

Injuries much improved

Aggies have big day against Rice

By ROBERT CESSNA
Staff Sports Writer

On Saturday afternoon the Aggie defense quelled a rumor that they could not read.

Writers have been commenting on the lack of imagination in the Aggie offense and the fans have been complaining about the poor offensive showings. It was thought by some that it would be better if the defense was the only unit that showed up because they could probably outpace the offense.

But on Saturday David Walker led the offense in picture perfect fashion. He came into the game with minus 79 yards rushing for the year. This is a poor total when you consider he's a running quarterback. He ran the ball eight times for a net of 13 yards but more important he guided the team. The Ag runners carried the ball 64 times for 375 yards which figures out to a nifty 5.8 average per carry in their 37-7 victory.

This was done with a variation of runners and that is more amazing when you consider how important running is on each running play. Seven backs have now played key roles in the Aggie offense throughout the year. Most teams don't have that luxury. All year the offensive backfield has been rearranged making a strain on the timing of the unit. Bubba Bean led the runners Saturday with 138 yards on 10 carries for a 13.8 average. He had touchdown runs of 18 and 34 yards. He also had a run of 60 yards included in his total. Bean also broke

the string Jerry Honore had going where he had scored the last four Aggie scores. Bean's total for 1974 gives him the second best one season rushing mark in A&M history. He needs just 87 yards to surpass the 1000 yard season mark.

Another giant plus for the Ags was the return of Bucky Sams. Sams had been out of the Aggie lineup recently because of a leg injury. But when he replaced Honore in the middle of the first period it was less than four minutes later that A&M scored its first touchdown. Sams finished with 87 yards on 15 carries and one touchdown run.

Honore, who started his first game, went out when Sams came in but returned to the game in the third quarter. Honore picked up 48 yards on 12 carries and scored the last A&M touchdown.

David Shipman got his first taste of action at halfback and showed the fans that the Ag offense is deep in runners. Shipman added 37 yards, with a 14-yard run being his longest. But more important, he played running back like he had been there all year. Another Aggie plus.

All these pluses have to do with the Aggie ability to show versatility on offense and still have precise timing.

Mike Jay also did a fine job adding to the Aggie laurels. For the second week in a row he saw action and played the position flawlessly. And that's difficult when you consider the little playing time he has received.

If you watched when Owl quarterback Rand Clark came into the

game for his first action of the season he was very unsure of himself. He was uncertain of his handoffs, got intercepted and later was removed from the game when Lester Hayes tried to separate his body from the ball.

If you contrast Jay and Clark you can see how important time is. Not only did Jay run the offense well but he showed a lot of desire and hustle. When Bean fumbled after his 60-yard jaunt it was Jay who hustled downfield to fight for the fumble. Even though the official ruled it was the Owl's ball, Jay got up from the turf with the ball in his hands.

Last and hopefully not least to consider is the Aggie offensive line. They opened the running holes so that the Aggies would not have to throw the ball. David Walker put the ball in the air only three times completing one for two yards. But running the ball the way the Ags did Saturday, they didn't need to throw. Bear Bryant who was once at A&M said three things can happen when you put the ball in the air and two are bad. Evidently Ballard must agree with Bryant.

This game was also a must game for the Aggies and they responded to the occasion. This was the fourth must game for the Ags and they have risen to the call everytime. A&M has now defeated LSU, Tech, Baylor and Rice in what must be considered crucial games.

The 37 points scored for A&M were the most this year. It was also the most points scored against Rice by an A&M team and the widest

margin of victory ever against Rice.

While these are all major pluses for the offense which was under fire, the defense did their usual A work.

Ed Simonini intercepted on the first Rice series. Pat Thomas scored A&M's second touchdown on a fumble recovery return. Tribute to the defense goes on and on. But what more can be said for a defense that harassed Owl quarterbacks into three interceptions and only nine completions out of 34 attempts?

A&M will have till the 29th to prepare for Texas. The Ags must win if they are to face the Nittany Lions of Penn State in the Cotton Bowl, Jan. 1.

