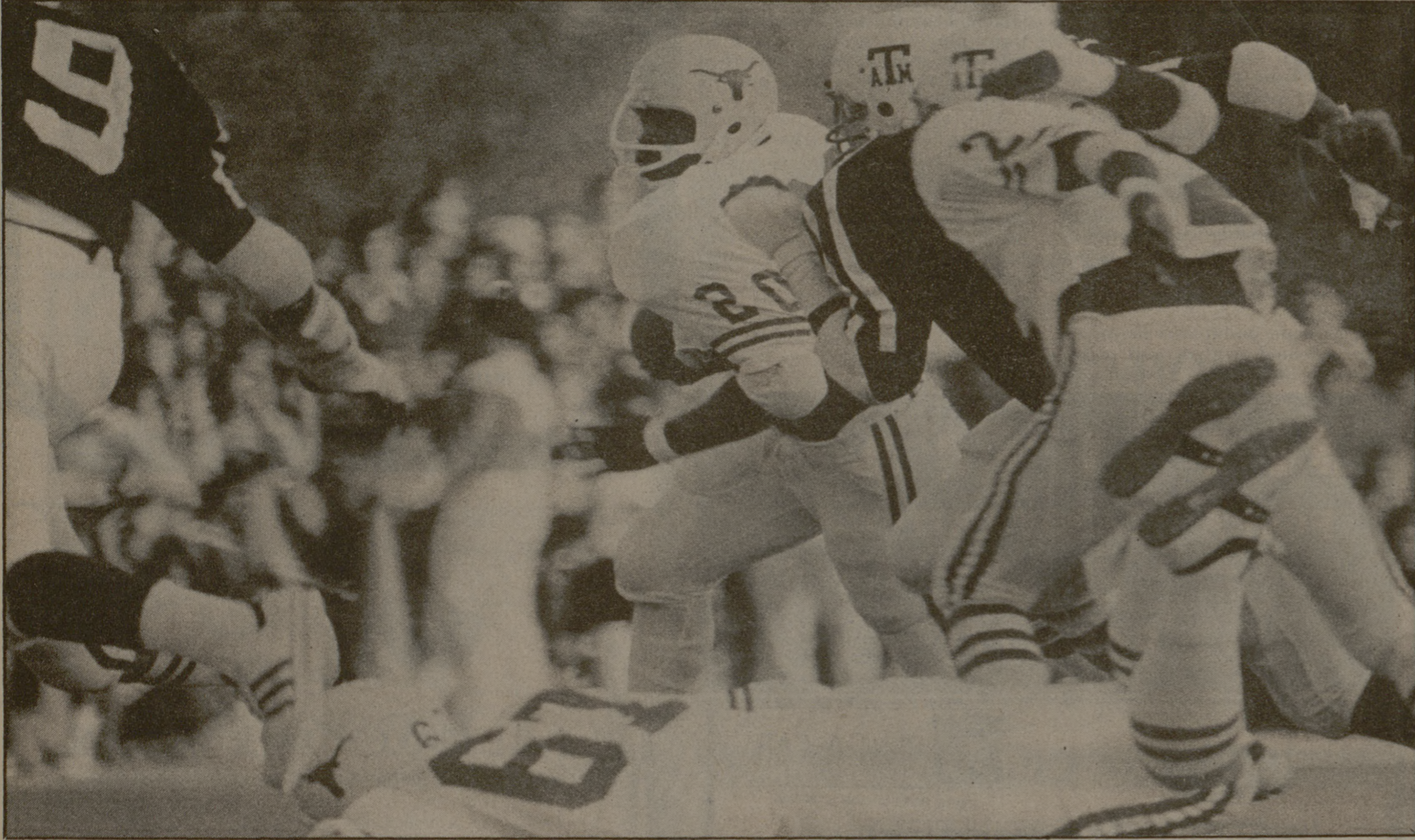


# Longhorns steer around Ags 57-28



The Earl of Austin

Earl Campbell rushes for six yards against the Aggie defense. On the day Campbell gained 222 yards on 27 carries as Texas rolled past the Aggies 57-28.

Battalion photo by Pat O'Malley

By PAUL ARNETT  
Battalion Sports Editor

The last time Earl Campbell visited College Station the runningback from Tyler gained 43 yards on 15 carries. In his return engagement to Kyle Field, Campbell was much more impressive as he led the Texas Longhorns past Texas A&M 57-28.

The Heisman Trophy candidate rushed for 222 yards and three touchdowns. He also caught a 60-yard touchdown pass and accounted for 282 of Texas' 506 yards. Campbell needed only seven more yards to equal the Aggies' offensive total.

"He is the best runningback I have ever seen," coach Emory Bellard said. "He has great speed, balance and power. He is a real dandy."

Aggie defensive end Phil Bennett described Campbell in this manner. "If Campbell doesn't get the Heisman then they should throw the damn trophy away," Bennett said. "He is a great runningback and a team leader. Earl is not that tough to bring down, but he will wear you out."

"We made a lot of mistakes on defense. That has been a problem all year. We've just given up too many big plays."

The Texas offense made the big play all afternoon. The Longhorns scored nine times in 16 offensive possessions. It was the most points ever yielded by a Texas A&M defense.

"There comes a time when your defense just has to stop them," Bellard said. "We just never did. They did everything we expected them to

do. We knew they would pass and we definitely knew Campbell would carry the ball. They're just a darn fine outfit and they deserve to be rated as the best team in the country."

But the Horns were not invincible. The Aggie wishbone moved the ball up and down the field with some degree of consistency. The Aggies scored all of their points via the rush. Before the A&M game, the Longhorns' No. 1 defense had allowed only one touchdown rushing.

