

Kicking game made the difference

By JAMIE AITKEN
Battalion Editor

Sports writers jammed the Texas Tech locker room after the Red Raiders' 33-17 loss to the Texas Aggies, pressing the big question: Would the game have been different if star quarterback Rodney Allison had not been sidelined in the first quarter? Head coach Steve Sloan answered with a very impressive reply: "I think great teams overcome injuries. I don't think we could have played any harder."

It was a noble statement from a

man who had seen his Red Raiders, led by a second-string quarterback, hold the outcome of Saturday's contest in doubt for all but the final minutes of the game. The Raiders finally fell under the pressure of a fine Aggie kicking game that kept Tech deep in their own territory the entire final period. The battle on the field nevertheless represented the efforts of two great teams.

The match-up was expected to be close, and was in fact a more heart-stopping game than the final score implies. With Allison out early with

a broken bone in his lower left leg, the pressure should have been lessened for the Aggies in the minds of many fans. But just as Allison ably commanded the Raiders against the Aggies last year when he came off the bench to replace injured first-stringer Tommy Duniwen, the Raiders' Tres Adami took over with no noticeable let-up in the game plan.

"You always try to be ready," Adami said. "I kind of expected I'd have to go in. We didn't change anything Rod was doing. We stuck with

what we had because it wasn't until the last that it broke open."

It was a sudden rout, particularly with the final seven points accumulated in the flash of an interception by the Aggies' Roderick Reed with 22 seconds remaining on the scoreboard.

Adami recounted his performance in the quiet of a dazed Raider locker room.

"I did a lot of stupid things...I started forcing things when we got behind. They had such a good kick-

ing game, they kept us back and I started forcing passes."

It was as Aggie head coach Emory Bellard had predicted the week before; the team with the kicking game would finally come out on top. Sloan agreed, and afterwards explained, "The difference in the game was field position...in the fourth quarter it was pretty much of a factor."

It was in that final period that the foot of Tony Franklin took the game away from a stubborn Raider defense. Franklin added three points to the A&M board on every Aggie

