

Memories relived in AAA football

By TONY GALLUCCI
I'm spoiled. I've been at A&M too long. I'm speaking of football, but not teams. I'm speaking of crowds and stands and bands and just what college football anyway? For the first time in many years I

attended a small town (3A) high school football game. In particular, the A&M Consolidated Tigers vs. the Taylor Ducks.
From what I remember, 3A football games were games where you

could buy a 25 cent endzone ticket and take your choice of the seats in the reserved section. Unless it was homecoming, you didn't have to worry about sitting elbow to elbow or standing the entire game.

For this game, though, I was a member of the press and as such was accorded the 'privilege' of sitting in the press box. Normally the purpose of a press box is to provide a good view of the game to sportswriters and announcers so that they may pass the word on to the less fortunate who could not attend.

But the purpose in Taylor seemed to be something different.

As I happened to be the last of the luck to arrive. I was afforded a retired seventh-grader's desk in the back of the box (or shall I call it a closet). My view from the seat was limited to a 30 yard space between the 35 yard lines with strategic points on the field blotted out by the posts holding up the roof.

The room (it was a night game) was illuminated by a single 60 watt yellow bug light which did little to keep the mosquitoes out.

The game began innocently and as small townly as possible.

A weak rendition of the National Anthem by Taylor's band accompanied the honor guard onto the field. The flag-bearing group was typical small town. The local service organizations were taxed to provide two veterans and two foreign legionnaires. At least they wore the same uniforms. Sorta.

The Taylor drill team (the Duckettes I presume), dressed in green and white, began the 'boot line' with their meticulously painted white sheet art. They were quickly joined by about 40 of the Jackson Five generation and the local Quarterback club with their green and white jackets.

If you looked closely you might have seen a few husky fellas who didn't quite make the team, as desperate as the team was.

The teams came onto the fields to a hardy cheer. The Ducks barely bursting through the sheet and al-

most taking a couple of Duckettes with them.

It was typical small town. Neither team really dominating the other. Once in awhile one team would be set back behind their own 35 or progress beyond the other, forcing me to either crane out the window or stroll outside the press box to see what was happening.

The local announcer made it painfully obvious that this was small town. He told his listeners that the Consol Tigers were from Bryan and later called them the Bryan Tigers. Perhaps he was dreaming that the Taylor Geese (or are they Ducks) were actually beating the seventh ranked 4A team. What's worse, nobody ever corrected him. I was too busy laughing.

It was nearing the half, Taylor leading by a catchable 6-0 when I suddenly became aware that the best was upcoming.

With 1:09 left before intermission, the referees had to call time out to push back the Consolidated band who had moved up to the goal line in anticipation of their big Taylor Follies review.

The half ended 6-0, halftime ended 0-0. Both bands put on a wonderful show. I never had such fun. Marching columns looked like octopus. Straight lines resembled motocross tracks. Twirlers spent more time groping than twirling and batons spent more time bouncing than spinning.

The second half began and continued and continued. 12-0. 18-0. 18-8 (yes A&M consol scored). 25-8. Time ran out, and there I waited at the locker room for the team and the coach.

It was then that I sobered and realized just what small town football is all about.

The team stood around dejected, waiting for the coaches to unlock the



Athletic Oatmeal

By TONY GALLUCCI

One of the most interesting and neglected aspects of an upset in football is the aftermath. Too many aftergame activities and literary quirks are overlooked by the general public.

How many people wondered about the percent inebriation or the alcoholic average after the A&M-LSU game? Was it higher or lower than if it had won? Was it higher than last year? Was it higher than after A&M-Clemson? Was it higher in College Station or Baton Rouge? Or did the Orleans take the title? Did the Aggies rate higher on the scale or did the Tigers?

On the literary side, newspapers are often funny and at the same time devastating. Of all the stories I read about the LSU game (about 25 papers) the Baton Rouge Advocate was by far the most critical. The front page of the sports section contained three feature length stories about the game and a color picture of the 'bouncing Bubba Bean' and little else.

The four headlines on the page read:

**AGGRESSIVE A&M SHOCKS TIGERS
MOBILE LINEMEN KEY TO 21-14 AGGIE WIN
'WE WEREN'T BAD, AGGIES PLAYED BETTER,' SAYS MAC
AGGIES NO JOKE: THEY CAME TO WIN**

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And the paper makes it clear that the Ags did indeed win. Joe Planas in 'WE WEREN'T BAD...' says, 'How do you know when you're getting your rump pumped in a football game without looking at the lights on the scoreboard?'

- A. When your safety man makes 11 primary tackles in the first half.
- B. When three of the opponents' backs each gain more than 100 yards and the team finishes with 417 yards rushing.
- C. When you go two-for-ten in the air and the other side blows you off the line.
- D. All of the above.

The Houston Post gave us a WOW! on the front page and Longview Morning Herald gave us a maroon WOW!

Jack Gallagher of the Houston Post said the heck with the year of the Tigers and renamed it the year of the Aggies.

And it wasn't until a day after the game that a Louisiana newspaper admitted that the Aggies set another record. The most yards gained on the ground against a Tiger team in LSU history. The Ags also won the other end of that record; 42 yards against the Tigers in 1970.

And I wonder what the Newport News Daily Press thinks now.

The Houston Texans have left Texas but the number of Pro teams in Texas did not drop. The new North American Soccer League team has been officially named as the San Antonio Thunder. San Antonio has been ripe for another pro team since the Spurs entered and made such a good showing.

Cindy Maciel's little brother Michael gained 70 yards in the first half for the Grand Saline Indians against Rockwall last weekend. Who's Cindy Maciel? I forgot.

In the wake of the LSU game Monday, the A&M ticket office sold over 10,000 worth of tickets for upcoming games. There are still tickets left for all games.

SMU may re-schedule home games

(AP)—Southern Methodist Athletic Director Dick Davis said Tuesday that the Mustangs might re-schedule some of their home games to the road unless attendance picks up.

Only 13,767 fans turned out in the Cotton Bowl Saturday to see SMU defeat Virginia Tech 28-25.

Davis said Arkansas has proposed SMU play the Razorbacks each year at Little Rock or Fayetteville.

"I wouldn't be adverse to going to Arkansas two years in a row," said Davis.

He said it was also "conceivable that we might have to put the team on the road for its non-conference schedule."

"We need to give Dallas a top-notch brand of football against teams of some magnitude. We've got clubs like Alabama, Ohio State and Tennessee coming up. But I'm not bringing them in here and subjecting them to small crowds. If we continue to draw as we are now I'd be happy to go to Knoxville, Tuscaloosa or Birmingham."

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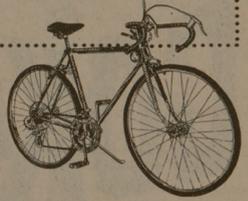
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