

Sports

Volleyballers try to spoil BU's record

By Cray Pixley
Reporter

The Texas A&M volleyball team, currently sporting an 11-19 overall record, will try to stay on the winning track in Southwest Conference play when it takes on Baylor tonight at 7:30 p.m. in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Revenge will figure into the Lady Aggies' plans. They were beaten by the Bears in four games in Waco earlier in the season. Baylor's win was only its second win over A&M in 21 meetings.

A&M is coming off a 1-1 performance in the LSU Classic in Baton Rouge, La., after defeating Tulane and losing to Tennessee.

A&M Coach Al Givens was optimistic about the rest of the season.

"We're 1-0 in the second half of the conference race," he said. "We know we can't win the conference, but we could definitely be a spoiler. We've said all along that we're not going to lose to the same team twice."

All eyes turn to Wilson when heat is on

No one thinks much about a punter unless it's fourth down and the Aggies are kicking from their own end zone, but when that time comes all eyes are on Texas A&M's Sean Wilson.

"I get a lot of heat from some of the offensive linemen about being just a punter, but when the offense hasn't moved the ball they suddenly realize who will be getting the ball out of our territory and down the field," Wilson said.

"The linemen are out there playing hard and taking hits the entire game," he said. "I come in two or three times and usually don't get any hits."

Although he doesn't often get recognition, Wilson said his teammates congratulate him when he has a good punt.

"They will come up to me and say 'Good job' after I've punted," he said.

Wilson, a red-shirt freshman, was an all-state punter from Huntsville High School and started his college career against Louisiana State University this year.

It would be easy to say Wilson comes by his punting abilities naturally. His father, Jerrel Wilson, punted for the Kansas City Chiefs for 16 years.

"My father introduced me to football, and I went to training camp with him every year when I was young," he said. "I grew up in an atmosphere of football and began playing in little league."

Wilson said his father never coached him but that he learned from watching him play.

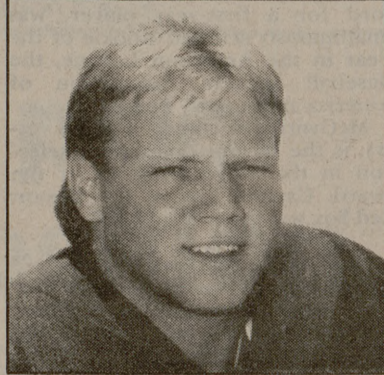
"It really helped having my dad show me the kicking game firsthand," he said. "In my eyes he was definitely the best punter."

"I don't feel competitive with my dad; I only try to go out and kick the ball better than I did the last time," Wilson said. "Everything I have comes from my dad, and when I play it is a part of him out there on the field."

Wilson's parents have been to every game this year except for the one against Texas Tech.

Wilson said he's sure his father is more nervous watching him play for A&M than he was when he played for the Chiefs.

"My dad tries to act calm but I



Sean Wilson

know he is more nervous and excited than I am," he said.

After the LSU game, Wilson said he was over the pressure and nervousness of playing for A&M. He said he tries to think about his job — not the 11 men coming at him to block the punt.

"I was nervous for my first college punt but now that is over," he said. "Sometimes I feel like my feet never touch the ground when I'm out

there on the field. I love the excitement of playing football.

"I think it's thrilling to go out and play in front of 60,000 people. At that moment everyone is looking at me because I'm kicking the football."

Wilson said he hadn't ever been on a losing team and is afraid of losing games.

"The only pressure I feel now is because I want A&M to win," he said.

Wilson, a mechanized agriculture major, is not sure what he would be doing now if he hadn't played football.

"I would have been in college but not at a large university like A&M," he said. "Football helps me keep a focus on college."

The 6-foot, 200 pound Wilson was recruited by the University of Texas, Texas Tech and Texas A&M before committing to A&M.

"I knew I wanted to go to college in Texas and Head Coach Jackie Sherrill really caught my attention," he said.

"I respected Coach Sherrill from the start and do so even more after playing for him these two years."

After eight games and 40 punts, Wilson has settled in nicely to his job

as A&M's punter. He's averaging 41.2 yards with a 61-yard long punt.

"I don't feel as if I have had my great punt yet," Wilson said. "I just keep working and trying to do better each time."

