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Sports

Aggies aren't as physical

By JAMIE AITKEN
Battalion Editor

Virginia Tech's Roscoe Coles rushed for 117 yards against the Aggies Saturday — the first time anyone has gained over 100 yards against the Ags since Earl Campbell did it in 1974. But when the gun sounded, Roscoe and the Gobblers headed for the showers with a 27-6 season-opening loss.

Summing up the efforts of both Virginia Tech and the Aggies, after the game Roscoe shook his head and said, "the scoreboard don't show how the game was played."

I probably wouldn't have bothered to jot down his evaluation except that I'd heard it before, not long ago and in almost the same words. Kansas' Mike Beal, who led the Jayhawks defense with 13 tackles in their 28-14 loss to the Aggies two weeks ago, said afterwards that the score was not indicative of the play on the field.

It is to be expected that the losing team will blame its loss on fumbled handoffs, intercepted passes and bad timing. And those explanations have flowed abundantly in the locker rooms of curretly unranked Virginia Tech and Kansas over the last two weeks.

But consistently the talk among those out on the field has turned to some surprise that the Aggies aren't the team they had expected.

The Aggies, the players have said, lack the brute strength and power of last year — the punch represented by such players as Edgar Fields, Willie Thompson and Jimmy Dean.

"Last year, if they fell on you they'd hurt you," Coles said Saturday. "They didn't seem tough to me today. They're not as physical as they were last year."

"Last year they beat us physically, mentally, any way you could beat us, they beat us. But they know they were in a football game today."

The re-evaluation of the power in this year's squad began after the Jayhawks' defeat.

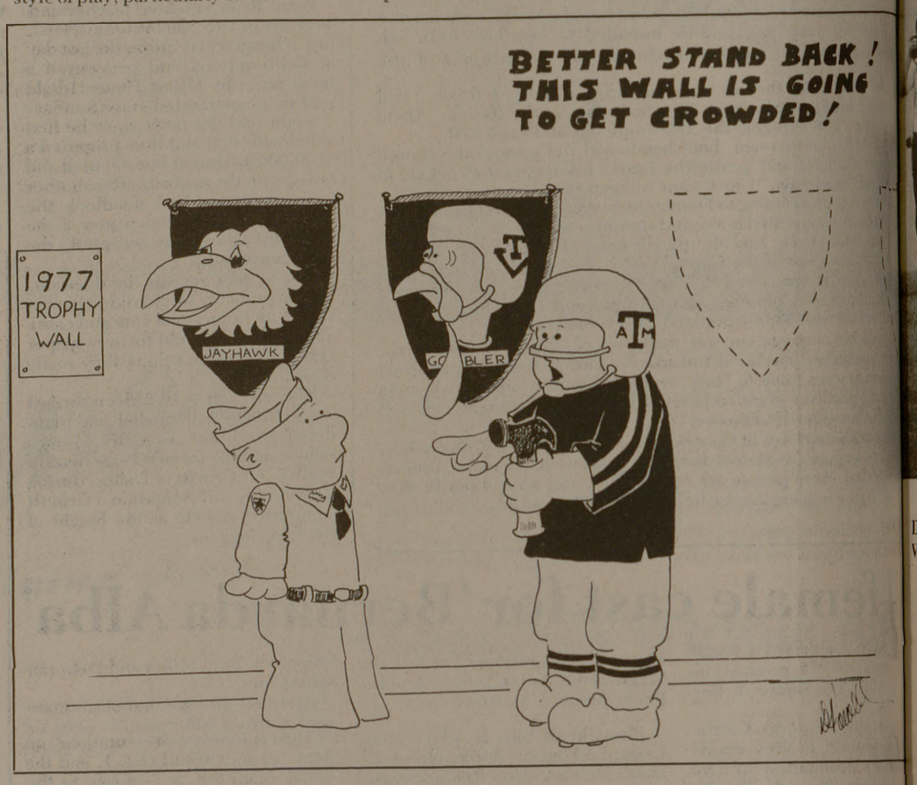
"I was ready for a tough game after playing them last season," said Beal. "They were good enough to win but they weren't as tough as I thought."

Most of those having made contact with the Aggies on the playing surface seemed to agree that this year's team is not as physical as in season's past.

No one goes so far, though, as to say the seventh-ranked Aggies aren't to be reckoned with. But the loss of many big lettermen from last season apparently has reshaped the Aggies' style of play, particularly on defense.

Quickness and execution can take the place of brute strength. Last year's team was blessed with both; but with this year's defensive talent, a less physical squad could still develop into a notable force of its own.

