

A fan's guide to gameday in Kyle Field

After flying around two weeks in a row to beat up smart

RULY MEDRANO
Sports Writer

surfers and rude purple people, tomorrow the Texas A&M football team will finally be playing in the friendly confines of Kyle Field.

Thus comes the debut of the Fightin' Texas Aggie 12th Man. For you freshman and transfers who don't know yet, that means you.

Here are 12 tips to help your first A&M football game be a good experience.

■ First, don't forget your student I.D. card. You'll need it to get in. If you think Rodney Thomas is tough, wait until you meet the person at the entrance when you don't have your I.D. card. Besides, your roommate will probably try to move in on your date while you truck across the drill field on your way back to your dorm.

■ Second, you might want to wear goggles. Ask anyone who has ever been slapped in the eye by a twirling 12th Man towel what it feels like and decide for yourself.

■ Third, don't wear cowboy or cowgirl boots. It's hard to stand the entire game with them on. Besides, it defeats the purpose of the 12th Man tradition. If you're called on to play, your Roper bottoms will not get good traction on the turf. Bo don't know rodeo.

■ Fourth, take lots of breath mints. The Aggie offense is playing well and should score a bunch. You don't want

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Hurricane blows into Aggieland

By DON NORWOOD

Sports Writer of THE BATTALION

The revenge factor can be a powerful thing in college football. Rivalries are born from matchups between two teams that start innocently enough but turn out ugly for one reason or another.

At 6 p.m. tomorrow, that matter of revenge will be put to the test in Kyle Field, as Texas A&M looks to repay their debt to Tulsa a year after their 35-34 loss to the Golden Hurricane put an abrupt end to the Aggies' hopes for an undefeated season.

Although it consists of only five games, the A&M-Tulsa series dates back to 1922, when the Hurricane won 13-10. The last time they matched up before their 1991 clash came in 1985, with a 45-10 pounding of Tulsa in Kyle Field.

But history is history, as last year proved. And for both A&M head coach R.C. Slocum and Tulsa boss Dave Rader, the '91 game joins the ranks of history, leaving the revenge factor for the sixth A&M-Tulsa meeting irrelevant.

"That's not a major issue in this game," Slocum said. "It's not something that 'We can't wait to get those guys and get them back for what they did to us.'"

"Our players had a lot of respect for Tulsa after we played them. That, coupled with the fact that they opened with the win over Houston the other night, we've not had any difficulty at all getting our players' attention this week."

"It's ancient history," Rader said of his previous bout with the Aggies. "It's long gone."

That '85 contest might be indicative of just how much different this year's game will be. Tulsa leaves the cozy confines of 40,385-seat Skelly Stadium for an unfriendly 70,210-seat Kyle Field, where the Aggies have lost only three games since 1984.

The home environment, even more so than any talk of revenge, will probably end up being the deciding factor for A&M. And with the specter of an especially-rabid home crowd expected at the

Ex-Hurricane watches kids root for enemy

By CHRIS WHITLEY

Sports Editor of THE BATTALION

Charles Hardt has a dilemma. He attended college at the University of Tulsa, where he had a successful career on the Golden Hurricane football team. His wife attended Tulsa, as well as many of his relatives.

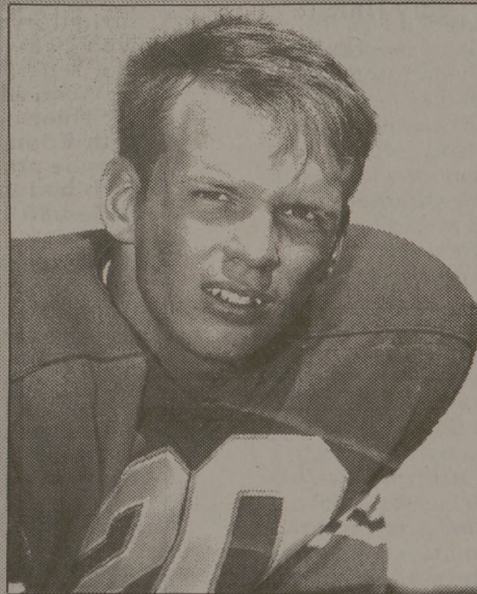
But Hardt has two children who are students at Texas A&M, and they have turned him and his wife into diehard Aggie fans.

Saturday, Hardt's two allegiances face off at Kyle Field. Who is he going to root for?

"My emotions are divided," Hardt said. "I'd like to have one team lose to the other on a missed field goal at the end of the game."

"A tie's just not good enough for me. Like 'Bear' Bryant said, 'It's like kissing your sister.'"

As a defensive back, Hardt was three-time all-Missouri Valley Conference and



Special to the Battalion

Former Tulsa star Charles Hardt finds it tough to choose between his alma mater and A&M, his children's school.

A Street and Smith's Magazine preseason All-American in 1966. He had brief stints as a professional with the Minnesota Vikings and the Detroit Lions.

Now an insurance agent in Dallas, Hardt will be in attendance Saturday with his wife, Rhonda, along with Amy and Jim, who are trying to sway the dominant attitude of the family away from Tulsa and toward A&M.

"I love the University of Tulsa," Hardt said. "I love the time, the memories, the blood, sweat and tears that I spent up there. And I love A&M. They've had a great past, they're on top now, and they look to be good in the future."

"I'm proud to be affiliated with both of them. I just hope that it's a good game."

The eldest daughter, Amy, a junior public health major, said her father typically tries to remain neutral when mention of the two schools comes up. Yet last year's 35-34 upset Hurricane victory in Tulsa provided too much excitement for him and the rest of the alumni in his family to hold back.

"Last year, he was thrilled," Amy said. "So was the rest of my family. They're bad. Last year, they sent us a clipping of the front page of the Tulsa paper when they won."

"If we win, we'll be mailing things to the entire family."

Jim, a freshman general studies major,

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Kyle opener looming over Tulsa's collective heads, the Aggies already own the upper hand - something that Slocum is thankful for.

"Some places can have a lot of people there, but it's no factor when you go to the game," Slocum said. "Our crowd is such that when things start going good for us, the crowd really becomes a factor. If things are going badly for us, the crowd, with just the least bit of encour-

agement, gets in it and keeps the team involved."

"Hopefully, it would take a good team (to beat A&M in Kyle Field). That would be the thing that you would hope, that you wouldn't ever lose a game that you should win."

Despite a lack of national attention, Tulsa fits the description of a good team. The Hurricane took a major step forward last week in expanding on their 10-2 cam-

paign of a year ago, beating Houston 28-25 in their opener at home despite giving up 452 yards to the Cougars' run-and-shoot.

Quarterback Gus Frerotte, taking over for the graduated T.J. Rubley, completed 19 of 36 attempts for 240 yards in that game, and tailback Ron Jackson picked

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