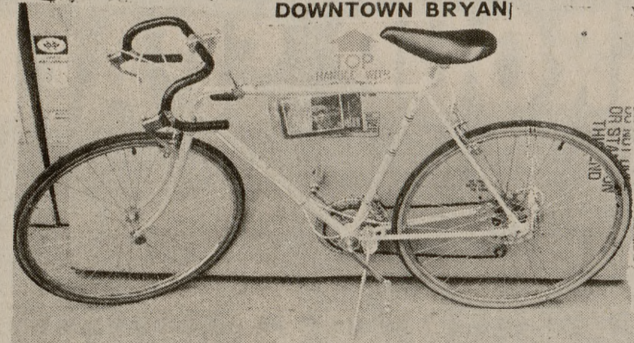


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# A&M Tied With Arkansas For Cellar Dreaded Disease Kills Aggies, 20-15

By BILL HENRY  
Battalion Sports Editor

That dreaded disease that sucks the life's blood out of football teams and renders them helpless struck the Texas Aggies again Saturday afternoon in Kyle Field.

The epidemic that paralyzed A&M for the first seven weeks of the season seemed to have been cured the past two weeks, but as with all cancerous growths, the relief was short lived.

Yes, it was the foreseer of doom, the Black Knight of defeat—Miscuitis. The symptoms are easily detected—loss of football—but there is no cure and the prognosis is the death of a winning season.

Against Rice Saturday, the deadly venom was not detected until the deceased, A&M's football team, had built up a 14-0 lead. The growth then took effect, and after two fumbles and two pass interceptions A&M was

pronounced dead on arrival at the final gun, 20-14.

On a cold, blustery afternoon, 28,231 shivering fans watched as the Aggies fell to their seventh defeat of the season and to the conference cellar with a 2-4 SWC mark.

It began rather auspiciously with the A&M offense moving the football well. The Wishbone attack clicked like the smooth rushing machine it was designed to be.

Early in the second quarter, A&M drove from its own 35-yard line to the Owl goal in 12 plays and consumed 5:33 on the clock. From the 35 to the five, it was strictly run and then it was a pass from quarterback Don Dean to freshman split end Richard Osborne for the score. For Osborne, it was his first scoring reception ever and for Pat McDermott, who kicked the extra point, it was his 100th career point here at Aggieland.

A little over a minute later, freshman Carl Roaches fielded a Rice punt at his own 16-yard line and scampered 84 yards down the right sideline for A&M's second score. It was a block by linebacker Kent Finley that freed him at the end, but it was his uncanny ability that got him out of his biggest danger at the 35-yard line. For the tiny (5-9, 155) sprinter, it was the third return of the year.

Another minute later, freshman linebacker Ed Simonini tipped a

Bruce Gadd pass and senior Grady Hoermann picked off the errant aerial at the Rice 22-yard line.

Being excited as most players would be after making a great interception, Hoermann flipped the ball in the air. For his happiness, he was slapped with a 15-yard penalty and the ball was moved back to the 43-yard line where the Aggies took over with a first down and 25 yards to go.

A&M had to punt and Robert Murski put the ball at the Rice 14-yard line with 2:23 left in the half.

Five of six completed passes later, Rice had itself its first score of the afternoon with freshman Edwin Collins taking the final 12-yard strike from Gadd.

It wasn't the 12-yard completions that caused the score, but the 25 and 29 yarders to tight end Gary Butler.

The half ended with A&M leading 14-7.

It didn't take Rice long to capitalize on the momentum gained from the first half scoring surge that took but 1:06 to complete.

With 9:57 remaining on the third quarter clock, Rice began a drive at its own 9-yard line. Ten plays, 91 yards and 3:59 later Rice knotted the score at 14-14. Again it was passes to the massive Butler that enabled the score.

A&M was using Simonini to cover the talented senior and the experience lacked by A&M's spec-

ular freshman was very much in evidence. It was also the inability of the A&M defensive line to apply pressure on Gadd, that let the SWC's leading passer wait until the precise moment that Butler got away from Simonini and in front of the secondary to zero the pass in between.

