

Sports

Texas' TD pass combo earns SWC co-honors

AUSTIN (AP) — A quarterback with a weak-arm reputation and a receiver with a tendency to drop passes teamed up for a scoring strike as time expired in Texas' 16-14 victory over Arkansas, the pre-season favorite in Southwest Conference football.

For their performance in raising Texas' conference record to 2-0, senior quarterback Bret Stafford and sophomore wide receiver Tony Jones shared recognition as The Associated Press' SWC offensive player of the week.

Houston cornerback Johnny Jackson was selected as the SWC defensive player of the week after intercepting two passes and breaking up five in Houston's 37-35 loss to Wyoming. The 6-foot-11, 193-pound sophomore now has four interceptions for the season and has knocked down 12 passes.

Stafford and Jones won the weekly honor over teammate Eric Metcalf, a junior tailback who ran for 76 yards, caught a school-record 11 passes for 90 yards and later got Heisman mention from McWilliams.

Stafford was intercepted seven times in Texas' 44-9 loss to Oklahoma and had another picked off by Arkansas, but he finished with 22 completions in 34 attempts for 182 yards and the touchdown to Jones — only the second scoring pass Stafford has thrown in the Longhorns' 3-3 season.

McWilliams said he felt as if Stafford "did a great job with his reads. They were dropping those linebackers so deep, and doubling the outside receivers, giving Metcalf a 4- or 5-yard cushion."

"I thought Bret did a great job moving us down the field," Jones, only 5-7 and 145, signed a football scholarship with Texas after the 1985 season but opted to play basketball for Angelina Junior College. He transferred to Texas in time for the 1986 season.

McWilliams says Jones is a great deep threat, but he dropped two passes against Oklahoma, with one being intercepted, and he dropped another against Arkansas.

"He's dropped some, but he's playing very well most of the year," McWilliams said. "He dropped one on the sidelines the other day (against Arkansas) but he came right back in the fourth quarter and made a great catch on the sidelines."

"He's been consistent in going down field and trying to block — he's not big enough to block everybody — but I think his concentration has been good. And he's really worked hard in practice."

"And, of course, the catch the other day was just an amazing catch, right over the linebacker and in between three defenders. He knew he was going to get hit because the guy was breaking on the ball. He got the ball, cradled it and protected it."

Lady Aggies lose fifth straight match

By Anthony Wilson
Sports Writer

The Texas A&M volleyball team lost its fifth consecutive match Tuesday night, losing to Notre Dame University 15-11, 16-18, 15-2, 15-10 in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

The loss dropped the Lady Aggies' record to 9-17, while Notre Dame improved to 18-5.

The highlight of the evening for the Lady Aggies was a great comeback in the second game.

At one point during the game, the Fighting Irish led 11-2. A&M managed to narrow the margin to eight points when sophomore outside attacker Megan Purtell checked into the lineup to serve.

Purtell responded with five service aces and A&M scored six straight points to pull within two points of Notre Dame, 13-11.

A&M then managed to tie the score at 14, move ahead 15-14, and finally win 18-16.

"I was told to get the first serve in," Purtell said about her serving in the second game. "Then I got into rhythm and started looking for one person who was not passing well."

The Fighting Irish came back with a vengeance in the third game and once again jumped out to a quick 11-2 lead.

This time though they were taking no prisoners and finished off A&M 15-2.

A&M's offense was led by junior outside attacker Vivian Viera, who had 24 kills in 51 attempts for a .353

average. Cheri Steensma added 17 kills in 50 attempts for a .340 average and Yvonne Van Brandt had 55 assists in 161 attempts for a .342 average.

The defense was led by Steensma's 27 digs and Kelli Kellen's five blocks.

A&M's next match will be October 25 in Lubbock against Texas Tech.

"We have to come out with the attitude that they have to beat us," Viera said. "We have to come out in the beginning and play strong."

Sherrill: Ags not guaranteed victory over Rice

By Tammy Hedgpeth
Sports Writer

Indeed, the true Aggies are back. The race for the Southwest Conference title continues with Texas A&M battling Rice Saturday in Houston.

Rice cannot be taken lightly because it can move the ball and put points on the board, A&M Head Coach Jackie Sherrill said at a press conference Tuesday in Cain Hall.

