

the sports

Five-year dream comes true

Wilson starts off with bang

By DAVID BOGGAN  
Battalion Sports Editor

The Wilson-era at Texas A&M was ushered in with a bang as the Texas Aggies defeated the Rice Owls 38-21 Saturday in Kyle Field.

On Tom Wilson's first offensive call as the Aggies' new head coach,

quarterback Mike Mosley sent flanker Doug Teague in motion. Mosley took the snap from center Preston Dickson and dropped straight back. He threw the ball deep to split end Gerald Carter on the left sideline. Carter caught the perfect pass and raced untouched across the goal line, 52 yards away from the line of scrimmage.

That touchdown, the first scored by Texas A&M in nine quarters, created reason for celebration among the Aggie fans in the crowd of 51,461. It inspired a frenzy of back slaps and hugs in the end zone and on the Aggie sideline. But the happiest person in the stadium at that moment was the 34-year-old head football coach of the Texas Aggies.

"That play is something I've been thinking about for five years," said Wilson, who signed a contract Friday designating him as Texas A&M's head football coach through the 1981 season. "I knew that if I ever got a head coaching job that's the play I wanted to use and see what happens."

Needless to say, the new coach was pleased with the product of his five years of planning.

"It was just beautiful," Wilson said with a smile. "It was like a fairy tale dream that it worked. That touchdown set the stage for the whole day."

"I knew that I was going to call the play. I told Mike if his man was covered to just overthrow him or throw out of bounds. I told Gerald to get (called for) pass interference if he had to, just don't let it be intercepted."

Wilson said that the early touchdown gave the Aggies a needed emotional lift after a tough week in which Coach Emory Bellard suddenly resigned as Texas A&M's athletic director head football coach Tuesday.

"The touchdown was what the team needed to get going," Wilson said. "It couldn't have happened at a better time."

Mosley agreed with his new head coach.

"That play was real important for our team," the sophomore quarterback said. "That was the first time I've ever thrown a touchdown on the opening play. I knew Gerald would catch it. I just threw it and headed for the end zone."

Mosley completed 5-of-8 passes for 120 yards and the touchdown against the Owls. The Aggie offense ran strictly from the I-formation against Rice, a fact reflected by Mosley's rushing statistics. He came in to the game averaging 41 yards per game on the ground. Running from the I, combined with the fact that he split more time second team quarterback David Beal, Mosley gained only 22 yards rushing against Rice. "I personally like the wishbone better," Mosley said, "because I get

to run more. But I can't complain. The I worked great for us today."

"It takes three running backs in the wishbone. We didn't have many running backs to start with (with Curtis Dickey and Temple Aday injured). We just stuck with what was working."

The I worked especially well for tailback David Brothers. The 212-pound junior who has also seen action at fullback this season ran for 164 yards on 25 carries and one touchdown.

"That's the best I've ever seen David run," Mosley commented. "He was running hard and had great second effort."

Wilson also praised fullback Raymond Belcher who carried the ball 15 times for 82 yards and two touchdowns and tight end Russell Mikeska who caught five passes for 75 yards. He said he was also pleased with the few changes he has made in the Aggie offense.

"A lot of times when you put in a motion offense (as the Aggies did with Teague)," Wilson said, "you worry about off sides or movement. But we had no trouble with it today. I've got some more ideas that we will put in as fast as we can put them in. We are still prepared to run the wishbone in short yardage or goal line situations where we need some form of three back-offense."

"Our offense played well on most occasions. A couple of drives were stopped by fumbles and we made some silly mistakes on penalties. Our defense played well in most situations. We were not prepared for their shotgun and their motion but we adjusted to it. I was a little disappointed in giving up some of the touchdowns in Rice's comeback."

The Texas A&M defense shut out the Owls in the first half, but in the second half Rice had three touchdown passes.

