

Aggies face Frogs as grip for Cotton dwindles

By DOUGLAS PILS
Of The Battalion Staff

Left with almost little chance of making the Cotton Bowl, the Texas A&M football squad must now focus its attention on finishing the season strong and meeting various personal goals.

As the Aggies prepare for this weekend's game against Texas Christian (Saturday at 12:07 p.m. at Kyle Field), only the unlikelihood of a tie in the Baylor-Texas game will breathe life into A&M's Cotton Bowl chances. As it stands, the Aggies (7-



F. JOE/The Battalion

The A&M defense could dominate Saturday's game against TCU like last year.

Game time changes

Saturday's contest between Texas A&M and Texas Christian in College Station has been moved to a 12:07 p.m. CST start to accommodate Raycom's regional Southwest Conference telecast.

Kickoff originally had been scheduled for 2 p.m.

On Dec. 1, CBS will make the Texas-Texas A&M battle in Austin the first half of a national college doubleheader. Kickoff has been moved up to 11:07 a.m. CST to accommodate the national telecast.

2-1, 4-1-1 in Southwest Conference play) are headed to sunny San Diego for the Sea World Holiday Bowl to face No. 4-ranked and Western Athletic Conference champion Brigham Young.

TCU (5-5, 3-4) comes to Kyle Field, where they have been outscored 92-10 in their last two appearances, mired in a four-game losing streak. The Horned Frogs jumped out to a 5-1 start this year, 3-0 in conference, before losing successive games to Baylor, Houston, Texas Tech and Texas.

TCU is searching for its first winning season since it posted an 8-4 record in 1984, head coach Jim Wacker's second year.

A&M head coach R.C. Slocum said he doesn't foresee that happening, and he fully expects his team to be up for the challenge of playing

the Horned Frogs.

"I think TCU's good enough to command the respect of our players," Slocum said. "I don't think (looking ahead to next week's Texas game or worrying about this week's UT-Baylor game) is even a consideration with the way TCU has played. They won't worry a lot about Texas."

A share in the SWC championship is still possible, but Slocum said the team will concentrate its efforts on

winning the last three games to finish 10-2-1.

"Anyone who would not see 10-2-1 as a great season is living in a dream world," he said. "If we were 12-0, there'd still be people saying we don't throw enough, or we didn't score enough points."

"Without a doubt, I know more about football, coaching offense and defense, than any fan out there. And if I don't, then we're in bad trouble."

The Aggies could still share in the

conference championship if both they and Baylor defeat Texas. Baylor would get the trip to the Cotton Bowl based on the second tiebreaker — the team that has the least-recent appearance (A&M 1988 and Baylor 1981).

A&M would win the conference and return to the Cotton Bowl, if Baylor and Texas tie and if the Aggies beat the Longhorns. A&M and Texas would each finish with one loss and one tie, but the Aggies

would go, based on head-to-head competition.

While this season has had its frustrating moments, Slocum said this is still a good year for the Aggies and he takes offense to those who would say otherwise.

"This team is 7-2-1 and going to a bowl game," Slocum said. "I don't want to hear this has been a miserable year. It may turn out that we'll be short of the championship, but it's still been a successful season."

Slocum went on to attack his critics and use Longhorn head coach David McWilliams as an example to prove a point.

"You're talking about a staff here that's spent about 20-odd years per man behind a projector," he said. "It's not like it was 20 years ago when a few of the fans out there played junior high football, when there were only four plays to run and one kind of defense. It's like me walking into an operating room and trying to tell the surgeon how to do his job."

Even with Darren Lewis' subpar performance last week against Arkansas (89 yards on 24 carries), he's still on track to become the fifth NCAA running back to eclipse 5,000 career yards. Lewis, with 4,749 yards, has already been named to one All-American team and he should make the list in a few other lists. With two games left, he also has a chance to pass Oklahoma State's Gerald Hudson (who's already completed the season) for the NCAA rushing title.

Also looking for post-season honors is the anchor of the offensive line that has netted Lewis much of his success, center Mike Arthur. Arthur is one of 11 linemen in the nation nominated for the Outland Trophy, given each year to the top collegiate lineman. He should be in the running for All-American honors as well as conference honors.

Others looking to top All-SWC lists will be, fullback Robert Wilson (633 yards, sixth in the conference), linebacker William Thomas (13 sacks), Kevin Smith (one of the leading pass thieves in the nation) and safety Larry Horton might also be considered.

