

Ags remain undefeated

Beat inspired KSU team

By TONY GALLUCCI
Battalion Sports Editor

The Aggies encountered the first jinx of the season, although the dubious situation was merely a year old, and came home nurturing a perfect record after having disposed of the Wildcats of Kansas State,

10-0. While the score may be immediately indicative of the first game of the season to those who did not venture to Kansas, the game itself was played much differently. The offense was indeed there and did a superb job despite the

halftime score. It was Kansas State who provided the difference this time around. The Wildcats were the tenth ranked defense in the nation against the rush, a point that few people knew. In fact it might have been contrived that way as a weapon. Regardless, the KSU team played very inspired football and likewise stirred their fans so much that one long-time observer commented, "I haven't seen the crowd cheer like this in four years, not even against our big rivals Kansas."

Indeed the non-conference record crowd of 37,100 put a lot of sound into the air, but it was mostly for their defense as the Aggie defense stymied most enemy aggression. The only offensive thrill for KSU came in the second quarter when fullback Verdell Jones broke 50 yards over the right side.

For those of you who were listening to the radio and were under the impression that a last ditch tackle by Jackie Williams was all that saved the touchdown, forget it. Four Aggie defenders had caught up with Jones, literally outrun him, Williams just got there first.

The biggest threat was the five times in which Kansas State receivers got behind the Aggie secondary. All five times the ball was laid nearly perfectly into their hands and all five times they were dropped. Either just flat dropped or after the receivers were hit squarely by the nearest Aggie. About the dropped balls, Aggie linebacker Ed Simonini said, "They heard footsteps, we

were banging on them."

It was David Shipman who finally let out all Aggie fans' frustration when he bolted around the right end, decided to keep the ball and was sprung for the final dash by a superb block by halfback Jim Hartman. Tony Franklin added the extra point and later added a field goal of 36-yards to put it out of reach.

Garth Ten Napel said, "They were good. They had the good passer. They never gave up." Asked about the difference between that game and previous ones, he said, "It's that home crowd." Which brought up the crucial question of

three straight road trips, something which possibly hurt the team last year (all three losses were on the road). Ten Napel said, "We're mature enough that we can handle this year. We knew they were capable of beating us, we did what had to be done."

Bellard was pleased with all aspects of the game noting that "they were well prepared."

An unknown writer asked Bellard how important was it for him to get the first points on the scoreboard. Bellard summed it all up. "That's not important. We're the only one that did score," he said.

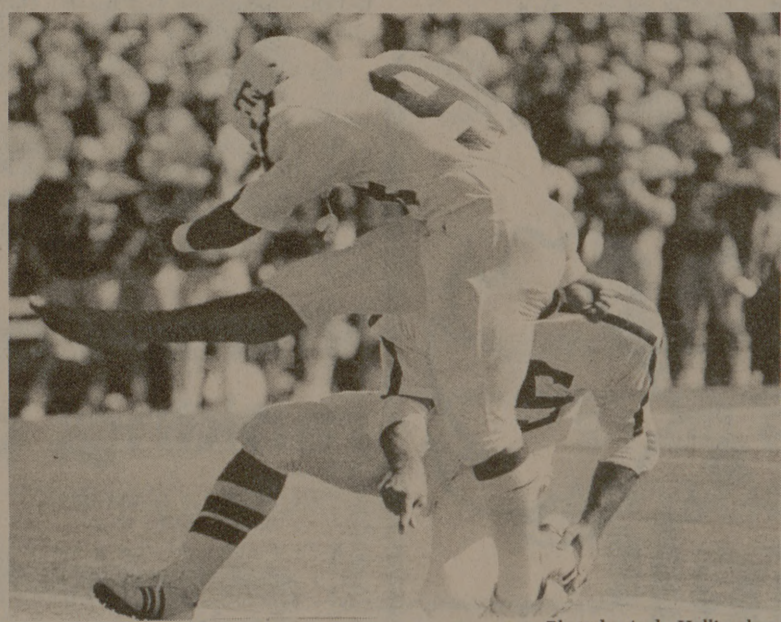


Photo by Andy Hollingshead
Freshman Tony Franklin puts game out of reach.



Photo by Andy Hollingshead
Garth Ten Napel puts stranglehold on Kansas State QB Joe Hatcher.

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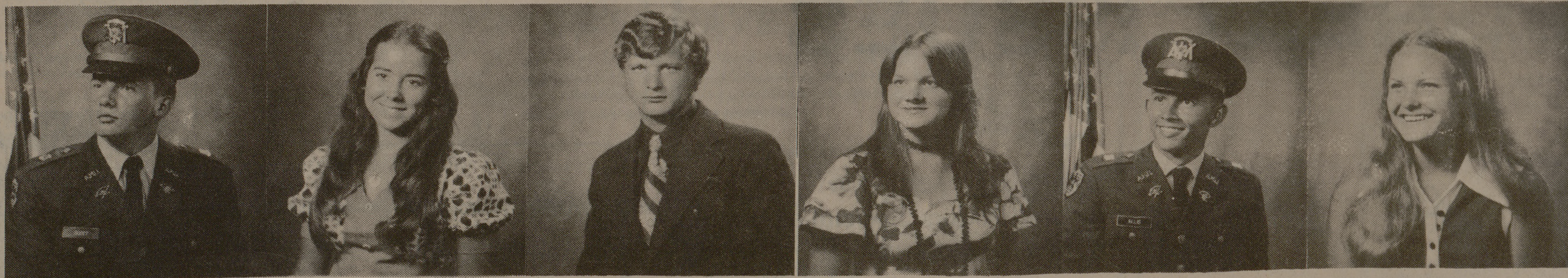
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