

Wall, Sports Illustrated strikes that might not be the reason it came up on the very short end of a 31-6 loss to Arkansas, but it's as good as any right now.

Although it seems inexplicable that the number two team in the nation could fall so easily into the dark ambush, there are some valid reasons.

David Shipman, obviously still suffering from the layoff due to a knee injury, was ineffective in creating any form of an outside running game. Meanwhile the going up the middle was brought to a halt with a knee injury to freshman fullback George Woodard. Woodard carried the ball only nine times, gaining 30 yards.

Of course, the swarming Arkansas defense wasn't helping matters any. Razorback Head Coach Frank Ross said, his team "out-Aggied the Aggies."

Why did the Farmers help themselves to any great extent. Nine times the pigskin went skittering on the ersatz turf of War Memorial Stadium. Five times the boys in cardinal uniforms were found on top of it. The miscues by the Texas offense led directly to 17 Hog touchdowns.

It was apparent that the Aggies were not on the same emotional level as the Razorbacks, although it is certain that they wanted the game just as much. Coach Emory Bellard admitted recently that his team was indeed, flat.

Despite it all, the Aggies were in the ballgame up until the fourth quarter where they ended up being in the ball park.

Trailing by a 7-0 count, the men Maroon entered their locker room to find safety, if not a moment's relaxation. Bellard etched on the blackboard the score 7-0 then below it the score of 7-7.



# Sportfolio

By PAUL McGRATH  
Battalion Sports Editor

He asked for better execution and then the team would again be in the thick of it. Execution was what he got, but not in the form he desired.

With Shipman unable to move the offense, Bellard brought in first year man Keith Baker to pull the chestnuts from the fire. He was to fare no better.

"Coming in that late, sure I felt pressure," said the freshman quarterback. "I think I could have played a lot better if they had put me in earlier. Coming in that late to try to pull it out would put pressure on anyone's back."

This went the Aggies' hopes for a national championship and a trip to Dallas on New Year's Day. Instead, they get Memphis for a chance to stay in the top ten.

Many of the Aggie partisans were in a state of shock, disbelief and very few were in the mood for forgiving. Forgetting would perhaps be a better word.

Rumors that "last year's here" have begun to circulate on campus by those feeling betrayed by the home team in obvious reference to last season's loss to Texas.

Others have dedicated the song "Sky High" to the A&M gridders mentioning something about a choke.

For their information, the Aggies did not choke or even cough last Saturday. They did, however, lose a lot of pride to a team that whipped them thoroughly on national television.

One gentleman wrote the Bryan Eagle stating that he had been an ardent A&M follower for 15 years. Saturday's game had changed that and he said he would turn his support elsewhere.

What does it take for the Aggies to prove themselves? How much do they have to give before their fans and students will be satisfied? Texas

## Arkansas will begin bowl practices soon

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — The University of Arkansas football team probably will leave for Dallas Dec. 26 to begin preparation for its Jan. 1 Cotton Bowl date with the Georgia Bulldogs, UA officials said Monday.

The Razorbacks defeated Texas A&M 31-6 Saturday at Little Rock to earn a share of the Southwest

A&M claimed ten victories to only one loss while also leading the nation in team defense. Isn't that enough?

As for choking or blowing the big game, A&M's All-anything defensive back Pat Thomas puts the Arkansas contest in the proper perspective. "I wanted to win it for the seniors especially, because it meant everything to me. You talk about the big game, we had a big game last week and didn't choke. You talk about the big game, we had one this week and we lost. But what are you gonna call last week, you going to call that a choke too?"

Granted, A&M probably has a superior ball club to Arkansas, but on that day the Aggies were only second rate at best.

Now A&M will face another stern test as they go to the Liberty Bowl, the Aggies' first bowl appearance in eight years. The Trojans will be playing two feet above their chinstraps to win the last one for soon-to-be-gone John McKay and to retain some of their fallen honor due to four straight losses.

The Aggies of Emory Bellard will be trying to make up some ground in that department themselves.

Conference championship and a trip to the bowl.

Lon Farrell, assistant UA athletic director, said the Hogs will not practice this week but will do conditioning work and possibly some practicing next week. Final examinations will be held Dec. 11-19.