"I get satisfaction out of making a good punt just as a receiver gets satisfaction out of making a good catch."

Wilson is not sure about his post-college career but he does have three more years at A&M to contemplate his future.

"My father is a hunting and fishing guide in Mexico, and I wouldn't mind doing that as a career after college."

Wilson said he can't help but think about playing professional football.

"If you begin playing in little league and stick with football through college, it's natural to look toward the NFL," the punter said.

"Every player who is committed to college level football thinks about going professional," Wilson said.

"I would like to reach the professional level but I know there are only 28 starting jobs at my position in the world; we all play to reach the top level."

Dallas' 33-24 comeback victory over Giants reunites America's Team with hometown fans

IRVING (AP) — After a trial separation, the Dallas Cowboys fans love their team again.

Showing the heart of their early 1970s championship clubs, the Cowboys rallied from a 10-point deficit in the fourth period to defeat the New York Giants 33-24 on Monday night.

The sixth Giants' loss dealt perhaps a fatal blow to the Super Bowl king's playoff hopes.

Dallas Coach Tom Landry on Tuesday gave most of the credit to the fans, who had come down hard on the regular players during the 24-day NFL strike.

"The crowd was as loud as I've ever heard it in Texas Stadium in the fourth period," Landry said. "Normally I don't notice a crowd. But that one was loud. It had the Giants jumping offside because they couldn't hear the signals."

Landry said his team had an old-fashioned pep rally in the locker room after the game.

"It was a good feeling," he said. "They hadn't had a good feeling in a long time. They were excited because you don't usually come back to beat World Champions in the fourth quarter."

Club President Tex Schramm said, "It was an amazing thing. The crowd came to cheer when we thought they would boo."

Landry said, "It surprised me. I think (linebacker) Jeff Rohrer (who had called Dallas fans 'stupid') was the only one who caught it. The cheers were a welcome thing."

Roger Ruzek's four field goals in the fourth period tied an NFL record shared by Garo Yepremian of Detroit (1966) and Curt Knight of

Washington (1970) for field goals in one period.

It was the most ever in an NFL game in the fourth period. Yepremian and Knight's field goals came in the second quarters of their games.

"Ruzek did just a remarkable job," Landry said. "Everything he hit went right down the middle. He was perfect."

The Cowboys also entered the record books on the negative side.

Dallas' 26 yards rushing was a club all-time low and Tony Dorsett gained only 3 yards, his career low for one game.

"Danny White did a great job of passing the ball because we had no running game at all," Landry said. "The Giants have a great run de-

fense and our offensive line had two rookies in it. We couldn't run at all."

Landry said the Giants gave the impression they had the game won after Phil Simms hit Lionel Manuel with two touchdown passes for a 10-point lead.

"They (the Giants) relaxed, you could see 'em kind of back off," Landry said. "Then when we got going they couldn't turn it around again."

Landry said the victory keeps the Cowboys in the hunt for a wildcard spot at 4-3 behind Washington's NFC-leading 6-1 record.

"It's such an unpredictable year that I believe 9-6 might get a playoff spot," Landry said. "We might have a playoff team if our defense keeps moving. And we've got to run the ball."

Longhorns' Hagy, Norris win top conference honors

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas safety John Hagy's defense was the team's best offense against Texas Tech, scoring once on a pass interception and once on a punt return as the Longhorns held onto first place in Southwest Conference football.

For his performance, the 195-pound senior from San Antonio was named the Southwest Conference defensive player of the week.

Texas' Darron Norris, running at tailback and fullback, gained 110 yards on 14 carries in Texas' 41-27 victory and was chosen offensive player of the week over teammate Eric Metcalf. The junior tailback returned after treatment for a bruised hip to throw a touchdown pass and score on a 27-yard run.

Hagy, a senior, is the first Longhorn defensive player to score twice in one game, and now holds the school record for touchdowns in a single season by a defensive player with three.

Metcalf's injury put Hagy in deep punt-return formation for the first time, and he responded with a weaving 33-yard scoring run in the third quarter.

Metcalf said, "I was watching him from the bench, saying, 'Cut, cut.' Every time I said, 'Cut,' he cut."

Hagy's first score came on a 20-yard run with an intercepted pass midway through the first quarter. "Being a defensive player, you try to get the ball in the end zone every time you get a chance to touch it," Hagy said.

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