"The Aggies have one hell of an offense," all-American tackle Brad Shearer said. "It was a tough game, but we knew what we had to do to beat them."

What they did was put points on the board in crucial situations. One of these situations occurred at the start of the second half.

Texas was leading 33-14 after intermission. Facing a tough southerly wind, the Longhorns drove 80 yards in five plays. The score bulged to 40-14, and it proved to be an insurmountable lead for the Aggies.

"I'm proud of our kids because they never gave up," Bellard said. "We took the wind at the start of the second half, hoping to get good field position if we held them. They took it in for the score and suddenly you're behind by 26."

"Our offense showed a lot of character. They scored two touchdowns in a hurry. If our defense would have held, then we would have been back in the game."

Just before the half the defense did hold the Horns and forced them to punt against the wind. After a 12-yard punt, A&M found itself with 104 seconds and only 38 yards to negotiate for a score. But the old

time out ghost once again haunted the Aggie sideline.

"I have never heard of a delay of game called when you have a time out," David Walker said. "I was over talking with the coaches when they signaled that play was resumed. I wasn't even on the field."

The five-yard penalty cost the Aggies a first down and forced them to attempt a long field goal. Frank's 55-yard effort was no good.

"I went over and talked with the official about the delay of game penalty," Walker said. "I asked how you could be called for delay of game during a time out. He said that I was right and he was wrong. We would have been right had the game if we had scored a touchdown."

But they didn't and nothing changed that fact.

"The way I look at it is someone has to win and someone has to lose," George Woodard said. Woodard, who surpassed the 1,000-yard mark for the season added, "We can't forget about this one and the one about next week. If I keep thinking about it then it will get me down. I get down then it interferes with my job for next week."

A&M's next job is against a much improved Houston Cougar team. The Aggies need to forget about the Texas game or they may find themselves losing their third consecutive game.

"Houston is a fine football team," Bellard said. "They are getting a lot of injured players back in their line-up. We will have to be ready because they will be."

A&M needs to win very badly to lose to the Cougars would all but ensure a loss in the Bluebonnet Bowl.

## A happy afternoon for Texas

By MARK PATTERSON  
Battalion Staff

Have you ever been in the locker room of a Southwest Conference champion? It's a great experience. You can watch all the back slapping, yelling and horseplay that goes along with a championship.

So it was Saturday afternoon in the Texas Longhorns' locker room. The players and coaches were happy and all smiles. And they had every right to be.

Their Longhorn team had just destroyed A&M 57-28. The victory assured the Longhorns of remaining No. 1 in the nation going into the Cotton Bowl game against Notre Dame with the national championship on the line.

On some occasions, when one team loses to another, someone might say that the score didn't really convey the closeness of the game.

Not in this case. The Aggies were lucky to escape with only a 29 point loss to the awesome Longhorns.

It wasn't that close a ball game. When you begin to pick the stars of the game for Texas, you can come up with a handful. There was the dominate presence of Brad Shearer at defensive tackle, the unbelievable rushing performance of Earl Campbell, the coolness of Randy McEachern at quarterback and the overall ability of the entire Texas offense that mauled the Aggie defense all afternoon. And almost at will.

Texas head coach Fred Akers and his staff spent last week developing a game plan that would defeat the Aggies. They had some things they thought would work and they put them into action.

"We went into the game knowing we could pass on them," said Akers after the game. "We wanted to find out just how good their defensive secondary was."

"We thought that our defense would prohibit them putting points on the board," said Akers. "We

didn't, so we just had to out-score them."

Anchoring the Texas defensive line is all-America candidate Brad Shearer. Shearer felt there were a number of keys to Texas' win.

"I think the biggest key was containing Woodard up the middle and not letting him break any long runs on us," said Shearer. The Texas defense held Woodard to 81 yards on 25 carries.

"Another factor in our favor was the field position we had throughout the game," said Shearer. "The wind was a good asset to us today. On numerous occasions our offense took the ball over in their end of the field."

When the Texas defense stopped the Aggie attack quarterback Randy McEachern and the offense took the ball and marched up and down Kyle Field.

"It was easy to hit my receivers today," said McEachern about the four touchdown passes he threw in

the game. "We figured we could throw the ball today because of our break-away speed. And A&M has been burned deep all year."

Since stepping into the quarterback position in the Oklahoma game, McEachern has matured with each down he's played. In Saturday's game, McEachern was 6 for 13 passing for 172 yards along with his four touchdown passes. McEachern also added 26 yards for the Texas cause.

Coach Akers, in his first year as head coach at Texas, took over last year's 5-5-1 team and molded it into a conference champion. And Saturday he completed his goal at the expense of the Aggies.

"I wouldn't change a thing about this game or on the year," said Akers relishing the victory. "After the game we took a rather quick vote and accepted the Cotton Bowl bid."

"But I know how Emory feels. He's been on both ends of big football games, winning and losing. This was just our day."

So the Bluebonnet Bowl bound Aggies have to regroup and face a powerful Houston Cougar team this weekend. With the game on national television millions of football fans will be watching the final regular season college game of the year.

And maybe next Saturday will be the Aggies' day to celebrate.

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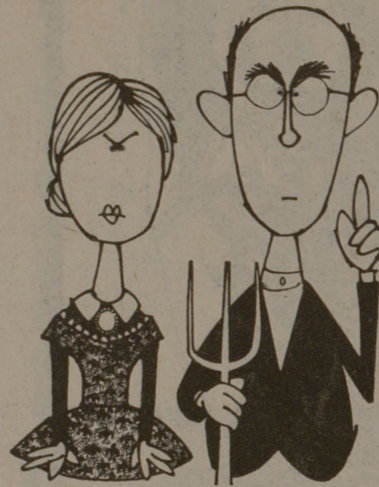
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