

Lady Ags clash with No.9 Texas to night New pact makes

By Stan Golaboff

SPORTS WRITER

Texas A&M will try to do what no other Southwest Conference team has done in over 11 years tonight when they play the University of Texas in the Frank Erwin Center in Austin — beat Texas.

Texas, ranked ninth in the most recent AP poll, has won 110 straight SWC games since league play began and 161 straight games against SWC teams. A&M was the last team to beat Texas, 59-52, on Jan. 23, 1978 in College Station.

The Lady Ags (14-6 overall and 6-3 in SWC) have to overcome Texas's streak and several other obstacles.

One obstacle is that the Ags are playing on the road. The road hasn't been kind to the Aggies this year. A&M is 5-5 on the road. Their last road win was against Rice on Jan. 21, 71-65.

The biggest obstacle the Lady Ags face is 6-foot-1 senior Clarissa Davis. Davis is averaging 26.4 points and 9.6 rebounds a game for the Longhorns.

"Clarissa is the best player I've played against and how do you stop her. I don't know if you can, but we are going to try to contain her,"

A&M senior Lisa Jordan said.

A&M is also facing a red-hot Texas team. Texas started the season off slow, losing four of their first seven games. Since then they have won 12 straight, including nine in SWC play. Texas has been beating it's SWC by an average of 20 points and their 12 game win streak includes a 69-67 upset of then number two Tennessee.

A&M enters the game ranked first in the SWC in field goal percentage defense at 38.8 percent. They rank first in the SWC in scoring defense at 66.4 points a game. They also rank first in rebounding (49.3 a game) and rebounding margin (+9.4 a game).

Ironically, A&M also enters the game ranked first in the SWC in bench points at 30.9 per game. Traditionally, Texas has led that category and it used to be a standing joke that Texas was the best team in the nation and the second-best team was the Texas bench.

"This is an extremely important game. There's always the thought that you could be the upset team. We don't want to go in with too much emotion," A&M Head Coach Lynn Hickey said.

"We have execute our offense, play tough defense and avoid fundamental mistakes," Hickey said.

Gooden richest Met

NEW YORK (AP) — Dwight Gooden became the highest-paid player in baseball this year and the highest-paid player in the history of the New York Mets when he agreed Wednesday to a three-year contract worth \$6.7 million.

Gooden, who made \$1.4 million in 1988 after losing in arbitration, will get a \$500,000 signing bonus, \$2.25 million this year, \$1.7 million in 1990 and \$2.25 million in 1991, a source familiar with the negotiation told The Associated Press.

Including a prorated share of the signing bonus, Gooden will receive \$2,416,667 this season, topping the

salary of Minnesota Twins third baseman Gary Gaetti, who will get \$2.4 million. But Gaetti will get \$500,000 in 1990, the season that may be disrupted by a player strike or an owners' lockout.

Gooden can make an additional \$290,000 each year in bonuses. He would get \$100,000 for winning the Cy Young Award and \$50,000 for finishing second through fifth. He would get \$100,000 if named Most Valuable Player of the World Series and \$50,000 if named MVP of the playoffs. He also would get \$25,000 if selected for the All-Star Game and \$15,000 if he wins a Gold Glove.

Recruits

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Drapela averaged better than seven yards per carry as a senior and scored 21 touchdowns on the way to being named to the third team of the All-State squad in Class 4A.

The big catch for A&M appears to be defensive back Kenneth Norman of Sweetwater. Norman was the Class 4A Player of the Year as a senior and was listed fourth on the Southwest Blue Chippers List of *Athlon* magazine. He was named first-team All-State as both a defensive back and a running back in 1988.

Texas Football magazine rated Norman as one of the state's top running backs. He rushed for over 4,000 yards in three years as a starter in the backfield on offense. Slocum will use him as a defensive back.

"(Norman)'s as good a defensive back as you can go and find," Slocum said. "I made the decision a long time ago that he was the one we wanted."

The Aggies did not have the impressive number of signings that other Southwest Conference schools had. However, Slocum used the signings to fill the few gaps on the team — mainly in the defensive line and at linebacker.

Of the 14 recruits signed by A&M, eight were either defensive linemen (four) or linebackers.

The defensive line will be shored up by the addition of four players who each are over six-feet-four inches tall and weigh over 220 pounds.

