Wilson caught no flak

By MARK PATTERSON
Battalion Staff

There was a sad note of irony attached to Brigham Young's victory over the Texas Aggies Saturday night.

Late in the first quarter, with the Aggies near midfield, Curtis Dickey took a handoff and plunged into the line. He was dealt a crushing tackle by Cougar linebacker Danny Frazier.

The hit resulted in a Dickey fumble that was recovered by BYU safety John Neal. But Frazier remained on the Rice Stadium floor, not moving.

He walked off the field but was put on a stretcher on the sidelines and rushed to a hospital where X-rays revealed a fracture of the No. 5 cervical vertebrae. Brent Prayley, an orthopedic surgeon traveling with BYU, said after an examination that the break was only peripheral and there were no signs of paralysis. But Frazier's football career was probably finished.

As fate would have it, Frazier's roommate and roommate at school, fullback Mike Lacey, was called upon to make the game-winning catch.

"I had a personal reason for wanting to win this game," Lacey said in the festive BYU locker room after the one-point victory. "Danny is my roommate and I wanted to do it for him. Danny is probably the team favorite."

Saturday night, the team's favorite was senior quarterback Marc Wilson. After starting the game off slowly, hitting only one of his first seven passes and throwing one interception, Wilson began finding his receivers.

Two quick strikes at the beginning of the second quarter put the Cougars in range for their first points of the night, a 26-yard field goal by Brent Johnson.

Wilson connected on nine straight passes to open the Cougar's second half, the big completion being to wide receiver Dan Plater for 20 yards and a touchdown. The point after closed the Aggie's lead to 14-10 with two minutes left in the third period.

After the Aggies upped their lead to seven points with 6:53 left in the game, Wilson went back to work. He marched the Cougars down the field and, with 52 seconds left in the game, hit tight end Clay Brown for the score. The touchdown cut the Aggie lead to a point and set up Lacey's game-winning catch.

"On the (conversion) play, I had to take a fake into the line and flare out into the flat for the pass," Lacey said. "When we set up, I was afraid I was going to get clogged up in the line. We had worked on the play all year and I had to make it work.

"Somehow, the ball stayed in my hands. I had to lunge for it and as soon as I touched it I brought it into my body as fast as I could. I rolled over to make sure I didn't drop it. I caught it like an outfielder.

"The funny thing is that when we run it against our defense, our linebackers go for the fake and get blocked in the same way A&M's did. It always seems to work."

Wilson must have known that it would work as well. He called a time out to discuss the situation with BYU head coach LaVell Edwards.

"I called my favorite play on the two-point conversion," Wilson said. "Coach suggested others, but I wanted that one.

"When we came up to the line I knew the play was going to go. Our wide receiver split out wide (to the left) and the cornerback went with him. But the next farthest guy out was inside our tackle.

"I knew their linebackers would go for the fake into the line. When they did, there was no way they had time to get out far enough to cover Mike."

Edwards was confident enough to stay with his quarterback when things weren't going as scheduled. The decision proved to be the right one.

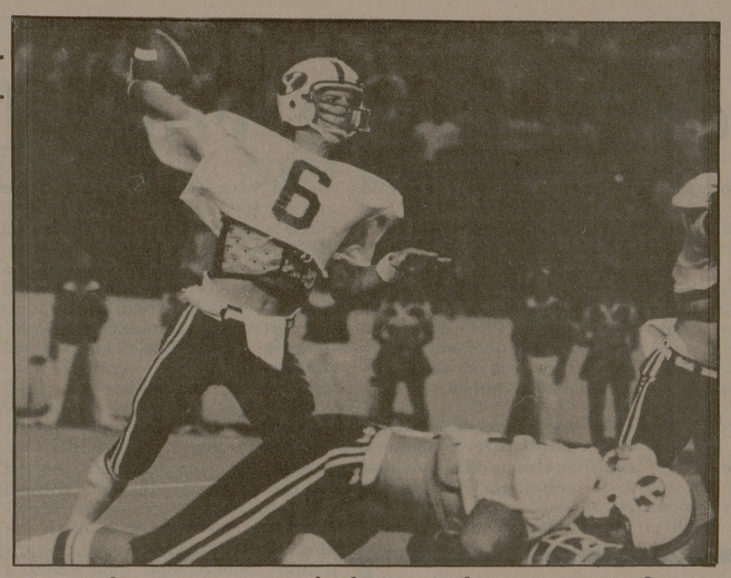
"I never considered pulling Wilson," Edwards said. "He had only practiced two weeks and had lost 20 pounds since his operation (an appendectomy two months ago). Yesterday he had a virus and his temperature was 102.

"But I knew things were going to get better after he settled down. No one had laid a hand on him in the past two weeks and he had to gain confidence that he could get hit and not get killed."

As a precaution, Wilson was fitted with a flak jacket similar to the one worn by the Houston Oilers' quarterback Dan Pastorini.

After the game, Wilson removed the jacket and found out that one side of the inflated protector had collapsed.

