

Crushing blow

Freshman linebacker Doug Carr lunges at Kansas quarterback Jeff Hines during the Texas A&M-Kansas game two weeks ago. Carr led the Aggies with 12 tackles that afternoon

as Texas A&M beat the Jayhawks 37-10. This Saturday the Aggies travel to Boston College for the second game of the season. Kickoff is scheduled for 5 p.m. College Station time.

Battalion photo by Pat O'Malley

Netters play in Midland

New Texas A&M tennis coach David Kent got his first look at his players in action last weekend and feels optimistic about the future.

Sophomore Reid Freeman advanced to the quarterfinals of the tough Midland Invitational Tournament. Freeman beat Texas Tech's Chow Wah and Paul Mooney of Odessa Junior College before losing to SMU's Mark Vines. Senior Robin Baker was the only other Aggie to win in the first round as he beat Kevin Jackson of Midland. Hendrik Roller, James Grubert, Mike Moss and Trey Schutz lost in the first round. In doubles, Freeman and Schutz teamed for a first round win. Next action for the men comes in the San Antonio Fall Invitational Oct. 6-8.

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The ghost of Woodard past

By PAUL ARNETT

Nestled between the oak-shrouded banks of the Mississippi and the ghost-like plantation mansions of the old south is Tiger Stadium, home of the LSU football team.

It's innocent-enough looking when empty, just a giant bowl in search of its Rice Crispies. But let 90,000 ragini' cajuns fill that emptiness, and one can see why Tiger Stadium aids LSU in snapping, crackling and popping its opponent.

On an autumn night in 1975 a Texas A&M football team entered these frightful confines with an air of confidence. Coach Emory Bellard's crew was the No. 7 team in the nation and before the night was done they proved to all doubters just why they were.

The usual names were in the next day's account of the 39-8 massacre. Bubba Bean rushed for more than 100 yards, Ed Simonini had 20 tackles and Pat Thomas stopped any pass that came his way.

But those weren't the only heroes of the day, oh no. There was a freshman running back from a little town in Texas tabbed Van Vleck who also had an excellent night. His name was George Woodard.

It was to be the first of many outstanding games for the big fullback. In his three-year career at A&M, Woodard has broken almost every rushing record an A&M running back could break. He has delighted the Aggie fans with his punishing manner on the field and his easy manner off.

In his first two seasons as the heart of Bellard's wishbone, there was talk that Woodard would become the greatest running back in the Southwest Conference's history. He was not only big, but quick through the hole and fast in the open field.

It was no small wonder that the press and fans alike were excited

Readers' forum

about the 1977 football season. The conference was blessed with not only one great running back, but two. Woodard at A&M, and Earl Campbell at the University of Texas.

During that fateful year, Campbell stole the show by gaining an unprecedented 1,700 yards, leading the Longhorns to the Cotton Bowl and winning the Heisman Trophy when the year was done.

His encore was being chosen first in the National Football League draft by the Houston Oilers and signing a six-year \$1.6 million contract. The Tyler Rose was set for life.

And what was Woodard's season like? Fair, at best.

The once big, yet trim back, reported to camp weighing 280 pounds. Woodard no longer blasted through the holes, he rolled through them. It became a newspaper joke each week before a game to ask Bellard how much Woodard tipped the scales.

As the season progressed so did George's weight. The mighty back did gain more than 1,000 yards, but

he just wasn't the same No. 33 who shocked the LSU Tigers on that autumn night in '75.

The spring sessions of 1978 found big George just that—big. He was bigger, but certainly not better than before. It was rumored Jack Pardee, then coach of the Chicago Bears, told Woodard that there was no place in the NFL for a 280-pound running back.

But this was only the spring and "Woo" had all summer to lose those extra pounds.

Unfortunately he never got that chance. Woodard broke his leg while playing a game of softball. The 1978 season was lost.

In the past three months since that accident, Woodard appears to have gained more weight. The leg-healing process is near completion, but the process of losing weight seems hopeless.

Which brings us to the rub of this situation. Why has no one placed Woodard on a diet? Campbell faced this same predicament between his junior and senior seasons with the help of his coaching staff. The Tyler Rose was 20 pounds overweight, but lost them through coaching design and Campbell's desire.

It's quite evident that Woodard needs some designed help from his coaches to find that inner desire. As it stands now I doubt that Woodard will ever play another down of football. Not only is his A&M career in jeopardy, but his pro career as well.