"Rice has either led or been second in the lead all year in total offense," Sherrill said. "They had almost 400 yards against LSU. They have been able to move the football. They've played some very good teams."

"Every time we've played them they've made things happen. Little things can make you win or lose. The problem we have is that we don't have all seniors. We don't have players that have been there every

day. We have young players and sometimes that's a plus and (sometimes) it's not."

The next two weeks will not be rest weeks for the Aggies. Sherrill said they will prepare for Rice and Louisiana Tech as if they were the most difficult teams they've ever played.

"With the situation we're in after losing to Tech, we cannot afford to underestimate any team," A&M noseguard Sammy O'Brient said. "We have to prepare well for everybody because you aren't going to win the Southwest Conference with two losses."

It is a known fact that the Aggies have had their way with the Owls in the past. Last year, A&M pounded Rice 45-10 at Kyle Field and in 1985 the Owls were beaten by the Aggies 43-28 in Houston. A&M leads the series overall, 41-27-3. A&M also has won six straight at Rice Stadium.

Those are pretty good odds, but Sherrill said relying on the emotional effect of past victories will not win Saturday's game.

"You can only get psychologically ready for two or three games a year," he said. "Your emotions and playing carries you to another level. The rest of the time, you play on sheer ability. When a team lets emotional involvement enter the game, it sometimes overrides its ability to play normally."

"We had a good week of practice last week getting ready for Baylor and played probably our best game of the year because we played like we practiced — with a lot of intensity. Hopefully, our team has learned that they need to play like that regardless of who we're playing."

"If you don't believe me just look at the scores every Saturday. Rice has played well at times this year and I don't think their score against

Tech is indicative of how they can play. We can't afford to rest right now. I don't think anyone has shut Rice out."

Freshman quarterback Bucky Richardson said the Rice game will give the Aggies a chance to improve on their game.

"I think these next two weeks are really important for us," Richardson said.

Sherrill again declined to specify A&M's starting quarterback for the 1:30 p.m. game.

"I hope Bucky will start, but we may start Stump if that's what your asking me," Sherrill said. "It doesn't make any difference who we start."

Two Aggies will rest during the Rice game. Junior fullback Matt Gurley will be sidelined with turf toe and senior defensive end Guy Broom is suffering from a sprained knee and will not play.

Coleman doubles Cards past Twins

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Vince Coleman's two-run double in the seventh inning rescued St. Louis from the brink of elimination and rallied the Cardinals past Minnesota 3-1 Tuesday night, cutting the Twins' World Series lead to 2-1.

No team has overcome a 3-0 deficit in the World Series and the Cardinals avoided that position by scoring three times in the seventh against reliever Juan Berenguer.

Les Straker, a 10-year minor league, outdueled St. Louis starter John Tudor for six innings, shutting

out the Cardinals on four hits. But St. Louis struck when Berenguer took over to start the seventh.

On the coldest night of the fall in St. Louis, the record crowd of 55,347 came to life when the Cardinals revived their World Series chances. Jose Oquendo and Tony Pena opened the seventh with singles and Terry Pendleton, batting for Tudor, bunted the runners into scoring position.

Coleman, just 1-for-11 in the Series, sliced an 0-2 pitch barely inside the left-field line that made it 2-1.

Coleman then stole his second base of the game and scored on Ozzie Smith's single that finished Berenguer.

Berenguer, the Twins' ace reliever in the American League playoffs, was again hit hard by the Cardinals Tuesday. He gave up two runs on three hits in Minnesota's 8-4 victory in Game 2.

Tudor and the Cardinals finally found a way to shut down the Twins, who scored 18 runs on 21 hits in the

first two games. Tudor allowed one run on four hits in seven innings and Todd Worrell finished with one-hit relief.

Yet even with Tudor pitching well, it appeared it might not be enough on a night when the temperature was to drop into the upper 20s. Tudor issued his only two walks of the game starting the sixth and Tom Brynansky hit an RBI single.

Game 4 will be Wednesday night when Frank Viola, who won Game 1,

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NFL lawyers ask for quick decision in Highsmith case

HOUSTON (AP) — NFL attorneys believe a Miami judge's temporary injunction making Houston first-round draft pick Alonzo Highsmith a free agent can be quickly lifted, restoring the player's rights to the Oilers.

