

Aggies manhandle Washington despite fumble

By MIKE BRUTON

The Ags defeated the Huskies 28-15 and jumped to No. 5 nationally, despite losing five of seven fumbles that repeatedly put fire into Washington.

The Aggies overcame the fumble bug, and an inspired Washington football team, to become the first A&M team since 1957 to have a 3-0 record at this point in the season. It was obvious from the beginning

of the first series of downs that the Huskies were very emotionally high for the game. They played very aggressive defense and poised offense neglecting the validity of A&M's No. 9 ranking, but the Aggies never really lost control of the football game.

The Aggie offensive attack was blemished with fumbled snaps from center and wild pitchouts and it showed in the statistics. A&M had 212 yards rushing (that's 205 yards short of last week's performance) and 126 yards passing for a 304 yard total.

There were bright spots in the Aggie attack like halfback Skip Walker's three touchdowns. Halfback Walker highlighted the offensive show with touchdown runs of three and 21 yards and a spectacular 61 yard score on a screen pass.

Bubba Bean led the Aggie runners with 73 yards in 14 carries. Skip Walker had 53 yards in 14 tries and Bucky Sams had 23 on seven. Bean didn't dance through the Huskie defense as he has done against previous opponents, but he did become A&M's fourth all-time rusher with a carrier total of 1,473 yards. Quarterback David Walker picked the Washington defense

apart with pinpoint passes to tight end Richard Osborne for key first downs throughout the second half.

Head Coach Emory Ballard had compliments for some players as he gave his appraisal of the offense. "I could favorably compare the Huskies' offense to that of LSU. As far as our own offensive team, I thought Skip Walker, Bubba Bean, and Dave Walker played extremely well," Ballard said.

The offense did show signs of a sound unit by driving the ball 72 yards in 17 plays in the final period to hold off an attempted comeback by Washington. The same was done last week against LSU and apparently, the Ags are confident about their offensive potential.

"When we needed the points, they put the ball in the end zone. You couldn't ask for more," said middle linebacker John McCrum-bly.

The Aggie defensive unit, "The Wolf Pack" as they like to call themselves, played another fine ball game. They gave up only 89 yards rushing and only 219 total yards. The "Hawks" had their first true test facing a strong passing attack and held the Huskies to 130 yards by air. Ballard had nothing but nice

things to say about the Aggie defense. "I thought our whole defensive team played very well," the Aggie mentor said.

Leading the "Hit Men" was second team All-American Ed Simonini with 12 solo tackles and five assists. McCrum-bly who has some bone-crushing tackles, was next with seven solos and four assists.

Cornerback Pat Thomas was head hawk this week intercepting two aerials and returning one 49 yards to set up the initial Aggie touchdown.

Washington never had a sustained drive scoring both their TDs on long plays. But late in the fourth quarter after two questionable pass interference calls on cornerback Tim Gray, the Huskies threatened at the A&M 12 yard line.

The "Maroon Maulia" rose to the occasion with Simonini leaping high in the air over a block to throw Hus-

kie quarterback Chris Rowland for a five-yard loss. Thomas intercepted his second pass of the afternoon in the end zone on the next play stifling the scoring attempt.

Defensive tackle Warren Trahan voiced the pride of the Aggie defenders. "In the past when some one

got to our goal line, we had doubts that we could stop them, this time we are confident, and wanted to prove to everyone that we could do it."

The Aggies travel to Lawrence, Kansas next weekend to take on tough Jayhawk football team.



RICHARD OSBORNE reaches high to grab one of four passes on which he made key first downs. (Photo courtesy of the Texas Aggie)

	Texas A&M	Washington
First downs	15	14
Rushes—yards	57—178	50—89
Passing yards	126	130
Returns yards	86	53
Passes	6—11—0	9—20—2
Punts	6—40	8—47
Fumbles—lost	7—5	6—1
Penalties—yards	8—99	4—18

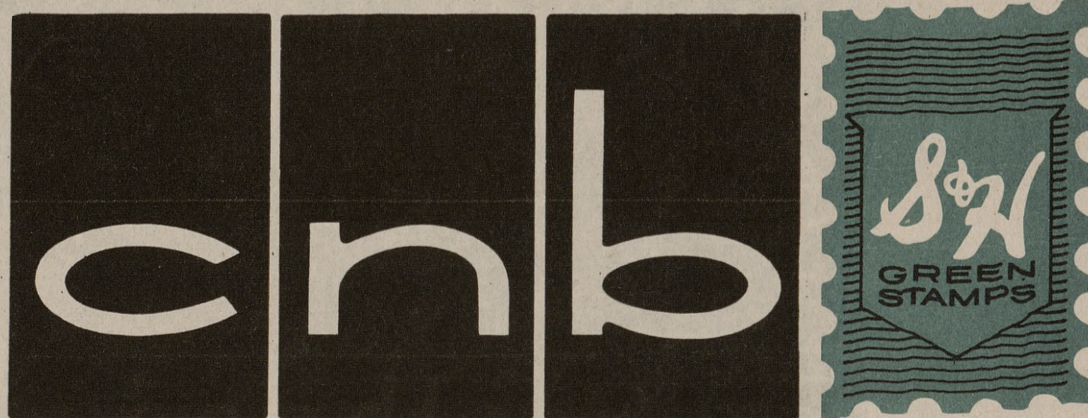


A&M'S SIXTH all-time rusher, Skip Walker runs over a Huskie defender. He scored three of the four Aggie TD's in A&M's 28-15 victory over Washington. (Photo courtesy of the Texas Aggie)

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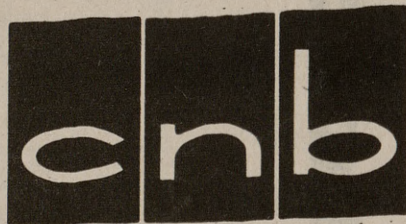
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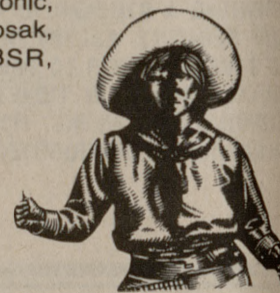


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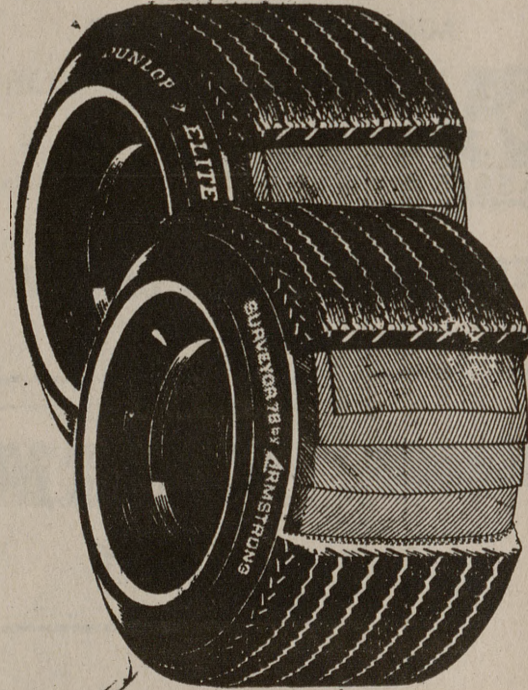


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