

Aggies Hold Off Charging Bears, 28-22

Bellard Mistake Almost Disastrous

By KEVIN COFFEY

Emory Bellard admittedly made a big mistake Saturday afternoon in Kyle Field and it almost cost him and his Texas Aggies a victory over the Baylor Bears.

With A&M leading 28-15 and the Bears getting hot, Bellard chose to try for a first down on fourth and one from the Aggie 35 yard line. Fullback Bucky Sams was met by a host of Baylor tacklers and the Baptists had the ball and momentum with 9:27 left in the game.

It took the Bears just 27 seconds to score and tack on the extra point and draw within a touchdown of victory at 28-22.

Fortunately for Bellard and the Ags an untimely BU fumble, a stiff A&M defense and one last offensive spurt held off the hungry Bears.

"Baylor capitalized on my mistake," Bellard said. "I make no bones about it, I made a dumb decision. We should have punted the football with a 13-point lead."

Each half of the contest looked like an entirely different game. A&M totally dominated the early action playing before 44,182 fans who suffered through a driving rain storm.

Moving the ball on their first possession, freshman quarterback David Walker guided the Ags to the Baylor 15 before the drive stalled.

Randy Haddox finally booted a 32-yard field goal and A&M had the lead for keeps, 3-0.

Baylor was unable to take advantage of a A&M fumble against

the Aggies tough defense which came up with the next score. Tim Gray blocked a Rusty Parrott punt but the ball rolled out of the endzone for a safety and a 5-0 A&M lead.

The Aggies took the ensuing Baylor free kick and moved in for another score. Bucky Sams got 43 yards on the return and Alvin Bowers hit for seven. Baylor drew 15 yards on a face mask penalty to set up Bowers' one-yard TD plunge. Haddox again kicked the PAT true and A&M lead 12-0.

It appeared the second half would be a rerun of the first stanza as the A&M defense stopped the Bears and the young Ag offense drove for another score.

Having to go only 36 yards to paydirt, Bowers ate up 22 and Bubba Bean followed a Bowers block for a 5 yard touchdown run.

The Aggies still weren't through with the Bears as the defense again gave nothing to the sputtering BU offense. Again the Ags scored, this time on a 47-yard Randy Haddox field goal for a 21-0 lead. Haddox's kick tied the A&M record for most field goals in a season with eight.

There was now 3:47 left in the third quarter and the Baylor offense came to life.

Following the strong arm of quarterback Neil Jeffrey and the receiving of Charlie Dancer, Baylor drove 70 yards in only five plays. Jeffrey hit Dancer on the first of two TD passes, this one

for 37 yards just over the reach of Gray.

It looked like the A&M lead was still as safe as a bug in a rug as Bucky Sams broke two tackles, picked up a block from jitterbugging Carl Roaches and scored on the first play of the final quarter to boost the lead to 28-7.

Bellard said he "felt very secure," at this point and perhaps he got a little too conservative offensively and defensively.

No matter what the reason, the Bears were rolling and Jeffrey capped a 63-yard drive with a 10-yard touchdown pass to Dancer. The BU quarterback then hit running back Gary Lacy for a two-point conversion, pulling to a 28-15 deficit.

Then came Bellard's near-fatal mistake and another Jeffrey led Bear score to pull the Bears tight at 28-22.

A&M moved the ball to the Baylor 35 and Mark Stanley seemingly kicked the Ags out of trouble as his boot was killed on the Baylor 10.

The Bears were now in control. They had 4:55 to go 90-yards and avert elimination from the Southwest Conference race by scoring. They jumped off side to move the pig skin to the five and Pat Thomas nailed Lacy at the one on a sweep.

Jeffrey unloaded just as he was sacked on the next play but Dancer, who seemed to be everywhere in the second half, hauled in another pass. The Bears got a first

down at the 21 and moved to the 36 before Ted Lamp and Ken Stratton nailed Jeffrey to end the game.

Bowers led all rushers with 89 yards in 19 carries and had several key blocks. Bean chipped in 81 steps and Sams 59 of the 312 yard rushing effort.

Defensively, John Paul McCrumble and Jackie Williams were new faces in the starting lineup, all of which will return next year, as will the offensive unit.

