

# Weather aids spirited scrimmage

By MIKE BRUTON  
The unusually cool weather apparently lifted the spirits of the Texas A&M football squad Tuesday

afternoon, as they breezed through a controlled scrimmage in good fashion.

The first and second offensive units steadily and consistently drove down the field against the defensive third and fourth stringers. The starting 11 scored seven times on nine possessions and the backup unit hit paydirt three times on five tries.

Halfback Skip Walker highlighted the offensive segment of the scrimmage scoring four touchdowns on the ground and one on a 20-yard pass from quarterback David Walker. Bubba Bean scored twice on runs of nine and four yards and Ronnie Hubby subbing for fullback Bucky Sams, who is nursing a sprained ankle, plunged across the goal line once from two yards out.

Quarterback Walker was as cool as the weather as he completed eight of 16 passes, including a 20-yard scoring toss, and ran an eight-yard touchdown on a keeper. Both he and backup quarterback David Shipman executed well since the combined offensive units only turned the ball over twice on fumbles and once on a Walker interception.

At the All-University Night activities Coach Emory Bellard was quoted as saying the Aggies were going to fight like gangsters. That's just how the "hit men" played on the defensive end of the field and, man, they sure did hit.

The defense held the third team offense scoreless, but they lost containment on the quarterback several times and that was their biggest weakness last season. However,

they are an experienced unit and should work that problem out by the time they square off with Clemson in the season opener.

Continuous hard-hitting by the "Maroon Maulia" forced the offensive reserves to turn the ball over eight times. Safety James Daniels intercepted two aeriels and Pat Thomas, Tim Gray and Al Thurmond stole one each. Middle linebackers John McCrumby and Kenny Stratton both recovered fumbles with Stratton grabbing two and McCrumby one.

The Aggies will scrimmage again Friday afternoon and if things continue to look sharp they'll be well prepared to take on a much improved Clemson team on Sept. 14.

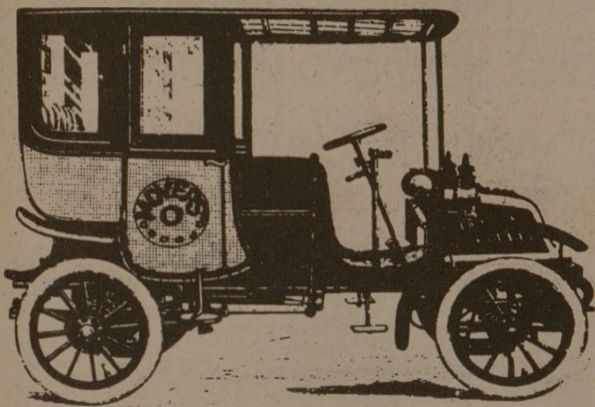
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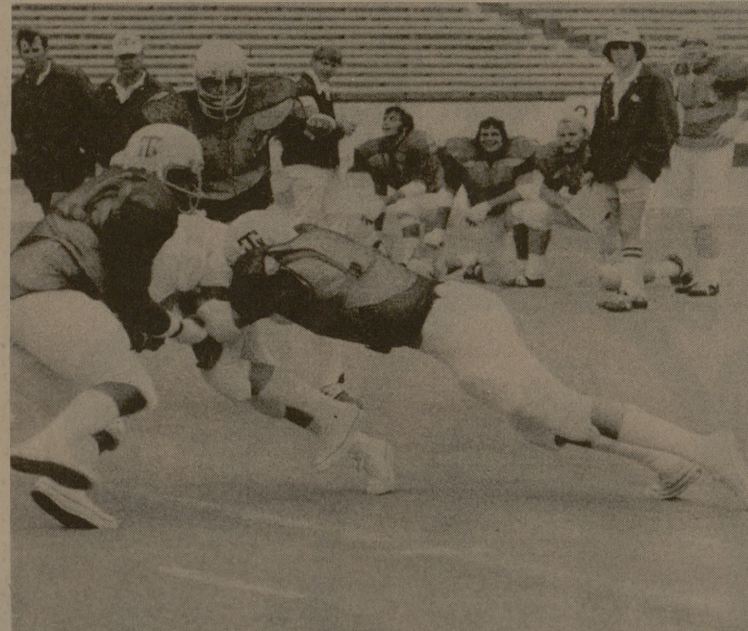
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MIDDLE LINEBACKER John McCrumby (left), defensive end Blake Schwarz (center, standing) and cornerback Charlie Arndt put the crunch on quarterback Mike Jay (in white jersey).

## Holiday apathy cuts WFL attendance

(AP) — The rookie World Football League-plagued by holiday apathy, bad weather, and the rival league's nationally televised Monday night game-plunged to new attendance lows on Labor Day.

The New York Stars drew only 6,132 spectators—a record low WFL home crowd—to 27,000-seat Downing Stadium, the WFL's smallest field, to watch their 24-16 victory over the Philadelphia Bell.

"We knew that no one would want to come out here on Labor Day night after a long weekend," moaned New York general manager

Bob Keating. "Hell, we didn't even get our 7,600 season ticket holders here."

Even fewer spectators—only 5,101, in fact—turned out on a rainy night in London, Ont. to watch WFL's first game ever in Canada.

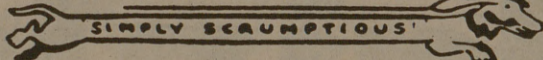
In the five holiday games that capped the WFL's ninth week, an average of just 19,412 spectators turned out.

"We're not really that concerned," explained WFL spokesman Gary Wright. "Nineteen thousand is still a pretty good figure."

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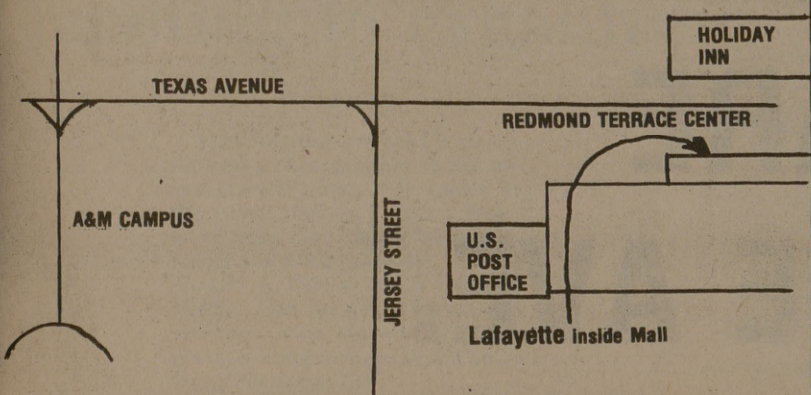
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