

Game Ends On Penalty At One-Yard Line Ags' Fourth Quarter Rally Falls Short—Again, 13-10

By BILL HENRY
Battalion Sports Editor

Winning has never been considered an easy task in athletics, especially in college football and even more especially for the Texas Aggies.

For the second straight weekend, A&M has dropped a three-point decision after falling short on last second rallies.

It's a toss-up whether the Tech or TCU game was more exciting; or for the Aggies, more frustrating. Against Tech, A&M had a chance with :31 left to play only to have a pass intercepted on the four-yard line as the Raiders won, 17-14.

Against TCU, the Aggies drove from their own 14-yard line to the Horned Frog one-yard line with :05 remaining only to have an offsides penalty kill any hopes of putting over a score before time ran out as TCU won 13-10.

For the second week in a row, the Aggies won the statistic battle outgaining the Frogs in total offense (364-325) and first downs (22-11).

What turned out to be most important in the past two games was not the Aggies inability to score with only seconds remaining, but the oppositions ability to push across a score earlier in that auspicious quarter. Against both Tech and TCU, the opponents were able to overcome Aggie leads with lengthy, time-consuming drives.

With 4:54 remaining in the contest, and the Aggies ahead 10-6, TCU got the ball on the Aggie 47-yard line. It took the Horned Frogs nine plays and 3:11 to score the winning touchdown.

There were no big plays in the drive, TCU just drove it down for the score.

The defense, who was praised for its effort during the game,

did play extremely well — most of the time.

TCU had only two first downs compared to the Aggies' 15 in the first half. TCU had a total offense of 87 yards compared to the Aggies' 246. TCU had completed two of six passes for 17 yards and rushed 21 times for 70 yards. The Aggies completed eight of ten passes for 135 yards and had rushed 32 times for 111 yards.

The second half was a different story. TCU's reserve quarterback Perry Senn completed nine of 11 passes for 130 yards while the Frogs rushed 30 times for 108 yards.

A&M completed seven of 14 passes for 89 yards while rushing 18 times for 39 yards.

The game should never have gotten to the point in which the Aggies were behind. If not for offensive miscues (losing four of six fumbles) the Aggies could have been far, far ahead during that first half.

It's fitting that the first fumble occurred on the first play of the contest. Bubba Bean, in returning the opening kickoff, lost the ball at the Aggie 23-yard line.

The defense covered for the offense, as in most cases Saturday night, and drove the Frogs back to the 28-yard line after three running plays. Berl Simmons, TCU's kicker, missed a 45-yard field goal attempt to save the Aggies.

After the missed field goal, the Aggies could not move the ball and kicked to TCU. On TCU's first play in that drive, sophomore Mike Luttrell jaunted 47 yards to the Aggie 16-yard line where Corky Sheffield knocked him out of bounds. This run accounted for 47 of the Frogs 70 yard total rushing for the entire first half.

Again, the defense held and the Frogs hit on a 27-yard field goal for TCU's only lead until late in the game.

With 3:57 left in the first quarter, A&M found itself on the TCU 25-yard line after a 29-yard pass completion from Don Dean to tight end Homer May. Mark Green fumbled on the next play and TCU took over at their own 17.

On the first play of the second quarter, A&M again found itself



INTENSE DEFENSIVE PRESSURE supplied by Texas A&M kept the TCU Horned Frogs stifled throughout most of Saturday's contest. On the left, TCU's quarterback Perry Senn (19) was unable to get the pass away as Bill Wiebold (61), Boice Best (68), and Paul Hunin (35) converge. On



the right, freshman Ed Simonini puts the stop to a TCU ball carrier as the rest of the defense arrives. TCU won the contest however, as the Aggie offense gave up five fumbles. (Photos by Steve Ueckert)

in TCU territory after a good drive. On first and ten from the TCU 32-yard line, Skip Walker fumbled and TCU was again spared.

A little later in the period, A&M drove deep into TCU territory. With second and goal from the TCU 11, Dean fumbled the snap and TCU took over.

On the next series, the Aggies scored. The drive took six plays to go 58 yards and consumed 2:35. Pat McDermott's kick made it 7-3 with 3:51 left to play.

With 2:38 left on the clock before intermission, the Aggies had another chance. They drove from their own 36-yard line to the TCU 30 with 30 seconds left and no time outs remaining. McDermott was called in and kicked a 47-yard field goal to give A&M

a 10-3 halftime lead.

Early in the second half, TCU was able to move the ball but only in the middle of the field. The Horned Frogs drove from their own 26 to the A&M 25 and faced a fourth and one from that point. Larry Ellis and freshman Ed Simonini smelled out the play and stopped TCU's Luttrell for no gain and gave the ball to the offense.

The offense had no luck and

TCU took over again. They drove from their own 20 to the Aggie 15 before the defense held. Simmons was called in and kicked a 32-yard field goal to make the score 10-6 at the beginning of the fourth quarter.

To sum it up, A&M lost the second half, 10-0 and the game 13-10.

After the game, Bellard said, "I'm proud of our football team and I'm sick."

TCU coach Billy Tohill said it a little more eloquently.

"I feel like I'm 65 years old," he said. "I'm tired of making these games interesting for the fans. A&M is a good, well coached team. They got after us all night."

Brad Dusek summed it up best but obviously for the Aggies.

"We just made too many offensive mistakes early in the game," he said. "We fumbled too many

times when we should have in for some points."

Freshman linebacker Ed Simonini, Boice Best and Grafty Mann played exceptionally well on the defense. Simonini credited with 18 tackles, which far exceeded anyone on the team. Best had 12 and Grafty Mann had 11.

Leading defensive performer for the Frogs was safety Drennan with 11 tackles.

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Arkansas	1	1
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Rice	0	1
A&M	0	2

Last week's results — Texas 35, Arkansas 15; TCU 13, A&M 10; Oklahoma State 20, Baylor 7; SMU 29, Rice 14; Texas Tech 35, Arizona 10; Miami 33, Houston 13.
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