

Remain anonymous

Goon squadders go unknown

By MARLA GAMMON
Battalion Sports Writer

Everyone knows that the Texas Aggie football team is made up of two separate units—the offense and the defense. Right? Wrong. There's a third team that plays a big role for A&M but is hardly ever recognized. At other schools it's known as the specialty team or the suicide squad. In Aggieland it's the Goon Squad. The Goon Squad is made up of

the kick-off and punt teams. The Goons aren't what their name implies though. When it was decided that the specialty team should have their own name Head Coach Emory Bellard called Col. Thomas Parsons, Corps Commander, and asked him for a word that would signify a fierce attack group. Parsons suggested dragoon. That name was then shortened to goon. Webster says dragoons do such

things as "compel or attempt to compel into submission by violent measures." That comes pretty close to what the Aggie Goons do. The Goons include the defensive punt and kick-off teams, but not the receiving teams. Coach Dan LaGrasta is in charge of the punting unit, and Coach Paul Register takes care of the kick-off unit. The Goons practice each day for ten minutes at the end of practice. Each coach says the only thing that is really stressed is going down the field with "reckless abandon." It is the team's job to stop the opponent from returning any punts or kick-offs. It is an important job in that it determines what kind of field position the opposing offense has.

The Goons have performed well in the Aggies' eight wins this season. A&M opponents have returned 22 punts for 137 yards and 24 kick-offs for 345 yards. Texas Tech came up with the longest kick-off return. It was for a mere 28 yards.

The punting unit has forced opponents into precarious positions time and again this year. The safety

against Baylor was a result of Mark Stanley's punt rolling dead on the two-yard line. Tony Franklin has made a tremendous difference in kick-off returns this year. Most receivers have not been able to even get their hands on the ball.

The NCAA rule that put a limit on the size of squads also put a hamper on the Goon Squad. In years before the Goons were mostly freshmen and sophomores. This gave the younger players the playing experience they so badly needed. However, with the NCAA rule the coaches have had to find the players who can cover the best. Because of that there are more upperclassmen on the Goons squad. There are only three freshmen on the Goons this

year. Eight of the Goons play on both the punt and kick-off teams. Those eight are Jesse Hunnicutt, Gary Haack, Craig Glendenning, David Greeno, Reggie Williams, Kevin Monk, Mike Williams and Stacy Breihan. The three freshmen are Eddie Hardin, Edger Armstrong and Breihan. Mike Floyd, Matt Freeman, Jim Hartman and the two kickers are the rest of the Goons.

If some of the above names are unfamiliar to you don't feel bad. Not many people know who they are. Opoising receiving teams know them though. The next time you're at an Aggie game be sure and watch the Goons. You'll see that they live up to their name.



Staff Photo by Alan Killingsworth

Icing on the cake

Halfback Bubba Bean jumps for joy after scoring the last Aggie six-pointer against the hapless Ponies.

Aggies move up to number three

Associated Press

Ohio State perched comfortably atop the college football ratings Monday while Oklahoma's defending national champions plummeted from second place to sixth following a 23-3 upset at the hands of Kansas.

By beating Oklahoma the Jayhawks cracked the Top Twenty for the first time all season, rising to 17th place.

Meanwhile, Nebraska and Texas A&M, unbeaten and untied like Ohio State, moved up to second and third, respectively, followed by Michigan, Alabama, Oklahoma, Texas, Arizona State, Notre Dame and Colorado.

Penn State and Southern California, two more of the weekend's upset victims, dropped to the Second Ten while San Diego State, Maryland and Pitt fell completely out of the Top Twenty.

Ohio State received 49 first-place votes and 1,138 points from a nationwide panel of 58 sports writers and broadcasters following a 40-3 triumph over Illinois.

Here are the Top Twenty teams in the Associated Press college football poll, with first-place votes in parentheses and season records.

1. Ohio St. (49)	9-0-0
2. Nebraska (8)	9-0-0
3. Texas A&M (1)	8-0-0
4. Michigan	7-0-2
5. Alabama	8-1-0
6. Oklahoma	8-1-0
7. Texas	8-1-0
8. Arizona St.	9-0-0
9. Notre Dame	7-2-0
10. Colorado	7-2-0
11. Penn St.	8-2-0
12. Arizona	7-1-0
13. S. California	7-2-0
14. Florida	7-2-0
15. California	6-3-0
16. Miami, O.	8-1-0
17. Kansas	6-3-0
18. Missouri	6-3-0
19. UCLA	6-2-1
20. Georgia	7-2-0

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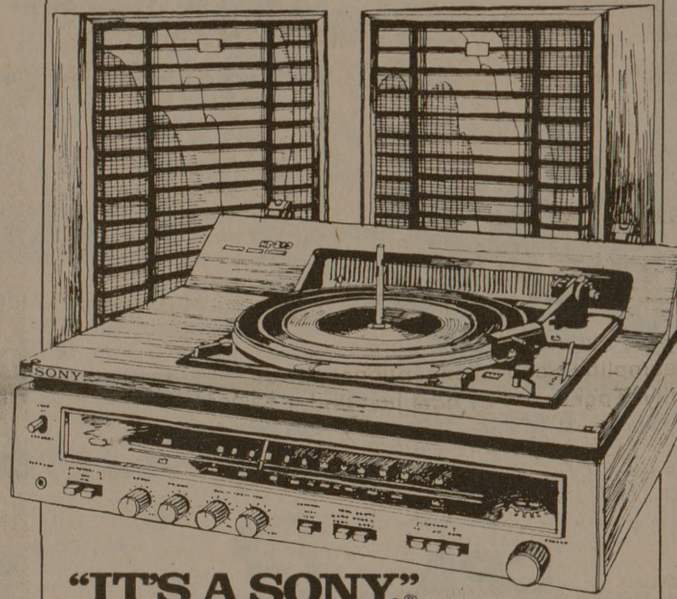
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