

Defense pitches in two!

Offense is for real, scores 37

By PAUL McGRATH
Battalion Sports Writer

The Texas A&M offense stepped into a phone booth and threw off its meek, mild disguise Saturday night and then did everything but leap tall buildings in Tiger Stadium.

The Aggies put it all together, running the stripes off the LSU Tigers to a 39-8 count.

Many forecasters had the Bayou Bengals in the favorite role. However, six plays into the game A&M showed where the true dominance rested.

Bubba Bean took a David Shipman pitch and scooted 46 yards to put the Cadets into the lead before many of the fans had located their seats. It was a lead the Aggies were never to relinquish.

The Aggie offense featured big plays the entire night. Besides Bean's run, Shipman chipped in a 42-yard touchdown jaunt and freshman George Woodward added 66 and 20-yard scoring gallops. Those four runs were almost one half of A&M's total ground yardage of 390 yards.

The A&M pit crews dominated the line of scrimmage. The offensive line of Glenn Bujnoch, Bruce Welch, Henry Tracy, Billy Lemons and freshman George Woodward opened wide gaps in the Tiger defense. Their efforts destroyed Houston Post sports editor John Hollis' comment about the Aggies having a "chorus line" offense (one-two-three-kick).

"One-two-three-kick my (expletive)," said Bujnoch. "We came off the ball fast, something we didn't do last week." It was off Bujnoch's, Welch's and Richard Osborne's blocks that Woodward sprang for his first six-pointer.

Right tackle Smelser described the Aggie attack this way. "We ran inside the left end or up the middle the whole first half, and they started to get worried about us going up the middle. Then we started going outside and just blew them out of there."

Smelser added that the team seemed more emotional. "It's just LSU. They've beat us so many times before. It took us a little time to jell, but I think it's getting together."

Two things were different about the offense from last week according to Lemons. "There was more enthusiasm and we came off the ball and hit. And then we fought when we got there. We became a bunch of fighters."

Offensive co-ordinator Tom Wilson had a similar opinion. "I knew we were capable of doing it. The kids realized what they had done the week before and came out fighting."

Another group of Aggies came out fighting in Cajun country also. The maroon defensive eleven continued to awe the crowd by completely dismantling a respectable Tiger offense.

The Tigers gained but 38 yards on the ground in 44 attempts and only 114 yards total for the evening. The defense has allowed only 196 yards in the first two games and is yet to surrender a point.

Tiger runners were thrown for

losses nine times, once resulting in a safety by Jesse Hunnicutt. On their first half possessions the Bengals had gains of 3, 3, 0, 5, 4, -1, 4, 26, -10 and 0. They fumbled the ball away twice to the voracious Aggie defenders, once after their only first down of the half on a pass to tight end Bo Dunphy.

A&M kept up the pressure in the second half, intercepting Tiger quarterback Pat Lyons twice. "Oh baby, what a sweet thing, what a sweet thing," said linebacker Ed Simonini who had one of the pass thefts and sacked Lyons for a 13-yard loss. "The offense and defense is Texas A&M," said Simonini.

Freshman kicker Tony Franklin boomed in his first field goal as an Aggie, a 47-yarder just before the close of the second quarter after an earlier shot of the same distance was wide. Franklin was involved in some fisticuffs near the end of the game and was sent to the bench via the referee's thumb. Franklin appeared to be justified in his assault as he was given cheap shots after each previous kickoff. Franklin was replaced by punter Mark Stanley on the final kickoff and he too was a victim of the ill-tempered Tigers, receiving a less than honorable shot.

Woodward gained 106 yards in six carries to lead the A&M ground attack. Shipman almost hit the century mark, netting 99 yards in 17 trips. Halfback Bubba Bean became only the second Aggie to cross the 2,000 yard mark in a career with his 79 yard performance. He now has 2,035 yards for his little over three years at A&M and trails only Bob Smith by 381 yards on the all-time list.

Another Aggie record fell as Carl Roaches became the top career punt returner in yardage gained with 881 yards.

Head Coach Emory Bellard cited the game as one of A&M's biggest ever. This win put Bellard over the 500 mark for the first time since he began his tenure with a win over Wichita State in 1972 only to lose the next six in a row.

He summarized the LSU game by saying, "Our offense controlled the game and the line of scrimmage. I wish somebody would say what a fine job of blocking our kids did. Our offensive line did one tremendous job of blocking, real blocking."

"I thought the whole football team played an outstanding game. I really didn't know what the score might be when we went in. I really thought it would be a low-scoring game because of the strength of the two defenses."

"We weren't set last week, and that's probably my fault. We just weren't really ready, but tonight I think we were."

