

Unimpressive

Ags watch, TCU loses

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- 1) Name a major-college team that played a conference football game last Saturday
 - 2) threw an interception in the endzone
 - 3) missed a field goal
 - 4) lost two of six fumbles
 - 5) pitched out twice to an invisible back
 - 6) carried 17 times for negative 13-yards in one quarter
 - 7) almost gave a winless team their first win
 - 8) had a gap closing touchdown called back for offsetting penalties
 - 9) ranked in the top ten offensively going into the game
 - 10) leads the nation in rushing defense
 - 11) is third in total defense
 - 12) maintained their rushing defense average with 30-yards
 - 13) helped their total defense with 155-yards
 - 14) still managed to total 274-yards despite a terrible quarter
 - 15) is ranked in the top ten
 - 16) won their sixth game in a row
- Have you guessed? Here's a hint: They're from the same school that puts out this newspaper. That's right, the Aggies.
- It was 'prove how good we are' day for the Aggies as they showed they could play mediocre ball and still win.

With the as yet winless TCU horned Frogs playing a highly emotional game, the Ags managed to display a bit of vintage Aggie football and still handle the Frogs to the tune of 14-6. It was not an easy game for the Ags.

A late TCU touchdown was returned for offsetting interference penalties and the Frogs could not punch it in on the replay. Bean left the game early in the second half with a bruise on the leg above the knee. And a few others had "their bell rung".

With overconfidence evident, the Ags played a lazy-clazy game in general as shown by Nos. 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, in the above list.

Bright spots were many in the game, but only seldom were they lumped together long enough to give the Aggies a scoring chance.

The Ags began as brilliant as ever, chalking up seven points from the opening kickoff after an 11 play, 77-yard drive. But the ensuing kick-

koff may have been an omen. Tony Franklin, just three days out of the hospital skidded the kick out of bounds. Allen Hooker took the next attempt at the 13 and returned it to the 32. The teams traded the football the rest of the first quarter with TCU gaining three first downs and the Ags but one after the TD.

The second quarter began and the Ags marched right down to the 21 but could go no further. Franklin tried a 38-yarder but was wide to the right. TCU took the ball back, could go nowhere and was forced to punt. Lee Cook didn't do a very good job of it. David Greeno made a fair catch at the Aggie 48 and seven plays later, Bean was in the endzone again.

From the kickoff, TCU took the ball, threw seven passes in nine plays of which five were complete. The last one hurt Jimmy Dan Elzner, to whom the other six passes were thrown in this series, found himself mysteriously wide open in the endzone. Ed Simonini blocked the point after attempt.

The half ended with the Ags ahead 14-6. It wouldn't have mattered if the second half was even played, the score stood. There's probably quite a few who wish there wasn't a second half. For as many sparkling moments in the first half there were as many sloppy ones the second.

It was the third quarter which was bad (see No. 6 in list).

The Ags started on the 50, and had moved to the 32 before problems arose. On third down and three, Skip Walker was tripped for a loss. On fourth and four, somebody miscued and a Shipman pitchout rolled to the 44 where Bibba Bean fell on it. The ball went over to TCU.

Bean left the game then, not being able to run on his knee any longer. The first play after the bad pitchout, Jackie Williams intercepted an errant pass and the Ags had another chance.

But this time Ronnie Hubby lost possession temporarily and recovered for a loss, followed by a pitch for no gain. Shipman was sacked for ten. Stanley punted on fourth and 22. TCU managed a series before Williams stole another pass to give the Ags another shot.

But the offense just looked the

gift-horse in the mouth. Three plays after the gift-giving, Shipman pitched out to his ghost halfback. TCU regained the ball and got 12-yards on the roll.

That quarter ended and the teams got back to playing football.

On the Ags' first series of the fourth quarter, Shipman marched his troops 36-yards before having to leave for a little relief. Mike Jay came in and continued the drive. Jay sent Carl Roaches to the endzone on a third and 15 call and put the ball just above Roaches' head. Hooker was behind him and stole the ball from Roaches' clutches, preventing a 21-6 ballgame.

The teams traded possession a few more times before Walker fumbled at the A&M nine. TCU took over and on the second play threw to Mike Renfro in the endzone. Renfro had a super catch with two and a half minutes to play but the offsetting penalties wiped it out. A sack and two incompletions ended the threat and for all practical purposes, the game.

Tight-end Richard Osborne who tied Bob Long for second on the all-time receiving list with his only catch of the game (he was only thrown to once) summed it up best of all. "How do you get up for TCU?"

Bean played a fine game surpassing Jim Bertelsen for seventh on the SWC all-time rushing list. Walker also had a fine game, once dancing down the sideline for 36-yards. Jim Hartman, Hubby and Bucky Sams all played well at their respective positions. Shipman had an off-on day and although the miscues are credited to him he proba-

bly was not entirely at fault. His running was strong as it has been this season. It was just an individual day, not the team effort of recent. For the most part the Offensive line played well, though they seemed not to be getting off the ball as well.

The defense came through when necessary but was also sloppy at times. The defensive stats would probably have been closer to last years figure except for some missed tackles. The defenders tended to get a hand or shoulder on a carrier

but not bring him down. A lack of real aggressiveness.

Going into the game, the Ags had the lowest total in the conference of fumbles with 12. Of those only two had been "bad" fumbles, miscues. But the total number was increased by a half in this game and three of them were miscues.

But, a win is a win is a win. The Aggies now 6-0 will entertain the defending champs, Baylor, in their first home game in four weeks. Chances are it won't be a 14-6 game.

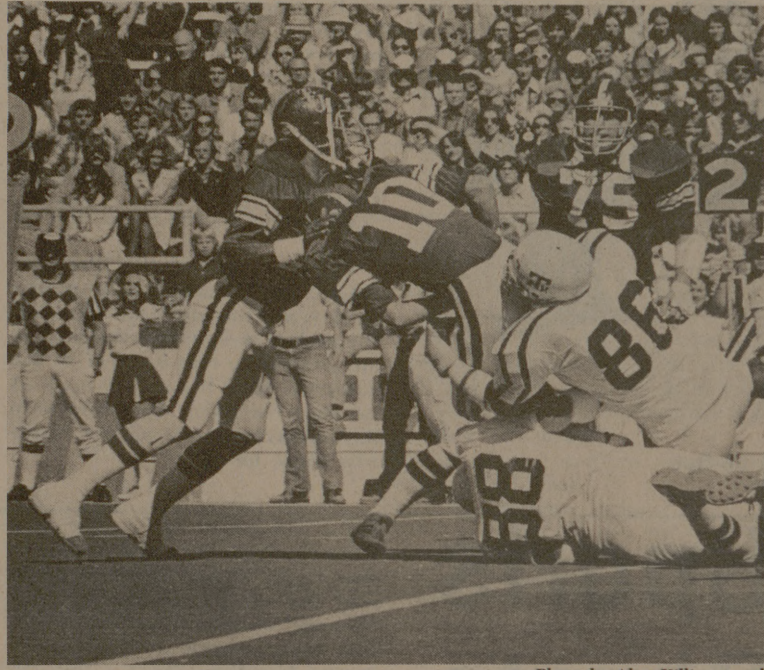


Photo by Alan Killingsworth
A helping hand? Blake Schwarz and Tank Marshall provide the immovable force.

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