

Ags stop miracle-minded Bears 38-31

By PAUL ARNETT
Battalion Sports Editor

Man can't stand prosperity. The Aggies proved that quotation by allowing the Baylor Bears to come back from a 28-point deficit to only lose by 7. A&M defeated Baylor 38-31.

"We just couldn't stand the prosperity that Baylor gave us in the first half," coach Emory Ballard said. "Our offensive scheme worked well throughout the game. The evidence can be seen on the scoreboard. We wound up with the 38 points."

"I thought David Walker played an outstanding game. It was one of the best he has ever played for us."

Walker completed four passes in nine attempts for 94 yards. Three of his completions were for touchdowns tying a school record.

"It was a good spectator game," Walker said. "I just wish we would have poured it on them, but they are a typical Baylor team. They never give up."

The miracle makers treated their guests from down the river very cordially in the first half.

Freshman quarterback Scott Smith threw two interceptions and David Seaborn fumbled the ball deep in Baylor territory enabling the Ags to lead at the half 35-14.

"I thought we would blow them out in the second half," Walker said.



Walker

"We felt good in the locker room, and we were ready to take it to them."

The blowing out didn't happen. Early in the third quarter punter David Appleby fielded a ground ball from his center and was forced to scramble to the sidelines. The Bears heard him out of bounds at the 30-yard line. Six plays later the miracle workers of Waco were only down by two tds.

The next offensive series for the Ags was a short one. On the first play Walker tried to pitch the ball to Curtis Dickey, but was wrapped up by a Baylor lineman causing the pitch to pop into the air. Defensive end Allen Stone caught the ball and rambled to the A&M three-yard line.

Five plays later Baylor was down by seven points.

"That was the only play that resembled a fumble all afternoon," Ballard said. "We had played very sound fundamental football up until that point. When things start going wrong, they all seem to happen at once."

The Aggies transformed wrong into right the remainder of the game. Tony Franklin kicked a 48-yard field goal and just missed one from 30 yards late in the game.

"There is no doubt in my mind that that field goal was good," Franklin said. "The ref was standing too close to the goal posts to be able to see if it was good or not. I wouldn't be so upset if it had been close, but the damn ball was two yards inside the post."

That wasn't the only close call of the game.

Early in the fourth quarter the Bears intercepted a Walker pass on the Ags' 33-yard line. On a fourth down play, Smith dropped back to pass looking for Ronnie Lee streaking down the sidelines. Lee caught Smith's pass on the A&M seven-yard line, but appeared to be out of bounds.

"He was at least three feet out of bounds," Aggie cornerback Mike Williams said. "I guess the ref had a bad angle."

The bad angle cost the Ags three points.

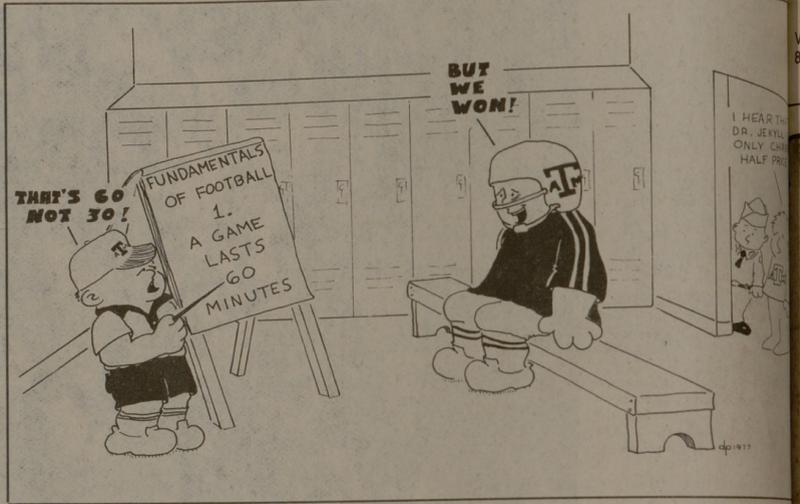
"The only thing that kept them in the game there at the end was a couple of 'good' calls by the officials," defensive end Phil Bennett said. "We were a little flat in the second half, and throw in a couple of mistakes by us and you have a close ball game that shouldn't have been."

This week's game with Rice shouldn't be a close one. The Owls haven't won a game this year, but after the Baylor game you can never tell what will happen.

A&M had an excellent play selection against the Bears. Ballard utilized the pass in situations that weren't obvious. Walker showed he could throw the ball, and split end Darrell Smith proved he could catch it.

Utilizing the pass as an offensive weapon will not only help the Ags against Rice, but against the rest of the SWC as well. The wishbone offense will prosper if the pass is part of the play selection.

It's the kind of prosperity the Aggies can stand.



TWS still trying to repair flats

By PAT EDMONDSON

More than eight years after its construction, the only major auto racing facility in the Southwest has emerged from its long pit stop.

Texas World Speedway, located five miles south of College Station, is now holding events which the original owners dreamed would expose auto racing to Texas. Five major auto races were held at the track this year and five are scheduled for 1978.

The speedway has had a long list of problems since ground was broken on the project in February

1969. Owner and president Richard Conole notes the change.

"It took awhile to re-establish things," he said. "But I think we've made it over the hump."

The 640-acre facility, which includes a two-mile high banked oval and a two- and a three-mile road course, was built at a cost of \$7 million by American Raceways, Inc.

The corporation has since gone into bankruptcy and no longer exists.

Originally named Texas International Speedway, the track was one of four super speedways constructed

by Lawrence LoPatin, president and chief stockholder of American Raceways.

Conole reviewed the history of the corporation in a recent interview.

"He (LoPatin) had the idea that if he and his people owned the super speedways in the U.S., that they could control the sport of auto racing."

"Unfortunately," he explained, "they expanded too fast and overextended themselves."

In December 1970, Texas International Speedway went into receivership. Early in 1971, the note was paid by Dan W. Holloway, contractor of the track.

Holloway changed the name to Texas World Speedway and seven major auto races were held in a two year span, including a 200-mile Indianapolis car race which broke two world records for speed.

The energy crisis hit in December 1975 and several races were cancelled.

"All the sponsors walked out at the height of the energy crunch," said Conole. "With the gas problem, they weren't sure of the future

of auto racing."

The speedway remained dormant for nearly three years.

Conole bought the facility from LoPatin in February 1976.

"I was confident," said Conole. "In a community with as much economic growth as College Station, the plant could become popular one for both drivers and fans."

Conole admits the speedway's lack of success in the past has slowed the renovating process.

"Yes," he said, "it's been to promote events."

When Conole bought the track, he talked with United Auto Club president Richard about sponsoring USAC races at Texas World.

"NASCAR (National Association of Stock Car Racers) events have been successful in the past," Conole, and he noted, "I think the public likes to see the change. So we decided to go with USAC."

USAC holds 12 races a year. Two of them are scheduled for the only two USAC 500-mile car races will also be held at Texas World next year.

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