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DOWNTOWN BRYAN

Loss ruins Cotton bid

Ags hogtied by Arkansas

By PAUL McGRATH
Battalion Sports Editor

Soeey. Soeey Pigs. Soeey. Soeey. The hog calls sounded jubilation in the Ozarks as the Arkansas Razorbacks combined a stiffnecked defense and an opportunistic offense to throw the Texas A&M Aggies out of War Memorial Stadium on their ears with a 31-6 thrashing. It might have been better to say soeey for the Razorback defense and phoeey for the A&M offense, as the Aggie attack sputtered and fizzled like a wet firecracker. The Aggies lost the ball six times, five via fumbles and once on a David Shipman interception. All told, the Aggies dribbled the football nine times.

The Texas A&M offense certainly was in the Christmas spirit, handing Arkansas gift touchdowns with turnovers on the four-yardline and a fumble recovery in the endzone for a score. The Hogs also got a field goal after a fumble recovery on the Aggie 18.

So inept was the Aggie offensive performance that they were held to -7 yards in the disastrous third quarter which saw Arkansas put 17 points on the scoreboard. "This is just as an embarrassing a situation as you can have," said a downhearted Emory Bellard. "It's embarrassing for the university and it's embarrassing for everybody. It was an absolutely pathetic performance and I take full responsibility for it."

"Arkansas is to be congratulated. We did win a co-championship. We're not going to the Cotton Bowl; they're going to the Cotton Bowl. We're going to the Liberty. I don't know anything else I can say," added the coach who guided the Aggies to ten straight wins before meeting his match.

The Razorback defense had its finest moment, dominating the line of scrimmage and limiting the Aggies to 149 yards total offense. The Farmers didn't get a first down in the second half until 12:22 was left in the ball game.

Fullback George Woodard was held to 30 yards in nine carries, although playing with a hurt foot. Bubba Bean had almost half of A&M's rushing yardage with 68 yards on 17 totes.

Freshman quarterback Keith Baker avoided a whitewash with a 24-yard scamper for six in the final period. His run came on a busted play, which typifies the kind of day it was on this afternoon in Arkansas.

"They (the Arkansas defense) didn't do anything we didn't expect them to. (At halftime) there was nothing to adjust to. What we had been running all week was what we needed to run," said Shipman, whose lack of proper timing was evident and was later replaced by Baker.

"I don't know how many fumbles we had or how many we lost, but you can't win doing that," said stellar A&M offensive tackle Glenn Bujnoch. "We got down in that hole there for a while and couldn't get out. We spent the whole third quarter down there."

The farthest A&M advanced in the third period was their own 23. "They stunted on us a little bit, but we knew what they were going to do. They just pursued real well. They were quick and they go to the ball," Bujnoch said of the Hog defense.

"Well, it shouldn't have made any difference," Shipman said concerning the stunts and blitzes. "Our blocking scheme is supposed to handle any linebacker charge." The Aggie quarterback would give no answer to the question as to whether he thought A&M stayed too long with its original game plan. All of the Aggie plays are called from the sidelines.

The Arkansas offense, on the other hand, was having no such problems. They rolled up 267 yards against the vaunted A&M defense which always had its back to the wall.

It was the arm of Scott Bull that did most of the damage. The oft criticized Razorback signal caller connected for a 28-yard score in the first half and set up another touchdown with a 35 yard strike to his tight end Doug Yoder. Bull also gained 47 yards on the ground and

put across the Hogs' final score on a four-yard run.

Previously, the top ranked Aggie defense had surrendered no more than 14 points in one game and had not allowed more than one touchdown in a single quarter of play.

It was the defense however, that kept the Aggies in the game as long as they did. They stopped the Arkansas ground game effectively and made several key turnovers as the Hogs gave up the pigskin four times. But, the A&M offense could not capitalize as well as their Arkansas counterparts.

The Aggie defense did finish the year as the nation's best defensive team, winning the team defense title by four yards over Alabama (2042 to 2046). They ended the year by also claiming the rushing defense crown, allowing an average of 80.3 yards per outing.

Arkansas lost its position as the conference's leading offensive team with Texas Tech taking the honors. The Hogs fell from second to seventh nationally in the rushing department.

More importantly though, the Razorbacks get to venture into the

Cotton Bowl arena against Georgia by virtue of their being out of the cotton patch longer than the Aggies or Texas.

The Aggies, who may topple from their number two spot, had their dreams of a possible national championship dashed, but will have the chance to save face as they play the USC Trojans in the Liberty Bowl December 22.

Bellard's Bunch ends the regular season at 10-1, while Arkansas is 9-2. This is A&M's third co-championship and Arkansas' fifth.

