

Rice next on list

Cadets slaughter Mustangs, stay undefeated

By PAUL McGRATH
Battalion Sports Editor

Yesterday was the 200th birthday of the United States Marine Corps. Former jarhead turned Aggie quarterback Mike Jay celebrated the occasion two days earlier.

Jay, coming in for an injured David Shipman, guided the Aggie offense to two second half touchdowns. His play, combined with the always tenacious Aggie defense and the talented toe of Tony Franklin, led Coach Emory Bellard's bunch down the victory trail

for the eighth time this season. Coupled with Oklahoma's upset loss to Kansas, the Aggies' 36-3 thrashing of SMU propelled them to berth number three on the pool train.

The Aggies set a number of marks and kept alive a few strings. Pat Thomas' two pass thefts brought his career interception total to 13, one more over the previous A&M record held by Dave Elmendorf.

Ed Simonini, heir apparent to the linebacking hall of fame, scored his first touchdown in an Aggie un-

iform. His 48 yard jaunt with a fumble recovery, aided by blocks from Thomas and Lester Hayes, proved to be the gamebreaker, putting the Ags on top by two six pointers.

Simonini's play was very similar to Hayes' return of a bobble against Baylor. Hayes commented that he had "shown Ed how to do it during practice."

A&M's soccer style kicker, Franklin, tied the mark for three field goals in a single game held by Randy Haddox against LSU. Franklin added three PAT's to his day's work.

A&M now has won nine straight home games. It also was the first time in 36 games that the potent Pony offense has been held without a touchdown.

That was only one of the plaudits for an A&M defense, which may have played its best game of the year. The Mustangs were restricted to only 135 yards on the ground and 203 yards overall. Running back Wayne Morris almost gained that much by himself against the Texas Longhorns. Morris gained only eight steps in seven totes against the No. 1 defense in the nation.

The Ponies were successful on only seven of 19 third down situations, receiving aid from the officials on four occasions to obtain first downs.

In another critical category, first down yardage, SMU averaged a little over two yards per play. The Aggies managed five yards per first snap, while making good on eight of 14 third down attempts.

The defensive stars were many. Besides the heroics of Simonini and Thomas (who had a fumble recovery to go with his two interceptions), there was a cluster of hard-hitting, determined defenders.

The pride of the Aggie defense was exemplified by the goal line

stand in the fourth quarter. Although far ahead and in no danger, the defense nevertheless held SMU for four downs inside the ten.

Jackie Williams was in on 11 tackles with Robert Jackson in on ten. Simonini and Edgar Fields followed with nine stops. Jackson, Hayes and Blake Schwarz each had quarterback sacks to their credit.

SMU's quickfooted quarterback, Ricky Wessons, bore the brunt of the Aggie assault which seemed bent on vengeance for last year's upset. It appeared on several plays almost miraculous that he was able to pick himself up from the turf.

"We were sort of wondering how their offense would do against us and I feel we totally dominated them. They were the first Wishbone team we have played against and I think we did a good job of controlling them. We remembered the game against them last year. We wanted to beat a good team heavily," said linebacker Garth Ten Napel, who broke a thumb in the contest.

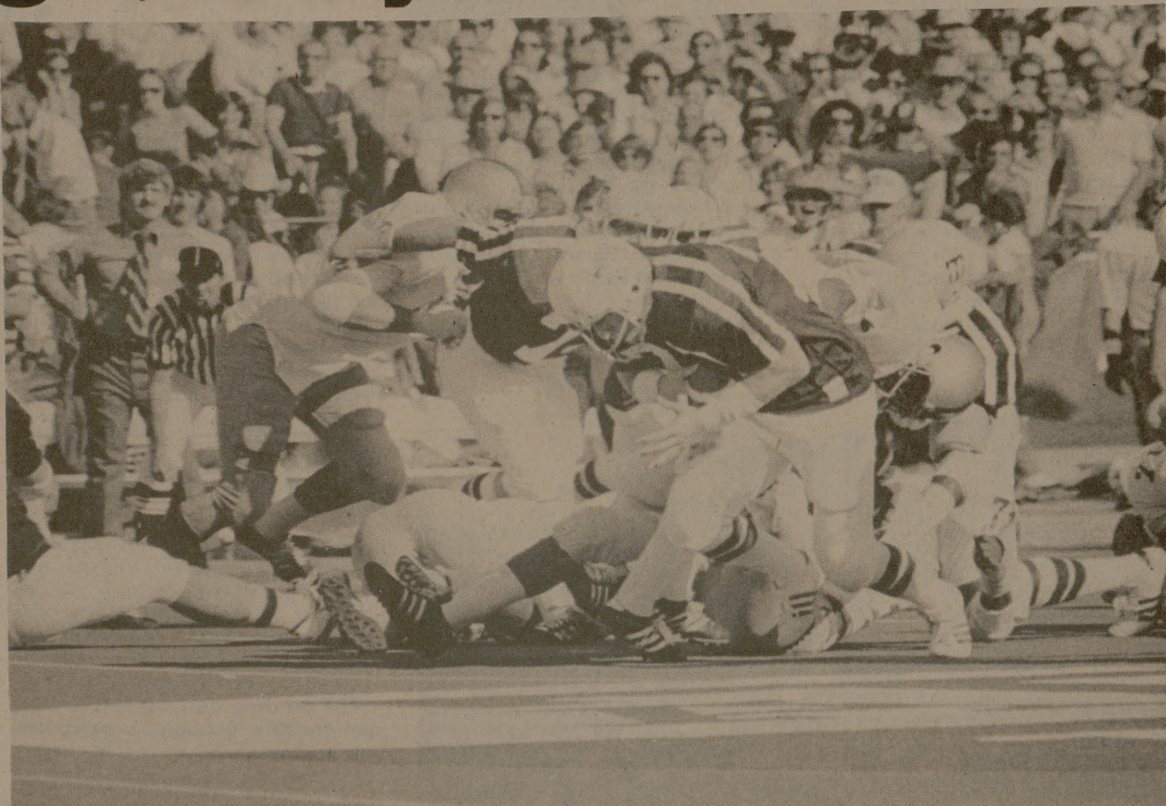
The Aggies set the tempo of the game from the first play with Thomas intercepting a Wesson pass. About his pickoffs and record, the Aggie All-American said, "I knew the dude had the pass caught. I looked up and there was the ball. On the first one, I was reading the ball and the quarterback the whole way." He added, "I always wanted to be in the record book. It was in the back of my mind that I needed a few more."

