

# A&M stops TCU 52-23; now looks for cotton . . .

By MARK PATTERSON  
Battalion Staff

Post season bowl bids were up for grabs Saturday as the Aggies flexed their muscles and rushed past the TCU Horned Frogs 52-23 before a crowd of 28,563 in Fort Worth.

With the lopsided victory the Aggies have set the stage for their conference showdown with the University of Texas this Saturday.

Texas can sew up the conference crown and a trip to the Cotton Bowl with a victory over the Aggies. Though the Aggies still have to face Houston Dec. 3, a victory over Texas would be a giant step forward towards Dallas.

But the loser of the showdown won't be left out in the cold. Immediately following their victories Saturday, both Texas and A&M were extended Bluebonnet Bowl invitations.

C.J. "Tex" Thornton, Bluebonnet Bowl president and an A&M graduate, extended the Aggies the bowl invitation in their locker room after the game.

"As an A&M graduate (class of '44), the first thing I want to say is on to the Cotton Bowl," said Thornton addressing the Aggie team. "But if anything should hap-

pen along the way, you have a place in the Bluebonnet Bowl."

Thornton also said that the same invitation was extended to the University of Texas following its victory over Baylor.

But before the Aggies heard their invitation to a post season bowl they had the task of disposing of TCU. And they took advantage of the opportunity, as both individual and team records fell by the wayside in the Aggie romp over the Frogs.

- A&M amassed 687 yards total offense, a new SWC record.
- A&M rushed for 606 yards, a team record and five yards short of the SWC single game rushing record held by Texas.
- George Woodard gained 163 yards and broke the A&M career touchdown record of 32 held by Joel Hunt. Woodard got his 33rd touchdown midway through the third quarter and scored again in the fourth quarter.
- Curtis Dickey had a career high 175 yards rushing on only 20 carries.
- Freshman Mike Mosley, making his first start as an Aggie quarterback, rushed for 98 yards and passed for 38 more

before leaving the game early in the fourth quarter.

Mosley was a surprise starter for the Aggies Saturday. David Walker was suffering from bruised ribs and the coaches decided to rest the senior quarterback for next week's game. Mosley was called upon to step in and lead the offense.

"I found out Tuesday that I was going to start so I had all week to prepare," said Mosley after the game. "I wasn't worried playing behind the first team offense. I knew they would open the holes for me. Plus David (Walker) helped me all week in practice."

"The only problem I had was getting my timing down with George (Woodard). At the beginning of the week I was off when I gave him the ball up the middle, but we worked it out."

And their work paid off. On the Aggies first possession they marched 86 yards down the field with Mosley carrying the ball for the final three yards and the touchdown.

And the scoring derby had begun. Aggie head coach Emory Bellard was happy with his team's performance and complimented the younger players on their play.

"I was happy that we finally got a

chance to get some of the younger players in a ballgame," said Bellard. "Mosley did an excellent job for the first time out. He looked good in there."

"TCU played the middle tough in the first half. That gave Dickey a chance on the outside runs."

"In the second half they brought their linebackers up to the line and it loosened up the middle for Woodard to break through."

"That's the way our offense is supposed to work."

While the Aggies were running wild, the TCU offense couldn't find it's feet this Saturday afternoon.

Though the Frogs were held to 37 yards rushing for the day, TCU quarterback Steve Bayuk and the TCU receivers teamed up to pierce the Aggie secondary for 260 yards passing.

And the Frogs set some records of their own in the contest.

Wide receiver Mike Renfro, last year's all-conference receiver, set a SWC receiving record with his 159th catch of his career in Saturday's game. Renfro broke Jerry LeVias' record with his touchdown catch in the second quarter.

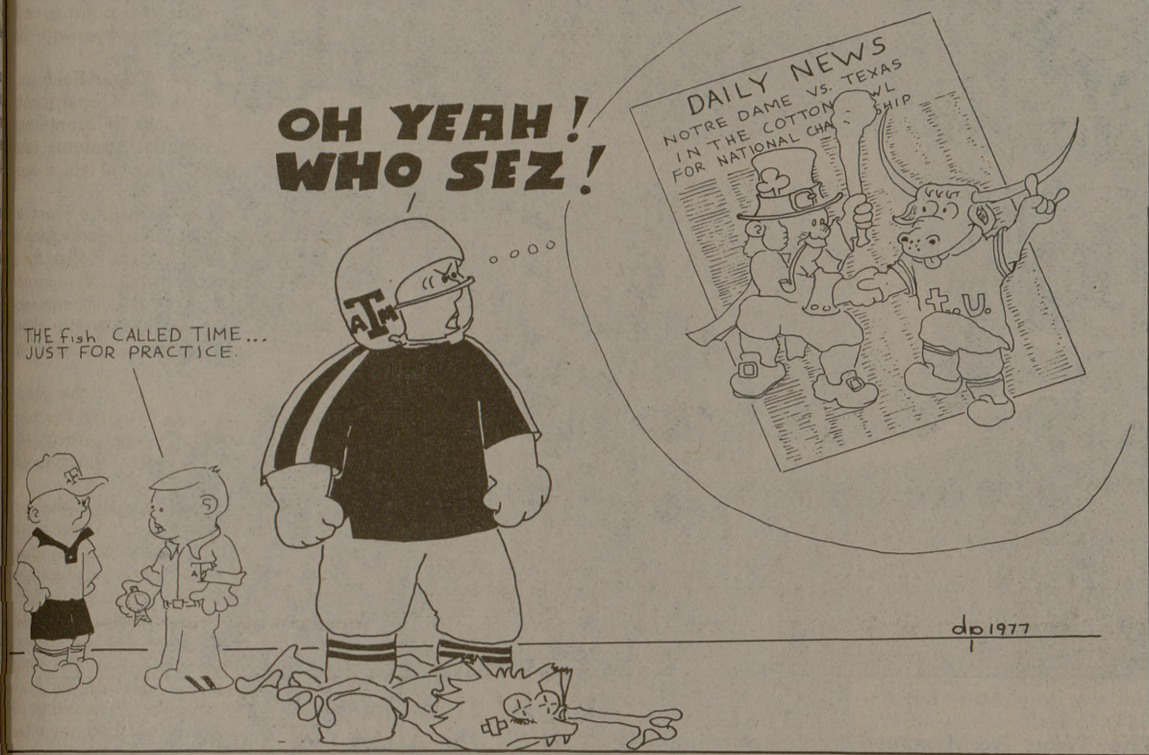
Renfro also caught nine passes in the game, a personal high for him in a single game.