With the score tied, A&M got an excellent chance to put another score on the board beginning a drive late in the third quarter at the Rice 41-yard line.

Seven plays later with A&M on the Rice 15-yard line, freshman running back Ronnie Hubby was stripped of the football and the opportunistic Owls took over at the 11 with 13:22 left in the final stanza.

Eleven plays later, the A&M defense finally held at its own 27-yard line where cinch All-SWC kicker Mark Williams added the go-ahead margin 17-14 with 8:56 remaining.

With A&M still having a good chance to pull ahead, Dean threw into the waiting arms of Rice safety Bruce Henley, who returned it to the A&M 22-yard line.

Three plays later, Williams added another field goal, making the score 20-14 with 6:15 remaining. On the next series, Dean again hit Henley who returned it to the A&M 41 with 4:44 left.

Eight plays later A&M's defense again held, but Williams

missed his field goal from the 14-yard line with left.

On the first play following missed kick with A&M on the 20-yard line, Dean pitched to halfback Bubba Bean, but the ball went to the ground and he picked it up at the A&M 18-yard line.

A&M's defense held the 1-yard line as time ran out. Against the rush, A&M's defense did a superb job allowing only 120 yards on 45 plays through the air A&M struggled badly. Gadd hit 16 of 29 passes for 271 yards.

It was again an impotent and half offense that spelled certain defeat. A&M gained a total of 25 yards on the ground in the entire second half of action. In total, the Aggies picked up 391 yards in 60 plays. Rice picked up 391 yards on 74 plays.

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# Parseghian Blasts Alabama For Cotton Bowl Selection

CHICAGO (AP) — Ara Parseghian criticized Alabama's decision to go to the Cotton Bowl and served notice to Southern Cal and Nebraska that his Notre Dame football team will not be easy to beat.

"From everything I've read, and by their own admission, Alabama took the easy way out," Parseghian said in Chicago Monday. "They were in the driver's seat being undefeated and their decision dictated the structure of the other bowls."

Alabama, which could have chosen to play defending national champion Nebraska in the Orange Bowl and possibly avenged last season's 38-6 loss to Nebraska, decided to go to the Cotton Bowl to face once-beaten Texas.

"I guess Alabama figures on beating Auburn and Texas for

an undefeated season and then hopes that Ohio State beats Michigan and we beat Southern Cal which would leave Alabama the only undefeated team in the nation," said Parseghian.

"Two years ago we were confronted with a similar decision," continued Ara. "We were undefeated and had the choice. But we took Texas because of its 30-game winning streak."

"Really, I'm happy over Alabama's decision because it gives us a chance at Nebraska, but can you think of the criticism we'd face if we had made the same kind of decision Alabama made?"

Bryant was not available for a direct reply to Parseghian. But in a speech to a Birmingham quarterback club Monday he said he told his seniors last week that he would let them make the

final decision but, "I kind of hope you'll let the old man pick this time."

"I pointed out that Texas already had a good record and was making a strong finish. They agreed."

"Our aim was to get the team that had the best chance of finishing with no more than one defeat. Of course, there was no way to find a team that had not lost."

"We felt that by going to the Cotton Bowl we would be playing a major conference champion. 'I haven't done well against Darrell Royal's team,' Bryant continued, "and I'd like to test that again. I've played him three times and tied once and lost two."

# Brodie May See Action Against Dallas Thursday

DALLAS (AP) — San Francisco Coach Dick Nolan said Monday there was a 50-50 chance quarterback John Brodie would be available for action Thanksgiving Day against the Dallas Cowboys.

Brodie, who hasn't played in five weeks because of a sprained ankle, worked out with the 49ers Monday but was limping.

The 49ers meet the Cowboys in a nationally televised game which is crucial to the National Football League playoff chances of both clubs.

"I can't say when Brodie will be able to play," Nolan said.

Steve Spurrier, Brodie's backup man, threw five touchdown passes Sunday as the 49ers whipped Chicago 34-21. The 49ers flew immediately to Dallas after the game to prepare for the Cowboys.

Nolan said it will take time for Brodie to get his timing down. Spurrier was expected to start against Dallas.

Nolan said Brodie will be activated for the Dallas game.

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