

Aggies plummet as Jayhawks fly high, lose 28-10

By PAUL McGRATH
Staff Sports Writer

Band Day in Kansas was more like Nero playing his fiddle for the Texas Aggies.

In what had to be their poorest performance of the young season, the Aggies were totally dominated by the Jayhawks in every phase of the game to the tune of 28-10, before a Kansas crowd of 36,230, including several state high school bands as guests of KU.

The game was a study in lethargy as the Farmers failed to show any consistency on offense and were as equally sporadic defensively. In contrast to Head Coach Emory Ballard's statement that he had no knowledge of the team being down emotionally, Dennis Swilley said the team was flat and just seemed to be going through the motions rather than playing with an all-out effort.

A&M was never able to move the ball well on the Jayhawks and only obtained four first downs in the first half. They added seven more in the second half of which four were made on David Walker's last ditch passing spree against a KU defense that was playing back to stop the long gainer. The 173 yards rushing was the low-

est this year as was the total yardage.

"They (the KU defense) just came at our offense and beat everybody," said halfback Bubba Bean.

In the trenches, Smelser cited Kansas as having the best pass rush he had seen this year. He especially was complimentary of Mike Butler, only a sophomore, saying he was the best he had faced. That includes some pretty high company, such as Texas Tech's Ecomet Burley.

"We felt like Kansas was the best team we would play going into the game," said Ballard.

The defense was for the most part ineffective, giving up a total of 453 yards to the KU offense. The majority of the game saw a great deal of arm tackling by the A&M defense which defensive co-ordinator Melvin Robertson blamed as "being partly our fault and partly the speed of their backs."

Kansas quarterback, Scott McMichael, hit on 12 of 14 passes on an Aggie secondary that was fifth in the nation last year. Speed burner Emmett Edwards was on the receiving end of five of the passes for 121 yards, including a 61 yard touchdown.

Two Kansas backs, Robert Miller and Laverne Smith, each gained over 100 yards (142 and 135 respectively). Kansas' 28 points came within one of matching the entire amount allowed by the Aggies in their first three games.

The final Jayhawk score summed the game in a capsule. With 26 seconds left, Smith broke around left end and plain outraced the A&M defense for a 53 yard tally. As the teams lined up for the extra point, the Aggie defensive trudged slowly to their positions with their heads bowed in an obvious gesture of defeat.

The primary reason for the loss was the sluggish, unaggressive and unemotional play of the entire team. But there are little things that go on in a game that decide the verdict.

On the scoring pass to Edwards, both Tim Gray and James Daniels slipped down. The astroturf was wet and slippery but, as Bean said, "they had to play on it too." The usually sure-handed Richard Osborne missed a Walker pass while he was wide open and streaking for the KU goal line.

In the third quarter on a third and

three situation with the Aggies on their own 44, Bucky Sams swept left and fumbled the pitchout when he had an excellent chance to pick up the first down. Several times in the game Jayhawk runners were apparently trapped on or behind the line only to break away and gain big yardage. A possible interception by Daniels was negated when the KU receiver collided with him.

Perhaps the biggest play of the game was the blocked punt by Gray. The feat set up A&M's only touchdown and temporarily shifted the momentum to the Aggies. However, A&M failed to take control of the game after gaining the advantage. "We didn't take charge like we should have," said Bean.

There were a few bright spots in the otherwise dismal day. Gray's punt block and the return to the four by Edgar Fields; Daniels' interception which killed a KU drive, a 25-yard gallop by Skip Walker; the eight straight completions by David Walker; the defensive play of Blake Schwarz at right end and the punting of Mark Stanley caused the day not to be a total failure.

This marked the second straight game the offense has had problems although the defense did well against Washington. The long awaited sustained drive that would turn the game in A&M's favor never came.