The win moved the Aggies record to 4-3 and 2-1 in loop play while Baylor slumped to 2-4 and 0-2 in conference action. This week Baylor gets TCU at home

and A&M visits Arkansas in Fayetteville.

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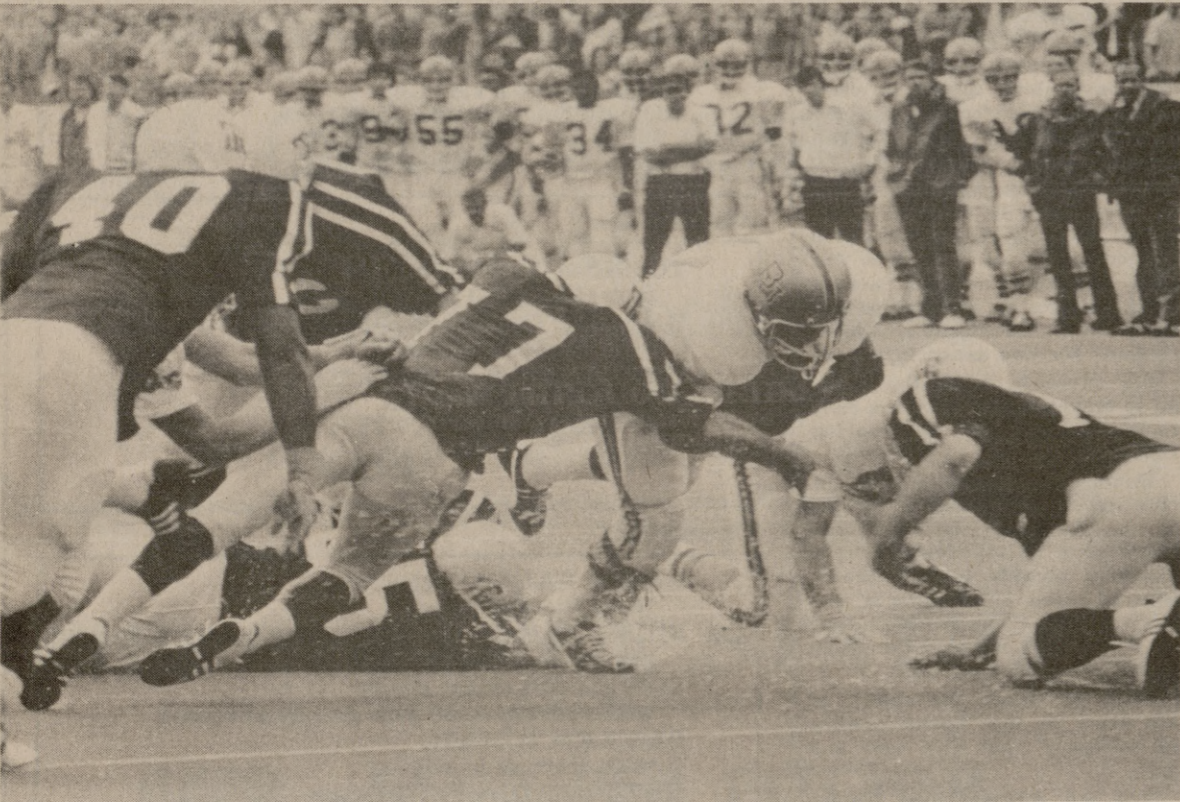
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AGGIE DEFENDERS Ed Simonini (77) and John Paul McCrumble (40) converge on a Baylor ball carrier Saturday on rain-soaked Kyle Field. The Aggies won 28-22. (Photo by Steve Ueckert)

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Ags Schwarz Back at Work

Defensive end Blake Schwarz returned to practice Monday as the Texas Aggies began preparations for Saturday's Southwest Conference football game with Arkansas in Fayetteville.

Schwarz, a sophomore letterman, injured a knee in practice after the Boston College game and has not practiced in the last four weeks.

His playing status this week will depend on his workout performances.

Defensive tackle Warren Trahan received a slight ankle injury in the victory over Baylor but is expected to be ready this week.

Coach Emory Bellard said Arkansas "is a lot like us . . . having young talented players. It will be another rugged battle for us."

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