

Defensive play decides game momentum

By PAUL McGRATH
Staff Sports Writer

Momentum is the elusive emotion that ignites teams and can reverse the bleakest of situations. The fickle touch of momentum makes any team an equal and worthy opponent (see Penn State-Navy, Notre Dame-Purdue).

What causes momentum? A long gainer, a super catch, sometimes. A

drive-killing interception or fumble recovery, a crunching tackle or quarterback sack, nearly always. The last three are plays caused by the defense. It is the defense that most determines the momentum of a game.

The more times the defense stops the offense the more frustrating it becomes for the opponent. It is the defense that either sets the tone of

the game from the start or can reverse it at any moment.

The Texas A&M defense has successfully squelched the momentum of the opponent thus far, while at the same time, generating a little fire of their own.

Big plays like Pat Thomas' interception against Washington and Lester Hayes' tackle on the seven-yardline against LSU are a couple to mention. The Aggie defense plays aggressively and with a controlled recklessness.

"We always play with emotion and enthusiasm," said defensive co-ordinator Melvin Robertson. On momentum, Thomas said that the defense plays "a very important role. Our job is to stop their offense from scoring because scoring is winning. If we stop them enough our offense is good enough to take advantage of it."

To counteract momentum a team must rely on its poise and experience. "We have a lot of poise, mainly due to our increased experience," said Robertson.

Since many of the defensive players are getting playing time they are able to gain experience and poise. "Success makes for poise. It's the maker of a good defensive football team," said Robertson.

He added that poise controls the momentum of the opponent and that the poise of A&M's defense has been maintained in each of the first three games. "We showed poise in the last part of last season, but we weren't as consistent," he went on to say.

"The defense really is more poised now. We can accept big plays because we have confidence in ourselves," said Thomas, the Aggie cornerback.

The Aggies have good reason to be confident. The defense ranks 11th in the nation. The defense, nicknamed The Wolfpack, has given up about two yards per rushing play and a little over three yards per snap for both rushing and passing. Overall, the defense has allowed an average of 218 yards total offense per game.

"We are better in segment even though we have given up more yardage than last year," said Robertson. A&M is second to Arkansas (by a single yard) in total defense in the Southwest Conference.

However, it matters little how much yardage the opponent gains if they can't score. The Maroon Maulia have allowed 29 points in three contests. Robertson says he would like to see the defense become tops

in the SWC against scoring.

The players on the defensive team are pretty close knit and have a great respect for each other says Robertson. "They have a team type thing and play extremely well as a team. The second unit is doing a fine job. They don't look at themselves as being the first or second team. They all see themselves as being on

the defensive team."

On an individual basis, Garth Ten Napel leads in tackles with 26 unassisted and 27 assisted tackles. He and Warren Trahan also lead in tackles for losses with Trahan having the most quarterback sacks (4). Thomas has the only two pass interceptions for A&M.

Robertson is pleased with every

aspect of the defense including the pass rush and coverage, tackling and play by the specialty teams.

Poise, confidence and experience are all instilled in Robertson's Wolfpack. With these three characteristics going for them, they just may make momentum simply another word in the dictionary.

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TEXAS A&M DEFENSIVE STATISTICS—Three Games

Player	Tackles	Assists	Total	Caused Fumble	Rec. Fumble	Int.	Sack QB	Tackles for Losses
Ten Napel	26	27	53	1	2	0	2	8-50
Simonini	21	17	38	0	0	0	2	3-12
McCrumby	22	13	35	0	1	0	1	1-6
Trahan	17	7	24	2	0	0	4	8-32
Long	20	3	23	0	0	0	0	1-4
Stratton	9	9	18	0	0	0	0	2-4
Fields	12	6	18	0	0	0	1	2-4
Lamp	12	3	15	0	0	0	0	1-2
Dean	9	3	12	0	0	0	0	2-4
Schwarz	11	1	12	0	0	0	0	1-2
Thomas	5	5	10	1	1	2	1	1-5
Williams	5	3	8	1	0	0	0	0
Daniels	4	3	7	0	0	0	0	0
Hayes	6	1	7	0	0	0	0	0
Hulin	5	1	6	1	1	0	1	4-9
Marshall	3	1	4	0	0	0	1	1-15
Gray	3	0	3	1	1	0	0	0
Thurmond	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Wilkerson	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Hunnicut	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	191	104	295	7	6	2	13	35-124

