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Offenses falter as SMU wins on last-second FG

By CLIFFORD BROYLES
Battalion Sports Editor

Saturday was not a day for offensive units in the Cotton Bowl. There were only 9 points scored in the game, and when you compare that to a couple of west coast games, USC-Washington and Oregon-Air Force, there wasn't any.

In the USC-Washington tilt there were 103 points scored and Oregon outscored Air Force 46-35 in a game which had 1,022 yards gained offensively.

In fact, if it hadn't been for two pass interference calls on each drive, the only score would have been the last one, the one Chipper Johnson made on a 38-yard field goal with two seconds remaining.

It must have been thrilling for the TV audience to see the climatic finish because there wasn't enough otherwise to keep one interested.

The Aggies had their worst offensive day of the year, despite the fact the defense had one of its brighter moments, intercepting five SMU passes and holding them in check except for Gary Hammond.

Hammond, who probably is the best running back in the Southwest Conference, with the possible exception of Steve Worster, used his elusive style of running to gain 190 yards on 36 carries. He had to leave the game several times after being shaken up.

That was a tribute to the hard hitting on both sides as several Aggies and Mustangs felt the sting of hard hitting.

One who didn't was SMU's passing whiz Chuck Hixson who missed his first game because of

an injury. Hixson watched the game from the sidelines in his number 10 jersey and a pair of slacks because of a knee injury that had not completely healed from the Texas game last week.

Hammond himself has not been at full speed from a leg injury until this week. The last time he was completely healthy he gained more than 100 yards against Northwestern and the game before that more than 100 against New Mexico State.

A&M safety David Hoot had an outstanding day as the junior from Houston intercepted three Gary Carter passes and knocked down several others. Hoot now has passed teammate Dave Elmendorf and Bruce Bushong of Texas Tech in the race for the lead in interceptions with six.

Penalties were a pain in the side of both teams as SMU drew flags 14 times for 124 yards and the Aggies eight times for 85.

The game was a turnabout of the past few weeks for A&M, as they turned the ball over only once on a first quarter fumble while taking the ball from SMU five times on interceptions.

But the SMU defense held the Aggies to a season low of 130 yards total offense with 69 yards passing, the lowest total gained in that category.

The Aggies did get improved pass blocking as Lex James was dropped twice and Joe Mac King once for losses while passing, but there still was enough pressure for the pair to have their worst throwing games. James completed only three of nine for 26 yards and King hit three of 11 for 35 yards.

Both James and King suffered elbow injuries in the game and their status will not be known until later this week.

The Aggie offense went without a first down for over three periods, with an 18 yard pass from James to Johnny Gardner with 12 minutes to go in the first quarter the third and last A&M first down until the Mustangs were guilty of a pass interfer-

ence call with about 10 minutes left in the game.

That first down sparked the Aggies to their only drive of the game that ended in a 34 yard field goal by Pat McDermott, his sixth of the year.

King played the entire second half except for one play when he was knocked dizzy. James took over for that play but was dropped for a loss and reinjured his elbow.

Following the penalty King, who was the Aggies' leading rusher with 32 yards, ran a sweep end for 11 yards.

Another pass interference penalty aided the drive on third down, and then a holding penalty moved the ball to the 14 where Steve Burks moved to the eight.

The SMU defense tightened and McDermott kicked the equalizing field goal.

Hammond then took command as the Mustangs seemed content to take their time and get the field goal rather than move it in for the touchdown.

Hammond carried the ball for six straight times and moved the ball from the 13 to 38.

