

Coogs look unstoppable

United Press International
Delrick Brown, the sage philosopher from the bayous who finds time on weekends to quarterback the Houston Cougars, threw one out there for the history books last Saturday.

"I'm beginning to think we can't lose," said Brown.

And he may be right. There is certainly no point in arguing with him at the moment at least, because he has all the statistics on his side — not to mention the helmet of Hosea Taylor.

The fourth-ranked Cougars have led at the half in only two of their seven games this season, but have come back to win every one — the most recent of them being the pulsating 13-10 decision over previously unwhipped and fifth-ranked Arkansas Razorbacks.

To beat Arkansas the Cougars had to drive 61 yards into the wind to set up Ken Hatfield's 19-yard field goal. And then to preserve the win, Houston had to block a 41-yard, downwind field-goal attempt on the game's final play by Ish Ordonez, who had kicked an NCAA record 16 straight.

Taylor, Houston's 6-5 defensive tackle, leaped so high that the ball sailed below his hands and went between his outstretched arms. But the ball hit the last thing that could have kept it from going through the uprights — Taylor's helmet — and the Cougars had picked up another

routine victory.

That went along with comeback decisions over UCLA, Florida, Baylor and Texas A&M. Against the Aggies, Houston had to drive the length of the field in less than a minute and score in the final 15 seconds for the win.

"We'll go into the eighth game undefeated, that's all I know," said Houston coach Bill Yeoman. "We could still lose four."

Houston is 4-0 in SWC play — alone at the top — with Baylor, Arkansas and Texas all having just one loss. Houston's toughest remaining test will come against Texas, in the Astrodome, Saturday after next.

Baylor and Texas stayed in the championship picture last Saturday and Texas A&M finally won its first conference game of the year.

Baylor's offense, which helped ring up 55 points against Army the week before, could not score a touchdown last Saturday against TCU. It took a 95-yard interception return by Howard Fields to spark the Bears to a 16-3 win over the Horned Frogs, who had been trying to win their third straight game.

Texas, meanwhile, drubbed injury-riddled SMU, 30-6, having apparently been fired-up by statements by SMU coach Ron Meyer, who said he was certain his team was going to win. Meyer even set his team's proposed winning score — 10-7.

"I don't know if our team needed

that kind of extra incentive," said Texas coach Fred Akers. "And I'm not sure all of them had heard about it. But it is the kind of quote you will remember when you have won."

And when Meyer was asked how long it would take for SMU to be able to compete with Texas, he said somewhat testily — "A year. Just give us our bodies and we'll play with them next year."



Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

Dickey flies by the Owls

Texas A&M tailback Curtis Dickey became the second leading all-time rusher in the Southwest Conference against the Rice Owls Saturday. Dickey entered the game needing only 75 yards to pass Arkansas's Ben Cowins and ended up with 127 yards on 21 carries. Dickey had 106 yards in the first half alone and didn't play most of the second half.

First conference win Aggies well

By MARK PATTERSON
Battalion Sports Staff

Football games like the one the Aggies enjoyed Saturday against the Rice Owls are fun to participate in. The offense can run at will and the defense can take chances and game for the big play. And even better, everyone gets to play.

For the Aggies, there were a number of big plays and heroes in the 41-15 rout of the Rice Owls. Following their first Southwest Conference win, the Aggies were in the mood to talk about the afternoon of total offense. Here are some of the players' comments about the game's big moments.

Tailback Earnest Jackson, whose yard kickoff return set up the Aggies' first score in the second quarter and got the Ags rolling: "We practiced all week on the left side," Jackson said. "We finally got it to work. The linemen told me they would be there and when I hit the ball, it was ... (On his over-performance against Rice, 54 yards on 11 carries.) I feel pretty good. I did a pretty good job. Unless something happens to Curtis (Dickey), all I can do is play well and next year, when I get my chance to play. If Curtis stays healthy, I don't plan on playing next season."

Linebacker Mike Little, who returned a pass interception for a touchdown, all but wiped out the Owls: "That was the first interception of my life," Little said. "It was a once-in-a-lifetime thing. It was the first time I ever got my hands on a ball. It was a fluke. I was just in the right spot and when I caught the ball, I just thought 'run.' I was a little nervous upstairs and I don't remember it so well. ... (On the Aggies' first conference victory this season.) We were long overdue. We needed this one. We were just hanging along, always coming up short. We've had everything happen to us that can happen to a team and we just decided to go out and finish some people."

Safety John Dawson, who's interception of a Randy Hertel pass, returned to the Rice 19-yard line, set up one of the Aggies' second-half touchdowns: "There was nothing to it," Dawson said. "The receiver (tight end Robert Hubble) was running a flag route and I broke in front of the pass. He's 6-8 and I'm 5-11, so I'm not sure the pass was a little underthrown. ... (On the attitude of the Aggies before the game.) Something wasn't right out there. Friday we were fired up and ready. But when we got on the bus today, we weren't so excited. We were just going through the motions. The way we've played all year, it's hard to get up for a game like this. But after Rice scored (in the first quarter), we got a little angry. They scored too many points on us in the game but I felt we had control of the game when we came in at the half."

Tailback Curtis Dickey totaled 127 yards against Rice and became the second leading rusher in Southwest Conference football history. Dickey, who has amassed 220 yards in his college career, passed Ben Cowins' with 3,570

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This week's SWENSEN'S player of the week is Aggie offensive guard Ed Pustejevsky. Pustejevsky and the rest of the Aggie offensive line paved the way for tailback Curtis Dickey's 127-yard rushing day and controlled the Rice defensive line all afternoon. Pustejevsky, one of the four Aggie co-captains, is a senior physical education major from Houston.

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