Texas A&M will go to a bowl game for the first time in eight years. But for the 19 seniors who served as captains on that fateful day in Arkansas, somehow it doesn't seem enough.

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DEADLINES FOR THE AGGIELAND '76

DECEMBER 1 was the last day for organizations that reserved pages in the AGGIELAND to pay for their pages, or to lose their reservations.

JANUARY 31 is the final date for seniors and graduates to have their pictures taken at UNIVERSITY STUDIOS. The reason for this extension was because many dead and dying elephants had difficulty dragging their carcasses to the studio on time.



Staff Photo by Alan Killingsworth

The dejected look on Texas A&M Head Coach Emory Bellard's face was typical of all Aggie fans as the home team took a 31-6 beating from Arkansas.

Bowl tickets

Texas A&M athletic officials announced that Liberty Bowl ticket applications and information was placed in the mail Sunday morning, Dec. 7, for all faculty and staff season ticket purchasers, option holders, Aggie Club members and 1975 season ticket purchasers in order that they may receive a priority. It is expected that there will be approximately 5,000 tickets for these groups.

Texas A&M students will be able to buy their student and date tickets beginning Tuesday, Dec. 9. Student Senate regulations governing ticket distribution will apply. All fans other than the above named groups can mail their checks to the Athletic Ticket office for end zone tickets at the price of \$8.50 each, plus \$1 handling for the total order. Tickets are limited to ten per order for this group. All orders must be postmarked no later than Dec. 12.

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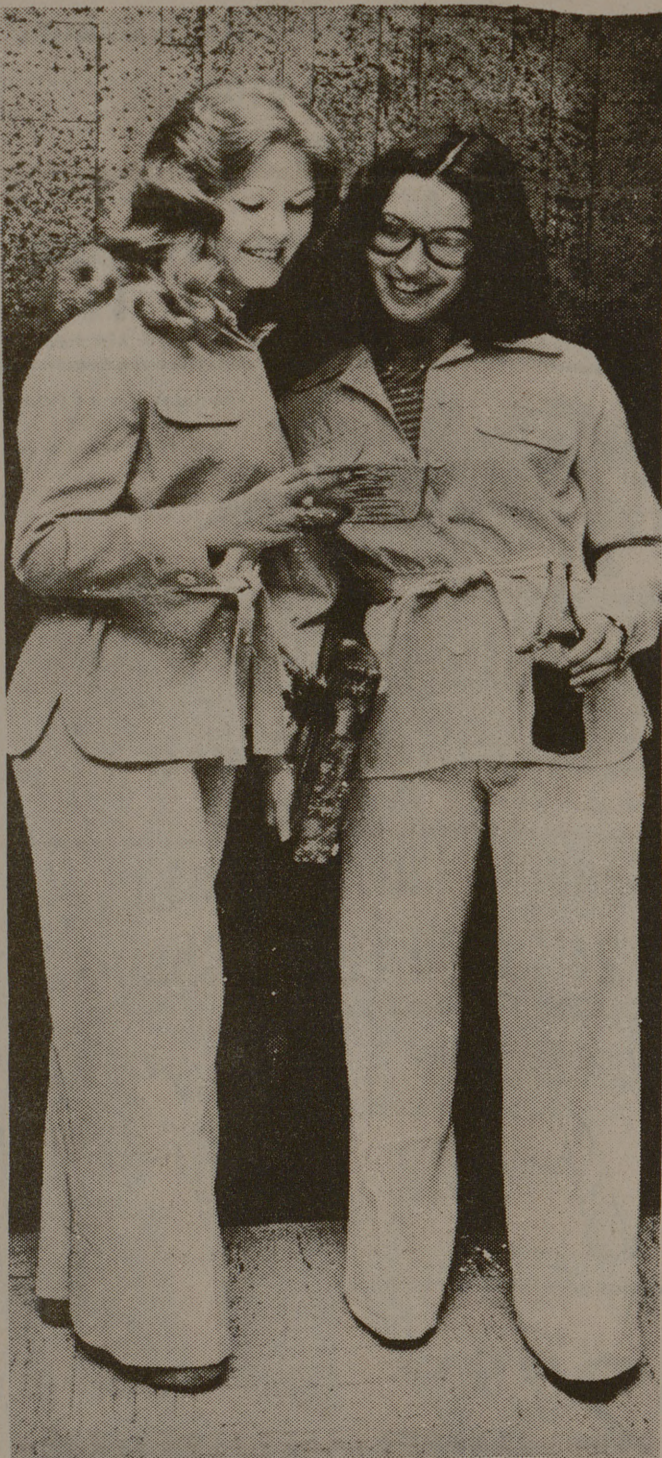
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