

Aggies dominate Wichita, 41-7

By JOHN CURYLO
Battalion Sports Editor

"The long and winding road, That leads to your door, Will never disappear; I've seen that road before..."

The Beatles probably weren't thinking of Gene Stallings and his football team when they recorded that song, but Saturday night's 41-7 victory was much more elusive than the end of the road.

It was nearly a year ago that A&M defeated LSU for the last football game the Aggies had won prior to this year's Wichita State win.

Doug Neill carried five times for 48 yards, but two of those runs were for touchdowns. Quarterback Lex James saw limited action, but he hit paydirt first on a three yard run off right end in the second quarter. James also passed to Joey Herr at the beginning of the second half for A&M's fourth TD. Then, in the last period, Doug Robbins burst over left guard for a one-yard score. With only seconds remaining, Joe Mac King went around the left for four yards to end the point production for the Aggies.

The first period saw A&M move to the Shocker nine yard line, but they were unable to score. The defense succeeded in holding Wichita to two first downs in three possessions, but the fireworks began in the second quarter.

A 50 yard punt by Mitch Robertson opened the period, but on

the first Shocker play, Rick Baehr fumbled, and Brad Dusek fell on it at the Wichita 17. Cliff Thomas, Marc Black and James carried for four yard each. Then Steve Burks was stopped at the line of scrimmage, followed by a two yard gain by Black to the three. On the sixth play of the drive, James followed key blocks by Neill and Todd Christopher to slip untouched into the end zone. Pat McDermott's conversion made it 7-0 with 12:09 left.

After an exchange of punts, the Shockers moved to the Aggie 42. Dusek played an important part again, intercepting a Baehr pass at the line of scrimmage and returning it two yards. Nine plays and one penalty later, Neill plunged one yard for the touchdown. The 56 yard drive featured two passes to Herr, one for 10 yards and the other for 28 on two broken tackles. Burks hit left end for 11 before Homer May was interfered with in the endzone, setting up Neill's run with 4:03 to go in the half.

Unable to get started after the kickoff, the Shockers punted, giving A&M the ball at the Wichita 44. With Tim Trimmier at the helm, Thomas went off right end for 18. Ricky Spencer caught one of Trimmier's passes for 15 yards, putting the Aggies on the 12. An incomplete pass preceded a two yard run by Robbins and a seven yard keeper by Trimmier. Neill capped the six play drive with a two yard score. McDermott made it 21-0 with his third point after, and that's how the half ended.

The break didn't stop A&M's momentum, though, as Hugh McElroy returned the second half kickoff 24 yards to the Aggie 30. Neill went up the middle for 14. James' completion to Robert Murski was good for five to mid-field. Then Neill broke loose for 27 more yards off left tackle, and Burks got six on the other side. The identical play by the Dumas senior put the ball nine yards closer at the nine. James was hit for a loss of seven, then he threw to Herr out of bounds. The Aggies were not to be denied, though, as Herr took a pass from James and broke from Tony Marshall for the touchdown. The try for the extra point was wide, and the 70 yard-eight play drive left the score 27-0.

Unable to get a first down again, Wichita punted, giving A&M the pigskin 35 yards from a touchdown. Thomas lost two, and Trimmier hit Spencer for 12. Black got four up the middle, but the Aggies bogged down. A high pass from center on the field goal attempt forced McDermott to throw the ball, but the aerial was intercepted by John Hoheisel. Five plays later, Charles Billingsley retaliated. Fourteen plays and two penalties after that, A&M had another touchdown.

Some short runs by Thomas, Trimmier, and Black moved the ball, but the highlights were a 22 yard pass to Spencer and a pair of sweeps by Trimmier, the first for 21 and the other for 12. The scoring play was a straight ahead run from the one by Rob-

bins, finishing the 69 yard drive. McDermott added the bonus, boosting the total to 34-0.

Tom Owen then moved his team 80 yards in nine plays, passing every time. His fifth completion was to Jeff Moore for a touchdown from the 19. John Potts added the PAT, making it 34-7.

McElroy returned the kickoff 20 yards to the 23, and King got another chance to move the squad. It took 15 plays, four of them for first downs. A 14 yard pass to Thomas Burke for 14, a Robbins run for nine, a pass to Tommy Goodwin for 22, and another one for 17 were the big plays, but shorter runs by Gary Whitehead and Robbins put the ball on the four. King swept left end for the last tally, Payan's kick producing the final score.

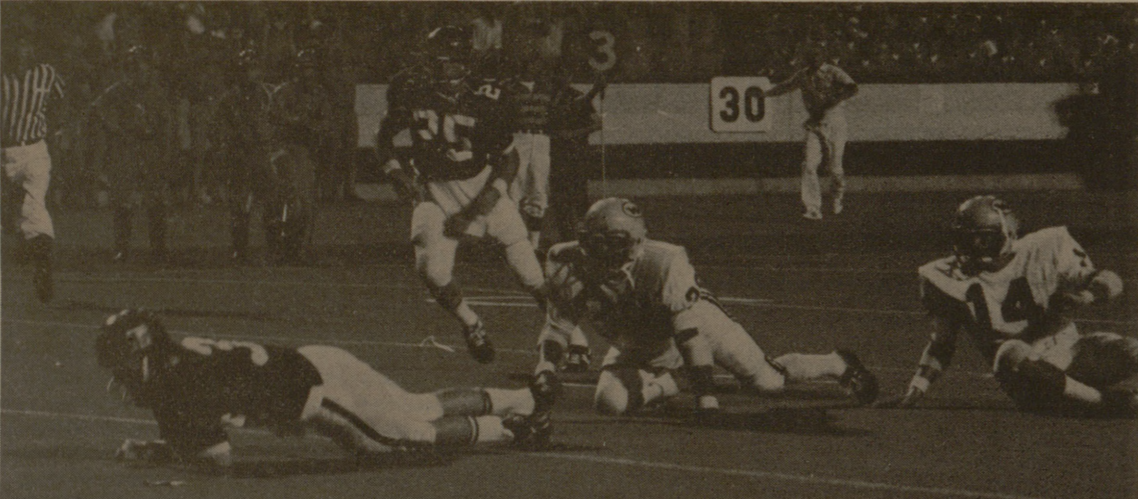
In all, 70 Aggies played, exceeding the goal of 50 set by Stallings. Neill's 48 yards led A&M, but WSU's Randy Jackson gained 50 on 13 tries. Trimmier finished with 46, running six times. Burks netted 36 yards, Thomas 34, Robbins 27, and Black 24. A&M totalled 246 rushing on 63 plays.

Of 26 passes, 12 were completed by the three quarterbacks. The only interception came on McDermott's desperation heave. James was six of 12 for 85 yards, Trimmier three of five for 49, and King three of eight for 53.

The leading receiver was Herr, who caught four for 73. Spencer got 49 yards from his three receptions, and Goodwin hauled in a pair for 39 yards.

It was a good night for the Aggies, who simply "out-deeped" Wichita. The Shockers showed promise, but the lack of a good enough second unit will hurt them.

357 days had elapsed since the previous A&M football victory, but the 1971 Aggies showed that the road to the next win won't be quite so long or nearly as winding.



JOEY HERR SCORES a touchdown for A&M in the third quarter Saturday night as the Aggies whipped Wichita State 41-7 in Kyle Field. The play was good for 16 yards after Herr broke from cornerback Tony Marshall (39). (Photo by Joe Matthews)

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