

Mosley's a hero... Walker's humiliated

By MARK PATTERSON
Battalion Staff

The 1977 Southwest Conference football season is history.

In Saturday's final chapter the Texas Aggies destroyed the Houston Cougars 27-7 before a sellout crowd of 51,790 in Kyle Field.

But there was a new face running in the Aggie backfield on Saturday. Freshman Mike Mosley took over the quarterback reins and led the Aggies to their victory.

Mosley had an outstanding day in his new role. He hit 6 of 6 passes for 43 yards against a stingy Houston defense.

But running the option as it was designed to be run brought Mosley the game's outstanding offensive player award. Keeping the ball 12 times on the option, Mosley gained 109 yards and scored two touchdowns against the Cougars.

But in order for Mosley to get his chance, somebody had to leave the game. David Walker, in his final appearance in Kyle Field, departed for the freshman, but with bitter feelings.

"I've been humiliated," said a disgruntled Walker after the game. "Not only in front of the fans in Kyle Field but on national television."

"I'm a senior, one of last year's co-captains, and they pulled me for a freshman. He's got three more years and I don't."

"It's like people are blaming me for this entire season. Like it was all my fault. People did it two years ago and now they're doing it again."

"I think I've played my last down as an Aggie."

The score was 7-3 in Houston's favor when Mosley entered the game. On his ninth play, Mosley skirted the left end for 13 yards and a touchdown. With Tony Franklin's conversion the Aggies held a 10-7 lead and never trailed again in the contest.

"Houston left the option open for

me until late in the third quarter," said Mosley after the game. "All I did was take advantage of it. When they started cutting me off we went with Woodard up the middle."

"It sure is a lot easier to work with the first team," added Mosley. "The offensive line was blocking better than they have all year. They made it easier for me."

Though Houston rolled up 383 yards total offense in the game, the Aggie defense caused key turnovers and kept Houston from putting points on the board.

"For the first time all year the defense played as a team," said safety Carl Grulich. "Until this game we've been playing as individuals, not as a unit."

"We had a lot of new faces in the line up and we had a different attitude on the field. We had more enthusiasm and everybody was going for the ball. And it worked."

There were two "almost" records set in the game. And both attempts fell just short.

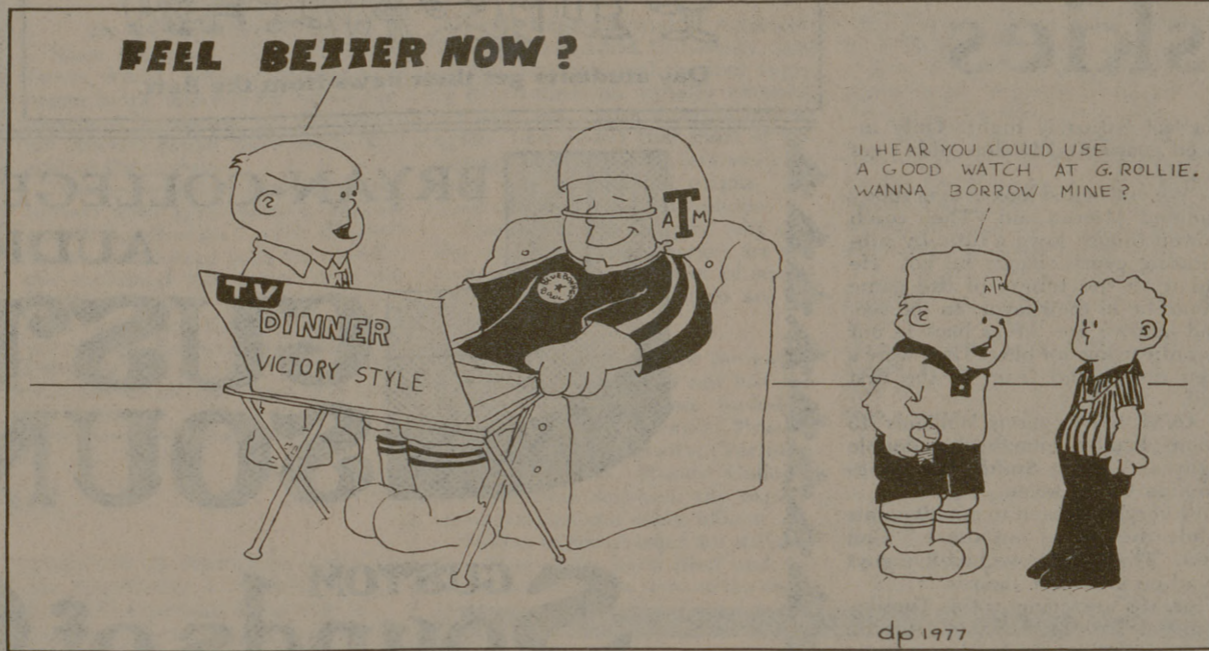
Place-kicker Tony Franklin had his long awaited shot at the NCAA field goal record. Franklin attempted a 69 yarder missed by a shoe string.

