THE BATTALION

College Station, Texas

Page 5

rally past Aggies Owls windy field **Kyle** on

By CLIFFORD BROYLES **Battalion Sports Editor**

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The Texas Aggies and Rice Owls drove for one touchdown each, took advantage of one fumble to get another each and moved to get field goals with the wind from more than forty yards Saturday, but circumstances caused the Owls to go for two after their first touchdown.

That gave them a one-point victory and kept the Aggies wondering what it takes to win.

The game was about as evenly matched as you could get and the only two lost fumbles turned the momentum of the contest. Winds gusting up to 20 miles

an hour at the outset caused the Owls to give A&M the football first and take advantage of the wind on the Astroturf that resembled a sponge after Friday

The Owls took advantage of the wind early and kicked a field goal on their first possession. the Aggies were forced to punt with the wind staring them in the face.

Jimmy Sheffield, who has been well scouted by the pros because of his ability to kick the ball high, launched one but the wind caught it and the Owls took over after the ball traveled 26 yards. A&M. Mark Williams kicked a 44yard field goal a few minutes ater, which was his first of the year in the Owls' ninth game. Later in the game, the Owls got mother scoring first when John Cardwell scored the first Rice ed stutouchdown late in the third quar-

The Owls fumbled first in the intest and between that miscue

er, his first of the year. The WORLD of BOOKS

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and the Aggies' midway in the third quarter the momentum of the game belonged to the Aggies and it looked as though they were certain to break the drought that started on that overcast day in September at Columbus, Ohio, eight weeks ago.

Defensive end James Dubcak was double trouble for the Owls on that fumble, as he forced it by cracking tailback Stahle Vincent rather harshly and then came up with the fumble recovery after a

wild scramble for the ball. That fumble recovery gave A&M possession at the Owl 25. Getting their best running performance of the season since their opener with Wichita State, the Aggies pushed across the go-

ahead touchdown on a two-yard scamper by Steve Burks. Rice caught the brunt of the wind in the second quarter and Bucky Allshouses' punt sailed only 24 yards late in the half to give A&M field position at the

Rice 48. That led to Pat McDermott's 44-yard field goal with 1:23 left

in the half. The first half performance was certainly encouraging for the Aggies, who had netted 100 yards rushing-and their per game average before the contest was only 91 yards.

The most sustained drive of the contest followed the second half kickoff and the Aggies marched 80 yards with quarterback Joe Mac King passing to tight end Homer May on a

11 for the touchdown. Lex James, not yet fully recovered from an elbow injury in the SMU game, watched the game from the sidelines in street clothes.

King burst through for a 39yard run in the drive and the Aggies looked sharp as they converted on some crucial plays in the drive.

Steve Burks made the first to give A&M their first first down of the drive and Brad Dusek came through with a five-yard gain on fourth-and-two at the Rice 21.

The Aggie defense, fired up by the 17-3 lead, then held the Owls to a down and Winston Beam and Dubcak kayoed second-team quarterback Bruce Gadd for an eight-yard loss on a third down. At this point things were look-

ing extremely good for the Maroon and White cause. But four plays after the Rice punt, A&M fumbled at their 23.

Gadd, who replaced Phillip Wood at quarterback when he proved ineffective passing despite being a top runner, com-pleted a 14-yard pass to Larry Caldwell at the eight and when the Aggies were accused of hitting late the officials moved it half the distance to the four. An offsides penalty on A&M on the first play erased a run for no gain by Wood.

Cardwell got his touchdown on his second try from the two and then the Owls were faced with a difficult situation.

one they would trail by seven and another touchdown would leave them with a similar choice. The Owls went for two and

moved within six points of the lead at 17-11.

That proved to be costly, as the now fired-up Owls moved for the go-ahead touchdown early in the fourth quarter.

The majority of the winning mott could reach it. drive came with the Owls having advantage of the wind and Gadd again in at quarterback.

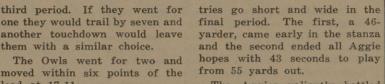
He passed to Gary Butler and Macon Hughes for first downs after the Owls had taken advantage of Sheffield's wind hindered 29 yard punt.

Those two completions moved the Owls to the A&M 21. They seemed to be trying for every inch they could get while they still had the advantage with the wind.

The Aggies apparently felt the same thing as Rice worked a draw play for eight yards to the 13 on the final play of the quarter

By now the Owls were close enough not to worry about the wind and Hughes got the score from the three on a fourth down pitch.

Thanks to the two-point conversion William's PAT after that score gave Rice the lead, 18-17. The Aggies had the wind the final quarter but were never able to muster a real big threat as the wind blew harder and the temperature continued to drop.



The Aggies valiantly battled for position, as it was felt if they got the ball within any reasonable distance of the goal posts, with the aid of the wind, McDer-

Bland Smith got a piece of Allshouse' punt with his elbow and the Aggies got their chance at the Rice 48 with 1:20 to play. King fired a 13-yard pass to

Herr on the first play and five seconds expired, but then the play that decided the battle came as King was nailed for a loss of nine on first down.

The Aggies never recovered and McDermott's long field goal try failed.

A&M showed marked improvement on defense where the Owls were held to 210 yards while the Aggie offense picked up 251.

Rushing game was a pleasant surprise as Brad Dusek followed improved blocking for 48 yards. Steve Burks had 45, Marc Black 42, King 37 and Neill 15 yards.

Add it all together and it came out wrong for the Aggies on the scoreboard and that's where it counts.

Air Force takes Sugar Bowl bid

NEW ORLEANS (AP)-The Air Force Academy, the nation's No. 10 team, accepted Monday an invitation to play in the Sugar Bowl on New Year's Day, to meet a yet-to-be-named opponent.

The Air Force has won nine and lost one-that a 46-35 setback to Oregon. The Falcons solidified their position as a bowl candidate last Saturday when they trimmed Stanford 31-14. Stanford will represent the Pacific-8 in the Rose Bowl.

The New Orleans Midwinter Sports Association, sponsor of the Sugar Bowl, announced the acceptance of the invitation.

It will be the third trip to a postseason bowl for the Falcons, who played Texas Christian to a scoreless tie in the Cotton Bowl in 1958-their second varsity season-and lost 35-0 to North Carolina in 1963.

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against Rice on Kyle Field Saturday. The sophomore from Dallas booted his longest of the year for 44 yards, but this try from 56 yards and another from 51 yards fell short and wide. (Photo by Steve Bryant)

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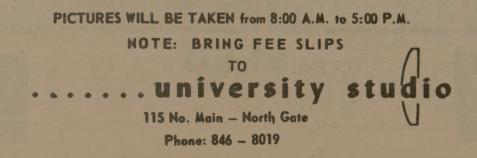
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