Tough loss for Mustangs

By MARK PATTERSON
Battalion Staff

What a difference a halftime makes.

When SMU and A&M went to their locker rooms after the first half of Saturday's game, the Mustangs held a commanding 21-7 lead over the Aggies. And SMU felt pretty comfortable.

But seemingly two different teams returned to the field to play the second half of the game. And the comfort that SMU had felt going into halftime turned into a feeling of frustration in the second half. A&M totally dominated play and sent the Mustangs home with a 38-21 loss.

Though the Mustangs tasted defeat, they retained their honor here Saturday. They compiled 287-yards passing against the Aggie secondary and were in the game until the final minute of play.

But losing a game in this fashion still hurts a team.

"My moral is really hurt, especially losing the game like we did," said SMU tailback Arthur Whittington. "We thought we had them. We were up at halftime, but they just came out and took the game away from us in the second half."

Whittington was held to 38-yards rushing in the game, but added 118-yards in five catches in the receiving department.

"I thought in order for us to win we would have to score two more touchdowns in the second half," said Whittington. "But the offense just didn't produce. We didn't have the time to throw the ball in the second half like we did in the first half. They (A&M) just put more people on us in their pass rush and it shut us down."

The view wasn't much brighter from the other side of the SMU squad after the game.

"A&M just ground out a victory, that's all there is to it," said Putt Choat, SMU linebacker. "They just kept people coming at us the whole game. We ran out of people to stop them."

Choat suffered a hyper-extention of his knee during the game but returned to action in the second half.

"We had three defensive starters out at halftime," said Choat, "I really shouldn't have gone back into the game but I was the healthiest one left on the bench. They (A&M) really were physical."

John Simmons made his first start for SMU Saturday at right cornerback. Simmons spent the afternoon trying to shut down the Aggie wishbone attack.

But he added to SMU's scoring in the first half by intercepting a David Walker pass and returning it 34-yards for the first SMU touchdown.

"Since this was my first start I just wanted to impress the coaches with my play. When he (Darrell Smith) went out for the pass, I just looked up and saw the ball. I just reacted and went for it. When I caught the ball I just headed for the goal-line.

"And that was my first college touchdown," added Simmons.

SMU head coach Ron Meyer felt the key to Saturday's game was the injuries sustained by his ball club.

"A&M is a very physical football team. Our injuries really showed up in the second half. That was the key to the game. When you lose your main guys on defense, your two co-captains (Choat and Champ Dickerson), and you replace them with freshmen, it takes the guts out of your ball club. Our freshman played well but A&M was just too physical.

"I know that Emory (Bellard) didn't run up the score on us. On that final drive that Mosley scored on, we had four cheap penalties. Our freshmen were taking cheap shots out there and you can't win and shouldn't win with plays like that. I apologize to A&M for their actions."

No one can keep up with the Joneses

The need has finally developed to differentiate between all those Jones people at the University of Texas.

And that comes as good news to Longhorns coach Fred Akers, who knows as well as anybody that it is hard to win the national championship with just an iron-legged kicker and a steel-framed fullback.

The kicker, Russell Erxleben, did contribute field goals of 60 and 35 yards, and the fullback, Earl Campbell, did bounce off people for 116 yards.

But it was the Joneses — those two named Johnny — who ensured the Longhorns of another week as No. 1 by scoring all three Texas touchdowns Saturday in a 26-0 blitz of the 13th-rated Texas Tech Red Raiders.

In three of the last four games Texas played teams ranked third, eighth and 13th — Oklahoma, Arkansas and Texas Tech — and did not allow any of them to cross the goal line.

And the people crossing the goal line for Texas Saturday were all named Jones. So let's go through it one more time for those who came in late.

Johnny "Ham" Jones — Ham for his home town of Hamlin, Tex. — is the junior running back who does so much blocking for Earl Campbell, the Southwest Conference's all-time career rushing leader.

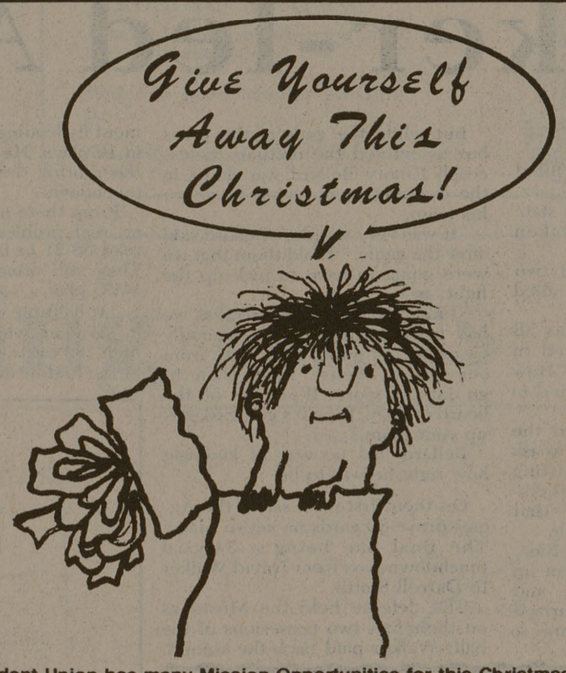
And Johnny "Lam" Jones — Lam for his home town of Lampasas, Tex. — is the sophomore who currently is the fastest football player in the world. This is the Jones who ran the second leg on the United States' gold medal winning 400-meter relay team at the Montreal Olympics and won sixth in the 100-meter dash.

Lam Jones caught a 57-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Randy McEachern in the first quarter against Tech and Ham Jones scored twice in the second half on runs of 3 and 11 yards.

Ham Jones even showed he had a little ham in him by taunting a Tech defender before scoring on his short touchdown run. That drew a 15-yard penalty and a dressing down from Akers.

"It was finally Johnny Ham's day," said Campbell. "I'm happy for him. Every week I've been getting the touchdowns and the credit when it has been his blocking that has opened the way a lot of times."

"Both Ham and Earl were great," said Akers. "They were really going after Earl, but he still got a lot of yardage. Some of it was by himself."



The Baptist Student Union has many Mission Opportunities for this Christmas break. The trips include Mexico — along the Rio Grande River Valley, St. Kitts, in the Caribbean, and Brazil. If interested, there will be a slide presentation at the center on November 2 at 12:00, with lunch included free.

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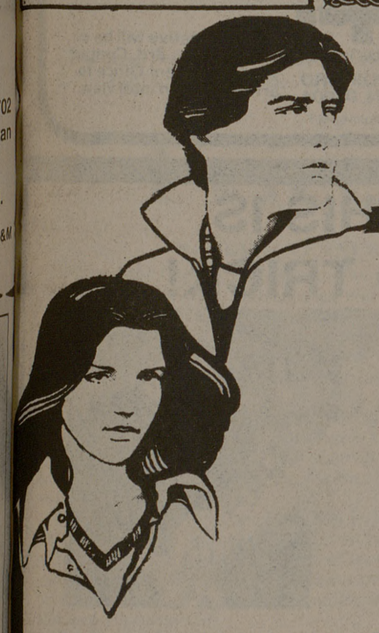
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