

Sports

Sherrill: A&M face physical challenge against Huskies

By Tammy Hedgpeth
Sports Writer

After a week with no game and two weeks of practices, Texas A&M will search for the win column in its 3 p.m. game Saturday against No. 10 Washington.

"I think this game coming up pretty well talks about the strength of our schedule," A&M Coach Jackie Sherrill said Tuesday at a press conference in Wofford Cain Hall.

"USA Today says we have the fourth toughest schedule in the country."

"You always say 'why do you open up with those people? Why don't you stick with a team like University of Texas at El Paso?' It's very evident that you get to a point where you need to go with the tougher teams. Our schedule will be the same down the road."

"The week off has been a plus for us because of the injuries. A lot of guys would not have played last week if we had had a game. The week off has been good to us and I hope it shows up Saturday."

A&M and Washington have met only once with A&M pulling out a 28-15 victory in Seattle on Sept. 28, 1974.

Sherrill said Washington Head Coach Don James believes very strongly in a kicking game.

"They not only believe in a sound kicking game," he added, "but also a very physical game. They will outweigh us 50 pounds per man offensively to defensively. Their offensive line averages 290 or so."

"They average 400-some-odd yards a game offensively and they don't allow much yardage defensively. Purdue had only 39 yards rushing against them. They run a very good defense."

A&M have quickness and that's what it will take to stop Heisman Trophy candidate Chris Chandler.

"Chris Chandler is a great quarterback who can hurt you in a lot of ways," Sherrill said. "It will be a tremendous challenge for us to try and stop him. Chandler has a major-league arm. He is very successful at throwing the ball deep."

A hard-hitting defense will be

there for Chandler. Against LSU, junior linebacker John Roper turned in three sacks for 25 yards in losses and added a tackle for a 15-yard loss. In all Roper had 12 tackles, 11 of which were solo.

Sophomore linebacker Aaron Wallace will also challenge Chandler. Wallace had only four tackles against LSU, but pressured Tiger quarterback Tom Hodson five times and sacked him once for an 11-yard loss.

"Roper and Wallace are gonna have to get there," Sherrill said, "because no one up front will be able to muscle them. I don't think you'll ever stop a great quarterback. You can slow him, but you can't stop him. Washington and LSU deserve their rankings. If we don't rank in the top 10, I'm not gonna jump off of Rudder Tower, but I may get pushed."

"Washington may be the biggest team, physically, that we play all year. I think it will be better for us in the long run because it will prepare our young team for the conference race."

Lady golfers finish last in tourney

The Texas A&M women's golf team finished fourth out of four teams in the Southern Methodist Classic held at the Brookhaven Country Club in Dallas Sunday through Tuesday.

Host team SMU came away with the tournament title, finishing with a three-day total of 913. North Texas State followed with 914, Texas Christian University finished with 940, and the Lady Aggies followed with a 951 total.

Caroline Basarab was A&M's top finisher. She came in ninth individually with a score of 232. A&M's Rebecca Sims finished 13th with a 236, Kellie Kifer finished in a three-way tie for 15th along with TCU's Kirsten Larson and Melanie Warmath, each of whom posted a score of 240. Dee Davidson of A&M finished 18th for Tuesday with a score of 243.

The Lady Aggies' next action will be in the Oklahoma/Oklahoma State All-College Classic in Edmond, Okla. Sept. 24-27.

Former Tech receiver finds success as DB, earns AP Player of the Week

LUBBOCK (AP) — Until last Saturday Lemuel Stinson was best remembered on the Texas Tech campus as a receiver, but he didn't turn that tag in the boxing ring.

In fact, Stinson dropped two sure touchdown passes in the final moments of a 29-27 loss to Rice in 1985. Last year he caught one pass and didn't letter.

Then came a brainstorm by coach Spike Dykes. If Stinson can't catch, maybe he can hit.

Stinson had six tackles, knocked down three passes, and had a key interception (in the same end zone here he once dropped two touchdowns) in Texas Tech's hard-fought 33-24 victory over Colorado State.

The day-by-day schedule of the game would be available if we could find it within a reasonable time," UAW member said.