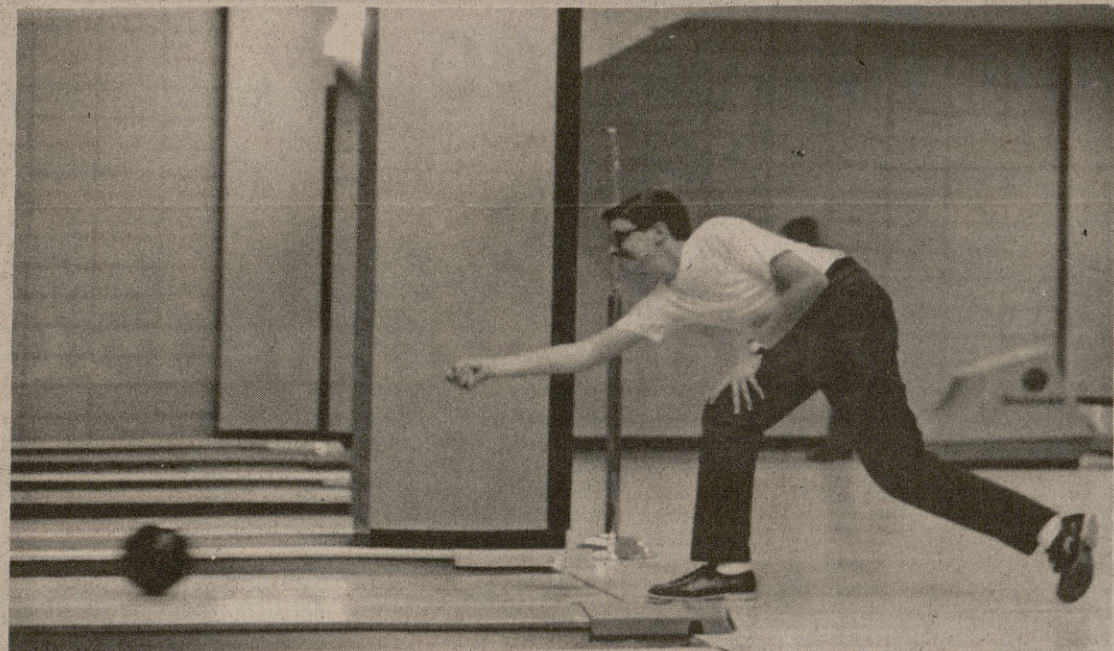
INDIVIDUAL HIGH:

TACKLES: 22, Simonini vs. Washington
20, Ten Napel vs. Clemson & LSU

	T. C. Gallucci	Steve Gray	Gerald Olivier	Mark Weaver	Alan Killingsworth	Rod Speer	Tony Gallucci	Will Anderson	Mike Bruton	Guest Picker	You Pick
A&M-Kansas	A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M	A&M	
Arkansas-TCU	Ark.	Ark.	Ark.	Ark.	Ark.	Ark.	Ark.	Ark.	Ark.	Ark.	
Baylor-Fla. St.	Fla.	Fla.	Fla.	Baylor	Baylor	Baylor	Baylor	Fla.	Baylor	Baylor	
Texas-Washington	UT	UT	UT	Wash.	UT	UT	Wash.	Wash.	UT	UT	
Tech-Okla. St.	Tech	Tech	Tech	Tech	Tech	Tech	Tech	OSU	Tech	Tech	
UH-So. Carolina	UH	UH	UH	UH	UH	SC	SC	UH	UH	UH	
SMU-Oregon St.	SMU	Ore.	SMU	SMU	SMU	SMU	SMU	Ore.	SMU	SMU	
Mich.-Stanford	Mich.	Mich.	Mich.	Mich.	Mich.	Mich.	Mich.	Mich.	Mich.	Mich.	
Redskins-Bengals	Skins	Cinn.	Skins	Skins	Skins	Skins	Skins	Skins	Cinn.	Skins	
Vikings-Cowboys	Vikes	Vikes	Vikes	Vikes	Cowboys	Vikes	Vikes	Vikes	Vikes	Cowboys	
Last Week	7-3	4-6	5-5	7-3	6-4	5-5	6-4	6-4	4-6	5-5	
Season	22-8	20-10	19-11	19-11	18-12	18-12	17-13	17-13	16-14	16-14	
Percentage	.733	.666	.633	.633	.600	.600	.566	.566	.533	.533	

Guest Picker This Week: Karen Arrington

Guest Picker next week: Dr. Jack K. Williams



Bowling is the slow roll out of Steve Mason, Maroon Band fish. Mason seems to think that if he grins at the ball hard enough it'll knock down the right pins. Don't stop buzzin', fish Mason.

