

Hogs romp after early Ag miscues

By CLIFFORD BROYLES
Battalion Sports Editor

Last week, before the Philadelphia Eagles lost their seventh straight NFL game, coach Tom Landry of the Dallas Cowboys said the Eagles were just in a rut a team gets in when it's losing.

He said they play hard but somehow they always give it away.

The Texas Aggies suffered their sixth straight loss Saturday to Arkansas and are in a similar rut. They suffered four interceptions and lost four fumbles, as well as finishing the day with minus rushing yardage, thanks to a devastating pass rush by the

Hog defense.

The death bell tolled quickly for the Aggies with the Arkansas offense, tops in the Southwest Conference, and their defense, second to Texas, not letting the Aggies have an inch of breathing room until Arkansas had a 38-0 lead at the half.

Dave Elmendorf faded a couple of yards deep in the end zone to take Mill McClard's opening kickoff and hesitated on whether to run the ball out. One of his feet nipped the white chalk line and he decided to run.

Ten yards upfield he was met by a host of Arkansas defenders and when he tried to cut to the outside fumbled the ball and Bill

Lively, one of 16 Razorback players who played high school football in Texas, recovered at the five.

Three plays later, the Razorbacks' All-SWC running back Bill Burnett, scored the first of his three touchdowns during the game with a one-yard plunge with 13:45 remaining in the first quarter.

McClard's next kickoff went into the end zone, but the Aggies decided not to run it out. Two plays later another fumble occurred as Steve Burks lost the ball on a pitchout and Ronnie Jones fell on it at the 20.

Six plays later Burnett tied the all-time Southwest Conference

scoring record when he leaped into the end zone from the three and the Aggies, having run only two offensive plays, already were behind 14-0.

A start like that more than likely took any chance of an upset out of the Aggies. Two blows that quick really had to be an emotional blow to Aggie hopes.

When the Aggies finally got their chance to run an offense, they moved for a first down, but senior defensive end Bruce James threw quarterback Lex James for a 9-yard loss on a third down situation. It set the tempo for the game, as Arkansas dropped the Aggie signal caller for 11 losses totaling 118 yards.

Combine that with the eight turnovers and you can see why the Aggies never were in the game.

Field position also hurt the Aggies as they started with the ball on the 20 the first four times they had the ball. On the other hand, Arkansas got the ball on the 5 and 20 of A&M after the first two fumbles.

Two short punts, thanks in part to a wind out of the south end of Kyle Field, gave Arkansas possession at their 46 and the A&M 34 the next two times.

An interception by Rick Jones gave Arkansas the ball on the Aggie 28 and after McClard's field goal try into the wind was wide A&M started again from its 20.

A 9-yard punt return by Corky Cordell helped the Hogs start their next drive at midfield, and after Arkansas drove in for a touchdown with 7:23 remaining in the half their first offensive unit took the rest of the day off.

Hugh McElroy's 20-yard kickoff return was a landmark for the Aggies. It was their sixth possession of the game and yet it was the first time they started a drive outside their own 20. They started this one from the 25.

But on the first play McElroy took a pitch from James but ran into Jack Morris and lost the ball. Defensive tackle Rick Kersey fell on it at the 25 but the Arkansas offensive second team was a little less reproductive than the starters and returned the compliment a minute later when Todd Christopher recovered Joe Ferguson's fumble.

A good example of what kind of first half it was for the Aggies: they stopped an Arkansas drive at the 35 late in the half and Ken Curry lofted his punt five yards deep in the end zone but the ball bounced back on the field and A&M started from the four. Doug Neill broke through

for 9 yards on a draw play a little later, but fumbled at the 17. Ferguson passed to Bobby Nichols on the first play and with 39 seconds left in the half Arkansas led 38-0.

A&M did get a drive going and got their best field position of the half when Arkansas tried a shirt rolling kickoff and it was covered by Homer May at the 36.

James passed for gains of 15 and eight yards to Johnny Gardner and 30 to Homer May to move to the Hog 11 but Jimmy Fryer, blitzing from his linebacker spot, spilled James for a 12-yard loss to end the threat. Before that drive A&M had a total of 30 yards offensively.

Arkansas used its second and third teams the complete second half and stopped A&M drives with three interceptions, one which was returned for 94 yards and a touchdown.