Landry: Dallas needs patience to recover

IRVING (AP) — The Dallas franchise is in its worst sinking spell in 24 years and Cowboys Coach Tom Landry said on Tuesday that it will take patience and character to pull out of the nosedive.

"It's difficult to reverse a trend like this," Landry said. "We just have to battle. It's strange. We're still reeling highly but we're losing. It takes a lot of patience to go through these things."

The Cowboys blew a 13-3 lead to the St. Louis Cardinals who scored two touchdowns in the last two minutes on Sunday for a 24-13 victory.

Dating back to last season, it was Dallas' sixth consecutive loss, longest streak in the NFL. The Cowboys haven't experienced such hard losses since 1963.

Landry had a five-letter word for Dallas' game against St. Louis: "lousy."

"The coaches, the players, everybody was pretty lousy," said Landry. "I admit there are a lot of things I could do differently."

The performance earned Stinson, a 5-10, 170-pound senior cornerback from Houston Worthing, the Associated Press Southwest Conference Defensive Player of the Week award.

Another top defender last week was Arkansas' Steve Atwater, who had eight tackles, returned an interception for a touchdown, and caused a fumble in Arkansas' victory over Mississippi.

The Red Raiders' James Gray, a 200-pound running back from Fort Worth Trimble Tech, was the AP's SWC Offensive Player of the Week for his career-high 150 yards rushing and one touchdown against the Rams.

"Lemuel's taken the vaccination

well," Dykes said. "It's hard to cover those guys who run nine-nothings, but Lemuel has the physical ability to do it. He's been one of the big surprises of our football team this year."

"With three starters gone from our secondary last year, we needed some people to emerge and he really has."

Stinson said he's still trying to learn how to act on defense.

"I haven't quite learned all the tricks that defensive backs use but I will," he said. "I feel comfortable in predicting the routes. I was a receiver and that experience has helped me in predicting where they are going."

Stinson added "Coach Dykes asked me if I would try it (defensive

back) in the spring. He said if I didn't like it I could go back to receiver. I've enjoyed it."

And Gray also enjoyed the most yards by a Tech running back since Robert Lewis had 167 against Arkansas in 1984.

Gray is currently second in SWC rushing at 119.5 yards per game.

"James practices every day like he's playing in the Super Bowl," Dykes said. "He's not going to win the Heisman Trophy but he can darn sure win a football game for you."

"James isn't going to win any track meets but he has that knack for making people miss him. He lost some weight and he looks like he's a step quicker."

Bears regain top status with win over Giants

CHICAGO (AP) — The big, bad, blustering Bears are back, their game in full flower and their mouths in full gear after reclaiming their place atop the National Football League.

They did it with a victory over the Super Bowl champion New York Giants in the opening Monday night game of the season.

So, at least for the time being, the world will be spared mumberling Mark Bavaro, silent Joe Morris and family Phil Simms for the Bears, who dominated the NFL in 1985 with their mouths and their bodies the way the Giants did with only their bodies in 1986.

"I think we're still awesome," said Dennis McKinnon, whose 94-yard touchdown return of a Sean Landeta punt put away the 34-19 Chicago victory. "No matter how much you talk, you have to do it on the field."

Before they started talking, the Bears did the job, exploiting both the Giants' weaknesses and their strengths.

With linebackers Mike Singletary

and Wilber Marshall leading the way, the Bears overpowered the Giants' revamped offensive line for eight sacks and went over the weakened secondary for touchdown passes by Mike Tomczak of 56 yards to Willie Gault and 42 to rookie Ron Morris. And they ended a 12-game New York winning streak.

But Chicago probably won the game by shutting down the Giants' strength.

New York, which averaged 4 1/2 sacks a game in their 17-2 season a year ago, had none and rarely got close to Tomczak, who is replacing Jim McMahon.

Having accomplished that, they reclaimed the bragging rights as the NFL's best team. They lost that when they were knocked out of the playoffs by the Washington Redskins last year, one game short of a meeting with the Giants in the NFC title game.

"We just pinned their heads back," said Otis Wilson, the rarely modest Chicago linebacker. "The best man won and it was us."

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