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By LARRY L. JERDEN
Thanksgiving—the dividing line between football and basketball at Aggieland, has come and gone, and these two major sports have made their yearly exchange as the topic of conversation over the coffee pot.

For those that are reading these pages in those remote outposts of civilization that didn't receive the story of the TU game, and for those that just can't get enough grid chatter, we'll take a backward glance at Thursday's Kyle Field battle.

In one sense, the game was pretty even. The Aggies won the first half 17-0 and the Sips rolled up a 21-0 margin in the second. But total points is the name of the game, and anyone can see that 21 points is more than 17.

A&M's offense came the only way it could against a bigger, faster opponent: Through the air. The Cadet aviation program was good for 269 yards while on the ground the Maroon lost a yard. The Aggie defensive stand-out was once again Joe Wellborn. An interesting comparison between him and All-America Tommy Nobis can be made in this game.

Wellborn made no less than 20 tackles while Nobis was in on half as many. For the record, three other Aggies equalled or exceeded Nobis' performance. Jerry Nichols was in on 13 tackles, while Ken Lamkin and John Wilson both had 10 to their credit. So while there may be doubt as to somethings about the TU game, there is none as to who had the defensive standouts.

A fair share of records were broken, too, but the one that remains the most talked-about single subject among Aggies (with enthusiasm) and Sips (with embarrassment) is...the PLAY—The Texas Special.

Anyone that can resist retelling the legend of the Texas Special just can't be much of a grid fan or tale-spinner... and since there's no one around to say different, I guess I'll indulge.

The whole thing started back

in Tuscaloosa when then-assistant coach Gene Stallings ran a little dippy-doodle play in practice where a quarterback would bounce the ball in an overhand lateral to his halfback, who would then take off running downfield. Came the big game of the 1965 A&M season, Stallings found himself the head coach of an Aggie team outclassed in size, speed and ability by the looming opposition from TU.

The good mentor was undoubted, so he modified the play by adding a pass to it and had his folks practice it every day in workouts. Came Turkey Day, Kyle Field was sold out to 40,000 avid grid fans watching a 0-0 ball game with the home crew backed up against the wall, first and ten from their own eight.

A quarterback keeper nets one yard, and the coach sends in defensive halfback Jim Kaufman. When the team broke from the huddle, all the fans and most of the Texas players seemed to expect another drive up the middle or, at the outside, a short pass.

What actually happened was Harry Ledbetter threw what appeared to be a terrible pass to Kaufman. Maybe because it was the Aggies, the toss was believable. Anyway, he looked pretty disgusted, banged his fist in his hand a couple of times and started slowly to the huddle. Kaufman kicked the ground twice and also started back, the pigskin in his hand. The Ag line-men stood up and put their hands on their hips, looking like they were ready to give up the whole mess, and Dude McLeon, who was racing downfield, slowed up and headed back.

Then it happened.

Kaufman turned and fired the ball as long as he could, aiming not at a receiver, but for distance and arc. McLeon had already turned and was racing downfield. Around the 50 yard line, the only two rapidly-moving objects on the gridiron met in a fluid motion, the runner never breaking stride. As the Sips stood in bewilderment and amazement, as Aggies

jumped up and down on the bench, as Kern Tips became utterly confused, and as 40,000 fans either dropped their jaws or screamed utter ecstasy, the Dude ran 50 yards to precious paydirt and the Aggies had pulled off the most surprising, audacious move since the great train robbery for a quick six-point lead.

After they tried for four downs and netted eight yards, the Aggies took over again. They moved from their own 29 to TU's 13 in eight plays, 45 of the yards on Ledbetter to McLean passes. With first down on the 13, senior Bubber Collins took the ball on a draw play and dashed across for another six points. Once again Lindsey added the PAT.

After the kick-off and an abortive drive, the Ags took possession on their own 46, moved 37 yards in six plays and called on Lindsey once again. He booted a close field goal that completed the Ag scoring for the day. At half time, to both sides' amazement, A&M went to the dressing room with a 17-point margin.

The story of the second half can just be summed up with the final score, so as painful as it is, and with a well-done to the boys in Orange, "21-17."

