

Determined effort falls short as Nebraska wins, 34-7

By JOHN CURYLO
Battalion Sports Editor
The scoreboard said 34-7, but

not many of the 67,993 who saw the game thought that told the story of Saturday's A&M-Nebras-

kas contest in Lincoln.

The Cornhuskers showed their number one form, but the Aggies proved that they are capable of giving anyone a battle. The first quarter pitted the A&M defense against the Nebraska defense, and Big Red found the yards hard to make.

A fumble stifled the Cornhuskers' first possession, but A&M couldn't move after Van Odom's recovery of Jeff Kinney's bobble. Mike Bellar's 43 yard field goal attempt was blocked, and Nebraska was ready to go. But, another fumble after a pass completion was covered by Bland Smith. Again A&M couldn't move, and they were forced to punt.

Punts were exchange until late in the period, when Bill Olds got 67 of his 100 yards on a run around the right end, following a key block by Johnny Rodgers. Rich Sanger's extra point made it 7-0 with six seconds left in the first quarter.

After the kickoff, Tim Trimmier, replacing Lex James, threw a third down interception, but Lee Hitt retaliated by picking off a Jerry Tagge aerial on the next play.

Nebraska was forced to punt on their next possession, the Jeff Hughes boot going to Hugh McElroy at the A&M 35. The return ace sped to the blocking wall set up along the sideline and went 51 yards to the Husker 14. However, Trimmier fumbled on second down, and the Big Red took over at the 11.

It took the defending national champions eight playing minutes

and 19 plays to march the 89 yards for their next touchdown, two passes going for 14 yards and one for 10. The rest were short runs. The scoring play was a one yard plunge by Tagge on first and goal. Sanger's conversion attempt was blocked by Bland Smith. With 20 seconds left in the half, Sanger tried a 40 yard field goal, but it was no good. It was not until the next play that A&M was able to muster its only first down of the half on a 12 yard run up the middle by Marc Black. The Ags were also unable to complete a pass in the first two quarters.

The second half kickoff was returned 98 yards for a touchdown by Rodgers, and Sanger's extra point made it 20-0 with slightly less than half the game remaining, but Nebraska would be able to score only twice more.

James dislocated his left thumb on the next series, and Mark Green made his varsity debut, showing his running ability on several broken plays.

The next Husker possession was an 80 yard drive that took 10 plays, the climax being a 32 yard wobbly pass to Rodgers. Sanger's kick put it to 27-0.

The Aggies started from the 31, and Green passed to Homer May for 12 yards to start things off. He kept on runs of 8, 3, and 13 yards, but he fumbled while trying to pass, and Nebraska took over at their own 44.

Hughes punted to the A&M 43, but in downing the ball, the Cornhuskers failed to control the pigskin. Aggie linebacker Steve Luebbehusen scooped it up and



SOPHOMORE QUARTERBACK Mark Green (20) makes his first appearance for the Aggies, playing against Nebraska Saturday in Lincoln. Here, the 6-3, 218 pounder follows the blocking of Robert Gerasimowicz (73). Green finished the day with 43 yards in 14 carries. (Photo by Joe Matthews)

took it into the end zone, but the officials ruled it dead at the 43. Coach Gene Stallings didn't agree but the referee had the last word, which was a penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct.

Several punts were exchanged until Sanger lined up to kick to the Aggies from the A&M 43. The pass from center went over his head to the Nebraska 27, where he fell on it for a 30 yard loss.

Green led the team to the 10 in four plays, but Bill Kosch intercepted a pass at the five and ran all the way for the score. Sanger's conversion was perfect, and the Huskers were on top by 34.

After an out of bounds kickoff, McElroy finally got loose, taking the kick at the 6, running to the right, then across the flow to the left to get A&M on the board, Pat McDermott's extra pointing giving the final totals.

Green was the leading Aggie rusher, carrying 14 times for 43 yards. Doug Neill ran 15 times for 25 yards, and Black got 18 yards in three tries. Mitch Robertson had a fine day punting, kicking 10 times for a 40.7 yard average, the longest going for 62.

