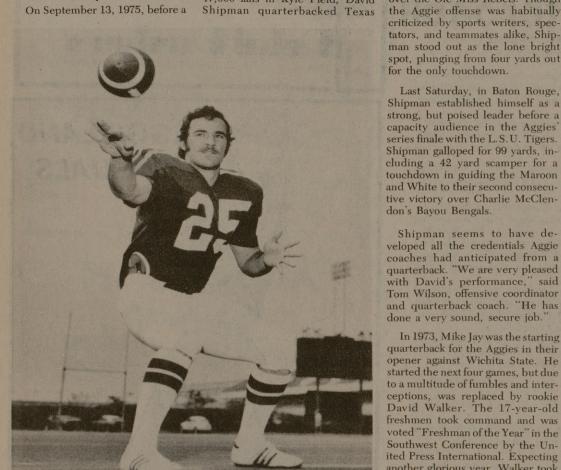
Shipman is bright spot

record opening crowd of more than 47,000 fans in Kyle Field, David



David Shipman

over the Ole Miss Rebels. Though criticized by sports writers, spectators, and teammates alike, Shipman stood out as the lone bright spot, plunging from four yards out for the only touchdown.

Last Saturday, in Baton Rouge, Shipman established himself as a strong, but poised leader before a capacity audience in the Aggies' series finale with the L.S.U. Tigers. Shipman galloped for 99 yards, including a 42 yard scamper for a touchdown in guiding the Maroon and White to their second consecutive victory over Charlie McClendon's Bayou Bengals.

Shipman seems to have developed all the credentials Aggie coaches had anticipated from a quarterback. "We are very pleased with David's performance," said Tom Wilson, offensive coordinator and quarterback coach. "He has done a very sound, secure job."

In 1973, Mike Jay was the starting quarterback for the Aggies in their opener against Wichita State. He started the next four games, but due to a multitude of fumbles and interceptions, was replaced by rookie David Walker. The 17-year-old freshmen took command and was voted "Freshman of the Year" in the Southwest Conference by the United Press International. Expecting another glorious year, Walker took charge of the Farmers last fall. The Aggie offense was disheartened

ning and throwing the football. Shipman was Walker's back up. The week of the game with Rice though, due to recurring injuries to the entire A&M backfield, Shipman was shifted to halfback. He was used sparingly at quarterback in the Ags' 32-3 loss to Texas in Austin two

When Shipman was recruited in 1973, he was their apparent after leading Odessa Permian to the State Class 4-A championship. Early in the spring of his freshman year, though, his knee was severely injured, requiring surgery. He sat out the entire 1973 season.

Shipman is a junior, 6-1 and 200, whose greatest attribute is his overall strength. "The big thing going for

David is his strength, which he has displayed on several occasions,' said Wilson. "He did an excellent job of leading the team. He is an excellent passer and an extremely tough runner. Also, he is much faster than people realize. We expect him to gain experience week after

As David Shipman continues to progress, Mike Jay and David Walker will have to watch from the sidelines. The only question mark now traces back to the offensive line. Can the men up front continue to perform as they did Saturday night in Baton Rouge? An extended combination of Shipman's leadership and a "together" offense could bring A&M its finest season since the John Kimbrough era.

'Horns short on running backs

AUSTIN, Tex. - Coach Darrell Royal disclosed Wednesday that the Longhorns are more battered than he first thought for Saturday night's Southwest Conference football opener with Texas Tech.

Royal had said Monday that defensive end Travis Couch and offensive guard Will Wilcox would miss the game, and Wednesday he told the Longhorn Club he had since learned of several other injured

They include defensive tackle Brad Shearer, the leading tackler in Texas' front four, who has a sprained ankle, and halfback Jimmy Walker, the top blocker in the backfield, who has a bruised foot.

The injury that worried Royal the most, he said, was Walker's because Texas already is "so thin" at

But Royal assured applauding club members that those who do play against Tech "will be in a better frame of mind than they were last year," when Tech ripped Texas, 26-3, at Lubbock.

In narrating films of Texas' 28-10 victory over Washington, Royal commented about Texas quarterback Marty Akins: "I sure wish folks would let him alone about his pas-

A moment later the film showed Akins flipping a scoring pitchout to halfback Gralyn Wyatt, and Royal said, "That was a pretty pass right

Although Royal hired Don Breaux as coach to spice up Texas' passing offense and Akins threw all summer, the senior three-year starter has completed only four of 11 tosses in two games for 31 yards.

Breaux said before the season that Akins is probably too sensitive about his lack of success passing, but Royal said Monday, "I still think we can throw, and I think we will throw. There will come a time when completions will help us a lot.



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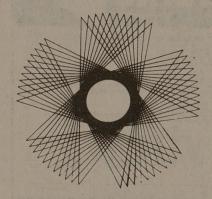
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