

Florida A. & M. Rattlers Battle Prairie View A. & M. Tonight

MIAMI — A highly-spirited Florida A&M grid eleven with all to win and nothing to lose battles unbeaten Prairie View State here tonight in the 26th Annual Orange Blossom Classic in Orange Bowl Stadium.

The game marks the fifth meeting of the two potent football giants. The Panthers defeated A. and M. 6-0 in the 1935 Classic in Jacksonville and 33-27 in their only appearance in the 1953 Classic.

A. and M. edged Prairie View 10-7 in Tallahassee Donk Campbell Stadium in 1952 and trounced them 19-6 in their own backyard in 1954. A victory would give A. and M. the National Title and another good season for Coach Jake Gaither.

In 25 years of classic play, A. and M. has lost 12 and won 13. One contest with Wilberforce University ended in a scoreless tie back in 1940. The Rattlers have lost eight and won five under tutorship of Jake Gaither. The A. and M. 27-21 victory over Maryland State last December 12 gave Gaither his only undefeated and untied season as Rattler head mentor.

Both teams have annexed their conference titles this year and are headed for national honors here tomorrow night. The Rattlers have a season record of seven wins and one loss. Their lone setback was at the hands of Southern University, 35-6. Prairie View has won eight games and tied one. The tie was with Jackson College (14-14) way back in September.

GIANT QUARTERBACK

Puzzling Rattler Coach Gaither is how his forces can put a web around David Webster, the Texans Gint-like six-four 210 quarterback. Webster and the lonesome end have dazzled opponents all season. Webster has completed 51 of 98 pass attempts for a percentage of 520. The varied Prairie offense has tricky runners like Archie Seals who is the leading scorer with 13 TDs for 84 points. Seals has averaged 6.6 yards per carry. Halfback Calvin Scott, who aided Webster in downing mighty Southern, is second to Seals in scoring with 12 touchdowns and 80 points. Scott has averaged 4.7 yards per carry.

Figuring a three point A. and M. underdog, place kicker Lester Porter of Prairie View could spell the difference in victory or defeat for the Texans. Porter does the kicking from placement for the Panthers and has a 17-yard field goal to his credit.

HARDEE LEADS RATTLERS

A. and M. isn't too bad itself. Leroy Hardee, 174 pound halfback from Bartow, leads the Rattlers in scoring and rushing with 62 points and 623 net yards. His average is 8.3 yards per carry. Halfbacks Dave Latimer and Clarence Childs have picked up an average yardage of 6.6 and 6.3 yards respectively. Childs is second to Hardee in scoring with five TDs and one point after for 32 points. Latimer, who is the top runner at the present, has only 14 points in the scoring.

Hardee, who should be every boy's All-America, leads the Rattlers in pass receiving with six snatches for 69 yards. End Jerry Cardona trails Hardee in that department with three catches for 85 yards.

As A. and M. broke camp for

Miami via train this morning. Coach Gaither felt that he would start ends John Glover, Horace Small, tackles Curtis Miranda, guards Lewis Rice, Benny Strong, and center Willie Taylor. In the backfield will be halfbacks Clarence Childs, Leroy Hardee, fullback Jordan Pope and quarterback Lee Royster.