Records and stats play an increasing part in football coverage, so here's a few to chew on for the avid enthusiast. The 91-yard PLAY set the SWC record for the longest pass, eclipsing the old mark of 86 yards set in 1929 by Gil Johnson to Paul Page of SMU in 1947. It also broke the school record of 83 yards set in 1936. McLean's 250 yards receiving in the game also made conference and school records tumble. The old SWC mark was 163 yards set in 1949 and tied in 1963 and the A&M record was 160 set by McLean against Arkansas this year. The 13 passes he caught broke his "old" record of 11 against the Hogs and tied the SWC mark of 13 set in 1929. In this year's final SWC stats, the Dude tied Donny Anderson's number of receptions at 60 and beat him in yards gained 835-797,

but somehow missed getting the nod for All-SWC. Coach Gene Stallings and others have voiced strong reaction to this most-obvious mistake, and I'd like to add mine.

Another record broken in the game was by Phil Scoggin. He surpassed the number of punts during a season in the SWC and at A&M by punting 88 times this year. The old record was set by Bob Goode, also an Aggie, at 87 in 1945. He also passed David Conway's average for the year. Phil averaged 43.6 for the year while Conway ended up with a 43.3 mark. Conway had led Scoggin all nine games previous to the Turkey Day showdown... and he lost it.

But with that and a heartfelt word of thanks and praise for Coach Stallings at the end of his first season as our head coach, we move from the sidelines of Kyle Field to those of G. Rollie White and prepare for another winning year of Aggie Basketball.

Two thousand fans couldn't wait for Thursday's opener against Trinity, so they ventured over to the court and watched the intra-squad game Monday night. Coach Shelby Metcalf divided the game into four 12-minute quarters with the varsity first unit playing the fish and the varsity second and third strings playing the first two quarters and the winners and losers playing the last two periods.

The varsity and fish played fairly even ball until the varsity blasted open in the last three minutes for a solid 30-20 victory. Crowd reaction was slight at this early stage in the evening, and a definite favoritism toward Matson was evident.

The second game wasn't as high scoring, but was close and the lead exchanged five times before the second team went ahead with four minutes to go and opened up a 26-18 victory margin.

The most exciting quarter followed when the fish and third string played. With the crowd yelling mostly for the fish and

approval at good plays by both sides, the 12-minute period ended in a 26-26 deadlock. The lead had changed seven times, with the fish coming back from behind in the last 46 seconds.

Metcalf called a three minute overtime, and this ended in a 32-32 tie, so a sudden death play-off was ordered. This time, the third string varsity controlled the ball till Jimmie Lenox was fouled, sunk two points and the game was over.

The last quarter was between the first two varsity units and ended in a 24-17 win by the first five.

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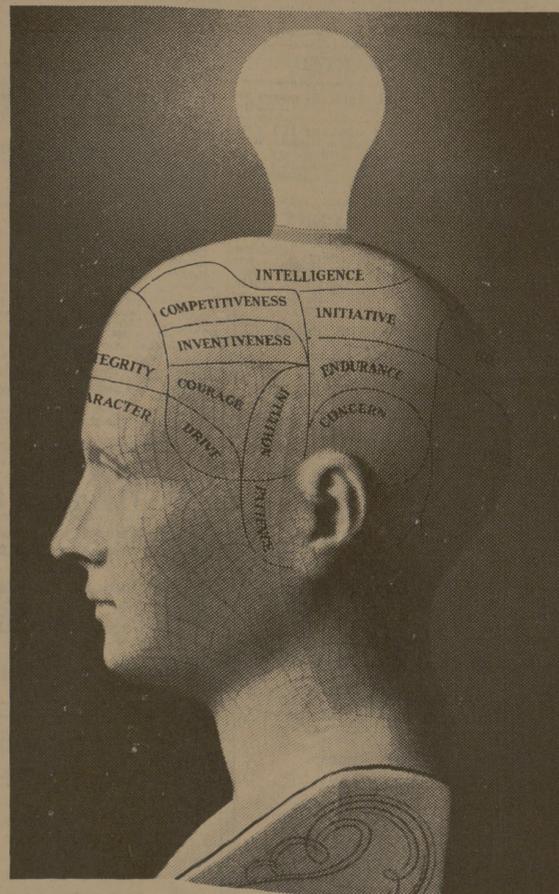
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