Injuries were still apparent in the Rice game as Skip Walker did not play and his status for Texas is un-

known. Rice's All-American candidate nose-guard Cornelius Walker (Skip's brother) did not play in Saturday's game. Bucky Sams appears very healthy and he couldn't have come at a better time because Ronnie Hubby left the game in the second quarter with a pulled groin muscle and did not return to action.

Glenn Bujnock went out in the first period with a sprained ankle but returned to action. John Paul McCrumby limped out in the first period but returned in the third.

All in all the Aggies put it together both offensively and defensively. It couldn't happen at a better time as it seems Texas was also putting it together with a 81-16 crushing victory of TCU. It should be some show in Austin the day after Thanksgiving.

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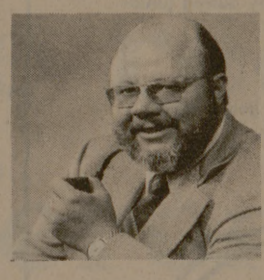
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DALLAS (AP) — Dallas Cowboy quarterback Roger Staubach was hospitalized with an infected elbow Monday, but he was expected to rejoin his teammates in practice by Wednesday.

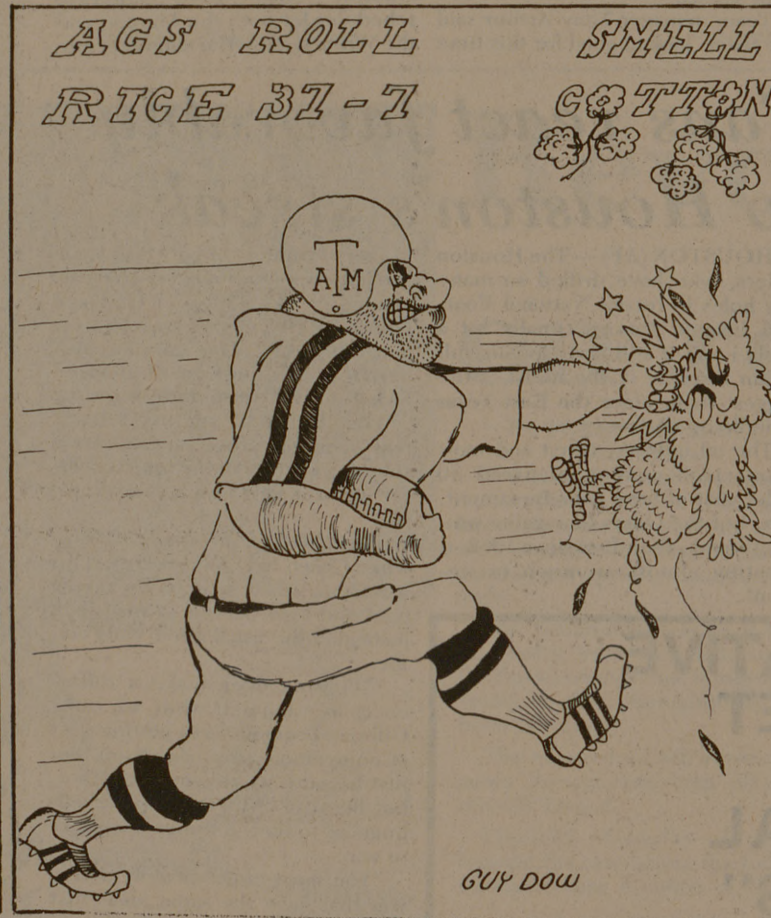
Staubach was taken to the hospital so heat treatments and antibiotics could be administered more easily, a spokesman for the National Football League team said.

The Dallas backup quarterback is rookie Clint Longley, who has yet to play a down in a regular season NFL game.

HOUSTON (AP) — The general chairman of the annual Lombardi Award, symbolic of the nation's top collegiate lineman, announced Monday a 60-member selection committee to name the 1975 recipient.

