

Utes looking for revenge

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Revenge is clearly a motive for this Saturday as they battle their inter-state foes, Utah State at Logan.

Last year the Utes lost to the Aggies at home, 21-17, in a game that was marred by Utah mistakes. Leading 17-14 at the half, Utah failed to score in the second half and aided the Aggies with two turnovers inside their own 20-yard-

It is not unlikely that both teams will take to the air this time around, as they both field very competent passers. USU's Tony Adams was named to the UPI backfield of the week for his performance against the University of Idaho last week. Adams, who boasts a 58 percent completion average, has thrown for 10 touchdowns and 1925 yards this season.

Back of the week

Utah's answer to Adams takes the form of Brownie Van Galder, back of the Week in the WAC for the last two weeks. Van Galder is only the second player in conference history to win the award in two consecutive weeks.

Although Van Galder is at a slight disadvantage in the statistical columns with 1363 passing yards, he has also thrown for 15 TDs.

"Touchdown Tom" Forzani is the other half of Adams' passing success. Forzani is the national leader in pass receptions with 66 for 10 yards and six TDs. Running back Jerry Hughes and flanker

Craig Clark are also fine receivers, and Adams will unload to them when Forzani isn't available.

1000 yards

Utah's receiving corps of Steve Odom, Willie Armstead, and Lance Robbins have combined their efforts for a total of over 1000 yards in receptions.

Steve Odom, who leads the Utes with 11 touchdowns, is a dangerous punt and kickoff returner, as well as being Van Galder's prime receiver. In national statistics he ranks 5th in all purpose running and 12th in kickoff returns.

On the ground Utah is led by Gene Belczyk with over 600 yards and an average of 5.2 yards per carry. Speedster Ike Spencer has an average of 5.5 yards per carry and 329 total yards. Fullback Steve Marlowe, who has been injured for the last few games, is expected to return to action this week.

Not to be overlooked

Utah State is not renowned for their running attack, but statistics indicate that they shouldn't be overlooked. Adams, Hughes and fullback Butch Sawyer have a combined running total of nearly 1200 yards.

The USU defense has allowed 22 points per game this year, giving up most of their yardage on the ground. Safety Phil Shelley and linebacker Kent Baer are co-captains and standouts in the defensive alignment.

Utah's defense is not highly ranked in the conference standings,

but nevertheless they seem to do the job every week. Larry Eldracher and Steve Marshall lead the defense with five and four interceptions respectively. If the defense can maintain their average allotment of 153 yards per game passing they will hold Adams to his lowest total since USU played nationally ranked Oklahoma.

At kickoff time all the stats in the world won't be worth a dime. This game is traditional rivalry and that means anything goes.

One significant factor might be that four inches of snow fell in Logan early this week. If the field is as muddy as it was two years ago it could put a damper on the aerial game. In that case, watch Gene Belczyk. He's a great "mudder."