"It popped when Jacob Green hit me once," Wilson said. "Why doesn't someone take this over and tell Jacob he owes us $300.



Brigham Young quarterback Marc Wilson prepares to fire one of 35 passes he threw against the Aggies Saturday night. Wilson wore a flak jacket to protect his ribs and stomach. The jacket probably kept Wilson in the game as Aggie defensive end Jacob Green continually hounded and pounded him throughout the night. Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

Southwest Conference Standings
By United Press International

CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
SMU	1	0	0	1.000	35	17
Rice	0	1	0	.000	17	35

(Only 1 conference game played)

SEASON

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
SMU	1	0	0	1.000	35	17
Houston	1	0	0	1.000	24	16
Baylor	1	0	0	1.000	20	7
Arkansas	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Texas	0	0	0	.000	0	0
TCU	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Texas A&M	0	1	0	.000	17	18
Rice	0	1	0	.000	17	35
Texas Tech	0	1	0	.000	7	21

Last Week's Results
Houston 24, UCLA 16; SMU 35, Rice 17; Brigham Young 18, Texas A&M 17; Baylor 7, Lamar 7; USC 21, Texas Tech 7.

This Week's Schedule
Colorado State vs. Arkansas at Little Rock, 7:30; Texas A&M at Baylor (conf.), 7:30; Florida at Houston, 7:30; Tulane at Rice, 7:30; SMU at TCU (conf.), 7:30; New Mexico at Texas Tech, 7:30.

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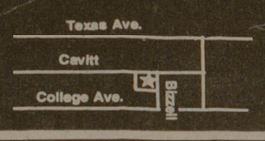

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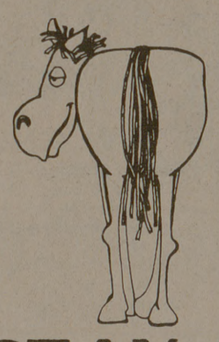

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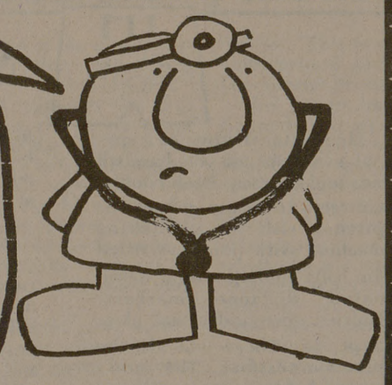

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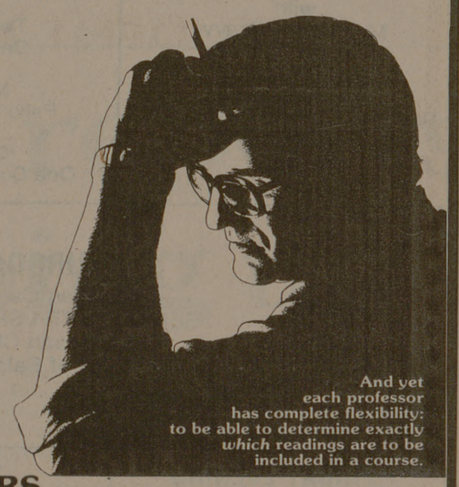

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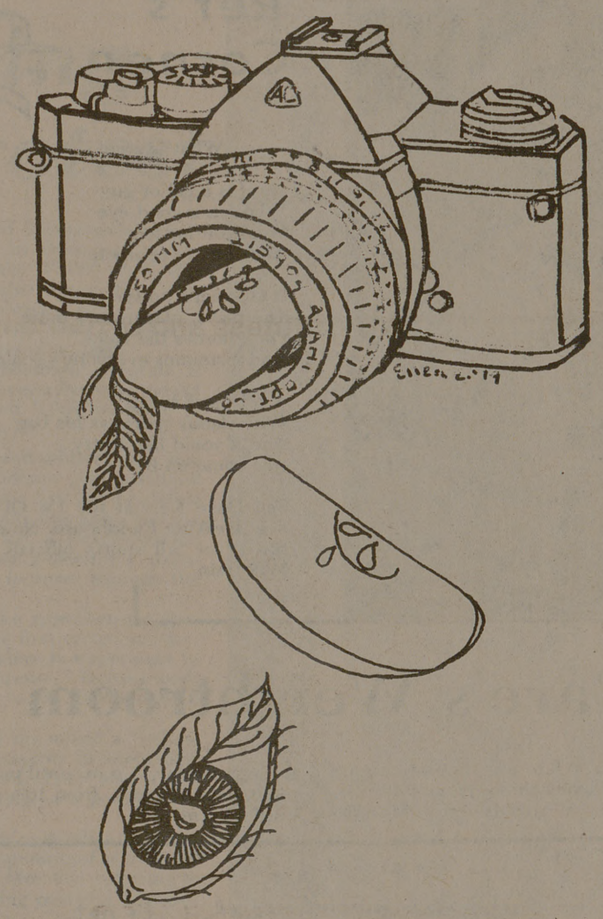

First Meeting: Tonight
at 7:30 p.m. in 601 Rudder Tower.
Public is invited.