

sports

The season is still ahead

By DAVID BOGGAN
Battalion Staff

Everybody at Kyle Field Saturday witnessed a classic game of mind muscle from which the Arkansas Razorbacks walked away 26-20 over the Texas A&M Aggies. Although the majority of the 55,028 spectators were more pleased with the game time weather conditions than with the final score, most would agree that the Aggies played OKlahoma to head with the Razorbacks and did so in a manner that we all knew they were capable of.

Amid the excitement of bowl representatives, Uncle Woody the pig and questions about time outs, there were 60 minutes of good old-fashioned, suspense-filled football. When the winner and the loser of a game is decided on the last second, I call that a good game.

There are those who would have believed that this game was unimportant because, regardless of the outcome, both teams can still qualify for part of the Southwest Conference title. Nonsense! This game was of utmost importance to the Aggies. They proved that they deserve their national rating. They showed the motivation that had been absent from most of the games this season. We all knew that the Aggies have a teacher. They proved last Saturday that they know how to use it.

The Aggie defense allowed only 29 yards rushing in the second half of the game. That was less than half of what they allowed in the first half. Until the big Arkansas pass play late in the fourth quarter, the Aggies allowed only 29 yards passing in the second half. Until that play, coach Melvin Robertson's defense shut out the Razorbacks.

I could dwell forever on "if's" about the last two minutes of the game. The fact is that Ron Calcagni completed a 58-yard touchdown pass to Robert Farrell that broke the 20-20 tie and 101 seconds later gave Arkansas the victory.

The Aggie offense scored more points on the Hog defense than any team this season, even top-rated Texas. Prior to the game the Razor-

backs had been rated first in the nation in scoring defense, allowing only 6.8 points per game.

At no time in the game did the Aggie offense show more skill and composure than in the last 1:41 of the game. They did not yield to pressure and in just five plays, quarterback David Walker led the Aggies from their 20-yardline to the 14-yardline of Arkansas. Then, on

the last play of the game, Arkansas' Patrick Martin intercepted the Aggies' hopes of victory in a cross-field pass from Walker intended for David Brothers in the end zone.

The Aggies played their best game of the season Saturday. If they continue to improve and defeat TCU, Texas and Houston, they can represent the Southwest Conference in the 1978 Cotton Bowl.

Top 20

Team	Points
Texas (35)	9-0
Oklahoma (1)	9-1
Alabama (1)	9-1
Ohio St. (1)	9-1
Michigan	9-1
Notre Dame (1)	8-1
Arkansas	8-1
Penn St.	9-1
Pittsburgh (1)	8-1-1
Nebraska	8-2
Arizona St.	8-1
Texas A&M	6-2
Florida St.	8-1
No. Texas St.	8-2
Clemson	7-2-1
UCLA	7-3
North Carolina	7-2-1
Texas Tech	7-2
Iowa St.	7-3

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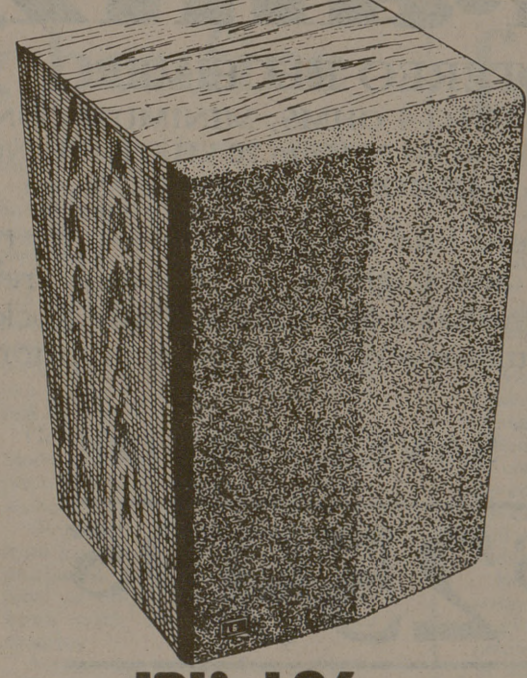
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