



# TAILGATING WITH THE SPIRIT

September 16, 2009

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## In This Issue

- Overview
- The Match-Up
- Trivia
- Schedule
- Menu
- Location

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## THE SPIRIT NEWSLETTER

### “Week 2 – Battle Aggie”



obviously doesn't bode well for Utah State this weekend. A&M opened its season with a 41-6 rout of New Mexico and has a much more manageable early-season schedule. Four of the team's first five games will be played at home. This game marks the first-ever meeting between these two schools on the gridiron.

## OVERVIEW

In the battle of the Aggies, Utah State of the Western Athletic Conference (WAC) will visit Kyle Field in College Station this Saturday night to take on the Aggies of Texas A&M. Both teams were idle last weekend giving them an extra week of preparation. Utah State opened the season with a 35-17 loss to 18th-ranked Utah. Utah State plays four of their first five games on the road leading into their WAC schedule. Texas A&M has gone 12-0 against WAC schools, which

## THE MATCH-UP

Utah State @ Texas A&M

Date: 09/19/2009

Time: 6:00 pm

Game Day Morsels:

- Utah State: The Utah State Aggies are coming off a disappointing 3-9 campaign, but return 17 starters on offense and defense in 2009. Utah State had good balance on offense in 2008 with 137.8 yards per game coming on the ground and 196.5 yards per game through the air. The Aggies return 10 starters, including four offensive linemen, quarterback Diondre Borel and running back Robert Turbin. Borel completed 56.2-percent of his passes for 1,705 yards and 11 touchdowns with 10 interceptions. Borel was never able to get going against Utah in the season opener, as he would finish with just 121 passing yards and an interception on 10-of-26 passing. Turbin who rushed for 632 yards and five touchdowns on 179 carries in 2008 carried 13 times for 148 yards and a touchdown, including a school-



record 96-yard against Utah in the opening game of the season. Defensively Utah State allowed 251.08 yards per game through the air, ranking No. 98 in the nation in 2008. Although the secondary is athletic, they still might have some problems with their size. The corners are tiny and to be able to compete with big receivers, they must be able to be physical. The frontline needs to get more pressure upfront as well in order to take some pressure off of the corners and possibly get some more sacks. Utah State finished seventh in the WAC averaging only 1.5 sacks per game last season.

- Texas A&M: In the season opener Texas A&M offense piled up 29 first downs and 606 yards of total offense against New Mexico. The Aggies converted 9-of-16 third downs and held the ball for more than 35 minutes. Quarterback Jerrod Johnson was



terrific, completing 31-of-41 passes for 349 yards and two TDs. He also ran for 57 yards and a score. Jeff Fuller headlined the receiving corps with 111 yards and a touchdown on 10 receptions. Christine Michael ran for 93 yards and a touchdown, as the Aggies combined for 245 yards (5.2 ypc) and three scores on the ground. Nonetheless, the continued

development of the offensive line is a must after that unit was manhandled in several defeats last season. The O-line was still somewhat shaky at times and tougher defenses await. On the defensive side of the ball the Aggies were certainly impressive as Texas A&M allowed no touchdowns, as well as just 21 yards rushing on 24 attempts by New Mexico. Three sacks administered by “the Jack” Von Miller factored into the minimal rushing total. Generating pressure is one key if the Aggies are to hold up defensively this season.

- The Game: Texas A&M will get adequate play from their offensive line which is just enough to allow the stable of skill players they have make some plays. Utah State will not be able to hold down the A&M offensive attack and Johnson will have another big game. Defensively A&M will get a taste of a



balanced spread attack lead by an athletic quarterback who can make plays with his feet if you don't keep him contained. Is the defense for A&M for real or was the first game just a fluke? Well, this is a much improved defensive unit for A&M; however, they are young and there will be some big plays against them. Utah State will be no match for a rejuvenated Texas A&M squad. Look for A&M to make it 13-0 against the WAC with a relatively easy victory.

Prediction: Utah State-17 A&M- 31

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## TRIVIA

Which Aggie had three sacks against New Mexico to open the 2009 season?

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## SCHEDULE

Estimated Arrival Time: 8:00 am 9/19/09

Food Served: 2:30 pm 9/19/09

Estimated Departure Time: 11:00 pm 9/19/09

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## MENU

- Just because you call yourselves the Aggies, don't expect College Station to be the city of "brotherly love": cheese steaks



- Put the hurt on 'em pasta salad



- Playing with a chip on their shoulder

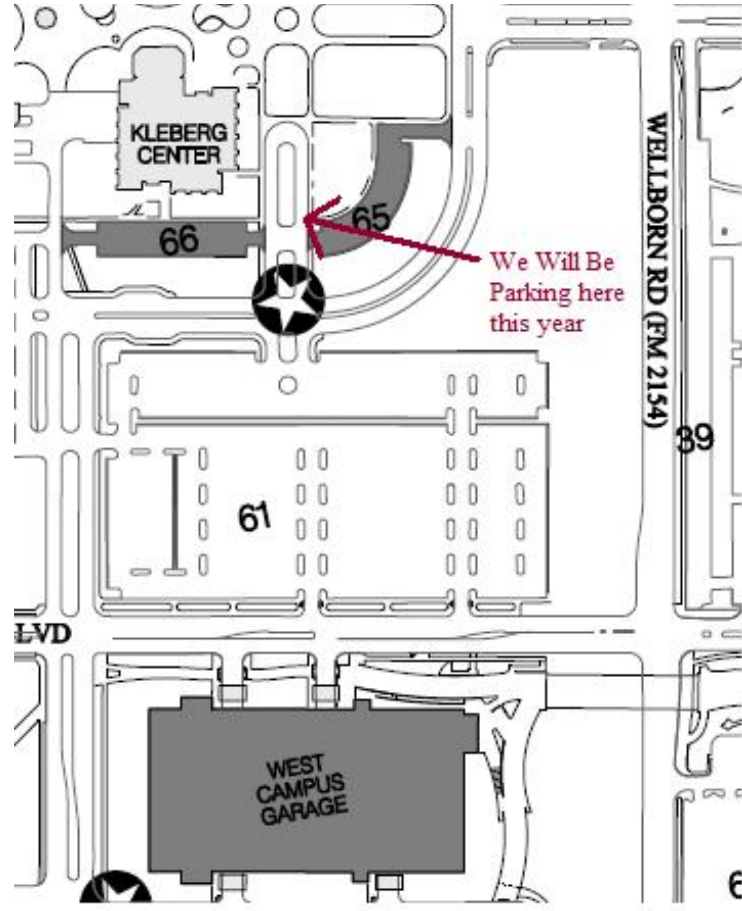


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## LOCATION

The Spirit will be in the horseshoe in front of Kleberg every game-day Saturday morning.



We Will Be  
Parking here  
this year

WELLBORN RD (FM 2154)

KLEBERG  
CENTER

66

65

61

LVD

WEST  
CAMPUS  
GARAGE

69

6