

Sams, Defense Halt Texas Streak

By KEVIN COFFEY
Assistant Sports Editor

A combination of a rugged A&M defense and too much Bucky Sams spelled the end to a 16-game winning streak for the Texas Shorthorns as the A&M Fish won their season finale 10-8.

It's hard to say which played a bigger role in the dramatic victory, the defense or Sams, but between them they put an end to three years of domination by the Shorthorns.

Sams carried for 218 yards and scored the only Fish touchdown as he became the most prolific runner in A&M Fish history with a mark of 648 yards for the five game season. He broke the rec-

ord of 546 yards held by Rodger McFarland of the 1958 team.

The defense was magnificent as it held the Shorthorns to 234 yards total offense and only the eight points. Texas had been averaging 40.5 points and 410 yards per contest.

During the initial period Tony Blankenship stopped the only Texas threat by intercepting an errant pass on the A&M 11.

Sams then ran for 18 and 48 yards but an Ammons to Greeno pass was intercepted by Mike Featherstone at the Texas 41 to stall the drive.

After the defense held the Shorthorns again, the ensuing Texas punt was fumbled by A&M and Tommy Ingram recovered for Texas on the Shorthorn 45.

The defense held Texas for the second time on the same drive and the Fish took over on their own 18.

Sams then carried for seven and six yards, Ammons kept for 10 and a 15-yard penalty on Texas brought the Fish out to their 48.

Sams went over right tackle, cut for the sideline, and picked up a Roy Murry block on way to a 52-yard touchdown scamper. At this point Sams had 160 yards on 10 carries and his name etched in the record books.

Mark Stanley kicked the point-after and the Fish led 7-0 with 8:04 remaining in the first half.

The half ended at 7-0 with Sams carrying 12 times for 169 yards.

The Fish started the second half like they were going to break the game wide open but the Texas defense toughened.

The running of Sams and Hartman brought them from their 23 to the Shorthorn 27 before the drive ran out of gas. Mark Stanley, who did a great job of punting often under a big rush, attempted a 44-yard field goal which drifted outside the uprights.

Texas took the ball on its 20 and proceeded to lose yardage back to the 12 before a short punt gave the Fish field position just 39 yards from the goal line.

The only offense the Fish could muster was thanks to a 15-yard face mask penalty but it was enough to bring Stanley within

field goal range again. This time his 37 yard effort was good and the Fish led 10-0 with 3:49 left in the third period.

It appeared that the Fish would get great field position again thanks to the defense but they fumbled it away on the Texas 33 to give the Shorthorns the opportunity they needed.

Texas marched 67 yards on 15 plays using 6:23 on the clock to score with 10:53 left in the final period. They passed for a two-point conversion and now Texas was within field goal of the Aggies at 10-8.

It appeared the A&M defense had held Texas on its desperation drive to the goal line when the Shorthorns were unable to draw the poised Fish offside with a long snap count. Texas punted into the end zone and the Fish then had the ball on their own 20 with 2:38 remaining. All the Fish needed to do was run out the clock.

After Sams gained another five yards the exchange from Ammons to Sams went haywire and Texas recovered the loose pigskin on the Fish 24.

Texas ran three plays for nine yards and let the clock run down to less than 30 seconds when Tommy Robertson was called on to attempt a 33-yard three pointer. Garth TenNapel and Charles Arndt pressured Robertson and the kick was short and to the left.

BATT PICKS

Games	Readers Pick	Kevin Coffey	Larry Marshall	Bill Henry	Rod Speer	Mike Rice	Janet Landers
A&M-Rice		A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M
TCU-Texas		Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas	Texas
Tech-Baylor		Tech	Tech	Tech	Tech	Baylor	Tech
SMU-Arkansas		Ark.	Ark.	Ark.	Ark.	Ark.	Ark.
Houston-New Mex.		UH	UH	UH	UH	UH	UH
Georgia-Auburn		Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn	Auburn
Missouri-Iowa St.		Iowa St.	Iowa St.	Iowa St.	Iowa St.	Iowa St.	Iowa St.
USC-UCLA		USC	USC	USC	USC	USC	UCLA
Oilers-Green Bay		G. B.	G. B.	G. B.	G. B.	G. B.	G. B.
Dallas-Philadelphia		Dallas	Dallas	Dallas	Dallas	Dallas	Dallas
Last Week		7-3	5-5	6-4	7-3	5-5	6-4
Season's Record		71-29	68-32	68-32	68-32	63-37	61-39
Percentage		.710	.680	.680	.680	.630	.610

Pride At Stake Saturday

By BILL HENRY
Battalion Sports Editor

Two teams with nothing on the line but pride square off on Kyle Field Saturday afternoon beginning at 1:30.