The defense held Jeff Kinney to 51 yards in 14 runs. Tagge

completed 14 of 23 for 172 yards, six of them being to Rodgers for 75 yards.

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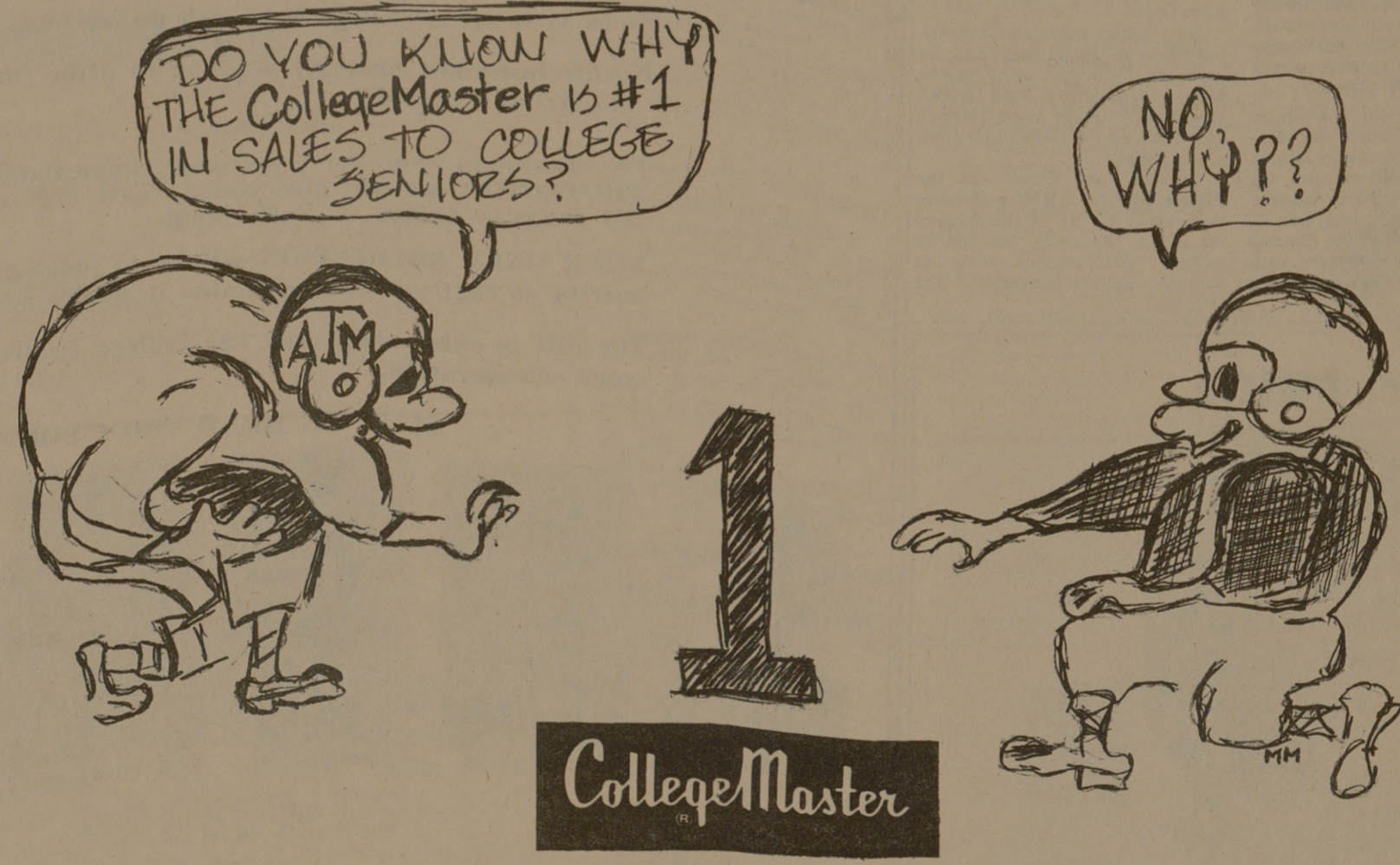
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