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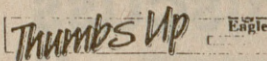
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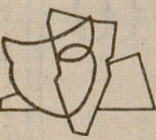
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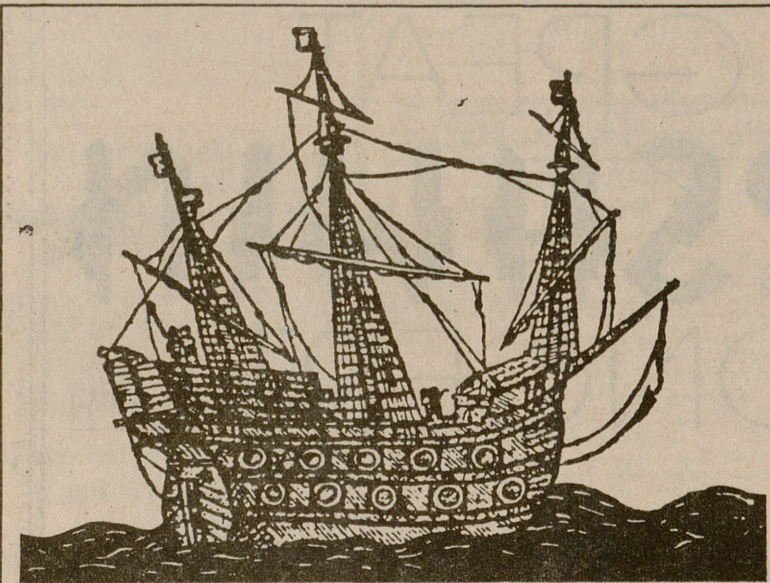
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by Robert Potter

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Sports

Injury-riddled Aggs need time to heal

By Hal L. Hammons
Assistant Sports Editor

Injuries were once again the main topic of discussion at Texas A&M Head Coach Jackie Sherrill's press conference Tuesday at Cain Hall Dining Hall.

"We're really kind of devastated" Sherrill said of the wave of injuries that has struck the Aggies in the past few weeks.

Backup center John Elam, backup outside linebacker Jeroy Robinson and defensive end Guy Broom all have sprained knees and are out of Saturday's game against Louisiana Tech at Kyle Field.

Fullback Matt Gurley (turf toe and dislocated finger) backup defensive end Albert Jones (knee) and left guard Trace McGuire (knee) also are out. Elam and McGuire are out for the season.

Extra problems on the offensive line surfaced when McGuire's backup, Mike Pappas, sprained his neck. Sherrill said Pappas is "very questionable" for Saturday.

Starting center Matt Wilson has a sprained knee and also is questionable, leaving huge question marks in the left-center of the offensive line. The right guard, Jerry Fontenot, has a strained groin and is also questionable.

Sherrill said the staff was keeping a careful eye on Chet Brooks, who has a sprained knee and is listed as probable for the game. Other probables include running backs Keith Woodside (bruised shoulder), Darren Lewis (bruised knee) and Larry Horton (bruised knee). Quarterback Bucky Richardson (bruised hip) also is probable.

Sherrill said the injury situation is the worst he has experienced at Texas A&M.

"Two years ago going down the stretch (to Sherrill's first Cotton



A&M quarterback Bucky Richardson runs up the middle while the Houston defense pursues. Richardson has a bruised hip but is probable for Saturday's game against Louisiana Tech at Kyle Field.

Bowl at A&M) we didn't have any injuries."

He said the timing of the injuries was fortuitous in that the Aggies don't play an opponent expected to challenge them until Nov. 14 against Arkansas. A&M has an off-week

next week. However, he said that did not ease his mind much.

"I wish we had it off this week," Sherrill said.

"We're playing a team that's very good defensively," Sherrill said in reference to Louisiana Tech. He had

good words for Bulldog quarterback David McKinney also.

"(McKinney) has a strong arm and runs the option well," Sherrill said. Sherrill also had praise for his own starting quarterback, freshman Bucky Richardson.

"He's really something," Sherrill said. "Every week he lines up and tells me. He has a little something about his body that tells me he's different."

Sherrill compared the freshman to former Alabama quarterback Trammell, a comparison he said has not ever made before.

Trammell, who led the Crimson Tide to a national championship once grabbed the facemask of a defensive lineman who had blocked, bawled him out in front of the whole offense and literally hit him out of the lineup.

Sherrill said Alabama's "Bear" Bryant did not say a word to the exorcised lineman, who did play the rest of the game.

Sherrill said Richardson is a first quarterback he has seen. Trammell who might pull a line like that.

He said, however, the Aggie offense still needs to improve in its passing game.

"We're going to have to improve the passing game," Sherrill said. "I doubt about it... Regardless of how you play, you have to be able to do both — you have to run and pass."

Sherrill said he was very pleased the Southern Methodist marching band accepted the invitation to march at the game Saturday.

The week's game was originally against SMU, but the probationary Mustangs will not play football this year and Louisiana Tech was chosen to fill in.

