

Disappointed Mustangs fall short again

By MARK PATTERSON
Battalion Staff

Contrary to popular belief, the SMU Mustangs can play football. Dam good football at that. So witnessed 57,208 fans at the Cotton Bowl and a regional television audience Saturday when those Mustangs lost for the fourth time this season.

But, as in three of the four losses they have suffered, this game could have been won by the Ponies. This year SMU has lost three games by a total of 22 points while tying once.

And the disappointments are starting to hurt a little greater.

"To come so close and lose again this week kind of gives you a gut-ripping type of feeling," Mustang coach Ron Meyer said following Saturday's three-point loss to Texas A&M. "Coming so close is encouraging for our program's advancement because we know that with a game like this there will be a tomorrow. But I can't help but feel sorry for the guys who bust their tails every week and then lose these

close games. We're not a bunch of losers. Not in my book."

It came down to the final drive by the Aggies to beat the hard-luck Ponies. It was a third down pass to tight end Russell Mikeska that set up the game winning field goal by Tony Franklin. Mikeska was a constant thorn in the Mustang defense Saturday, catching six passes for ninety yards.

"I was having a lot of trouble getting deep to cover the tight end all day," said SMU linebacker Putt Choate. "He was running a much deeper and wider tight end route than we thought he would that I wasn't getting as deep as I should have."

"I was really surprised that they went to him that much. But they found success with him early and stuck with it."

"But Mikeska wasn't the only problem the Mustang defense faced in the contest. The man running the Aggie offense, quarterback Mike Mosley, consistently found open receivers free in the SMU secondary. Mosley was 13 for 20 passing for 191 yards and one touchdown. The key to his passing success was the time that Mosley had to find his receivers.

"We would have Mosley contained and have his receivers covered, but he'd break free and find somebody open," said defensive back D.K. Perry. "He's an excellent sprinter and would run all day, keeping his receivers in sight until he could hit somebody."

"Mosley and the tight end won the game for them. It was like the offense was centered around



Mikeska. He would be Mosley's primary receiver, but when he was covered it was like Mosley would get all scatterbrained and panic."

"When Mosley wasn't throwing to Mikeska he was handing the ball off to halfback Curtis Dickey. Dickey ran through the Mustangs for 148 yards and one touchdown on 33 carries.

"It wasn't that we couldn't stop him," explained Choate, "but we were letting Dickey fall forward for those extra two or three yards on the tackle. We weren't tackling him strong enough."

"On Dickey's touchdown run, we hit him and he fumbled the ball. But

instead of him being on the ground and one of us recovering the ball, Dickey kept running, picked up the fumble and scored."

"But you have to give some credit to A&M's huge physical line. It's pretty tough to fight off a 265-pound guy and make a tackle."

But it was one of SMU's 220-pound guys making a tackle that almost ended any chance of victory for SMU. On a pass thrown by Mustang quarterback Mike Ford to tight end Robert Fisher, ruled incomplete by the officials, Texas A&M's Elroy Steen picked up the ball and raced down the sideline. Steen was caught at the 4-yard line by Ford, but in

the pursuit Ford injured his right ankle and hamstring muscle. The Mustang trainers took him into the locker room and were able to repair the quarterback at the half.

"It's the first time I've truly pulled a hamstring," Ford said of his injury. "I never heard a whistle on the play and when I went to lunge for him I felt it pull. It felt like something bit me in the back of my leg."

"They brought me into the locker room and put ice on it for twenty minutes to numb it, let me walk on it, then numbed it again. Then they wrapped it as tight as they could. It felt like I was wearing a cast in the

second half."

Ford's passing seemed to stop after the injury. In the first Ford hit on 11 of 17 passes for yards and one touchdown. But his injury Ford connected on 24 passes for 120 yards while being intercepted twice.

"My leg would hurt me when I would run forward but not when I would drop back to pass," Ford explained. "But I really don't think it was a factor in the second half."

"I thought that somebody would hit me or give me a cheap shot, but no one did all night. My line did a tremendous job keeping people off me in the second half."

"I felt that I could come in and the team needed me and I did what they did. The injury is just something that I've got to play through and needed to be in there."

The Mustangs needed a victory that was physically able to stand. And unlike SMU teams in the few seasons, the Mustangs won this ball game until the final minute. And because of their success against their opponents Mustang is stronger than ever around Dallas.

"Some people ask me if I'm good or bad for our program without it I would be sitting talking to my sports information director in an empty press box," Coach Meyer said adding a group of writers after the game.

"We know we're a good team, you ask Joe Paterno or Tom Hayes or Fred Akers or Tom they'll tell you we're good. They imply that SMU is not a good club."

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MSC CAMERA COMMITTEE FALL PHOTO CONTEST

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Dolphin defense holds off Cowboys

United Press International
MIAMI — Bob Griese guided the Miami offense to 17 first-quarter points Sunday and the Dolphins' defense held off a late Dallas rally en route to a 23-16 victory over the struggling Cowboys.

The Cowboys' second straight loss dropped the defending Super Bowl champs to 6-4 and left them 1½ games behind the NFC Eastern Division-leading Washington Redskins, who play Baltimore Monday night. Miami, now 7-3, stayed within a game of first-place New England in the AFC East.

