

Dickey ends days as Ag back

Curtis Dickey and I do have something in common. This weekend, the University of Texas game will be our last as students at Texas A&M. And, as the game is being played, we'll be able to reminisce about our years here at A&M because we'll both be on the sidelines as spectators.

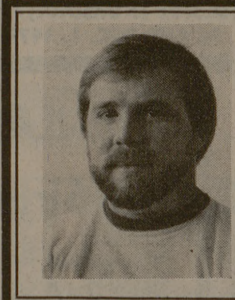
Tom Wilson announced Tuesday that, in all probability, Dickey played his last down as an Aggie three weeks ago against the SMU Mustangs. It was against SMU that Dickey suffered a broken rib and was removed from the game. He hasn't appeared since.

The one-time-Heisman Trophy candidate was in too much pain to play against the Arkansas Razorbacks two weeks ago. He didn't even make the trip to Fort Worth last week to face the TCU Horned Frogs. I'm not sure that he was missed either week.

What began as a year full of hope for the Bryan native has ended on the sidelines. Dickey was touted as the Aggie's answer to USC's Charles White and Oklahoma's Billy Sims. But since the Aggie's fourth game of the year, White and Sims have run circles around Dickey.

Not only is Dickey missing from the nation's top 10 rushers, but he ranks a distant third among SWC rushers this season. Dickey has totaled 808 yards (a far cry from the 1,500 he wanted at the beginning of the season) to A.J. Jones's 918 yards. Both trail Texas Tech's all-Southwest Conference running back James Hadnot's 1,371 yards. All three are through for the season.

I still can't understand why Dickey was touted as a Heisman Trophy



viewpoint

By Mark Patterson

candidate at the season's beginning. Was it because he can run fast in track spikes?

It's true that Curtis Dickey is an all-America when he's on a track. But on Astroturf, he's just another running back.

The people around the conference seem to support that thought as well. In his three years as a player in the SWC, Dickey earned Freshman of the Year honors and was named all-SWC only once, that being last year.

Looking at the raw numbers he has compiled, an argument can be made in favor of Dickey's value as a football player. Dickey has totaled 3,699 yards in four years, second on the SWC all-time rushing list to Earl Campbell's 4,443-yard total.

But the real value of a running back rests in his ability to play every game and get the big yardage against the good teams—the teams that put 11 worthy defensive players on the field. True, Dickey has rolled up big yardage every year, but those three-figure days have come against the Boston Colleges and Virginia Techs.

Dickey seems to have one good game a season. Three years ago it

came against Texas Tech (18 carries for 127 yards). In 1977 it was against TCU (20 carries for 178 yards). Last season, Dickey was outstanding against Iowa State in the Hall of Fame Bowl when he rushed for 276 yards on 34 carries. And this season, Dickey gained 184 yards on 34 tries against Penn State.

But it was against Texas, Arkansas, Michigan and Houston the past four years that the Aggies needed Dickey to play like an All-America back. He didn't. Against Texas the past three years, Dickey has carried the ball 39 times for 89 yards. Last year, Dickey carried the ball 15 times for 11 yards in what now was his last shot against the Longhorns.

But the professional scouts seem to think Dickey has what a running back needs to play in the NFL. A sizable contract awaits A&M's No. 22.

So now I have something to talk to Curtis about on the sidelines Saturday afternoon. I can ask him if he's happy about his college football career, or if he wishes he could do it all over again, to collect the awards that have thus far eluded him.

Rockets and Spurs lose

United Press International
KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Phil Ford hit a 16-foot jumper with five seconds left to give the Kansas City Kings a 117-115 victory Tuesday night over the Houston Rockets.

With the score tied 115-115, Rick Barry missed a 10-footer from the baseline with 30 seconds left and it was rebounded by Ford. The Kings then called time out and returned to the court to find Ford isolated on 5-9 Calvin Murphy.

Ford then worked to the foul line for his game-winning shot, also his third basket of the fourth quarter.

Houston took a 115-110 lead on a foul shot by Robert Reid with 1:57 remaining. But Kansas City pulled within two on a basket by Ford and tied it when Scott Wedman drove the baseline with 35 seconds left.

Houston shot itself out of the game in the final minute with Barry missing three shots and Malone one. Barry also tried a potential game-winning 3-pointer at the buzzer but it bounded off the rim.

The loss offset top performances by Houston's Murphy and Moses Malone, who combined for 60 points. Murphy hit 31 and Malone 29 for the Rockets, who fell to 10-11 on the season.

In San Antonio, forward John Drew hit a season high 40 points to lead Atlanta to a 143-120 victory over the San Antonio Spurs in a battle for the NBA Central Division lead Tuesday night.

The Hawks now hold a one-game lead over San Antonio. Drew hit 16 of 30 field goal attempts and garnered a game high of 13 rebounds as the Hawks outscored the Spurs 47-22 in the final period, overcoming a 99-96 San Antonio lead.

The Spurs, playing without guard James Silas who was mysteriously absent, surrendered 87 second half points. Silas was demoted from his starting role Monday but was believed to be at a hospital with his wife, who had given birth Monday afternoon.

The Hawks hit 40 of 53 field goal attempts in the final two quarters. San Antonio hit only 21 of 49.

Drew's three-point-play tied it at 38-38. Fine shooting by guard George Gervin, who finished with 39 points to lead San Antonio, was responsible for the Spurs' halftime lead, 59-56.

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