A pair of 6-4, 235 pound bookends from Arlington High lead the way. Brad Cooper and Tyler Harrison will provide considerable size in an area where it was deeply needed last year.

Joining the Arlington duo in the line will be Lance Teichelman (6-4, 240) from Austin Westlake and Larry Wallace (6-5, 220) of Irving Nimitz. Teichelman chose the Aggies over Brigham Young, Texas

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— R.C. Slocum, A&M head football coach

Christian and Iowa. Wallace picked A&M over Houston, TCU and Oklahoma State.

The linebacking corps, the heart of the Aggie defense, will be bolstered by the signing of three 6-4 prospects.

Marcus Buckley (235) of Fort Worth Eastern Hills, Jason Medlock

(205) of Dallas Roosevelt and Louis Rose (210) of Sweetwater will be expected to contribute soon to a group which will be taking on a new look with the departure of Dana Batiste, John Roper and Basil Jackson.

Slocum compared Medlock to current Aggie linebacker Aaron Wallace. Wallace will be the only returning starter at A&M's four linebacker spots.

Jason Atkinson, a 6-3, 225 pound prospect who has been clocked at 4.7 in the 40-yard dash, signed on as the fourth linebacker signee later Wednesday evening.

Atkinson, from Houston Westfield, should fit in well with the other linebackers. He's big strong, quick and fast.

A&M's head man was happy with the defensive signings and relieved that he was able to fill the holes left by graduation.

"I felt the areas we really had to have some help were defensive line and linebacker," he said. "We had to have some linebackers."

Slocum added some depth at tight end with the signing of Steve Sagaras of North Mesquite who chose A&M over Nebraska, Arkansas, Oklahoma and Louisiana State.

A pair of 6-4, 270, offensive linemen rounded out the signings. Dexter Wesley from Rockdale and Lowell Hutchens of Munday will give help up front for A&M.

Miami nabs state's top player by signing Jessie Armstead

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas Carter linebacker Jessie Armstead, considered the bluest of Texas high school defensive blue chip recruits, signed a letter of intent Wednesday to play college football for the University of Miami.

"This is my old 46," Armstead said as he held up a Miami jersey with his name on the back. "I'm going to No. 1 now."

Armstead wore a No. 1 jersey underneath an orange and green Miami warmup suit.

In choosing Miami, Armstead spurns Baylor and Texas A&M, joining some of the state's best high school players by going to a non-Southwest Conference school.

"The SWC is not together," Armstead said, adding he was impressed by the emphasis on academics at Miami. He said the Hurricanes graduated 100 percent of their senior football players.

Armstead said his decision came down to between Baylor and Miami. Armstead talked to the head coaches from both

schools Wednesday. Miami coach Jimmy Johnson told Armstead to take his time making the choice, the Carter linebacker said.

"Coach (Grant) Teaff said, 'You can help me rebuild our program.' I said I thought I could," said Armstead, recalling his conversation with the Baylor coach.

But Teaff told Armstead to do what is best for him, Armstead said.

Armstead, 6-2, 205, had 117 tackles last season and helped lead Carter to the state 5A championship. He runs the 40-yard dash in 4.6 seconds.

Armstead's announcement at a news conference timed to coincide with evening newscasts climaxed a frenzied day of signings by Texas college football teams and those around the country. Wednesday was the first day high school football players could sign letters of intent for college play.

Armstead joins Dallas Roosevelt wide receiver Kevin Williams in committing to the Hurricanes and Johnson.

Armstead announced his decision from a wood-paneled conference room at the Loews Anatole, a giant hotel and convention facility just north of downtown Dallas.

He said his father suggested using the hotel for the announcement. "You just do it one time," Armstead said.

Asked whether he chose Miami because the Hurricanes were more likely to win a national championship than Baylor, Armstead said, "No, not really, because when I started at Carter we built into a state championship team. That's all it takes, a few good men, and then you can build any program."

Miami was ranked No. 2 at the end of last season, while Baylor finished with a 6-5 record.

Armstead said choosing a college was a "tough decision" because "I had the opportunity to go anywhere I wanted."

Roosevelt's Williams was considered one of the state's top offensive prospects. He caught 37 passes for 785 yards.



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