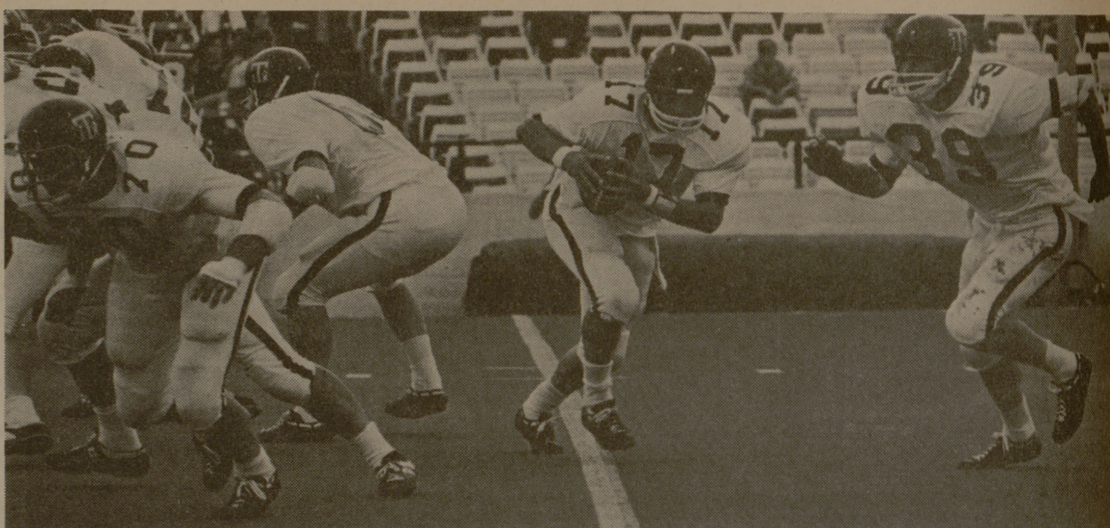
The Mustang drive continued down the field with the clock ticking off the final five minutes that showed when McDermott toed the pigskin from 34 yards out.

Johnson came in with seven seconds left and the score tied, and booted the ball through the uprights of the Cotton Bowl, sending the Mustangs fans into a frenzy.

Colts nip Packers

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Johnny Unitas' arm and Jim O'Brien's foot paced the Baltimore Colts to a 13-10 victory over the Green Bay Packers Monday night in a nationally televised National Football League game.

O'Brien kicked two field goals and Unitas directed the attack that gave Baltimore a 7-1 record. Green Bay is now 4-4.



WHO WILL it be, Joe Mac King (17) or Doug Neill (39)? King prepares to hand off to Neill or maybe keep the ball himself as Ralph Sacra (70) and rest of interior offensive line block in Saturday's game with SMU. King, normally wears number 12 but had that jersey torn off during the game. (Photo by Steve Bryant)

Irish take top spot

Notre Dame sitting high and mighty after its seventh straight win last weekend took over the top spot in the weekly Associated Press Major College Football poll when the top ranked Texas Longhorns managed only a narrow victory over Baylor.

The Irish climbed past the Longhorns in the poll with 822 points compared to 783 for Texas.

Texas received 13 first-place votes and 783 points. Ohio State, Nebraska and Michigan held onto the 3-4-5 spots with 728, 638 and 607 points, respectively. Each received three first-place votes, with the remaining one going to 11th-ranked Arizona State.

Last weekend, Ohio State defeated Wisconsin 24-7, Nebraska clobbered Iowa State 54-29 and Michigan buried Illinois 42-0.

Stanford's Rose Bowl-bound Indians topped Washington 29-22 and held onto sixth place, with Arkansas again in seventh following a 38-14 defeat of Rice.

Auburn smashed Mississippi State 56-0 and climbed from 10th to eighth while fellow Southeastern Conference member Tennessee dropped from eighth to 10th after needing a late field goal to nip South Carolina 20-18.

The only newcomer in the Top Ten was Louisiana State, up from 11th to ninth via a 14-9 squeaker over Alabama. Air Force, which was ninth a week ago, skidded to 13th when Oregon knocked the Falcons from the unbeaten ranks

46-35. Despite the loss of Archie Manning in the third period, Mississippi downed Houston 24-13 and moved up from 13th to 12th, followed by Air Force, San Diego State, Dartmouth, Toledo, UCLA, Syracuse.

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