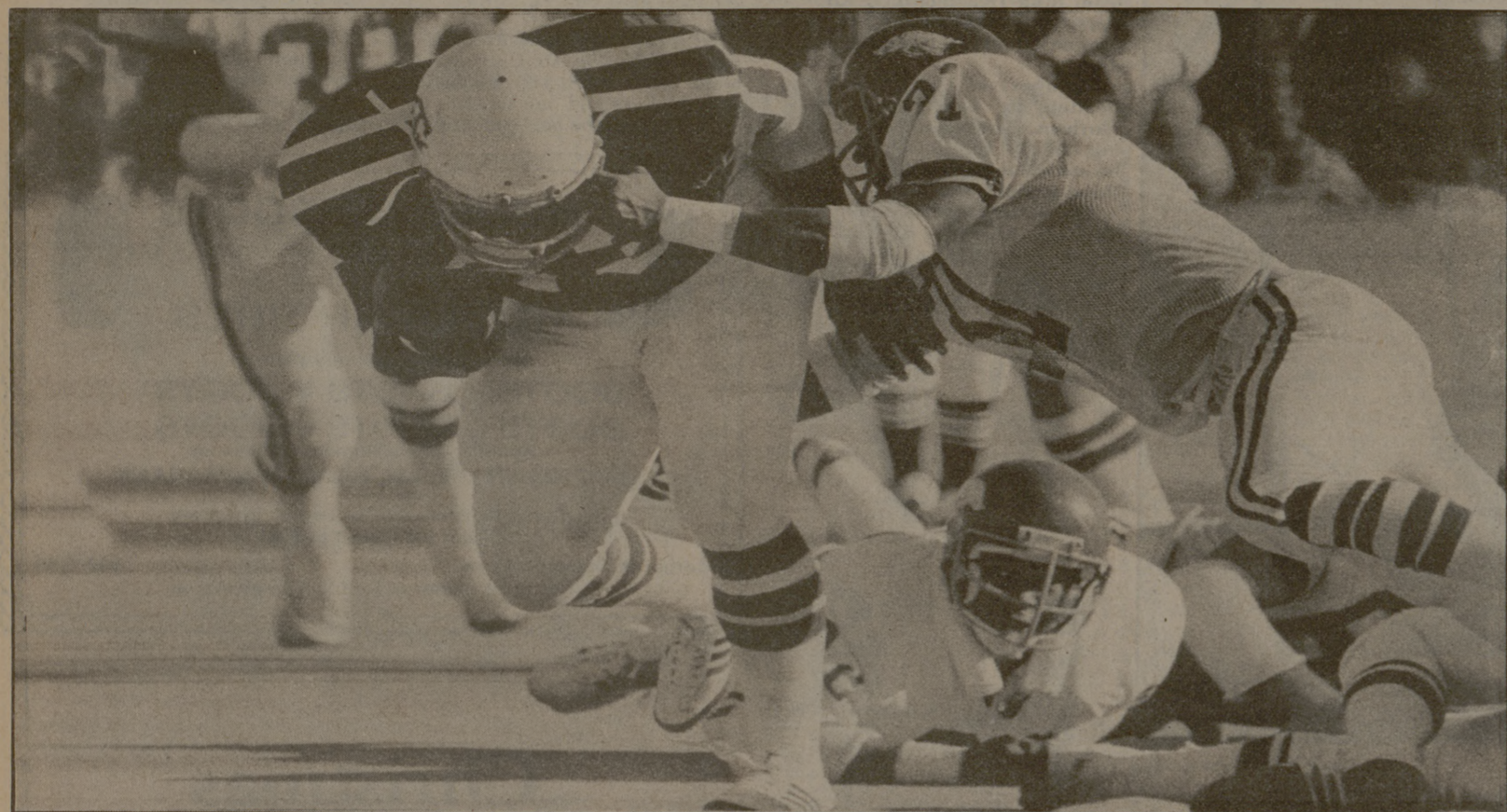


sports

# Hogs halt Texas A&M rally; win 26-20



Arkansas did anything and everything to stop George Woodard. On this play free safety Howard Sampson drags Woodard down by his face mask. Woodard gained

116 yards, but it wasn't enough to beat the Razorbacks. The final score was 26-20.

Battalion photo by Pat O'Malley

By PAUL ARNETT  
Battalion Sports Editor

*It is circumstance and proper timing that give an action its character and make it either good or bad.*

Agesilaus

Only a tiny cheer by the Arkansas fans broke the shocked silence that filled Kyle Field. Arkansas cornerback Patrick Martin turned on that silence by stepping deftly between intended receiver David Brothers and a desperation pass thrown by David Walker.

The final score read 26-20; it was in Arkansas' favor.

"The clock was a heck of an element in Arkansas' favor on that last drive," coach Emory Ballard said. "I thought that we had called a time out the play before Darrell was interfered with."

"Darrell gave the time out sign and the official signaled time out. He says that he never saw the signal. He told me after the game that he had called time out to move the first down markers."

The Aggies' final drive began on their own 20 with 1:41 remaining in the game. After Walker completed two passes to Curtis Dickey, one to George Woodard and still another to David Brothers, A&M found itself on Arkansas' 45. There were still 31 seconds remaining in the game.

