



# I'm not the Quarterback

By DAVID WALKER  
Battalion Sports Writer

When was the last time your holiday plans included watching the Texas Aggies in a bowl game? Let's put it like this, most of us were still excited about what Santa Claus had brought us.

It's Liberty Bowl time and I'm worried. It seems two groups involved with the bowl are happy: the bowl people themselves and USC. The Liberty Bowl is happy because having Texas A&M and USC is like a dream for them. It's a game that has real national appeal. It's not a turkey like Georgia and Arkansas. The other group that is happy is USC. Any team would be happy to be in a bowl if they lost their last four games in a row.

Notice that Texas A&M isn't one of the glad groups. It is understandable that the Aggies are disappointed because they aren't in the Cotton Bowl, but there is always last year when everyone stayed at home.

When I called the Georgia-Arkansas game a turkey, I meant it from the standpoint of national appeal. Who, besides a few people in the south, would want to see this one? And believe me the Aggies aren't the only ones that are disappointed that they aren't in the Cotton Bowl. The Cotton Bowl people themselves are frowning because they had thoughts of a sellout for the first time since the first Texas-Notre Dame game in 1969.

While Aggie everywhere are hurt because their team isn't in the Cotton Bowl, they had better be glad that Georgia is in high cotton.

If the Bulldogs weren't in the Cotton Bowl, chances are good that the Ags would be sitting home again this year.

This is how it happened. The SWC people were working with bowls trying to get a three-way deal where A&M, Texas and Arkansas would be taken care of. They were talking to the Liberty, Astro-Bluebonnet and Cotton representatives. Everyone liked the deal, except the Liberty, who wanted Georgia. Georgia was very interested in the Liberty also.

The Southwest Conference and the Cotton Bowl people were working close together so that both institutions could get the best possible deal. The later it got, it looked as if one of the conference schools would get left out, because the Liberty wouldn't go along with the deal. Someone on the Cotton Bowl side got wise and said, "Hey we don't have a team yet so why don't we take Georgia and get them out of the Liberty picture so the Liberty will take one of the conference schools."

That's the way it happened, and you can see that if the Cotton Bowl hadn't invited Georgia, the Ags would probably be staying at home. I just hope that the Aggies can show their thanks by taking it out on Southern Cal.

Texas A&M has a better football team than USC, but it's going to be tough to prove because it's hard to rebound. It's what you call a gut-check.

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And another entry for the "We're going to find out how good we really are" contest, is the Aggie basketball team who will leave Thursday morning for the Kansas Jayhawk tournament.

As Aggie Coach Shelby Metcalf put it, "We'll find out something now. All of the easy ones are over. From here on out we'll either be playing for a tournament championship or the SWC championship."

When Joe was found not in his hotel room at the 11 p.m. curfew — he was down in the bar having a few drinks with old Beaver Falls, Pa., friends — he was benched for more than a quarter by interim coach Ken Shipp and told he faces further disciplining, probably a \$1,000 fine.

# Namath's benching sees Joe sorry; Jets losers

Associated Press

NEW YORK — It isn't easy to take a \$450,000-a-year super star behind the woodshed and give him a paddling, but that's what happened to Joe Namath.

Pro football buzzed Tuesday with speculation over what might be the aftermath of the rather shocking incident.

Will it hasten a split between the 32-year-old quarterback and the New York Jets, the only team for which he has ever worked?

Will it cool Joe's longtime love affair with the game?

Football's highest priced commodity was treated like a college sophomore because he failed to pass bed check Sunday night in San Diego.

With inexperienced J. J. Jones directing the team while Namath pranced the sidelines like a fractious race horse, the Jets lost their 10th game of the season Monday night, bowing to San Diego 24-16.

When Joe finally got into the game after 20 minutes and 29 seconds, the Jets, if they originally had any desire, had apparently lost it.

Returning to New York on an overnight plane — tired, sleepy and frustrated — all principals insisted

that no special significance should be read into the affair.

Namath himself was penitent. "I was sick about it, damn sick," he said. "I got to talking with some old friends from Beaver Falls and the time got away from me. I am sorry. I let the team down. I let Coach Shipp down. I let myself down."

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