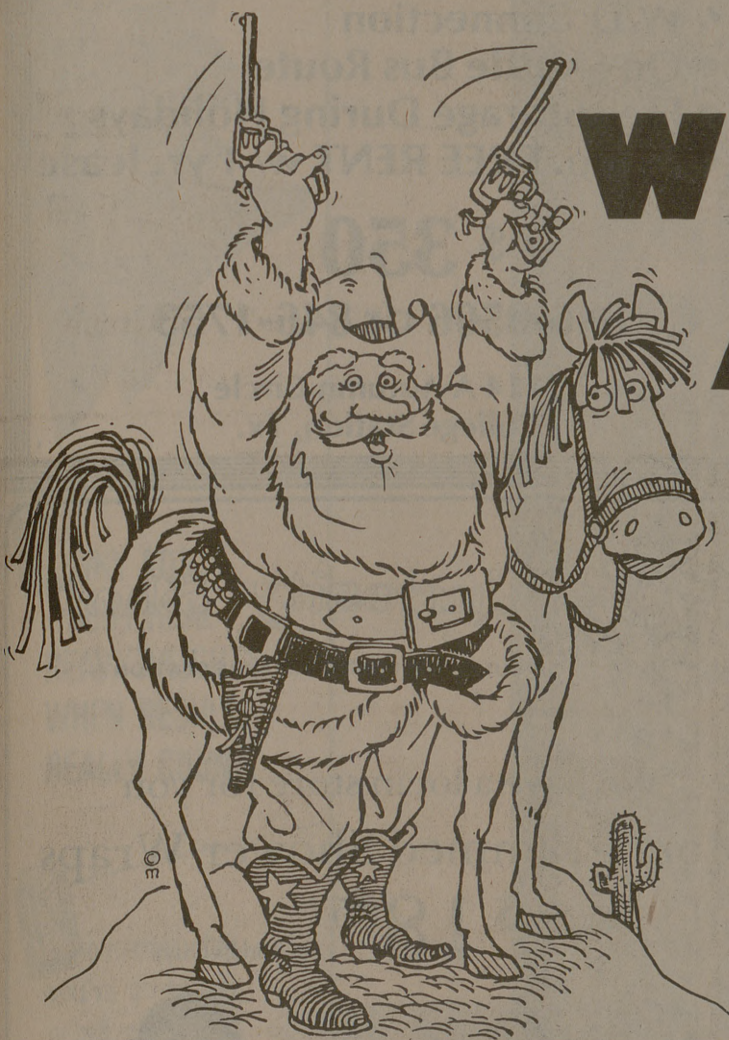
The wealth of the family was estimated last year at \$1.5 billion. "I believe it is a reasonable shot for us being able for us to pull this thing together and develop a long-term commitment to ensure this franchise staying here for 25 or 30 years," he said.

The Pritzkers, Skinner said, would not buy the Saints. Instead, he said the team would be purchased by a Pritzker-owned company, possibly Facility Management Group.

The family's vast holdings include the Hyatt Corp., which operates the Hyatt Hotel chain, and Braniff Airlines. Facility Management operates five convention centers and sports arenas, including the Superdome.

"Our people have the wherewithall to handle it," Skinner said. "We would like nothing more than to do the deal."

Battalion Scientific Football Picks	 Peter Rocha Sports Photographer	 Ed Cassavoy Sports Editor	 Reveille	 dp.	 Tony Cornett Sports Writer	 Travis Tingle Assistant Sports Editor
Texas A&M at Texas	Texas by 14	Texas by 75	A&M by a dream of 3	A&M by 3	Texas by 25	Texas by 4
Rice at Houston	Houston by 21	Houston by whatever	Coogs by 3	Rice by 1	Houston by 21	Houston by 20
SMU at Nevada-Las Vegas	SMU by 10	SMU by 14	SMU by 102	SMU by 7	SMU by 10	SMU by 1
Auburn at Alabama	Auburn by 7	Auburn by 12	Tigers by 7	Auburn by 7	Auburn by 3	Alabama by 7
Army at Navy	Army by 14	Army by 31	'Ol Army by 72	Army by 1	Army by 7	Navy by 5
Georgia Tech at Georgia	Georgia by 10	Georgia by 7	Dawgs by a tall	Georgia by 7	Georgia by 10	Georgia by 8
Florida at Florida State	Florida by 3	Florida by 6	Noles by 6	Florida by 7	Florida by 10	Florida State by 2
Tennessee at Vanderbilt	Tennessee by 7	Tennessee by 10	Vanderbilt by a pair of jeans	Tennessee by 7	Tennessee by 10	Tennessee by 13
Dallas at Philadelphia	Dallas by "11"	Dallas by default	Pokes by a "Bum"	Dallas by 7	Philadelphia by 1	Dallas by 6
Pittsburgh at Houston	Pittsburgh by 14	Pittsburgh by a whole bunch	Oilers by 16	Pittsburgh by 14	Pittsburgh by 10	Houston by 3
Bryan at Highland Park	Bryan by 17	Bryan High by a Matt	Vikings by 18	Bryan by 7	Bryan by 100	Highland Park by 2
Eleventh Week Totals	Overall: 84-46; Pct. — .652	Overall: 80-40; Pct. — .666	Overall: 85-47; Pct. — .644	Overall: 82-50; Pct. — .621	Overall: 82-50; Pct. — .621	Overall: 81-51; Pct. — .614



What's The Holdup? Are You Waiting for Christmas?

THIS IS THE LAST WEEK.

Junior Senior & Grad Class Pictures for The Yearbook ARE NOW Being Taken At The PAVILION LAST TWO DAYS-THURSDAY & FRIDAY