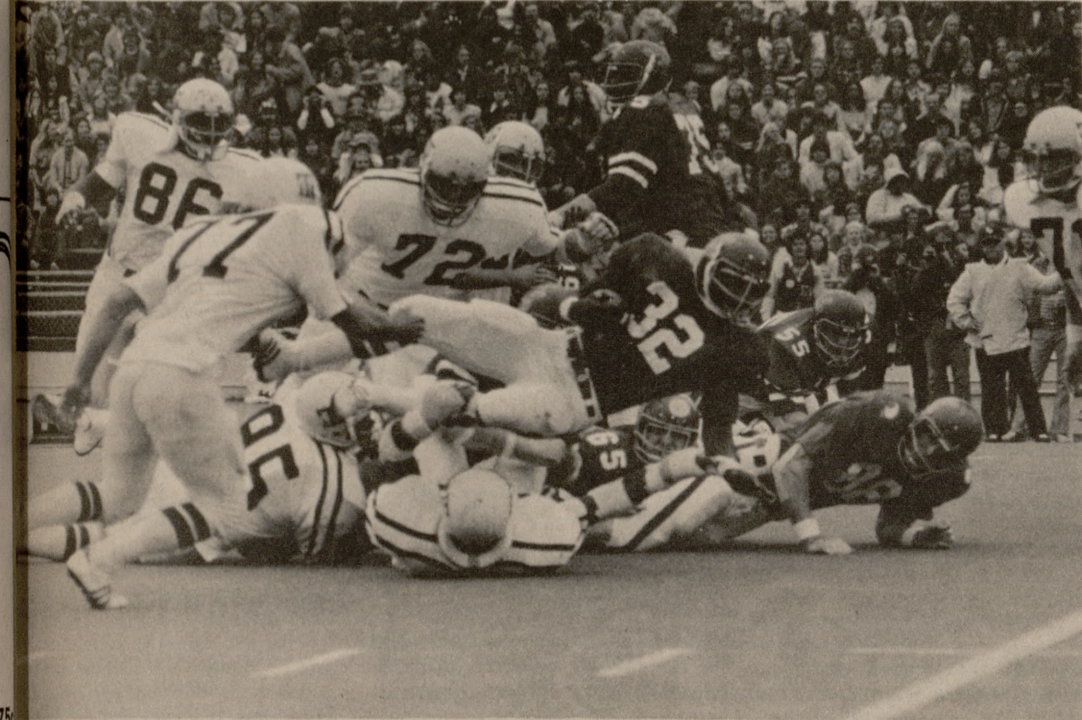
Perhaps the team had Texas Tech more on their minds than Kansas.

After all, it is more difficult to get up emotionally to play an opponent that you have never faced before than one who is a yearly rival. The sternest test for a team is to rise to the occasion against the teams that are hard to emotionally prepare for.

Whatever the reason, for A&M, the last two games have been only a facsimile of the same team that dominated over Clemson and LSU. However, the biggest loss for Aggies last Saturday was pride. Along

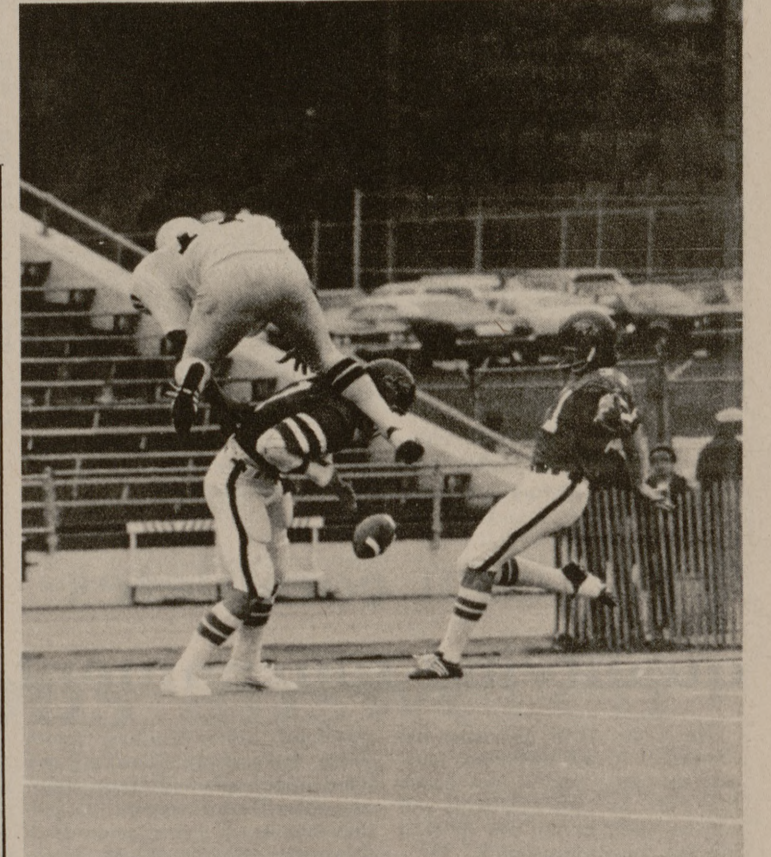
with their pride went their recently gained national ranking and their short three game winning streak.

After tasting defeat for the first time this year, the Aggies must now do what they haven't had to previously this year. That is rebound and get back the style of play present in the first two games. The Kansas game does not call for a re-evaluation or rebuilding of the team. It simply calls for a reawakening.



A GROUP OF Aggie defenders pulls the rug from beneath the feet of Robert Miller (32 in dark jersey). Miller gained 142 yards in the game. Ags pictured are Ed Simonini (77), Jimmy Dean (72), and Tank Marshall (86). (Photo by Jack Holm)

JAYHAWKS
BOMB AGS
28-10



LINEBACKER Ed Simonini plays leap frog with a KU blocker in an attempt to block a punt in Saturday's game. Kansas won 28-10. (Photo by Jack Holm)

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