The Dolphins controlled the game until the fourth quarter — when the Cowboys drove 64 yards on seven plays, moving within a touchdown on Roger Staubach's 9-yard scoring pass to Billy Joe DuPree.

Dallas threatened again, taking a short Miami punt on the Dolphin 46 with just over two minutes to go, but Staubach completed a pass to DuPree, who fumbled when he was hit by Tim Foley. Norris Thomas picked it up and returned it nine yards to the Dolphin 42 preserving the victory.

The Dolphins scored their two touchdowns within four minutes of the first quarter on 1-yard plunges by Norm Bulaich and Delvin Williams. Caro Yepremian added a

45-yard field goal in the same period, and also kicked field goals of 23 yards in the second quarter and 33 yards in the final period.

Before Staubach's scoring pass, Dallas had stayed within reach on Rafael Septien field goals of 29, 39 and 24 yards.

Dallas got the ball at its 17 with only 54 seconds to play. On fourth down Staubach hit Preston Pearson for 34 yards, then DuPree for 10. Staubach's final desperation pass, with only six seconds remaining, was picked off by Miami safety Charlie Babb two yards in front of the goal line.

Miami drove 73 yards in six plays after the opening kickoff. Griese opened up with a 17-yard pass to Durriel Harris on the first play from scrimmage and a down later hit Williams underneath the Cowboy defense and the running back turned it into a 42-yard gain to the Dallas 11. Griese kept flinging, hitting Harris again for 10 yards to the one from where Bulaich scored.

A clipping penalty on the ensuing kickoff pinned Dallas back on its own 17. Robert Newhouse lost two on a try over the middle. Tony Dorsett carried the ball next, but it was stripped by defensive end Vern Den Herder and tackle Bob Baumhower recovered on the Dallas 15.

Water polo team successful

The Texas A&M water polo team had a very successful weekend on the east coast, winning six out of six games played.

The Aggies defeated Fordham 10-8, Columbia 18-6, Dartmouth 18-4, Massachusetts 13-1, MIT 14-2 and Brown 8-7. Yale forfeited to Texas A&M.

Scoring leaders for the Aggies included Bob Leland, Steve Sampson, Chuck Burr, John Oberto, Roger Lien, Mike Newsom and Scott Harris.

"With this success we have an excellent chance of going on to play in the NCAA Championships," said Aggie coach Dennis Fosdick. The NCAA Championships will take place in Long Beach, Calif. on the weekend of Nov. 24.

The Aggies will end their regular season Friday and Saturday as they host the Southwest Championships in P.L. Downs Natatorium. Texas A&M's season record is 16-3.

Oilers defeat Browns 14-1

United Press International
HOUSTON — Originality on offense has never been the Oilers' strong suit, and that probably explains why the Cleveland Browns defense was fooled so badly on the biggest play of Sunday's NFL game in the Astrodome.

"We were selling the run all the way, and they bought it. They must not have even thought a pass was a possibility," Oiler quarterback Dan Pastorini said of his 72-yard touchdown pass on third-and-one.

Tight end Mike Barber caught the pass 20 yards behind the defense and his score started an Oilers rally which culminated in a 14-0 victory over the Browns.

The key to the surprise play was getting Barber off the line of scrimmage despite a Browns linebacker

lining up in front of him.

"He was looking at my helmet," Barber said. "But I don't think he was thinking about me except to get away from my block. I took a false step to the outside and he ran by me."

Despite Houston's big offensive plays — the Oilers used four of them in a fourth quarter scoring drive — Houston's victory belonged to a defense which Cleveland coach Sam Rutigliano said last week was no longer one of the NFL's best.

"There's nobody any better when we play hard like we did today," Oilers' all-pro linebacker Robert Brazile said.

Houston's offense has been criticized heavily in the four seasons under Coach Bum Phillips for its conservative play and unwillingness

Ags defeat Rice

The Texas A&M men's team defeated Rice over weekend 7-2.

In singles action for the Reid Freeman lost 6-4, 6-1. Jimenez won 6-3, 6-3; Miller won 7-6, 6-4; Trey Schultze won 6-3; Max King won 6-4; Hendrik Roller won 6-1, 6-4.

In doubles, Freeman Jimenez won 6-4, 6-1; Schultze won 1-6, 6-1, 6-3; Miller and Roller won 6-4, 5-7, 7-5.



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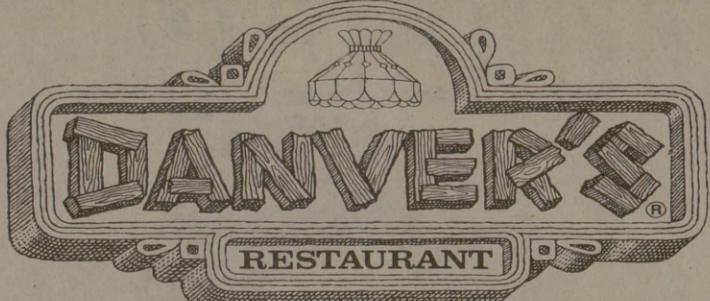
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