Sherrill said the visiting band marched at halftime and may even have time with the Aggie Band during game.

Horned Frogs' Jeffery garners SWC honors

From the Associated Press

Tony Jeffery, who owns all of Texas Christian's career rushing records, has another mark to tell his grandchildren about some day.

For a record fourth time, Jeffery, a senior from Gladewater, has been named The Associated Press' Southwest Conference Offensive Player of the Week.

No other player has been so honored as many times during his collegiate career since the weekly award began in the early 1970s.

Jeffery had 174 yards on 19 carries, including two touchdowns Saturday in Texas Christian's stunning 24-0 blanketing of the Baylor Bears.

"As Tony goes, we go," TCU Coach Jim Wacker said. "He had a great game."

So did teammate David Spradlin, a senior defensive end who is a Horned Frog co-captain. A 6-2, 240-pounder from Seminole, he took his redshirt season last year and had 12 tackles against the Bears on their homecoming in Waco.

He was credited with 3 1/2 quarterback sacks for 15 yards in losses to become The AP's Defensive Player of the Week.

Spradlin also caused a fumble, pressured the quarterback into two errant tosses and tackled a running back for a 5-yard loss.

Not bad for someone who was in street clothes during the Baylor-TCU game last year. In fact, Spradlin was one of five finalists for TCU's homecoming "king" but lost out in

the 1986 Frog-Bear clash at Fort Worth.

"This is a very special award for me," Spradlin said. "It's my first one. I can remember losing out to Domingo Bryant (of Texas A&M) in 1985. I think I had five quarterback sacks in a game but he (Bryant) had something like three interceptions."

TCU defensive coordinator Rick Johnson said, "David played a tremendous game. If he didn't establish himself as one of the best in the league last week, then I'm not sure what a ballplayer has to do."

Jeffery had an 80-yard scoring run against Baylor and proved his versatility by throwing a crisp block to spring quarterback David Rascoe on a 17-yard scoring run.

"I felt as good about the block as I did the long touchdown run," Jeffery said.

It was a long-awaited breakthrough against Baylor for Jeffery. His previous long run in three career games against Baylor was 12 yards. He had never rushed for more than 62 yards against the Bears.

"It was satisfying to finally have a good game against them," Jeffery said. "They had my number."

Jeffery has vaulted into the ninth spot on the SWC all-time rushing list with 3,304 yards, only 14 behind Dickie Morton of Arkansas.

Currently Jeffery is fifth in the nation, averaging 129.7 yards per game. His 80-yard run was the ninth of his career of 40 yards or longer.

Gamecocks drop in on AP Top 20 rankings

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — South Carolina, which has won three straight since a tough loss at Nebraska, made The Associated Press college football rankings Tuesday for the first time this season. And Coach Joe Morrison had no doubt where the credit belonged.

"It's a tribute to our players and coaches," Morrison said Tuesday after the Gamecocks were ranked 19th. "We just want to be up there in the Top 20 at the end of the year, too."

"Sure, we're glad to be ranked in the Top 20," he said. "It's nice to know people across the country have been paying attention to our team this season."

South Carolina, which lost to Nebraska 30-21 taking a 21-13 lead into the final period, beat East Carolina 34-12 this past weekend to run its record to 5-2 and make the Top 20 for the first time since early 1985.

The top six teams remained the same in this week's poll, while Michigan fell out for the second time in three weeks.

Top-rated Oklahoma's 24-6 victory over Colorado earned the Sooners 40 of 60 first-place votes and 1,176 of a possible 1,200 points from a nationwide panel of sports writers and sportscasters.

Nebraska, a 56-3 winner over Kansas State, received 13 first-place votes and 1,134 points while the other seven first-place ballots went to Miami of Florida, which defeated Cincinnati 48-10 and totaled 1,108.

Oklahoma, Nebraska and Miami are ranked 1-2-3 for the week in a row. Last week, Oklahoma led Nebraska 42-12 in first place votes and 1,179-1,134 points.

Florida State and LSU were idle last weekend and received 986 and 952 points, respectively. Auburn remained No. 6 with 1,100 points by defeating Mississippi State 31-7.

But Clemson fell seven spots No. 14 after its loss to North Carolina State. UCLA beat California 42-18 and moved up from eighth place to seventh with 842 points. Syracuse crushed Colgate 38-0 and climbed from ninth to eighth with 774 points and Notre Dame jumped from 10th to ninth with 732 by downing Southern California 26-15.

Florida made the Top 20 for the first time this year. The Gators, 11th a week ago, were bumped but rose to 10th place with 1,060 points.

The Second Ten consists of Georgia, Tennessee, Clemson, Ohio State, Alabama, Oklahoma State, Penn State, South Carolina and Michigan State.

Last week, it was Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, Michigan State, Indiana, Ohio State, Alabama, Penn State, Oklahoma State and Michigan.

Michigan, which fell out of rankings two weeks ago but came back in last week, dropped again by losing to Indiana 14-

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