A&M's Arthur semifinalist for Outland

By NADJA SABAWALA
Of The Battalion Staff

When people say "Texas A&M offense," they think of senior tailback Darren Lewis. Few think of the offensive line that opened the way for Lewis' 1,428 yards this season and even fewer consider the line's trophy candidates.



Mike Arthur

But A&M center Mike Arthur was listed Tuesday among the 11 semifinal candidates for the coveted Outland Trophy, given to the nation's leading college lineman.

"I was shocked," Arthur said. "I didn't even know they were looking at me for it at all, it was a pleasant surprise."

"I thought my coach was kidding around when he told me at first but I found out it was true. It's a great honor to be mentioned for the trophy."

At 6-5, 261 pounds, Arthur became the new man added to the Outland list. He, and Syracuse senior John Flannery, are the only center candidates.

Arthur is the only member of the Southwest Conference named.

A&M takes on Texas Christian Saturday and, as a senior, it's Arthur's last game at Kyle Field.

"I always give 100 percent effort at a game and I hope it's enough," Arthur said. "It's always a tough game, always."

The candidates consist of 10 seniors and one junior, Auburn offensive guard Ed King.

Others named are:

- Antone Davis, offensive tackle, Tennessee
- Mitch Donahue, defensive end, Wyoming
- Moe Gardner, nose tackle, Illinois
- Joe Garten, offensive guard, Colorado
- Stacy Long, offensive tackle, Clemson
- Russell Maryland, defensive tackle, Miami
- Kenny Walker, defensive tackle, Nebraska
- Chris Zorich, nose tackle, Notre Dame.

The finalists will be announced next week.

Holyfield, Foreman agree to boxing title bout in April

NEW YORK (AP) — The crowd in Ballroom D at the Grand Hyatt Hotel was suddenly silent, and fight promoter Bob Arum stopped in mid-sentence.

A single voice rang out: "Room service for George Foreman." A little, old man pushed a cart into the big room. "Room service for George Foreman."

It was a whole turkey, a tray of cheeseburgers and a silver chafing dish full of some unidentifiable porridge.

"I can eat this whole thing, too," Foreman said, a broad grin creasing his face like a crack in a bowling ball. He went for the cheeseburgers.

This was how promoters Arum

and Dan Duva and host Donald Trump officially announced the April 19 fight at Trump Plaza and Casino in Atlantic City, N.J., between undisputed heavyweight champion Evander Holyfield and former champion, 42-year-old George Foreman.

It's billed as "The Fight of the Ages."

"It promises to be one of the greatest events of all time," Duva said ... if only it can live up to the news conference that introduced it.

Foreman, who began a comeback in 1987 after 10 years' retirement, entered the room as loudspeakers blared out the tune to "Happy Days Are Here Again." He was accompa-

nied by a group of geriatrics carrying signs that read: "Eat 'Em Up, George," "Life Begins At 40," and "Respect Your Elders."

"It's dangerous for kids to walk the streets now," Foreman pronounced above the hubbub. "The senior citizens are taking over."

Moments later, the same loudspeakers began to crackle with rock 'n' roll music, unrecognizable to most people Foreman's age. Holyfield came into the room with 20-30 children wearing T-shirts that read: "Evander's Army."

"They said I was too small to be a heavyweight," Holyfield said. "So I'm dedicating my heavyweight championship to disadvantage kids

everywhere."

Holyfield culminated a seven-year pro career by knocking out Buster Douglas in the second round on Oct. 25 in Las Vegas, winning the undisputed title that Douglas had taken from Mike Tyson eight months earlier in Tokyo.

"I'm honored to give my first defense to George Foreman," said the 27-year-old Holyfield. "I respect him for what he's done, and because he believes in Christ."

Then, to Foreman, he said: "But if my brother climbed into the ring, I'd take him out just as well as you."

Foreman grinned again.

"Don't get smart or I'll put you between two slices of bread and eat

you," Foreman said.

Holyfield will weigh 210 or less against Foreman, who will tip, then capsize the scales at over 250.

"I'll get down real low," Foreman said, trying not to eat the tongue in his cheek. "I mean low — real low — real low."

Foreman, whose promoter now is Arum, won the heavyweight championship on Jan. 22, 1973 — when Holyfield was 10 — by stopping Joe Frazier in the second round in Kingston, Jamaica.

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