

Ags Fumble Away Win to War Eagles

Boston College Capitalizes on A&M Miscues for 32-24 Victory

By KEVIN COFFEY
Sports Editor

"You can't put the ball on the ground that many times and beat a good high school team."

The author of that statement was Darrell Royal after his Texas Longhorns fumbled nine times in a losing cause to Miami. It could just as well have been A&M coach Emory Bellard Saturday night.

Bellard's Aggies put the ball on the ground six times, losing it three and combined with an interception and a 14 yard punt gave the Boston College War Eagles a 32-24 victory before 36,317 fans in Kyle Field.

The Aggies led 24-17 with just 5:04 left in the ball game, when Mark Stanley, who earlier has boomed a punt 55 yards, shanked

one off the side of his foot for 14 yards and Boston gained position on the A&M 40. BC needed seven plays and the help of an A&M penalty to score behind the stellar play of quarterback Gary Marangi and tail back Mike Esposito. BC was now down 24-23 and the Eagles tried for two point conversion. Merangi, dropped to pass but saw an open lane to the endzone and scored the go ahead points himself.

A&M came out in a desperation offense and Mike Jay's first pass for Richard Osborne was intercepted with 1:58 remaining and the Aggies fate was sealed. It was almost incidental that Esposito circled the left side for another BC touchdown to add insult to injury.

The Aggies started the game like gang busters as Carl Roaches took the opening kickoff 100 yards for a touchdown and a 7-0 A&M lead with just 12 seconds gone in the game.

A&M quickly got the ball after the BC offense could not budge the A&M defense but the first of

three straight fumbles gave BC excellent field position.

The Eagles got the ball on the A&M 31, and later on the 29 and turned the miscues into 10 quick points.

Bellard was confused as to why the Ags have started each game with a bad case of the fumbles. "We've done it each of the three games," said Bellard, "and we seem to improve during the game but they (the fumbles) already did the damage."

BC upped its lead to 17-7 when they march 80 yards for a score with 6:55 left in the half.

A&M finally got their offense in gear with a 72-yard 13 play drive that brought the Ags back into the ball game 17-14.

A&M totally dominated the third quarter as BC never got inside the Aggie 41. Bellard's bunch scored on their first possession of the half when Alvin Bowers blasted 17 yards for a touchdown and a 21-17 A&M lead. The highlight of the drive was a 46-yard Jay to Roaches pass, the Aggies split receivers only catch of the game.

Late in the third period Bellard chose to go for the touchdown on a fourth and goal from the Eagle four. Bowers sweep on the left side came up short and BC took possession on downs.

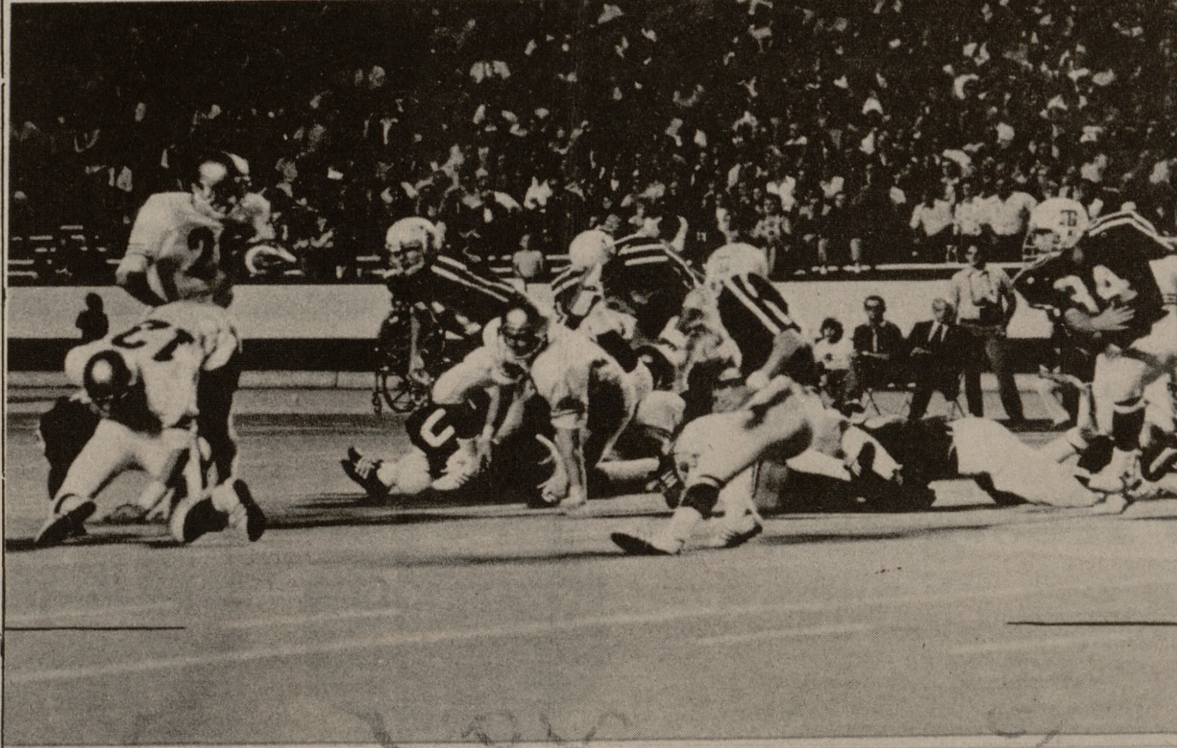
"If we scored there we put the ballgame out of reach," Bellard said, "and if we don't we keep them down in their end of the field where we stand to get good field position when they punt. If I had to do it over again I would do the same thing."

Bellard strategy did, in part, come through as the Aggies held BC and scored a three pointer minutes later to stretch the lead to 24-17.

Roaches ended with 193 yards of kickoff returns to surpass the A&M record of 139 yards set by Jack Pardee in 1956 against Texas.

Esposito lead all ball carriers with 101 yards on 22 carries with Bowers leading the Aggies with 96 yards.

A&M's next action is Saturday at 12:30 CDT when they visit South Carolina to meet Clemson.



MIKE ESPOSITO (26) finds a gaping hole in the A&M defense on way to big gain in Saturday's Boston College victory. Esposito gained 101 yards in 22 carries to lead all ball carriers. (Photo by Rodger Mallison)

Kent Krueger Quits Ag Football Team

Kent Krueger, younger brother of San Francisco star professional defensive tackle Charlie Krueger, announced Monday he is giving up football at A&M.

The younger Krueger, a sophomore defensive tackle, was alternating between the second and third teams on the A&M depth chart.

"I've never really liked the game and I only played because my older brothers encouraged me," Krueger said.

Another Krueger brother—Rolf—was a star defender for the

Aggies and was drafted by St. Louis and later traded to the 49ers.

Kent Krueger wasn't certain whether he will remain in school. He told several players he might get a job or join another brother in Scotland.

"Kent made up his mind about a week ago he didn't want to play football," said A&M Coach Emory Bellard.

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By Charles M. Schulz

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YES, MA'AM...I'D LIKE TO TRANSFER TEMPORARILY TO YOUR SCHOOL...

MY DAD IS OUT OF TOWN, YOU SEE, AND I'M STAYING IN CHUCK'S GUEST COTTAGE SO I'LL BE GOING TO THIS SCHOOL FOR AWHILE IF YOU'LL HAVE ME...OKAY?

I'M NO GREAT SCHOLAR, YOU UNDERSTAND, BUT I'M ALWAYS IN THERE TRYING...

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