

the sports



Mark Patterson

It was a circus under the Dome

The Fighting Texas Aggie Band (whoop) just added to the merriment Saturday night in the Astrodome. On their run-up, from the back of the end zone to the goal line before they take the field at halftime, three members on the front row of the band slipped and fell down on the Astroturf. The Houston fans roared.

And in the middle of their halftime performance the Cadets broke into that old familiar tune, "Barnum and Bailey's Favorites." It added to the circus-like atmosphere of the evening.

The Aggie Band must have had a premonition of how things were to go for the football team when it made its selection of music for the Houston halftime. Nothing fit the Aggies better than circus music on this particular Saturday.

Texas A&M coach Emory Bellard said after the game that it was just a case of one team outplaying another. But those who were at the game know the real reason for the loss suffered by the Aggies.

It was clearly a matter of being out-coached, out-manned, under-inspired and unprepared for Coach Bill Yeoman's Houston Cougars. The Aggies seemed to enter the game with the thought that going through the motions, they would be handed a victory, as in their first four games of the year.

But the Cougars aren't cut from the same flimsy cloth as Kansas, Memphis State, Boston College or Texas Tech. The Cougars know how to play good, aggressive football. If Saturday is any indication, the Aggies don't. And not in any one area are the boys in Maroon hurting. They ache all over.

Going into Saturday's game all the press clippings the Aggies had been reading told them they were the second best rushing team in the nation. They were unstoppable, awesome, punishing. They read too much.

The offense was nonexistent in Saturday's contest, being held to 157 yards, far below the 400-plus average it had compiled through the first four games. Curtis Dickey, the phenomenon who had struck terror in the hearts of the first four opponents, struck out against the Cougars with 25 yards on 14 carries. Dickey suffered a strained knee and left the game late in the third quarter. Who could blame him.

A touch of irony surrounded the play of Aggie quarterback Mike Mosley against Houston Saturday. In a highly publicized act last season, Mosley came off the bench to relieve then-Aggie quarterback David Walker and lead Texas A&M to an emotional 27-7 victory over UH.

Mosley started this Houston game against a team similar to the one he led and defeated last year. But now Mosley must know how Walker felt last year against the Cougars, bearing the brunt of the criticism and the blame.

Mosley was mercifully pulled in favor of David Beal late in the fourth quarter. The leader of the "potent" offense retired for the evening with one interception, four fumbles, and a rushing total of 25, who minus 16 yards to his credit.

The defense for the Aggies must have read the same newspaper clippings that the offense did last week. Going into the Houston game Texas A&M ranked third in the nation defensively and had gone 14 quarters without giving up a touchdown. Houston broke that string early, on their second possession in the game, and proceeded to show that past reputations wouldn't mean a thing in this game.

On the bright side, the Aggie defense did stop two extra point tries in Houston. And the Texas A&M defense did hold Houston scoreless the second half. But I think I saw Bill Yeoman's mom trotting onto the field to lead the last few Houston drives in the ballgame. Son Bill knew he had little to risk with her in there against the Aggies this evening. Everyone got to enjoy the victory Saturday.

Coach Yeoman seemed to sum up the attitude of the Houston players going into the game against the Aggies this season.

"Last year we didn't really shower ourselves with glory against them," Yeoman said. "So this year the team had something that they wanted to prove, not only to the fans but to themselves."

"I told them that no one embarrasses you but yourself. They just get ready to play and went out and did what they wanted to do."

Yes, Coach Yeoman, your players did go out and do what they wanted when they wanted to against the Aggies Saturday. And most people who saw the game are still laughing. Or crying, as the case may be.

World Series play continues

United Press International
LOS ANGELES — If the Los Angeles Dodgers were psyched out by the boisterous Yankee Stadium fans, they surely can't be too happy either about needing to win the remaining two World Series games — including a possible seventh against Ron Guidry.

The Dodgers, who left Los Angeles Thursday with a comfortable 2-0 Series lead in games, took a bite of the "Big Apple" over the weekend and choked on it. Sunday's 12-2 laughter was the biggest gag of them all. The New York Yankees, suddenly steamrolling toward their second straight World Championship, raked over three Dodger pitchers for 18 hits and, in the process, were aided by three Los Angeles errors, two passed balls and a wild pitch — most of which led to runs.