Frog quarterback Bayuk was 20 for 38 in the game, and he also led the Frogs in rushing. Bayuk accounted for 46 yards on the ground while the rest of the TCU team was held to minus nine yards rushing.

Although the Aggies dominated play against the hapless Frogs, their test will come this Saturday against the number one team in the nation.

Aggie fullback George Woodard seemed to convey the feelings of the A&M team following its lopsided victory.

"We were looking at TCU first, but now we can look at Texas. The Texas game is the number one game of the year at this time. We'll have to be ready for it."



# SWC receives most bowl bids in its history . . . but so is Texas

By DAVID BOGAAN  
Battalion Staff

They've got the fever down in Austin. Their Texas Longhorns have the number one football team in the nation and folks in the capital city want everyone to know about it.

Chants proclaiming the Longhorns' position at the top of the polls echoed across Memorial Stadium Saturday afternoon as coach Fred Akers' team increased its chances of securing a national championship by defeating Baylor 29-7.

Fans, wearing hats that looked like footballs with protruding horns, extended their arms toward the blimp and enthusiastically showed the nation, via network television, their popular second down hand signal.

Shops along the drag have decorated their windows for the occasion, no doubt in hopes of decorating the interior of their cash registers, as cashiers sell anything and everything that is orange and white.

The Notre Dame Fighting Irish, complete with the legends of the Gripper, Knute Rockney and the Four Horseman, owners of a somewhat chilling fight song, and by the way, a pretty good football team in 1977, will once again grace the Cotton Bowl with their presence.

Now the people who run the game will sit around one more week with sweaty palms to see who will take the Irish in their third trip to Dallas, where Notre Dame broke their 48-year bowl ban in 1970.

Will Notre Dame come to the Cotton Bowl to play the Texas Longhorns, winners of 10 straight, possessors of the leading Heisman Trophy candidate and ranked No. 1 in the nation.

Or will the Irish take on Texas A&M, a not bad football team itself but losers twice this season to Michigan and Arkansas.

The answer to that little puzzler should come next Saturday in the 44th renewal of a feud that is usually no worse than the average Sino-Soviet border skirmish.

But no matter who wins, the Southwest Conference is already as-

sured of its richest bowl payoff in history. Four teams from the league — equaling the most ever — will make trips to the Cotton, Orange, Bluebonnet and Tangerine bowls during the holidays and will bring home a total of close to \$2.5 million.

Seventh-ranked Arkansas, losers only to Texas, plucked off the coveted Orange Bowl spot after destroying SMU, 47-7. Arkansas fans threw oranges onto the field after each touchdown, some of them hitting SMU coach Ron Meyer.

"I think they could have called a penalty for throwing oranges on the field," said Meyer. "But I'm glad they didn't because it might have caused a riot." "It was in very poor taste to throw oranges," said Arkansas Coach Lou Holtz. "I'm very embarrassed if our fans gave SMU a bad time on the sidelines by throwing them."

Then, after accepting the Orange Bowl bid, Holtz said Miami had best be prepared for a huge wave of Arkansas fans when the Razorbacks show up to meet the winner of next Friday's Nebraska-Oklahoma game. "I think it would be in poor taste

if we didn't leave somebody to guard the bank," he said.

The Bluebonnet Bowl decided to take whichever team — Texas or Texas A&M — does not make the Cotton Bowl. Bluebonnet officials then quietly kicked themselves for not making a run at Penn State, which was briefly shut out of the bowl picture before grabbing a Fiesta Bowl spot. Instead the Bluebonnet will have either Washington or USC.

And the Tangerine Bowl people were probably a little embarrassed, too, since they announced Texas Tech would come to Orlando to play Florida State and then had to watch Tech get crunched by Houston, 45-7.

Texas and Texas A&M warmed up for their confrontation by whipping Baylor and TCU respectively.

And by now t-shirt and bumpersticker companies have designed plenty of products to accommodate the fans of a national championship team, should the Longhorns fulfill their dreams.

Perhaps the atmosphere in Austin is best exemplified by the UT security guard who said that he signed three autographs just because he worked in the Texas locker room.

Everyone is on the bandwagon down there. And who can blame them. In a country that places so much importance on competition sports, a number one football team is nothing to be modest about.

Of course, there are those who argue that Texas is not a number one team but a one man team, referring to Earl Campbell, the Longhorns' Heisman Trophy candidate. This argument can never be proven because any situation that does not include Earl Campbell on the Longhorn team is purely hypothetical. Campbell is there, he is healthy and he is ready to play the Aggies.

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