

Aggies say no

Did Akins' injury cause loss?

By PAUL McGRATH
Battalion Sports Editor

Marty Akins was a lonely, dejected figure as his eyes glanced toward the painful message upon the huge Kyle Field scoreboard. It was difficult to tell whether the pain was greater in the Texas senior's knee or in his heart.

Akins, whose ability to start was a puzzle to all before the game, did begin the contest with the reins to the Texas attack. However, his stay was shortlived as he exited after the first play.

He later returned in the closing

seconds of the first quarter only to be forced to the safety of the sidelines once more after a collision with Texas A&M linebacker Garth Ten Napel. In all, Akins saw action for just ten plays.

His absence was filled by freshman Ted Constanzo who was unable to generate anything resembling a drive, despite having the ball twice on turnovers in A&M territory.

The Horns ran off 43 plays and obtained six first downs, both figures being the lowest totals against the

Aggies this year.

The obvious question is, would a healthy Akins have made any difference? The Aggies thought not.

"It wouldn't have made any difference if James Street had been their quarterback," said cornerback Pat Thomas, an All-American in his own right. "We'd still have won."

"Man, if they say that was the difference, they're sick. I don't like 'em anyway," said linebacker Ed Simoni.

Texas A&M coach Emory Bellard also had his views about Akins.

"Marty is a fine player and I'm sure he means a lot to his team. But I won't belittle our team for winning with Akins out."

At least one Texas player felt similarly. "We kept playing football, even to the end," said Horn tackle Bob Simmons. "I don't feel like losing Marty had any effect on us at all. We were prepared to play without him."

As for Akins, "I played as long as I could. It wasn't a hit (that caused him to leave the game), nobody had to hit it. The thing just went out on me, popped out, both times when I had

to leave the game."

Akins' coach, Darrell Royal, offered, "We've got to talk about the things that did happen rather than what could have."

Constanzo lamented about his play in the contest. "I'd have given anything to have had the experience and knowledge Marty has, and I'd have given anything to come through for the team like Marty would have."

"I made some mistakes, but I played as well as I could right now. I've certainly got a lot of room to improve," said the frosh replacement.

The Aggies had quarterback problems of their own when Mike Jay suffered an injury to the muscles in his lower back. He missed the entire second half.

David Shipman, who began the season as the A&M signal caller, but sprained a knee against SMU, played backup to Jay. Shipman was not highly effective as he had 12 yards for six carries. He was instrumental, however, in guiding the Aggies to the clinching touchdown in the fourth quarter.

As the fans filed out of the stadium, cries of "Wait 'til next year" rang from the Texas crowd. But for Marty Akins, there is no next year at Texas — all that remains are memories.

Defense corrals Horns

(continued from p. 1)

Texas never crossed the A&M 20-yard line except for Raymond Clayburn's 64 yard touchdown jaunt with a Mark Stanley punt.

With Ed Simonini, Robert Jackson, Ten Napel, Pat Thomas, Jackie Williams and Tank Marshall, to name just a few, destroying the Wishbone, Texas turned to the air to find their fortune. Instead, they sealed their doom.

Since the All-American Thomas was on one side, it was only natural for Constanzo to throw at the assumed weak spot in cornerback Willie Thompson. Thompson responded with two of the pass thefts. His second one with 56 seconds left hampered home the last nail in the Texas coffin.

The Horn first year man did connect with ace receiver Alfred Jackson for a 36 yard gain that set up Erleben's field goal. That made the game close at 17-10 with seven minutes left.

Then the A&M offense added to the suspense with back-to-back fumbles deep in their own end of the field. But, then leave it to A&M's all-time leading rusher to provide the gamebreaker. Bubba Bean followed a crushing Myers block on an inside trap and had clear sailing to the goal line until he was said to go out on the one-foot line. His 73 yard dash enabled Franklin to settle the affair, icing the game away with a 19-yard field goal.

The Texas defense was valiant in defeat as the score could have been much worse. They stopped the Ag-

gies cold after Bean's run while gang-tackling Aggie backs throughout the game. Linebackers Bill Hamilton, Lionel Johnson and Rick Fenlaw and linemen Brad Shearer, Tim Campbell and Earnest Lee were the principal defenders behind the Texas breastworks.

"I thought our defense fought as valiantly as I have seen considering the offense did not put any points on the board and didn't control the ball," said Royal about the game. "I would like to see something happen to Ohio State so that if they take care of their business we will have another national champion down here."

"You can't even if or what if to get us into a position to win the game. If it hadn't been for an excellent defensive effort, it could have been worse. They are for sure the most impressive defensive team I've seen in the conference in some time," said the Texas mentor.

The Texas players were also impressed with the Aggies. "They've got a great team and they deserved to win," said the elder Campbell. "What they have said about them is true. You've got to learn how to lose and how to win... it's all part of it."

Fenlaw was of the same opinion. "They have a really great team. The offense had been inconsistent. Except for a couple of tricky plays, they did what we expected and they did it well."

Consensus All-American tackle Bob Simmons repeated the thoughts of his teammates. "They're as good as they are supposed to be. They swarmed the ball and played a good

game. They just have so many people that can get the ball that you can't get all of them."

Bellard was naturally happy with the outcome, although he was a bit disappointed with the kicking game. The Aggies let Clayburn slip through for a touchdown although several clips were missed by the officials and it was also Clayburn who returned a kickoff for 41 yards. Franklin was successful on only two of six field goal attempts with each of his misses having the wind behind him.

A&M now prepares to meet Arkansas for all the marbles in Little Rock this Saturday and again the game will be nationally televised. The winner faces Georgia in the Cotton Bowl while the loser travels to the Liberty Bowl to meet Southern Cal. Texas will play a tough Colorado team in the Astro-Bluebonnet Bowl.

The Aggies are now 10-0 for the year, their best record after ten games since 1939. By the way, that was also the same year A&M won the national championship. Coincidence?

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