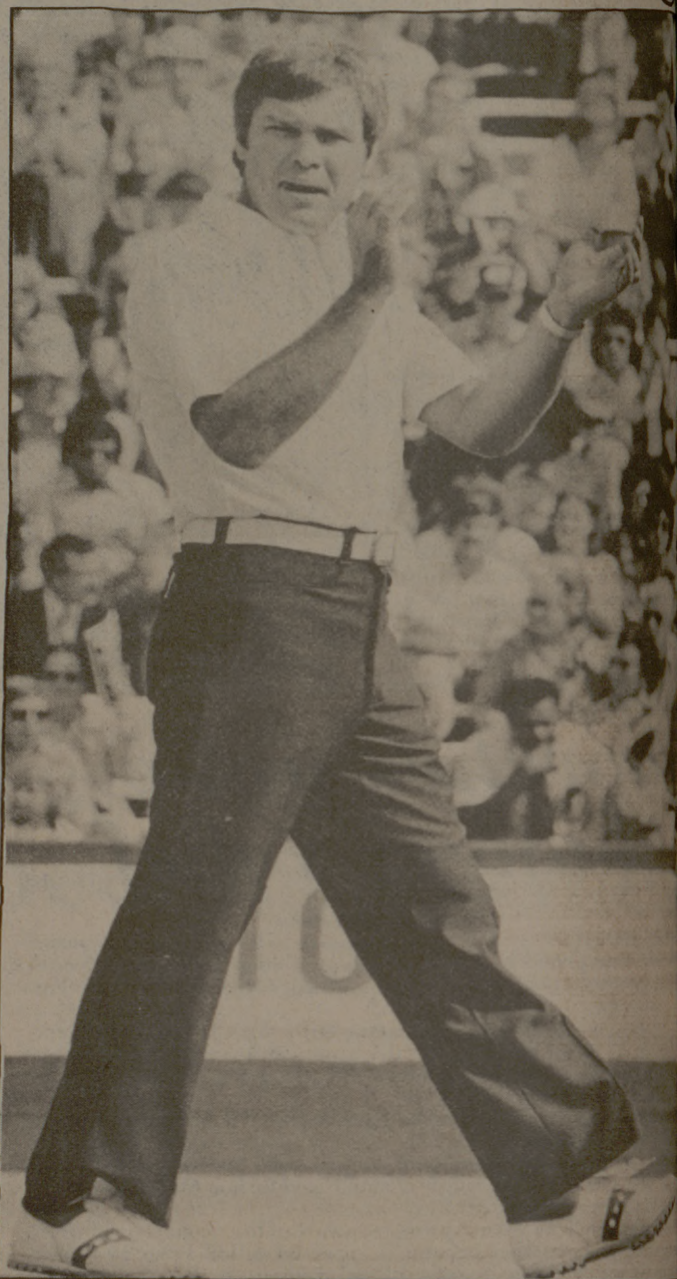
"We didn't go over the shotgun in practice," said defensive end Jacob Green, who led the Aggies with 12 tackles. "We knew they might drop back on us like that though. We just had three or four breakdowns that cost us touchdowns. But a team that throws as much as Rice is going to be able to complete some of their passes."

SMU is a team that throws as much as Rice, if not more. Green said it will take a total defensive effort to stop the Mustangs next week in Dallas.

"We are just going to have to shut their running game off and make them throw," Green said. "Hopefully we can have a good pass rush and hopefully the secondary can cover their receivers real well."

What does the future hold for Tom Wilson and the Texas Aggies?

"We're going to play each game the best we can," said Wilson whose



New Texas A&M head football coach Tom Wilson encourages his team in pre-game warm-ups Saturday.

Aggies are now 2-2 in SWC play and 5-2 overall. The players feel that they're capable of getting in a bowl game.

SCORING SUMMARY

Rice	0 0 7 14-21
Texas A&M	21 7 3 7-38

A&M—Carter 52 pass from Mosley (Franklin kick)  
A&M—Belcher 1 run (Franklin kick)  
A&M—Belcher 1 run (Franklin kick)  
A&M—Brothers 3 run (Franklin kick)  
A&M—Franklin 43 field goal  
Rice—Houser 7 pass from Hertel (Hansen kick)  
Rice—Houser 33 pass from Hertel (Hansen kick)  
A&M—Armstrong 1 run (Franklin kick)  
Rice—Cooper 15 pass from Hertel (Hansen kick)

"My philosophy is as long as I'm here we're going to do the best we can and if that's good enough, well great and if it's not, well we're sorry. I realize it's a pressure game but it's still that—a game. We're going to go out and have fun and make it worth while."

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