Here is where the ghost time out was called. Ballard and Smith were talking on the sidelines when the ref

started the clock. Walker waved frantically at Ballard while precious seconds ticked away.

Twenty-five ticks later, A&M's wide receiver was interfered with, giving the Aggies the ball on their 14. Only six seconds were left.

Proper timing and circumstance just weren't in Walker's huddle.

"On that last play, both George and David were open," Walker said. "I thought the cornerback was moving towards George so I threw it to David. I just guessed wrong."

The real wrong guess had already occurred about two minutes before Walker's interception. Arkansas was driving methodically down the field apparently setting up for the go-ahead field goal. With less than two minutes remaining in the game Ron Calcagni faked a hand-off to Ben Cowins and lofted a 58-yard touchdown pass to Robert Farrell.

"I was just thinking of catching it," Farrell said. "They had been keying on our backs on the play action passes and their offensive backs had been coming up. We had run the same play all afternoon, but he never threw it to me."

This type of defensive mistake has plagued the Aggies all season.

"Arkansas had no surprises for us," safety Carl Grulich said. "We just can't give up those easy points like we did and expect to win a big ball game. On that last play I thought we should have played off of them a little more. Wade Miles

played a little too close and committed too soon."

"Take away that mistake, and Texas A&M defense played a second half. The Aggies yielded 116 yards and six points after interception. Fifty-eight of those yards came on one play."

"Our defense did a damn fine job throughout the game," Ballard said. "In the first half they were in the field most of the time. They played excellent aggressive football in the second half. That long pass was the only bad mistake."

Luckily the mistake had not reduced A&M's chances of going to the Cotton Bowl. If the Aggies win the rest of their games, then they will be a happy one for Ballard.

"The only consolation in losing Arkansas is that we're still not in the running," Ballard said. "We have the opportunity to go to the Cotton Bowl if we win our last two games."

One of those games is with No. 1 team in the nation. It may prove to be a long afternoon for Aggies if the defense doesn't correct its mental mistakes.

One major thing in the Aggies' favor is their offensive line. Led by the Razorbacks, who were the best team in the country on scoring offense, the lineman consistently opened gaping holes for the runningbacks.

It will take these basics, plus the flair, if the Aggies are entering any thoughts of a trip to Dallas.

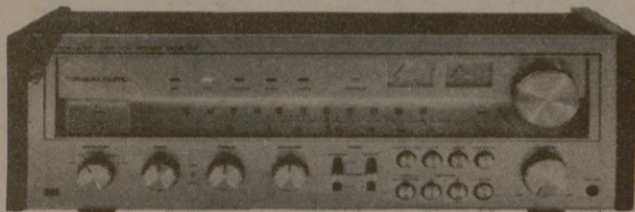


Kevin Monk (No. 45) goes high in the air in an attempt to block Steve Little's 29-yard field goal. Little's boot tied the game at

3-3 late in the first quarter. Arkansas defeated the Aggies 26-20.

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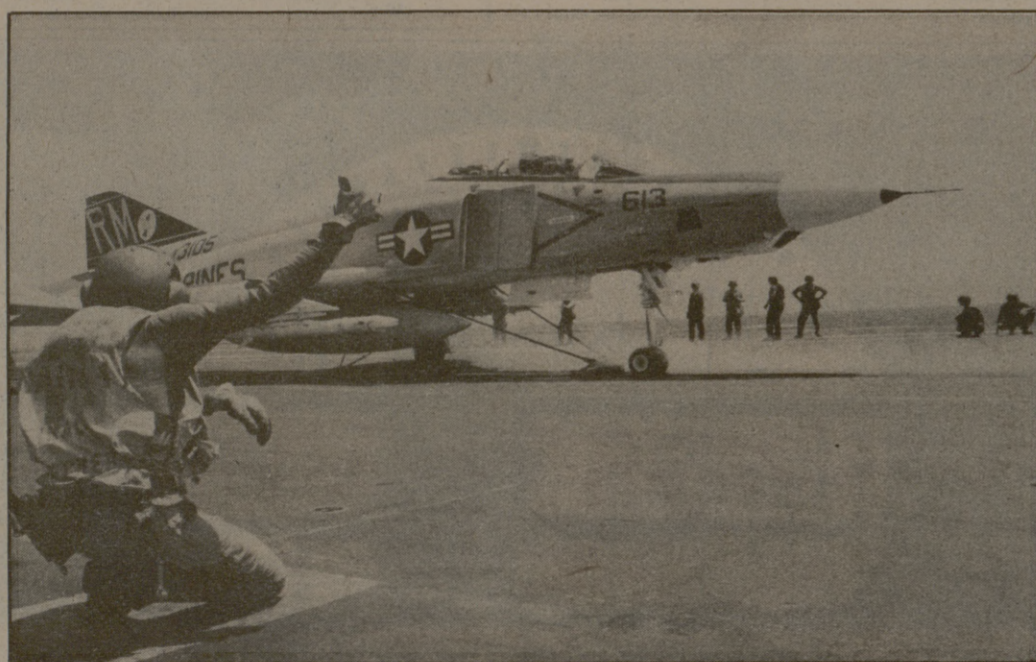
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