James, who had completed only one pass in the first half until the final drive, finished the day with 17 of 36 for 236 yards while Bill Montgomery hit five of nine for 95 yards. Ferguson was 11 of 17 for 145 yards.

Joey Herr was the Aggies' leading receiver with six catches, including one which set up their only touchdown. He snagged a 21-yarder to set up a first down on the Arkansas one. James got the touchdown on a sneak from that point.

Gardner caught four passes and May and McElroy three each. Steve Burks caught one pass. Eleven different receivers caught passes for Arkansas.

Doug Neill was the game's leading rusher with 64 yards and Burks had 29. Brad Dusek picked up 12 yards and Doug Robbins was dropped for a 3-yard loss.

Burnett picked up 37 yards in the game to lead Arkansas but may be lost for the season when he suffered a shoulder separation before leaving the game in the second quarter.

A&M also lost two players, linebacker Mike Lord and offensive tackle Andy Philley, who had surgery Sunday to repair injured knees. Both will be out for the season.

Mistakes continue to bug the Aggies. They now have turned the ball over to the opposition 32 times (17 fumbles and 15 interceptions) and to turn it over to a great team like Arkansas eight times in one afternoon means almost sure defeat.



FOUR FORMER Texas A&M athletes were honored Saturday in pre-game ceremonies when they were inducted into the Texas A&M Athletic Hall of Fame. From left to right are John Wesley "Dough" Rollins; Dr. Sam Houston "Sammy" Sanders; Mrs. Margaret Rudder, who received the plaque for her husband, the late Maj. Gen. James Earl Rudder, and Arthur Douglas "Art" Adamson. (Photo by Steve Bryant)

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Garcia, Covin represent A&M at billiards tourney

James Garcia and Lawrence Covin will represent A&M in the upcoming Inter-Collegiate billiard tournament to be held in New Orleans on a date to be announced.

Garcia, a junior finance major from Bryan, won the three cush-

ion carom event of the annual three cushion carom and pocket billiard tournament held Oct. 18 in the Memorial Student Center Recreation Room.

Covin won the 14-1 pocket billiards, nine ball and one pocket events, almost sweeping the board at pocket billiards.

According to Ed Bloese of the Former Students' Association, Garcia is a disciple of "form" and "stroke" in three cushion billiards and will be an excellent representative of A&M in the New Orleans tournament.

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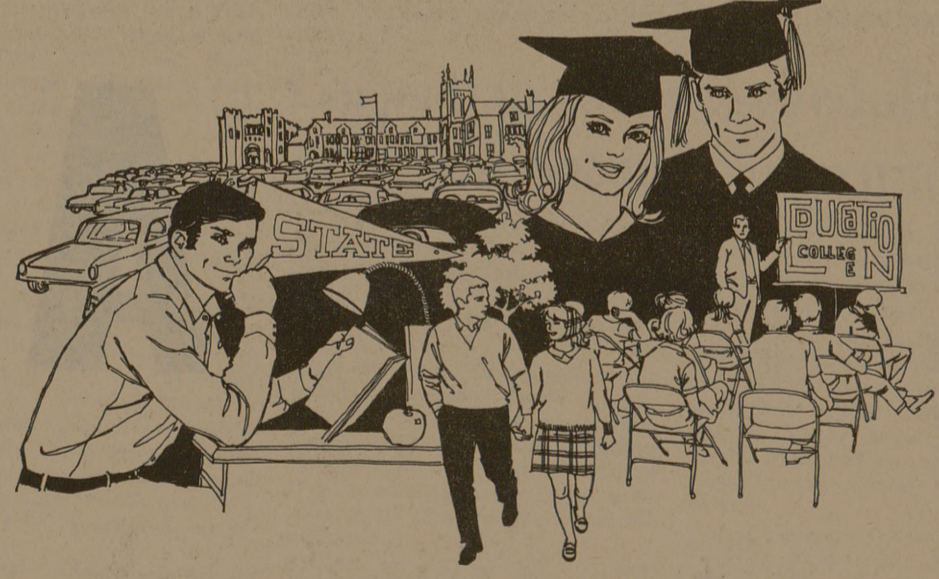
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