

Sports

Success could spoil Aggie fans

A&M faithful only happy with Cotton

By Homer Jacobs
Assistant Sports Editor

Grunts and groans. Whines and moans. No, it's not the dialogue of a pornographic movie. It's the sounds of dissatisfaction and greed on the part of Aggie football fans.

The sounds can be heard from the Dixie Chicken to "bull" sessions in dormitory rooms.

The conversations usually center around the fact that Texas A&M is only ranked No. 14; or that the offense isn't playing like last year; or that anything short of a Cotton Bowl appearance for A&M is an awful thought.

Let's face it, students and former students are getting greedy and spoiled, after just one year of Aggie gridiron success.

What's wrong with being the No. 14 team in the nation?

What's wrong with a 9-3 record? Granted, everyone wants to be a winner, but let's not take winning for granted.

For all the juniors and seniors out there, remember those games when the Aggies were the butt of jokes around the nation when it came to football?

As bowl bids rolled around late in 1984, and the Aggies were struggling to reach the .500 mark, the Independence Bowl would have been incredible.

Now, it's Cotton or nothing. I can only feel sorry for Texas, Oklahoma and Nebraska fans. If these teams don't reach their major bowls, the year is far from being a successful one.

A&M Head Coach Jackie Sherrill hit the nail on the head earlier this year when he said that a Southwest Conference football team is mea-



Photo by John Makely

Six Aggies swarm over a Texas Tech player during Texas A&M's 45-8 rout of the Red Raiders in Saturday's game. A&M remained in the No. 14 spot in Monday's Associated Press football poll.

surely by its success rate in the Cotton Bowl, not the Sun or Bluebonnet bowls.

If it's any consolation, the Aggies are way ahead this season in terms of national rankings.

It wasn't until A&M beat Southern Methodist in early November of 1985 that the Aggies even moved into The Associated Press Top Twenty; and A&M still ended up the No. 6 team on January 2.

Dreams of a national championship may have been dashed with the Aggies' opening loss to Louisiana State University, but

A&M still has a good football team, sometimes a great one.

So the Aggies didn't get the 45-0 shutout against Texas Tech; so the Aggies didn't run up the score on North Texas State.

As Sherrill and A&M players have reiterated, polls and rankings will take care of themselves.

Let's enjoy what the Aggies are doing right now on the football field, because success can be short-lived — just ask UT Coach Fred Akers.

To think that the Longhorns were a fumbled punt away from a national title in the 1984 Cotton Bowl,

a second half away from another Cotton Bowl appearance in 1986, and now T-shirts in Austin are bearing the words "We're Akers and Akers away from Cotton... Fire Fred!"

Hopefully, Aggie fans won't reach this point.

Greed can be the root of all evil.

I guess it all started when your dad used to bring back McDonald's for lunch for the whole family, and undoubtedly, your hand reached for the fullest bag of fries.

Maybe this season and in the future, Aggie fans won't need to have their fries and eat them, too.

Akers hopeful despite dire forecast

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas football coach Fred Akers learned Monday that his Longhorn squad is a 24-point underdog to Oklahoma and drew laughter by responding, "I hope they're wrong."

Akers was asked if he could recall a Texas team being such a big underdog to the Sooners, and he said, "No, I don't remember, not in this game."

Any game? "No, never," the 10-year Texas coach told a news conference.

"We're going to have to go out there and really play a heck of a ball game to stay on the field with them — that's all we want our players to understand, and they won't have any problem understanding that. I hope they all intend to go up there and win the ball game."

— UT Coach Fred Akers on the OU-Texas game.

Akers was asked what he thought of his team's chances, and he said, "I know they're heavily favored. I can see that physically and experience-wise and everything else but it's been that way before."

Oklahoma was ranked No. 1 before falling to Miami 28-16 and is now 3-1, averaging over 43 points a game. Unranked Texas dropped its opener to Stanford at home and has eked out road victories over Missouri, 27-25, and Rice, 17-14.

gionally televised by ABC-TV.

"They're a good football team, we know that, and we expect it to be a heck of a ball game," Akers said.

"We're going to have to go out there and really play a heck of a ball game to stay on the field with them — that's all we want our players to understand, and they won't have any problem understanding that."

The Texas-Oklahoma kickoff in the 81st meeting between the two teams is at 2:35 p.m. at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas.

A sellout crowd of 75,587 is assured, and the game is being re-

"I hope they all intend to go up there and win the ball game."

A reporter said he had heard that TV news had reported Akers was considering resigning, but Akers said, "Oh, no."

Asked if he felt an "extra urge" to win because of various news reports that Akers' job might be shaky, Akers said, "I don't need any extra urge."

"I don't know how anybody could help me want to win any more than I do," he said.

Akers disclosed that freshman bluechip recruit Duane Duncum might start his first game at middle linebacker, and said freshman Alex Waits is now Texas' No. 1 punter. Duncum would be the first true freshman to start at linebacker for Texas since Doug Shankle in 1978.

Akers also said a bruise on tackle Rick Houston's lower leg might result in more practice work for freshmen linemen Stan Thomas, 6-foot-6 and 270 pounds, and Charles Seafous, 6-6 and 308.

Asked if running back Edwin Simmons, who was suspended for disciplinary reasons, would play against Oklahoma, Akers said, "There's no change on Edwin Simmons as yet."

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