"I didn't believe the Yankees could sweep three games in New York," said Dodger Manager Tommy Lasorda, "but I do now. At least we can go home now and play on our own field where we know our fans and how the ball will bounce."

The ball most certainly did not bounce well for the Dodgers in New York — especially in Sunday's Game 5, which put the Yankees ahead 3-2 in the Series. Dodger shortstop Bill Russell, who committed one of those errors, muffed another one that could have been an error. That was in the fourth inning when Bucky Dent hit a hard shot to short that should have been a double play, but Russell couldn't handle it and the ball wound up in the outfield, paving the way for a three-run Yankee rally that opened up a 7-2 lead.

"I'm not gonna make excuses," said Russell. "I missed the first one (an error in the first inning that didn't hurt the Dodgers), but the others were tough plays. I'm no Golden (Gold) Glover by any means. We had all the confidence in the world when we came here, but they tore everything down."

Earlier Russell blasted the New York fans, who didn't exactly improve their image by rampaging onto the field after the game and tearing it apart.

"You've got to be half-crazy to live in this town," Russell said. "The infield here isn't the problem, it's the fans. They throw things at you and the screaming is like no place else we go to. I can't wait to get out of this town. At least in Los Angeles, our fans are civilized."

"Today was a total disaster," Dodger third baseman Ron Cey said after Sunday's game. "I wouldn't say everyone is doing something wrong, but it's enough to make a difference."

"That was one of the worst games we ever played," added first baseman Steve Garvey, whose wild

throw to the plate in the fourth inning allowed Dent to score the sixth Yankee run. "We're going to have to do the job in Los Angeles. It won't be the same there with our own fans."

If the Yankees had an offensive star amid all the Dodger mistakes, it was Thurman Munson, who drove in five runs with two singles and a double. A leadoff walk by Dent, singles by Mickey Rivers, Roy White, Munson and Lou Piniella plus Reggie Smith's throwing error on Munson's base hit to right field

staked the Yankees to four runs in the third inning and wiped out a 2-0 Dodger lead.

1978 World Series

Los Angeles 11, New York 5
Los Angeles 4, New York 3
New York 5, Los Angeles 1
New York 4, Los Angeles 3, 10 innings
New York 12, Los Angeles 2
Tonight— New York at Los Angeles, 7:30 p.m.
Wednesday — x-New York at Los Angeles, 7:30 p.m.
x-if necessary

Kramer out of hospital

United Press International
MINNEAPOLIS — Minnesota Vikings backup quarterback Tommy Kramer, sacked and knocked unconscious late in the game with the Los Angeles Rams Sunday, was released Monday from Hennepin County Medical Center.

"He is doing very well," Dr. Benjamin Graves said of the former Rice University All-America who suffered a concussion, "and there should be no permanent damage."

The Vikings were more concerned about Kramer than their 34-17 loss to the Rams as they went to the locker room after the game.

"Bob Miller led us in a prayer for Tommy," linebacker Matt Blair said. "He told us our life is our own and in comparison, football is no-

thing. It was very sober in the locker room."

Jim Youngblood, the Ram who sacked Kramer, swung him around and tossed him to the ground, also was concerned. He said he didn't know Kramer was injured until he reached the sideline.

The second-year quarterback, a native of San Antonio, Texas, regained consciousness en route to the hospital, about 10 minutes after he was tackled.

"He's very satisfactory," Dr. Graves said. "It will be up to him and the trainers to decide when he can play again, but we anticipate he should do quite well. We'll have to wait and see. His attitude is 100 percent."

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Top 20 poll
United Press International

1. Oklahoma (31) (6-0)	11. Houston (4-1)
2. Penn St. (10) (6-0)	12. Ariz. St. (5-1)
3. Arkansas (4-0)	13. LSU (4-1)
4. Alabama (5-1)	14. Texas A&M (4-1)
5. Nebraska (5-1)	15. Pittsburgh (4-1)
6. Maryland (6-0)	16. Georgia (4-1)
7. So. Calif. (4-1)	17. Missouri (4-2)
8. Texas (4-1)	18. Notre Dame (3-2)
9. Michigan (4-1)	19. Purdue (4-1)
10. UCLA (5-1)	20. Navy (5-0)

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