Game of the Week:

Medics' Play Explosive

By ROBERT CESSNA
With explosive offense and efficient defense, M1, Medical Company, soundly defeated the H2 Spartans, 36-0.

The Spartans and the Medical company both came into the game with identical 2-0 records. The Medical Company had previously won by scores of 14-13 and 33-12.

The Medical Company, led by quarterback Barry Buske, passed and ran over the Spartans. Buske opened the scoring on a 25-yard run, but the try for extra points failed. The Medics were on the move with a 6-0 lead.

Employing the constant drive offense, the Medical Company scored again, this time on the bomb. Buske

unleashed his right arm for a 40-yard score to Mark New. Buske ran for the two points and it was 14-0.

The Spartans tried to get on the scoreboard with a drive but an overthrown pass resulted in an interception. Steve New, playing good defense as well as offense, covered his zone well and picked off the errant pass, scampering down the sidelines for a 25-yard score. A pass from Buske to New made the score 21-0.

Again the Medics got the ball with a fourth and one from midfield. They went to the air. Buske connected on a pass to Tim Hale. Hale carried to within a few yards from the endzone. However they

failed to score and the half ended, 21-0.

In the second half M1 continued their dominance with Jerry Nickerson intercepting a pass and returning it 30 yards. This set up a bootleg by Buske for the score. Buske added two points on a run and it was 29-0.

To end the scoring Buske teamed up with Hale for a 47 yard pass and the same combo added the extra point. The final score was 36-0. M1 was able to use some of their bench in the remaining game, but kept their shutout in tact.

Humor found the Duncan playing field when Buske lost the back part of his pants. He played with a half pair until another pair were secured.

Ball and Pins Become Objects of Intramural Interest

Bowling is the subject this week, with all leagues starting play next week.

Bowling has picked up as an intramural sport with a 50 per cent increase in the number of teams over last year.

Some 80 teams bowled last year in the program. This year the number has risen to 124. Some organizations, mostly the dorms, have swamped the field with three or more teams.

Black Awareness overcomes

Greeks

By BOB GIVENS

BAC rode the passing combination of Buck Durley and Joe Holmes to defeat Delta Kappa 16-6. Durley hit Holmes with an 8-yard touchdown pass following Holmes' interception of a Delta Kappa pass and Durley ran in the conversion to make it 8-0.

BAC drove for three penetrations as opposed to Delta Kappa's two.

Kappa's only serious scoring drive was halted at the BAC ten yard line by a Stan Evans interception. The defense accounted for their only score. Mike Dishman returned an intercepted pass 60 yards for a TD late in the first half.

These Intramural Highlights are sponsored every Friday by McDonald's on University Dr. The page is prepared by Mary Russo & the Intramural Office, De Ware Field House, 845-2624.

"Watch & Enter"

It's October and it's entries are closing fast. Consideration of what to enter and when should be given some attention.

The tennis and badminton entry date have already slipped by. Tennis singles will be played on the University courts, behind Kyle Field. Badminton will be played in the Coliseum Annex.

Two more individual type events are coming up fast. The field goal kicking contest will allow its finalists to kick-off before the crowd at the All-University Flag Football Play-Off.

The other is an open swimming meet with men and women divisions. There are some co-ed relay events. All events will be no longer than 50 meters. There's also a one-meter diving competition.

Entries for field goal kicking and swimming must be in by October 8. Swimmers can enter individually, they need not represent any group.

Keathley has teams A-C, W1; teams A-E, Crocker sponsored not only the Diles, Jacks, but also the Pieces. White, Moses, Law and Hart have teams I-IV and the Corps always pulls all the outfits' upperclassmen and a separate league for fish.

All games are bowled in the Memorial Student Center lanes.

There's already been a team score of 497 bowled by the Moses civilian division team.

The average team score so far noted is 400, meaning the average total per person is a 133.

Intramural bowling looks pretty tough. Maybe you should come out and give your team a little moral support.



Another M-Band frick uses a slightly different technique to cooer the ball into the pins. "Aw come on, Baby," he almost sighs. Check the wrist and hand frick, that ball might get some ideas. The M-Band lost this match to Squadron 6, 366-343.