Questions about Woodard's fate rebound off Bellard like a super ball off concrete. His only remark is that

he won't be ready for next week's game.

Certainly getting Woodard ready for any game is gonna be a heckuva challenge and a tough 'ol fight, but for the sake of A&M and its famous wishbone fullback I hope it's done.

Because many remember that autumn evening when Woodard shocked the LSU Tigers with his size, strength and speed. What remains now is his size. His strength and speed are just like those fleeing ghosts upon the Mississippi.

Arnett is a 1978 graduate of Texas A&M and former sports editor of The Battalion. He is presently employed at the Galveston News.

Ruggers win

The Texas A&M women's rugby team defeated the Houston Boars in Houston last weekend. With outstanding play by Jan Smalley and Christine Harjv, the Aggies blanked the Boars 28-0. This weekend the Aggies play the Heathen Hearts in Houston.

Richard sets record with 290 strike outs

United Press International
HOUSTON — Rookie Bob Horner's double with one out in the ninth inning drove in pinch-runner Barry Bonnell from first base with the winning run Tuesday night, leading the Atlanta Braves to a 3-2 triumph over Houston despite a record-setting performance by Astros right-hander J.R. Richard.

With the score tied 2-2, Jeff Burroughs drew a one-out walk from losing reliever Joaquin Andujar, 5-6, in

the ninth. Bonnell replaced Burroughs and scored easily when Horner sliced a double into the right field corner. Winner Gene Carber, 5-5, pitched the final two innings in relief of starter Jim Bouton — who allowed only five hits.

Richard, who struck out 11, fanned Horner on five pitches in the seventh inning to record his 290th strikeout of the season and pass Tom Seaver for most ever by a National League right-hander in one season.

In the same inning Richard got the record, Atlanta scored two runs to tie the score 2-2. After Jerry Royster's leadoff single broke up Richard's no-hit bid, Matthews drove in Royster with a double. Burroughs' single moved Matthews to third and after Horner struck out, Matthews scored on Richard's wild pitch.

Houston scored one run in the third when Terry Puhl singled, stole second base and came home on Enos Cabell's single.

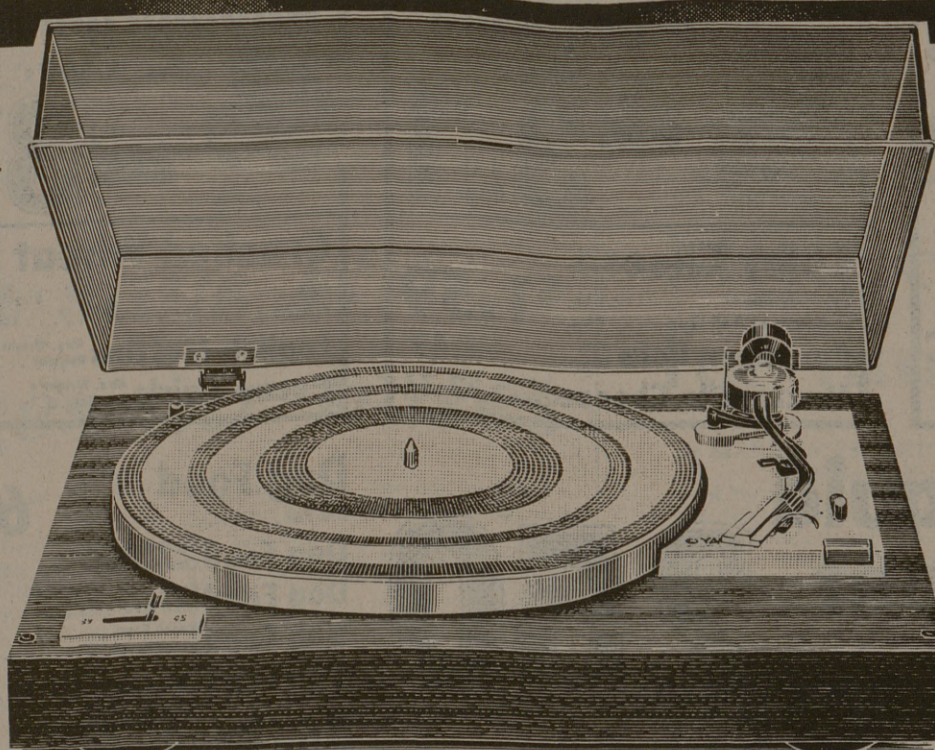
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