

Sports

Sherrill lauds defensive job against Huskies

By Hal L. Hammons
Assistant Sports Editor

Texas A&M Head Coach Jackie Sherrill had little but good things to say about his defense Tuesday in his weekly press conference at Cain Hall Dining Hall.

The Aggies held Washington quarterback and Heisman Trophy hopeful Chris Chandler to a 11-for-21 passing performance which netted only 120 yards. They also held only 53 yards rushing, the fifth game in a row that A&M has allowed less than 100 yards on the ground to an opponent.

Sherrill said that much of the credit belonged to the pressure that was constantly applied to Chandler, giving him little time to throw deep patterns as he likes to do.

Sherrill said, "We took out the print-out game (with the pressure) and forced them into a drop-back game." However, he said the ability of the secondary to cover Chandler's receivers in blitzing situations allowed linebackers Aaron Wallace and John Roper to pressure the quarterback even when Chandler read the blitz correctly.

"I was pleased with the confidence our players had in playing the receivers," he said.

"The guy who helped us more than anybody else was Guy Broom," Sherrill said of the junior defensive end. Broom collected five tackles against the Huskies.

Sherrill said improvement was needed in the offense and special teams for Saturday's game against Southern Mississippi in Jackson, Miss.

"We're still not productive with receivers or quarterbacks doing the right thing," he said. "We're still not polished there yet."

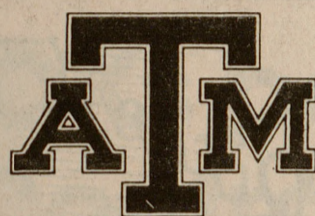
"(Punter Sean) Wilson has the chance to be a good punter, but (Craig) Stump has a lot more consistency." Wilson, who has a 35.6 yards-per-punt average for the year, was replaced with Stump during the Washington game.

Pavlas said, "Our offense is not where we'd like it to be. Our offensive line is making up for the young guys at the skill positions."

He said getting the offense to produce long drives for scores, something the team has not done yet this year, would be important for the Aggies to win.

He said playing football at the collegiate level was not a nervous experience for him.

"Once you get in, all it is is football," he said.



Sherrill said the choice whether to start Stump or redshirt freshman Lance Pavlas at quarterback has not been made.

"Right now, we won't know that until later in the week," he said. "It doesn't make any difference who will start (since both will play)."

"Southern Mississippi has excellent football players," Sherrill said. "Most of them are the same that played us last year." USM was defeated 16-7 last year at Kyle Field.

"They have, as far as player for player, the most people returning of anybody we'll play."

"We'll have to play at the same intensity level every game — if we don't, we're in trouble."

Lady Aggies' efforts fall short against UTA

By Brad Marquardt
Reporter

The Texas A&M volleyball team made a valiant comeback but were still overpowered by the 20th-ranked University of Texas at Arlington Lady Mavericks 15-8, 15-9, 6-15, 4-15, 15-11 at G. Rollie White Coliseum Tuesday.

The Lady Aggies didn't look sharp in the first two games, but regained their composure for the final three games. After the losses in the first two games, four reserves were brought into the game which gave the team a spark.

"We were looking for a chemistry out on the court that would mesh, and the people that came in off the bench did a nice job," A&M Volleyball Coach Al Givens said.

The reserves were led by Liz Clifford, who had nine kills and two blocks. Dena Zalesky, who has played sparingly in the last two games due to tendinitis, contributed three kills on seven attempts and seven digs.

The Lady Mavericks were led by powerful outside attacker Jackie Bennett, who had 16 kills and an attack percentage of .375.

Kelli Kellen led the Lady Aggies with 18 kills and an attack percentage of .340. Cheri Steensma had 17 kills and Michelle Whitwell contributed 11 kills. Yvonne Van Brandt led the team with 54 assists and 20 digs.

"I think they showed they had some fight in them, after the first two games it would have been easy to roll over and be blown off the court," Coach Givens said.

"We learned a lot about ourselves today. We learned we can always come back even if we're two matches down," Givens said.

If any consolation can be taken from the loss, Givens said it is the experience that the team gained from the five-game match.