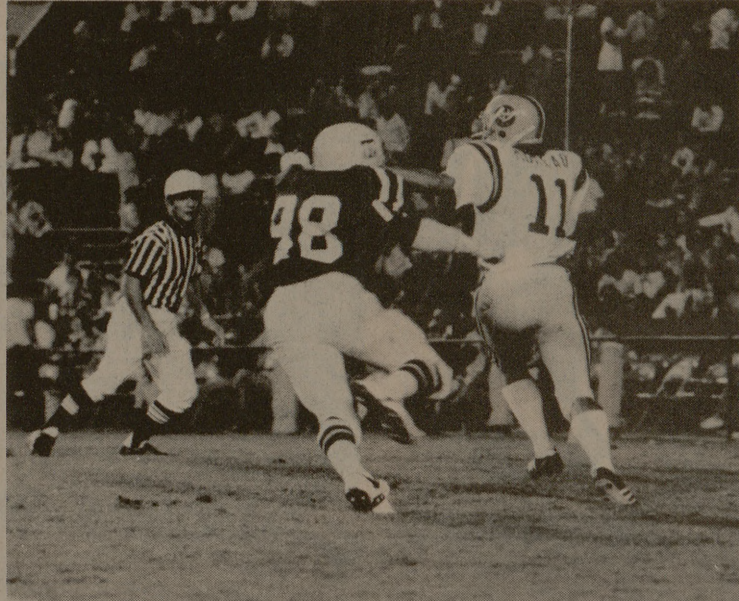
It was the worst defeat for LSU since 1963 when Ole Miss got the

best of the Tigers 37-3. This game also closes out the A&M-LSU series that stands 22-14-3 in the Tiger's favor, although the Aggies have won the last two games.

A Tiger fan perhaps had the best statement about the game. "Man,

what a way to end it (the series)," he said.

A&M will now face the Fighting Illini of the University of Illinois this Saturday at 12:50 p.m. Illinois (1-1) is just off a 30-20 loss to tough Missouri and should prove quite a test for the undefeated Aggies.



Aggie linebacker Jesse Hunnicutt chases LSU quarterback Bobby Morneau into no-man's land in the fourth quarter of

Saturday night's game and sacks him for the first Ag defensive score of the year.

Photo by Glen Johnson

Opening Soon!

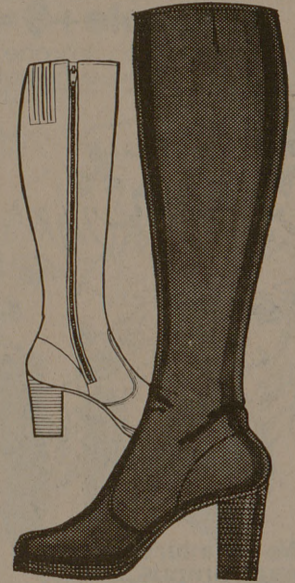


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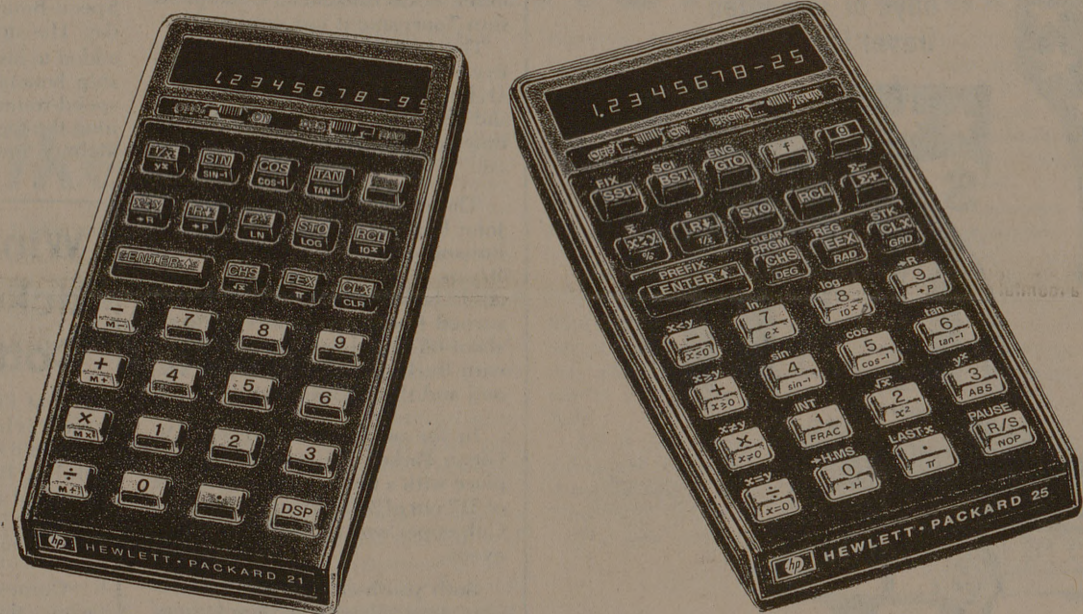
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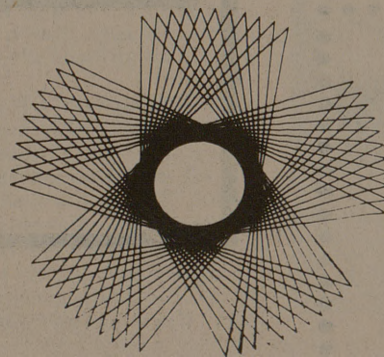
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