Chairman Bob Newey said newsmen, athletic directors and coaches would make up the selection committee for the fifth annual award, to be presented Jan. 16 at a \$100-per plate dinner here.

The award is presented in honor of former Green Bay and Washington coach Vince Lombardi, who died of cancer.



GUY DOW

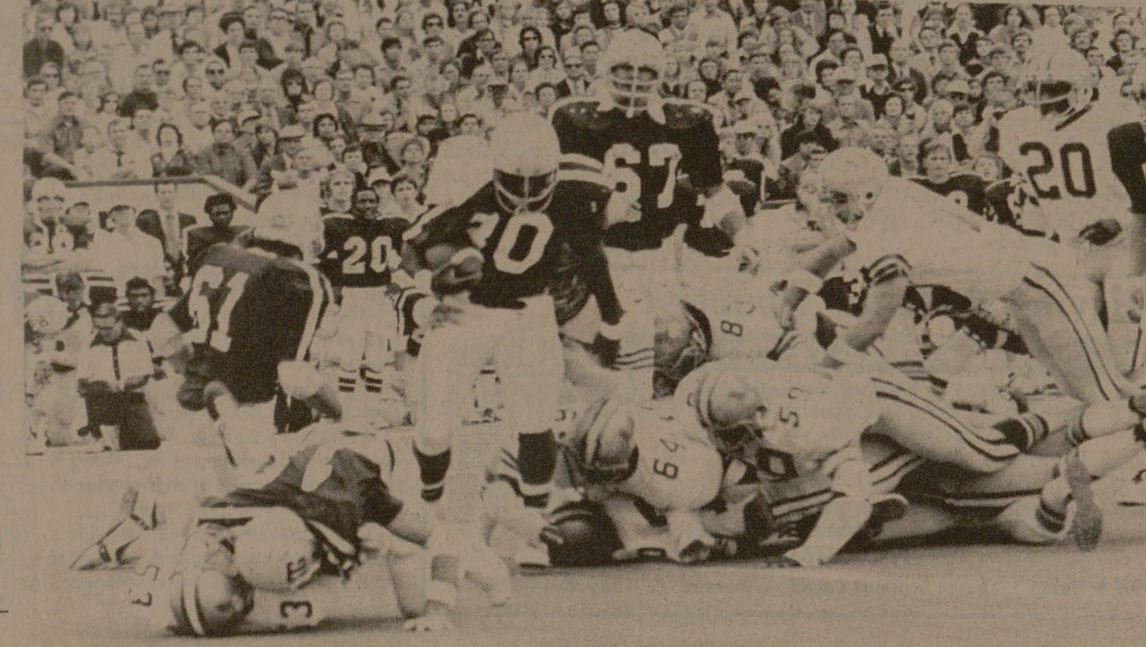
The AP Top 20

By The Associated Press

The Top Twenty teams in The Associated Press college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, season record and total points. Points tabulated on basis of 25-16-14-12-10-9-8 etc.

Oklahoma (45)	9-0-0	1,198
Alabama (9)	10-0-0	1,078
Michigan (8)	10-0-0	1,040
Ole Miss (5)	9-1-0	874
Notre Dame	8-1-0	639
Nebraska	8-2-0	630
Auburn	9-1-0	560
Bo California	7-3-1	542
Texas A&M	8-2-0	375
Penn State	8-2-0	311
Maryland	7-3-0	227
Miami, O	9-0-1	187
Su. Caro. St.	9-2-0	168
Michigan St.	6-3-1	113
Boston	7-2-0	102
Kent	6-2-0	67
Texas	7-3-0	20
Pitt	7-3-0	42
California	7-2-1	41
Florida	7-3-0	36

(Others receiving votes, listed alphabetically: Arizona, Brigham Young, Kentucky, Mississippi State, Oklahoma State, Temple, UCLA, Utah State, Wisconsin, Yale.)



Jerry Honore breaks through Rice defense. (Photo by Steve Krauss)

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