"This is our third fifth-game match, and we have come up empty three straight times. But because we have gone through that already, we will come back stronger," Givens said.

Lady Maverick Coach Lisa Love was impressed by the Lady Aggies' comeback.

"A&M eliminated a lot of their errors and we became over-confident. They really took it to us and we sat back on our 2-0 lead," Love said.

"A&M deserves a lot of credit for coming back from 0-2 and eliminating a lot of court mistakes. It really turned into a good match after that," Love said.

A&M' Brooks named AP Player of the Week

From The Associated Press

Texas A&M's rowdy defense is calling itself "The Wrecking Crew" and the head demolition expert is safety Terrance "Chet" Brooks.

Brooks had 10 tackles, eight of them solo, forced an errant pass and recovered a fumble in the Aggies' 19-12 upset of No. 10 Washington on Saturday.

It earned the 5-foot-11, 191-pound senior from Dallas The Associated Press Southwest Conference Defensive Player of the Week award.

Texas Christian running back Tony Jeffery, who rushed for 207 yards on 19 carries and had a 69-yard touchdown run in a 33-12 rout of Brigham Young, was The AP's SWC Offensive Player of the Week.

Brooks was one of numerous Aggie defensive stars as A&M limited Washington to only 20 yards in the second half, including minus 11 yards rushing. Noseguard Sammy "Brent" linebackers Aaron Wallace and John Roper, and free safety Kip Barrington also made big contributions.



Brooks prides himself on talking trash and then backing it up.

"I like to let the receivers know I'm there," Brooks said. "It's my way of getting into the game."

"They were inviting us to blitz and I think we gave them more than they could handle," he said.

Defensive coordinator R.C. Slocum said, "We felt, going into the game, that we would have to mix our blitzes to confuse their quarterback

(Chris Chandler). We blitzed 70 percent of the time in passing situations.

"We knew we couldn't match up physically, so we used our speed. Our secondary which included Brooks got to him (Chandler)."

Chandler has passed for 514 yards against Stanford and Purdue. Against the Aggies, he managed only 11 of 31 for 120 yards.

"Chet personifies our defense in that he can run — and our entire defense is a fast one — and he is a very physical tackler," said Slocum. "I know he likes to talk a lot, but he doesn't get obnoxious about it, and if he did, he backs up it up with his play."

Brooks moved to strong safety in the spring after playing cornerback in 1986. He rehabilitated in 1985 after suffering a knee injury against Baylor.

He made 80 tackles, fifth best on the team, and was second on the squad in pass breakups with 11.

"Moving him to strong safety will help us tremendously because it puts him around the ball more," said

A&M secondary coach Curley Halman. "He loves to play the game as much as anyone we've got."

At Dallas Carter High School, Brooks was a Parade Magazine All-American.

"Roper and I came up with the name of 'Wrecking Crew' for our defense," Brooks said. "I think it fits. At least Washington thinks it does."

Jeffery moved into second place in two school career categories. He is now second in career rushing with 2,723 yards and needs only 272 yards to replace Jim Swink as the school's all-time leading rusher.

Jeffery had gained only 120 yards in two games until he found his form against the Cougars.

"We needed to get the ball to Tony more and he responded in a big way," TCU Coach Jim Wacker said.

Jeffery, a senior from Gladewater, said, "You have to give a lot of credit to (quarterback) David (Racoe). His timing was great on a lot of the pitches out of the option."

Rozelle intervenes in effort to end NFL strike

NEW YORK (AP) — Commissioner Pete Rozelle intervened and brought negotiators for striking NFL players and owners back to the bargaining table Tuesday, and the two sides agreed to more full-scale talks in hopes of cutting short the day-old walkout.

Rozelle was identified by several sources as the "mystery man" who union chief Gene Upshaw said had

the authority to end the strike.

John Jones, a spokesman for the NFL Management Council, said the owners' regular bargaining team would be joined by two members of the council's executive committee — Tex Schramm of the Cowboys and Dan Rooney of the Pittsburgh Steelers. Rooney was instrumental in negotiating the agreement that ended the 57-day strike in 1982.

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