"I played for a cross-wind to carry the ball," said Franklin. "I aimed the kick 5 yards to the right and the ball stayed 5 yards wide. I kicked it right but I just missed it."

Franklin was successful on field goals from 27 yards and 57 yards in the game.

The Aggies narrowly missed the record books in the rushing department. Never in SWC history have two backs on the same team gained over 1,000 yards in a season. George Woodard was over 1,000 before this game and Curtis Dickey needed 81 yards to put him over the 1,000 yard mark for the season. He got 59.

"I think we hurt Curtis because we wanted him to get the ball," said Coach Emory Bellard. "The entire



team wanted him to get the yards so we let him have the ball. Houston knew it and they were keying on him every play. That hurt his effectiveness."

After the victory Bellard had little to say about the quarterback change.

"It was obvious the difference it

made with Mosley in there," said Bellard. "Mosley electrified both the crowd and the team."

"David (Walker) has been playing sore for weeks. Today I just didn't think he was effective. Mike was physically able to do some things that David couldn't."

With the conclusion of this season, Bellard made the record book himself. For the first time in 49 years Bellard is the first A&M football coach to have four straight winning seasons.

And now it's time to think about the fifth.

Morton leads Denver past Oilers

United Press International
HOUSTON — Quarterback Craig Morton threw two second quarter touchdown passes and despite being injured, returned to direct a 54-yard touchdown drive in the closing minutes and secure the Denver Broncos' first playoff berth ever with a 24-14 victory over the

Houston Oilers Sunday.

Morton's touchdown passes of 13 yards to Riley Odoms and Rick Upchurch and Jim Turner's 42-yard field goal in the third period staked the Broncos to a 17-7 lead but Houston countered with a 29-yard touchdown pass from Dan Pastorini to Ken Burrough midway through the third quarter.

The win raised the Broncos' record to 11-1, the best record in the NFL, and ensured them of a playoff spot.

Denver's "Orange Crush" defense preserved the lead throughout the fourth quarter until backup

quarterback Norris Weese ran five yards for the clinching touchdown.

Morton, who strained his right shoulder on the final play of the first half, left the game one play before Weese's touchdown. Morton had sat out half of the third period until the game tightened with Burrough's touchdown.

Houston, eliminated from playoff contention, scored first on Ronnie Coleman's two-yard run early in the second quarter. The Oilers dominated the first quarter by gaining 143 yards but Denver's defense limited Houston to 109 yards the remainder of the game.

By DAVID BOGGAN
Battalion Staff

A year ago, the Houston Cougars, in its freshman season as a Southwest Conference team, had finished their schedule with a 9-2 record and were preparing to meet Maryland in the Cotton Bowl. They shared the SWC crown with Texas Tech.

This year has been different for the Cougars. Losing to the Aggies Saturday, the Cougs ended their season with a 7-4 record, fourth place in the conference.

Houston coach Bill Yeoman said that Cougar errors, both offensively and defensively, played a major role in determining the final score of Saturday's game against A&M.

"We thought we would be able to pass against the Aggies but our quarterback (Delrick Brown) didn't have one of his best days," Yeoman said. "He either overthrew the ball or he would throw it behind the receiver."

Brown, who completed 12 of 24 passes for 104 yards, one touchdown and one interception, agreed that mistakes hurt the Cougar's chances of victory.

"We out-played them really," Brown said. "They never stopped us; we stopped ourselves. Our turnovers and missing third down conversions hurt us."

Houston lost three fumbles converted only four of 15 third down plays. The Cougar offense had 292 total yards while their defense gave up only 292 yards.

But it wasn't how many yards the Cougars allowed that mattered; rather, it was the results the Aggies produced with those yards.

"Mosley came in and did a great job," Yeoman said of Aggie freshman quarterback. "We had two defensive assignments on two long runs (45- and 25-yard) and made it a lot easier for him. He might have made them any way, at least we could have made it tougher for him."

Perhaps Willis Williams, Coug linebacker, best expressed the feelings of the team in the quiet Houston locker room after the game.

"I don't think these two teams are as vastly different as the press spread suggests," the Coug senior said. "Not taking anything away from the Aggies, we had breaks made them look better than we were."

Williams and 14 other Houston seniors played their last game Saturday. He said that this year's Houston team should be as good as any he has ever seen.

"I only regret that I won't be able to play with them," Williams said.

Morton was in and out of the second half and at one point in the fourth quarter backup Craig Penrose ran on the field to replace the injured starter but Morton would not leave the huddle.

Denver converted five of five third-down plays as it drove 79 and 69 yards to take a 14-7 halftime lead. Morton twice drew Houston offside on crucial third-down situations.

On the go-ahead touchdown drive a Morton pass was intercepted but

the Oilers' Zeke Moore was struck by the ball and Haven Moses crept at Houston's 46-yard line to keep the drive alive.

Denver will finish the regular season with no worse than a record under first-year coach Miller. Although not assured of AFC West championship, the Cougs would win any tie for the card berth.

Morton completed 13 of 22 passes for 187 yards.



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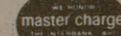
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