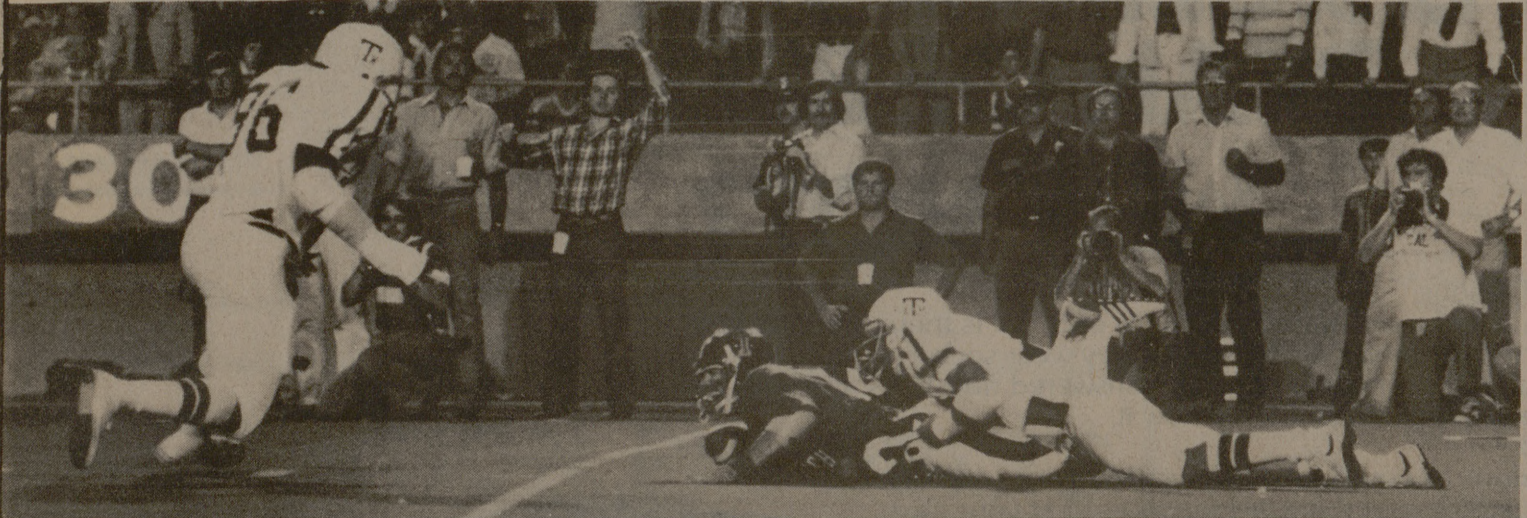
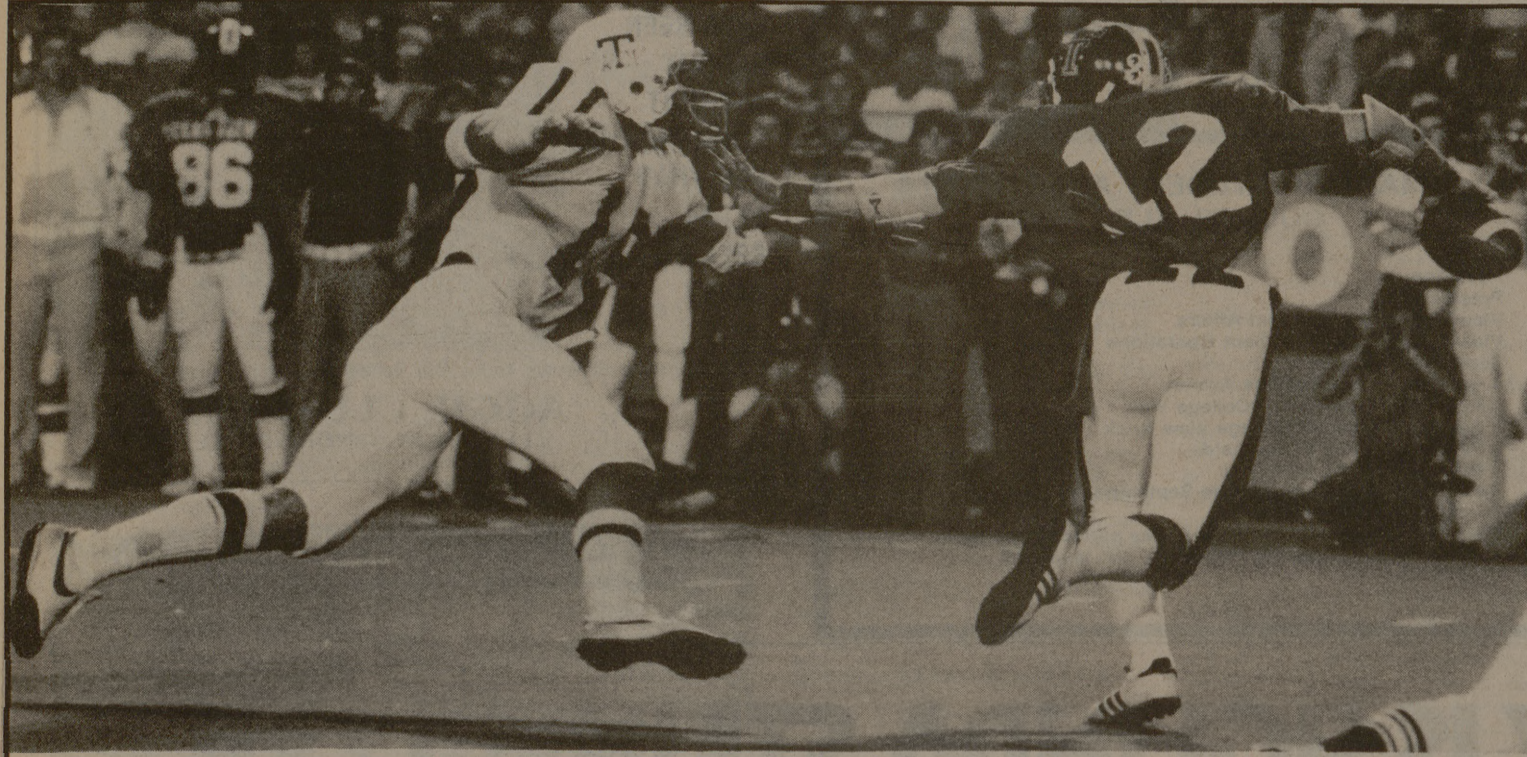
possession but one in the last quarter, bringing the Raiders from behind to a nine point lead before Reed's determined run-back finished the game.