Farrell said all plans are still tentative.

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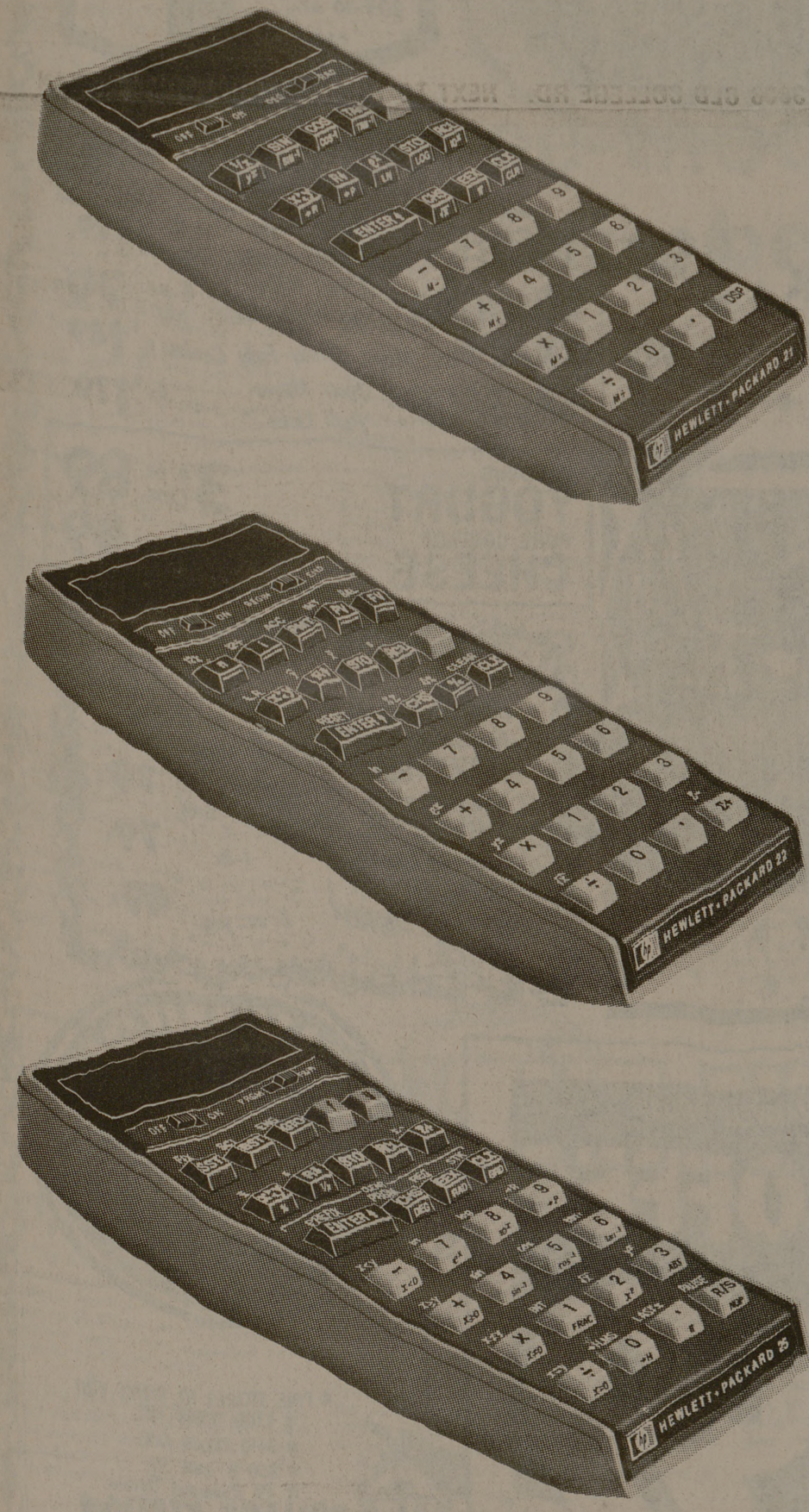
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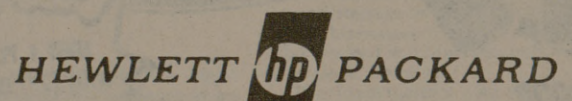
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