



COACHES DON'T LOOK TOO PLEASED. Offensive line coach Dee Powell (left) and head coach Emory Bellard are pictured here in the midst of A&M's 42-17 loss to LSU Saturday night. Bellard, new head coach at A&M, hopes to even his A&M career coaching record at 2-2 this Saturday against Army. Pictured with Powell is Dan Peoples, offensive guard. (Photos by Mike Rice)

Tigers Swarm Aggies In Second Half Blitz

By BILL HENRY

If last Saturday's football game lasted only 30 minutes, the Texas Aggies would be the rage of the Southwest Conference, but as it was, the game lasted 30 more minutes and the Texas Aggies are now the scorn of the SWC.

Very few of the mostly inebriated 68,538 LSU Tiger fans rested easily during intermission as the Aggies clearly had the game under control. The offense was clicking and the defense kept the awesome arm of Bert Jones subdued.

At halftime the score stood 14-10 in LSU's favor but the Aggies could have very easily stood with a 17-14 advantage except for a couple of dropped passes in the end zone.

The Aggies led in total offense, 195-160, led in first downs, 13-11 but had fumbled twice. Mark Green had carried six times for 60 yards, Lex James threw nine passes completing six for 86 yards and freshman replacement for Green, Skip Walker, had the Tiger fans luzzing and the Aggie fans smiling after his 12-yard touchdown run.

But, as everyone knows by now, the second half did not pan out for the Aggies. And it didn't pan out in a big way.

LSU scored four touchdowns to the Aggies' one, the score ended 42-17 and the second half was indeed "The Rout of the Week."

A&M had a total offensive output of seven yards the entire second half going from the 195 total of the first half to 202 at

the end of the game. On rushing alone, the Aggies lost 26 yards in the second stanza. In fact, the Aggie rushing attack had but four more yards at the end of the game than it did at the end of the first quarter.

One bright spot was freshman split end Carl Roaches. This diminutive (155) flash, who won the Class 4A state high school 100-yard dash championship with a time of 9.4, ran back a 97-yard kickoff return in less than 13 seconds after LSU's fifth touchdown.

What the Aggies did in the second half was administered strictly by themselves. James lost 60 yards by being sacked behind the line of scrimmage waiting to throw the football and by going the wrong way on the Wishbone option. Mark Green, who played only one play in the second half after receiving a hip pointer, lost ten yards on the play when he fumbled. The Aggies also lost two more fumbles and had two passes intercepted, one of which went for a 47-yard LSU touchdown.

Two real turning points can be pointed out in the second half which spelled defeat for the Aggies.

The first came after the opening kickoff when LSU had driven deep into A&M territory. On first and goal from the six, Grady Hoermann stopped LSU running back Chris Dantin for no gain. On second and goal, Kent Finley nailed quarterback Bert Jones for a seven-yard loss. It was third and 13 for the Tigers and if they didn't score, a field

goal would put LSU ahead by only seven, 17-10. But, on that third down play, Jones went back to pass and was swarmed by A&M defenders, got his arm hit but still completed the pass to Jimmy Keigley for the touchdown.

The straw that broke the camel's back was two possessions later. On the first play, freshman fullback Alvin Bowers stormed up the middle of LSU's defense for 17 yards. The next play the Aggies were penalized five yards for illegal motion when Roaches missed the signal. It was first and 15 from the Aggies 38. James went back to pass and threw to halfback Bubba Bean. LSU's cornerback, Norm Hodgins, picked off the pass and traveled untouched into the Tiger end zone to put the score 28-10.

"Our problems were rather obvious," Coach Bellard said after the game in the dressing room. "At halftime we were in range and then we made some mistakes defensively at the start of the second half.

"Fumbles, interceptions and mental breakdowns really hurt us against LSU. We played real well offensively and defensively — at times. We were much more aggressive in this game and it paid off in the first half."

This week's game against Army will be the turning point for the Aggies. "We've got to win this week," defensive end Max Bird said. "We've got to get our confidence back. It's a must game for us against Army Saturday."