Tech's star defensive end Richard Arledge said of the Raiders' attempts to stop the Aggie scores, "When they've got a kicker like Franklin it's hard to keep them off the board."

A&M punter David Appleby also kept the heat on, wearing down Tech's attempts to put the ballgame

out of reach by keeping the ball in consistently poor field position. Between Appleby's punting, Franklin's booming kick-offs, and as a staunch A&M defense, Raiders never advanced beyond their own 20-yard line during their fourth quarter.

But the game proved to be hard-fought as expected. It was no surprise to hear Bellard say, "When two teams are equal, the game comes down to the kicking game and that's what happens here."

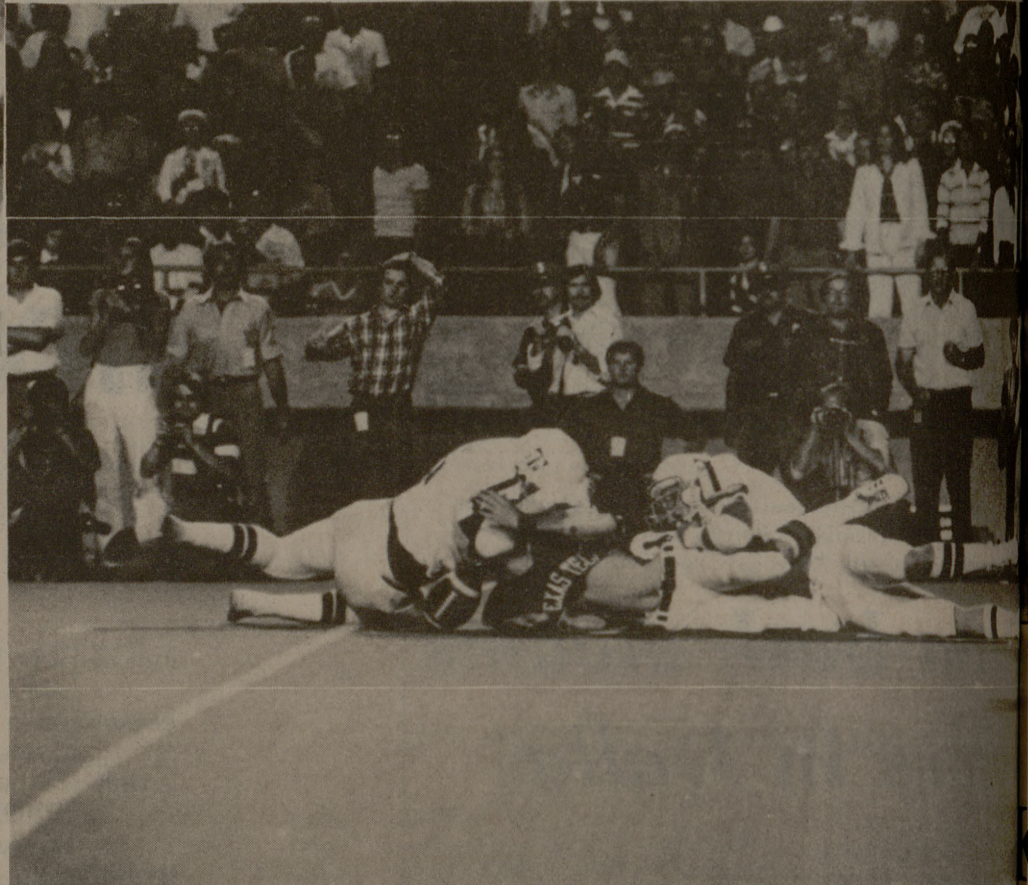


Allison out four weeks

Carl Grulich storms in on Rodney Allison, dropping him for a 19-yard loss. Grulich's tackle broke a bone in Allison's left foot. Tech coach, Steve Sloan said that Tech hoped to

have Allison back in the line-up in four weeks. The Red Raiders play three games during the next month before playing The Texas Longhorns.

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