

Battalion Sports Special

# Ags, Baylor in Do-or-Die Situation

By KEVIN COFFEY  
Sports Editor

It's do or die for the Texas Aggies and Baylor Bears Saturday afternoon on Kyle Field. Both teams are facing their second Southwest Conference loss, a blow which surely means elimination from the conference race.

A&M is returning to Kyle Field after a month of road contests and will show new quarterback David Walker to the home folks for the first time.

Saturday's contest should be an awesome offensive show. Baylor, 2-3, ran up 507 yards total offense in a loss to Arkansas while A&M is second in the conference in total offense.

Baylor is the SWC's leading passing team with 150 yards a game through the airways.

A&M threw only three times in their 35-16 win over TCU last week but head coach Emory Ballard said that was not by original design.

"We were prepared to throw

against TCU and will work hard on our passing game this week for Baylor," Ballard said. "Our running game against TCU was such that we just didn't have to put the ball in the air."

The most dramatic change the Aggie fans should see is the cut down of turnovers since A&M's last home game. Plagued by interceptions and fumbles all season, A&M turned the ball over only one time against the Horned Frogs.

Football season is half over and Ballard feels that his troops of fuzzy-faced warriors have made big advances.

"I think we've made an awful lot of progress," Ballard said. "I think we are a lot more solid. We've reached a stage from an experience stand point that when we start preparation for each different team we've seen those pictures before. Everybody is able to learn what we want to do faster. We are also fundamentally better, and that is how a football

team improves."

Baylor will start four freshman to the Aggies two but several other A&M frosh will see plenty of action.

Baylor's record may not be indicative of the Bears potential. They play the 19th hardest schedule in the nation with losses coming to Oklahoma and Colorado before Arkansas.

A&M is now led by freshman quarterback David Walker. The 17-year-old Sulphur, La. product took over last week against TCU and ran for 81 yards on 19 carries and scored one touchdown.

Walker is joined in the A&M "T-Bone" backfield by Skip Walker and Bubba Bean at halfbacks with Alvin Bowers at fullback. Skip, Bean and Bowers are sixth, seventh and eight in the conference rushing statistics. They also rank third, fourth and fifth in SWC tandem offense, a combination of pass receiving and rushing.

(See SWC Leading, page 8)

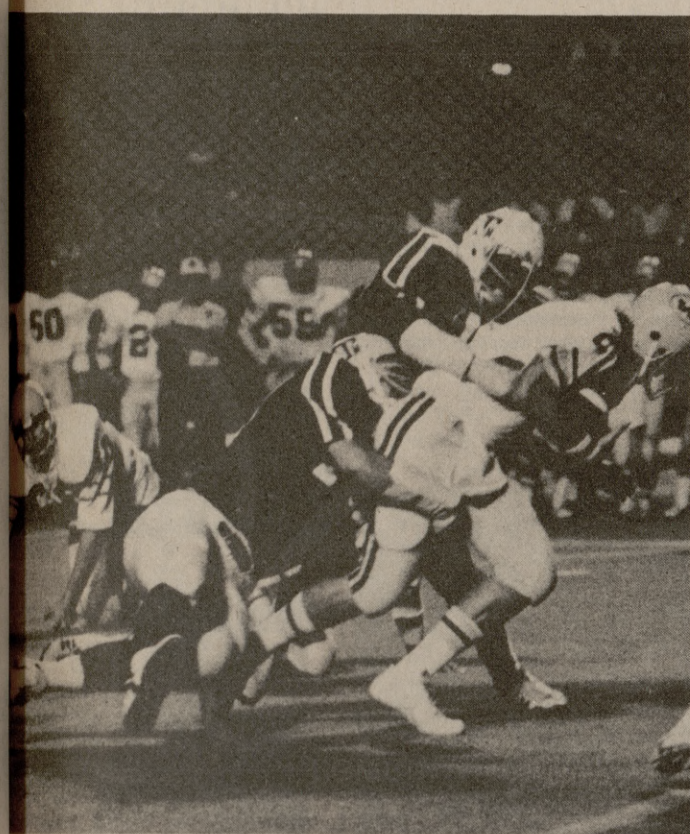
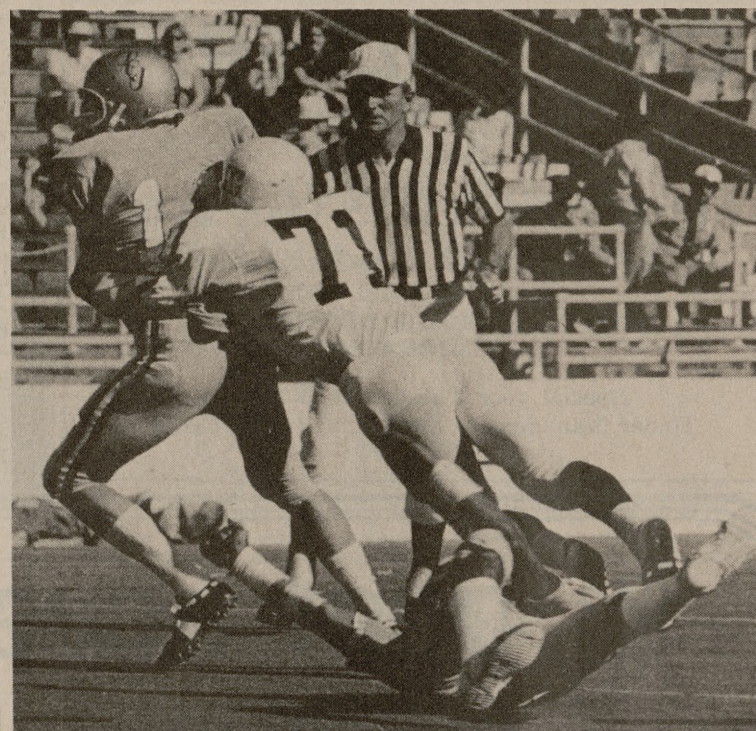


Photo by Rodger Mallison)



SWC's Leading Defensive Unit  
A&M defense puts crunch to opponents to claim top spot in conference.



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