"We believe that the state court's order was issued without notice or hearing and raises serious jurisdictional or procedural issues," NFL spokesman Joe Browne said Tuesday.

"In addition, our attorneys believe that after a hearing, the court will find that Houston's draft rights are lawful and should be respected," he said.

Circuit Judge John Gale granted the temporary injunction that allows Highsmith to negotiate with other teams and prohibits the NFL from taking any action against a team that signs him.

Miami attorney Bruce Greer filed the request for the injunction, which was granted Saturday. The NFL and its 28 teams are named as co-defendants.

"It's essentially a case of collusion between Houston and some other teams to depress the mar-

ket value of Alonzo," Greer said.

"He's free for the moment to negotiate with other teams, but we'll just have to see how it plays out from there. There's been no final ruling, which may take a short time or a long time," he said.

Houston General Manager Ladd Herzog said the Oilers had turned the matter over to the league attorneys and would have no further comment.

If the Oilers fail to sign Highsmith, it would be the second consecutive year they have failed to sign their No. 1 draft choice. The traded No. 1 pick quarterback Jim Everett to the Los Angeles Rams last year after a contract impasse.

Highsmith, the third player selected in the draft, has been a holdout since July 28.

"I'm sure the Oilers will take me to court, but before the case can be heard, I might already have been with another team for a year," Highsmith said.

"I had to do what I thought was in my best interests because I'm a football player and I want to play football," he said.

Mistakes against Redskins baffle Cowboys

IRVING (AP) — The Dallas Cowboys were trying to figure out Tuesday how they got beat by Tony Robinson, a former semi-pro quarterback from the Richmond Raiders.

Cowboys Coach Tom Landry was pondering why his veteran-led defensive line let Lionel Vital escape for 136 yards in the Washington Redskins' 13-7 victory Monday night that gave them the lead in the AFC East.

Ed Jones, Randy White, Don Smek and Kevin Brooks couldn't stop the Redskins.

Robinson, who hadn't played in an NFL game, hit 11 of 18 passes for 152 yards, and made some big third-down plays. He came into the game in the first period after starting quarterback Ed Rubbert was injured.

"We couldn't stop him (Robinson) when it counted," Landry said. "He made some big plays on third down."

Landry said he didn't blame quarterback Danny White for the loss although his 13-year veteran failed on four chances from the Redskins' 20-yard line with less than a minute to play.

"A lot of things that went wrong weren't Danny's fault," Landry said. "He played pretty well, but some of the receivers ran bad routes. They just weren't on the same page. It was a very disappointing loss because we had a chance to win it at the end."

Washington increased its record to 4-1 with the victory while Dallas dropped to 3-2.

The Redskins were 3-0 with their replacement team and Dallas was 2-1.

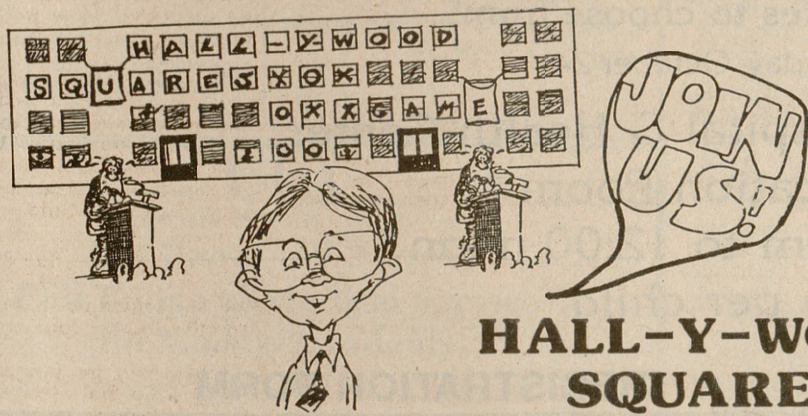
"I'm thankful the veterans are coming back," Landry said. "They

are a little subdued right now because they lost the strike, but they'll recover."

Landry said the Redskins are the team to beat in the NFC East.

"They are the favorites right now for sure," Landry said. "You have to give Washington credit for winning all of its games with replacement players."

"We are in a little bit of trouble just like the New York Giants are. We need to bring our play back to the same level we had in the second week of the season when we defeated the Giants."



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