Rice and A&M have both lost three conference matches and have won a total of three games all year.

There are no bowl bids riding on the outcome of the game nor any conference titles but the winner will assure itself of not finishing in the SWC cellar.

Rice stands 1-3 in loop tilts while the Aggies stand in at 2-3. Rice has beaten Arkansas and lost to Texas, SMU and Tech. A&M has victories over Arkansas

and SMU and has lost to Tech, TCU and Baylor.

The two teams have played one common non-conference foe, LSU, and have both lost. A&M lost 42-17 and Rice played to a 12-6 tune.

This will be the 57th game between the two schools with the Aggies holding a 29-24-3 edge in the series that dates back to 1914.

In that first tilt, A&M beat the Owls 32-7. The longest win streak by A&M is six games from 1924 to 1929. Rice holds the longest streak with ten consecutive victories from 1945 to 1954.

This series has been the most competitive with A&M's largest margin being 27-0 in 1933 and Rice's being 41-7 in 1947. The most aggregate points was 49 with a 28-21 A&M victory in 1958.

Since 1960 the series is tied with six games won by each team. Since 1965 A&M has won by scores of 14-13, 7-6, 24-14, 18-3 and 18-13. Rice has won by scores of 7-6, and 18-17.

Last year A&M won 18-13 in Houston. It was a see-saw battle that saw Rice take a 13-12 lead in the fourth quarter on a pass from Bruce Gadd to Gary Butler. A&M came back to score on a pass from Joe Mac King to Mitch Robertson. Rice's Mark Williams and A&M's Pat McDermott each kicked two field goals.

A&M's other score was a 14-yard run by Mark Green. Two years ago in College Station, Rice scored in the final minutes for a 18-17 win.

Many faces will be the same from last year's contest. Rice quarterback Gadd, tight end Butler and kicker Williams are all back as are McDermott and Green for A&M.

Green, injured since the TCU game, is slated to be back in uniform after a three week layoff and give A&M more strength at

the halfback positions.

The two opposing coaches are both in their first year in the conference ranks. Owl's coach Al Conover was an assistant under former Rice mentor Bill Peterson and Bellard is in his first year from Texas.

Top players to look for in Owl uniforms are quarterback Gadd, who leads the SWC in passing and total offense with over 200 yards per game, tight end Butler, who leads the conference in pass receptions with 33 for 500 yards, freshman Edwin Collins, who is the conference's second leading receiver with 33 catches for 409 yards and four touchdowns, safety Bruce Henley, who has four interceptions and has returned 14 punts for 217 yards, and linebackers Rodrigo Barnes and LeRay Brashers.


It will be another week for A&M's defense to be tested to the fullest with the acute passing of Gadd and the catching of Butler and Collins. A&M's offense will also be given a good working over by the Owls very physical unit.

A&M's starting lineup will be about the same as it has been with Richard Osborne and Carl Roaches alternating at split end, Mike Park and Ralph Sacra at tackles, Ricky Seeker and Buster Callaway at guards, Skip Kuehn at center and Homer May at tight end.

In the backfield will be Don Dean at quarterback, Brad Dusek at fullback and freshmen Skip Walker and Ronnie Hubby at halfbacks.

The defensive line will be manned by Blake Schwarz and Mike Bruton at ends and Boice Best and Bill Wiebold at tackles. Linebackers will be Ed Simonini, Grady Hoermann and Kent Finley.

In the secondary will be Corky Sheffield, Larry Ellis, Robert Murski and Al Thurmond.



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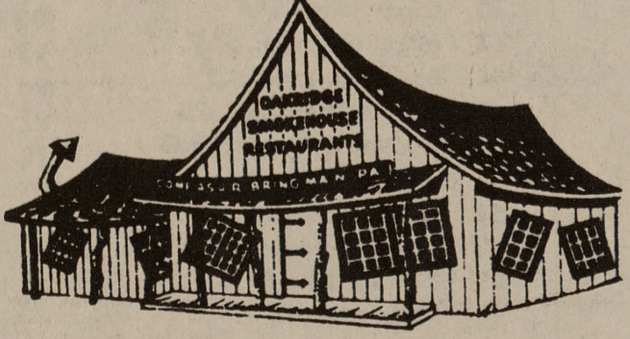
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