The Aggie offense presented a balance between passing and rushing that has been missing in prior games, though not actually a necessity for the run-oriented Aggies. In all, they had 345 yards including 162 in the air. Most of that came on the longest pass play in the Southwest Conference this year, an 84 yarder to halfback Skip Walker for the first of his two touchdowns.

Fullback George Woodard again did a good job, accumulating 106 yards on 23 carries. This was his first start and third time to go over the century mark.

Shipman was two of four via the airways while Jay was five of nine. Jay's arm accounted for 30 yards of the last second drive just before the half that ended in a Franklin field goal.

The Ags remain in a tie with Texas for leadership in the SWC. The Ponies drop to 3-6 on the year.



Simonini takes handoff

Texas A&M linebacker Ed Simonini begins to head for the goalline after picking off an SMU fumble. This was his first score as an Aggie.

Staff Photo by Alan Killingsworth

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game, but a glance has to be cast forward for the expected showdown with the Longhorns. The Arkansas Razorbacks may have something to say before the year is out.

However, those problems are for the future. As for now, the Aggies are undefeated eight games into the season. No other conference team can say that.

SWC Briefs

WACO, Tex. — Two Baylor starters are definitely out and four more are doubtful for the Bear's regionally-televised Southwest Conference football game with Texas Tech at Lubbock on Saturday.

Baylor Coach Grant Teaff said safety Ken Quesenberry and linebacker Johnny Slaughter are definitely out while three defensive tackles — starters Flynn Bucy and Wharton Foster and backup man Les Benson are on the doubtful list. Also questionable for Saturday is starting defensive end Keavin McDonald.

Quesenberry has a broken left arm and Slaughter a severe knwv strain, Teaff said.

Hubby still is hampered by a pulled hamstring muscle and may miss the Rice game.

DALLAS — Southern Methodist Coach Dave Smith, whose team is trying to break a four-game losing streak against Arkansas in Dallas on Saturday, said Monday the Razorbacks are probably stronger than they have been in the past three years.

SMU and Arkansas have battled to 7-7 and 24-24 ties in the past two years.

FORT WORTH, Tex. — Four freshmen will be in the starting lineup Saturday when Texas Christian takes on Southwest Conference football foe Texas in Austin.

Horned Frog Coach Jim Shofner on Monday promoted offensive tackle Anthony Mican and linebacker Mack George to the first team. They will join rookie defensive backs Darryl Lowe and Marvin Brown in starting roles.

Hearing held on Olympic games

NEW YORK — Ralph Metcalfe, the old Olympic sprinter, is letting his cushioned seat get cold in the House of Representatives down in Washington, D. C., but he's making no apologies.

He feels he is on a more important mission.

"The President called us together and said he wanted us to get our Olympic house in order for the 1976 Games," the Illinois congressman said Monday. "I think the job I am doing here is very important." After all, sports and life are the same. They involve respect for one another. They teach us to learn to accept defeat with dignity and victory with humility.

COLLEGE STATION, Tex. — Texas A&M Coach Emory Bellard said Monday his third-ranked Aggies were in their worst physical shape of the 1975 football season as they began preparations for Saturday's Southwest Conference game against Rice at Houston.

Six starters and a key reserve were on the sidelines as the squad worked out Monday afternoon.

Linebackers Garth Ten Napel and Grady Wilkerson received broken thumbs in the Aggies' 36-3 win over Southern Methodist last Saturday. Bellard said their playing status won't be known until possibly Friday.

Metcalfe is a member of the President's Commission on Olympic Sports, conducting hearings here on ways to rid the country of feuding factions and to improve America's role in international competition. The 23-member commission, headed by Gerald B. Zornow and including personalities from Congress and sports, heard Phillip O. Krumm, president of the U. S. Olympic Committee, other top USOC officials and West Germany's Willi Daume in the opening session Monday.

Defensive tackle Jimmy Dean has a slashed thumb in a cast and center Henry Tracy is out with an eye injury. Both missed the SMU game and will be out again this week.

Reserve offensive halfback Ron-

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