A sluggish season's beginning, however, has defeated opponents, wondering why they didn't fare better and fans hoping the machine will make its debut in Lubbock this week.



Davis out for season

United Press International

HOUSTON — Danny Davis cried following his Houston Cougars Cotton Bowl game New Years Day because he thought he had played poorly and let his teammates down. He did not cry Monday on receiving news he will not play again this college football season.

"It hurts, but I can take it," Davis said, his left arm strapped to his body to keep a separated shoulder from moving. "There have been worse things happen in my life."

Davis suffered the injury in Saturday's loss to Penn State and doctors who looked at him Monday said an operation was necessary to repair the torn tendons.

"*It won't sink in until Saturday* when I have to listen to the Utah game," Davis said. "I will like the operation even less then."

A scrapper and motivator, Davis was credited with engineering a miracle in 1976 by leading Houston to a Southwest Conference co-championship in the first year the team was eligible for the title.

"(This season) I looked forward to the competition more than anything," Davis said. "I wanted to see if we could actually do it again."

Because Davis red-shirted his second year at Houston, he will be eligible to play one more season if his shoulder mends. His background indicates he will rehabilitate and lead the Cougars again.

Davis was forced to grow up early. The stepson of a Dallas minister, he was was told one morning in 1971 that his older stepbrother, Sammy Davis Jr., had died of an overdose of drugs.

"That was the worst thing that ever happened to me," Davis said.

He learned independence from his father, who Davis admired so much he changed his last name from *Jones. The independence* [illegible] Davis to put aside his father's [illegible] that he play at the University [illegible] kansas and come to Houston.

The reinjury of a high school problem before the 1975 [illegible] caused Davis to redshirt, but [illegible] the 5-11, 185-pounder got his [illegible] at the start of the 1976 season [illegible] took advantage of the opportunity.

The Cougars beat Baylor in [illegible] first SWC game as a seeming[illegible] sumptuous Davis unveiled a T-[illegible] inscribed with, "Cougars, 1976 [illegible] champs." In this season's [illegible] eight days ago, he had on a T-shirt. It said, "Cougars, 1977 National Champs."

"I'm going to be around. I'm [illegible] to all the team meetings and I'll be [illegible] the sidelines doing what I can," he said. "This team is going to be [illegible] right. Don't count them out."

Sophomore Delrick Brown [illegible] over as the Cougars quarterback and Davis was one of the first to rush to his defense.

"Little Brown will do all right [illegible] by next year we'll have some [illegible] people who can go in and play quarterback without any problem," he said.

Samson & Delilah

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(not pictured: Jane Kroll)

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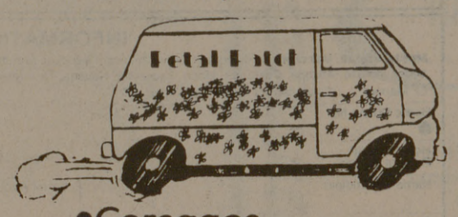

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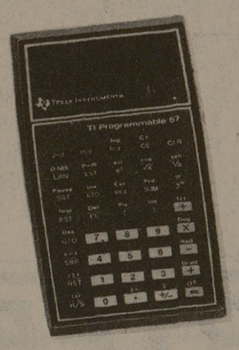

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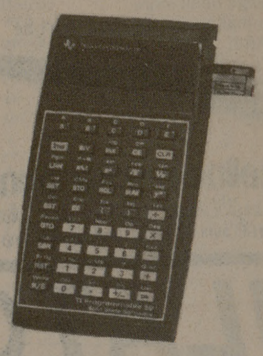

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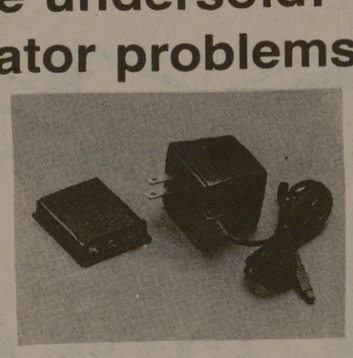

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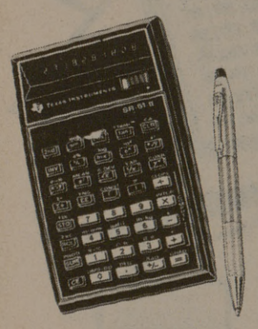

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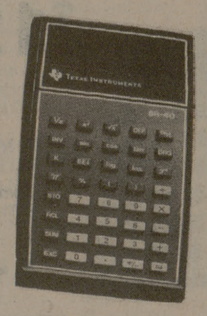

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