

Had seven unassisted tackles

# Thomas' play against Tech earns SWC player award

By MARK WEAVER  
Staff Sports Writer

Pat Thomas, defensive back for the Texas Aggies, made himself known to a national television audience Saturday and the Texas Tech team of 1974 may never forget him.

In the 28-7 Aggie romp over the hapless Red Raiders, Thomas made seven unassisted tackles, knocked down four passes and sacked quarterback Tommy Duniven once. He was awarded the Chevrolet defensive player of the game which gives A&M a \$1,000 scholarship award. He also earned the Associated Press

Southwest Conference Defensive Player of the Week award.

"Pat Thomas is the quickest defensive back I've had in 24 years coaching and can jump right up there with any receiver because of the tremendous spring in his legs," said A&M defensive coordinator Melvin Robertson.

"I'd like to say we've helped that kid with coaching, but we haven't," Robertson said. "He's got the kind of talent you don't mess with... the quickest feet I ever saw."

Thomas came to A&M from Plane

High School as an All-State running back. He said he is content on the defensive side of the line, but occasionally gets the urge to carry the ball.

The defensive secondary seemed to have problems against Kansas passing but came back and had a great day against Tech. Quarterback Duniven was 7 of 18 and one interception, picked off by Ed Simonini.

This weekend the secondary will be tested again by the TCU pro-type offense.

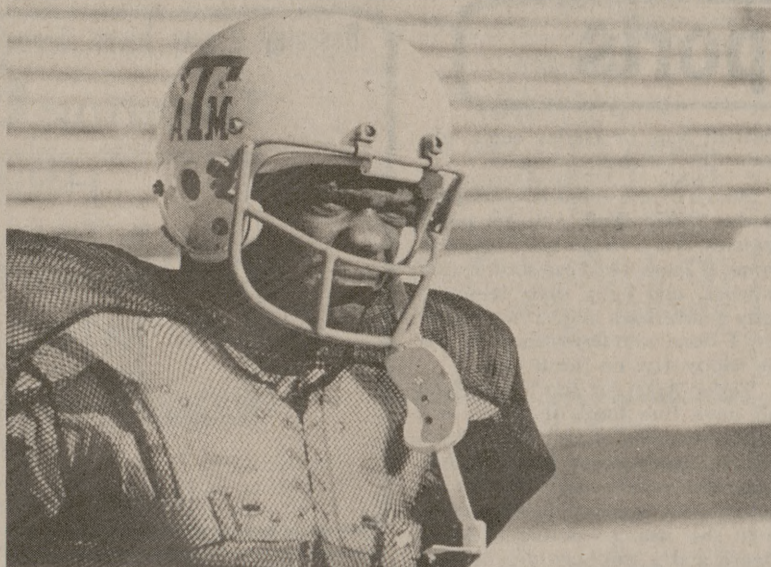
"TCU is looking sounder every week," Coach Emory Bellard said. "Their quarterback (Lee Cook) is leading the conference in passing and their receivers returned from last year."

"Cook has a good strong arm and is capable of throwing all types of passes," Bellard said. "Our defensive secondary has the quickness to stay with the receivers, but the pass rush must also be aggressive."

In two weeks the Aggies will travel to Baylor to play another strong passing team led by last year's leading passer in the SWC, Neal Jeffrey. The Aggie secondary will have their hands full the next few weeks, as will the rest of the team.

Thomas has amazing physical strength as well as the ability to jump like a kangaroo. He can bench press 280-300 pounds which is about 100 pounds more than normal for someone his size.

"He's a real hitter," Robertson said. Some of the Red Raiders might agree with that, especially Tommy Duniven and flanker Lawrence Williams.



PAT THOMAS, AP Southwest Conference defensive player of the week. (Photo by Glen Johnson)

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## Volleyball feds lack teamwork

The "teamwork" key keeps getting lost for the A&M women's volleyball team.

"Teamwork improved every game," said coach Laura Kitzmiller, "and it should be where we want it for state play."

In the round robin tournament, A&M took three losses and one win in their pool. Southwest Texas, UT at Arlington and Abilene Christian, all rallied for the third game of the match, beating the Ags.

A&M finished off Southern Methodist in two games.

UTA took the University of Houston Tournament, with the host school taking third.

The volleyballers go to University of Texas campus Oct. 25 for tournament play.

The women begin zone play Oct. 23 when Baylor and Mary Hardin-Baylor come to DeWare Field House to challenge the Ags at 6 p.m.

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