

Ags may depend on Haddox's leg

Placekicker's 57-yarder longest in school history

By ROBERT CESSNA
Staff Sports Writer
The clock shows only eight seconds left in the game and the Aggies have used their last time out. It's

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A&M's ball on the Longhorn 30 and they trail, 19-17. Out comes Randy Haddox. He takes two steps then kicks the ball which sails through the uprights from 47 yards out. The kick has given the Aggies a win and the right to go on to the Cotton Bowl.

Fictional, you say? Yes, but it may become fact in a couple of weeks. And the Ags going to the Cotton Bowl could well depend on the leg of Randy Haddox. "I'd hate to be put in that situation. Any field goal is hard," Haddox said. If this would occur, Haddox realizes that a lot of pressure would be on him if he made it or not. Haddox said that placekicking is one of

the important jobs on the football team. "Obviously you want to put points on the board," he said. The offense has worked hard to get the ball into position and it's his job to get points on the board.

Haddox has always had confidence in his kicking ability. He started as a freshman in high school when he thought he could do better than the kid who was kicking. He did. Last year Haddox was 10 for 17 in field goals and kicked 32 out of 35 extra points for a total of 62 points. So far this season he is 7 for 16 in field goals and 21 for 21 in extra points for 42 points.

Standing 6'4" and weighing 235 pounds, Randy does not look like a kicker. He appears he could be a defensive end punishing people. He proved his kicking ability again on Saturday against Arkansas when he kicked two field goals, one being a 57-yarder good for the A&M record book.

Haddox said he has gained distance this year and accuracy. "I lifted weights during the summer and kicked more," Haddox said.

When Coach Emory Bellard was questioned about the field goal after the game he said, "Haddox is capable of kicking long field goals. I've seen him kick them time after time from the 45 in practice, without the wind. I knew if he hit it right he would get it. He has a strong leg and there was a strong wind."

Confidence and timing are two things that made that field goal as well as all others possible. "If a kicker has a negative attitude and feels he is going to miss, then he will," Haddox said. If you missed one previously, you try to blot it out of your mind and try harder to concentrate," said Haddox.

Timing depends on the center getting off a good snap and then the holder must get it down with the threads opposite the kicker. All this must be done in a few seconds if the kick is to come off. Haddox credits center Matt Freeman and holder David Shipman with important parts in the field goal game.

A practice day starts out with Haddox and other kickers, snappers and holders arriving 20 minutes earlier than the rest of the team. Coach Bellard and LaGrasta watch the extra-points and field goals while Haddox alternates with the other kickers. Then comes the regular

practice where he does exercises. Next they have the regular kicking session with kickoffs, field goals and extra points. Haddox then goes to the practice field the rest of the day to work on more kicking. At the end of practice comes the workout with special teams.

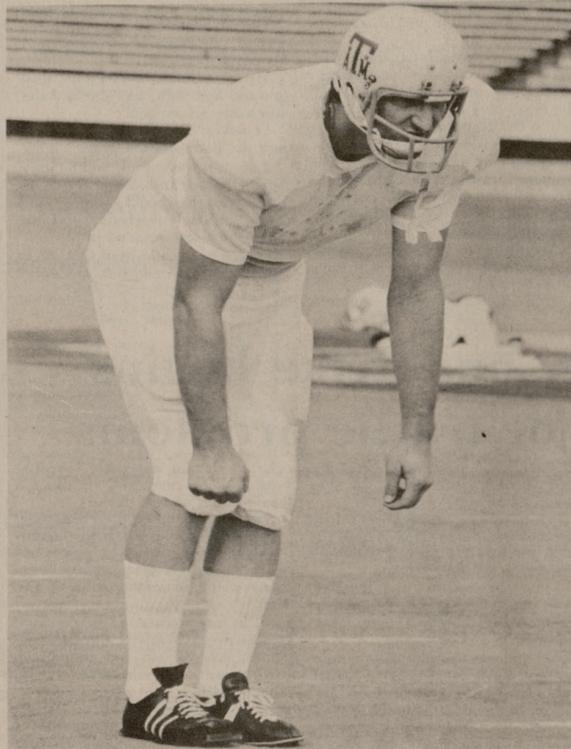
This year professional football adopted rules to try to reduce the effect of the place-kickers. Many observers say they are not athletes at all.

"I'd like to see them do it," Haddox said. "They have to be some kind of athlete or then they wouldn't be able to kick as far or as accurate as

they do," he added. His leg is dead tired after games.

Every time the Aggies have the ball in the opposition's territory and it gets to third down, Haddox must get ready. He gets tense, then if they pick up the first down he can relax. But in three plays he may be in the same situation. By the time he enters the game he has been ready and waiting many times.

Haddox being a place-kicker has time to view the Aggie team. "The defense is doing a hell of a job. The offense is doing a hell of a job too, but they fumble sometimes. But they get the job done when they have to," said Haddox.



Randy Haddox practices place-kicking

Conference briefs

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. (AP) — The Arkansas Razorbacks practiced for 90 minutes Wednesday under the silent reminder of the Razorback Stadium scoreboard. The scoreboard read Rice 17, Arkansas 7—the score of last year's football game.

"We put that up there for a little incentive. It will remain up there all week," said Arkansas Coach Frank Broyles.

WACO, Tex. (AP) — Baylor Coach Grant Teaff said Wednesday that defending Texas in Saturday's Southwest Conference football game will "be a complex thing."

"Texas can hurt you so many ways," Teaff said. "Not only must you stop Roosevelt Leaks and Earl Campbell up the middle but they have great outside speed in Grayln Wyatt and Raymond Clayborn."

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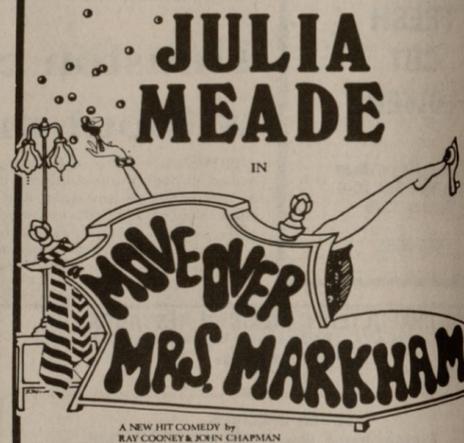
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