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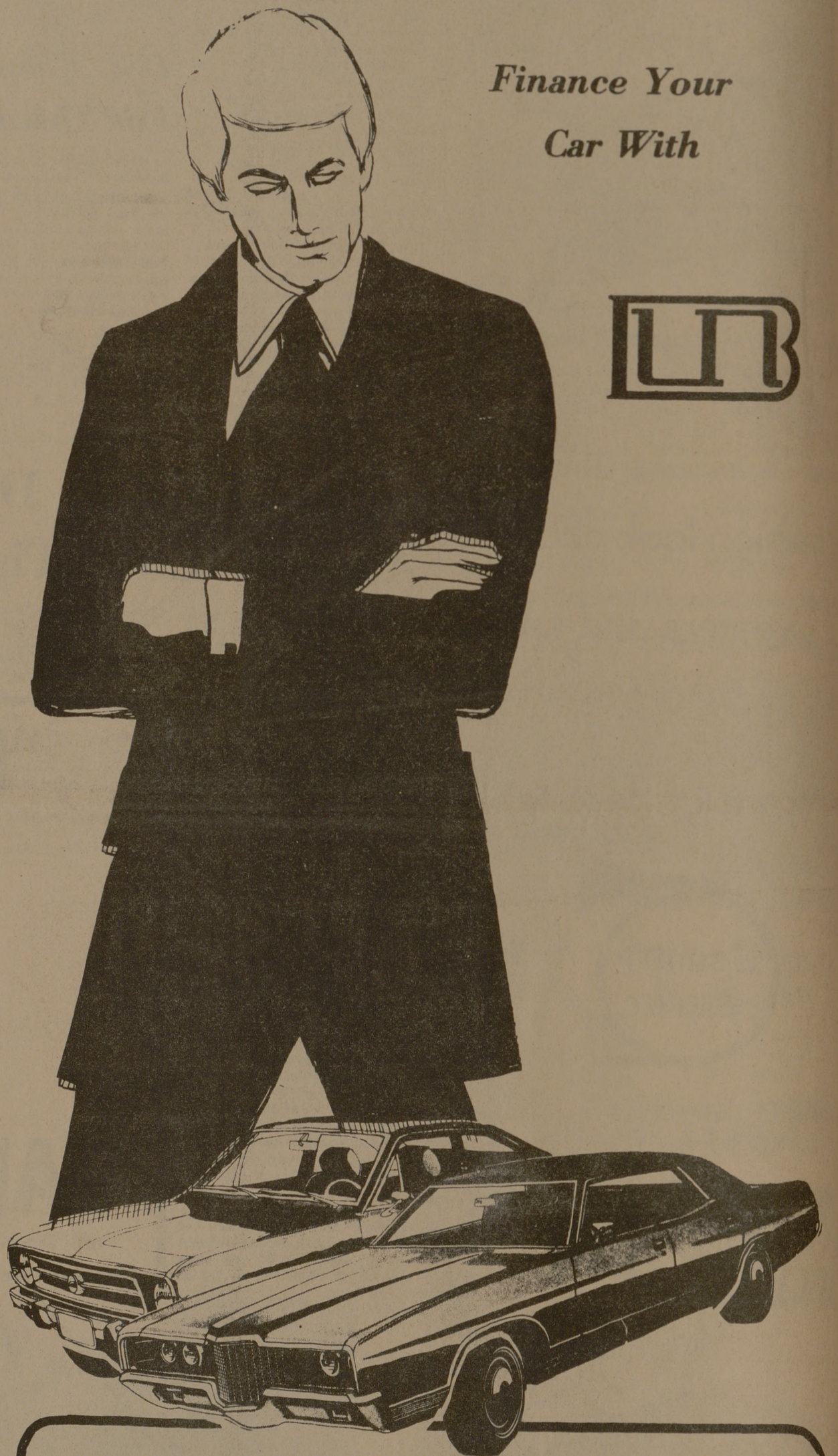
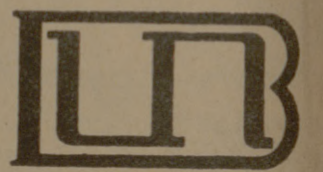
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