Reflections by Richard Oliver

Aggies win with enthusiasm

We, Texas A&M University, won Saturday night. In fact, we won in several ways.

The first win, and most obvious one, occurred on the football field. Led by Johnny Hector, Earnest Jackson and Mike Mosley, the Ags took on a fine Mississippi team and walked away with a convincing victory, despite what the 23-20 score might indicate.

From the first moment, it was obvious the Texas A&M players were not going to be beaten. The excitement and the determination was evident from the first instant when David Hardy put his foot to the ball to start the game

The crowd felt the electricity also.

The over-47,000 Rebel fans in attendance screamed for victory, but the loudest cheers came from a small contingent of A&M students seated at the very top of Memorial Coliseum in section RR — at or near the 25-yard line. Their enthusiasm and support was evident to all present

One photographer turned to me as the standing Aggies screamed and laughed sarcastically, "It's too bad your fans don't like football." Saying A&M fans don't support A&M is like saying the Lone Ranger doesn't like Tonto.

The spirit almost got a few A&M fans in trouble

In the first quarter, Hardy kicked off and the Rebel fans in section RR sat back for a nice, relaxing game of football. The trouble was, they didn't know about A&M's tradition of standing during the game. Nearly 1,000 Aggies stood proudly and cheered for most of the first quarter, and soon the chagrined Rebel fans hailed obscenities on those

"rude Aggies." The Rebel fans put up such a squawk that the older Aggie alumni in the same section looked mischievously upwards and stood up also. This really angered the Rebel fans, who by now had missed most of the quarter. Soon, several policemen were called, and the A&M students and alumni worked out an arrangement where the two groups switched places

As the two groups switched places, one lady turned to her next-seat-neighbor and complained loudly, "Didn't you tell them to sit down?" The exasperated man turned quickly. "They don't sit down!"

Ah, we Aggies are a fun lot, aren't we? The real story on this muggy night was Mosley.

The 6-2, 195-pound senior quarterback stunned everyone on the first series of downs for A&M by shrugging off two tacklers for a

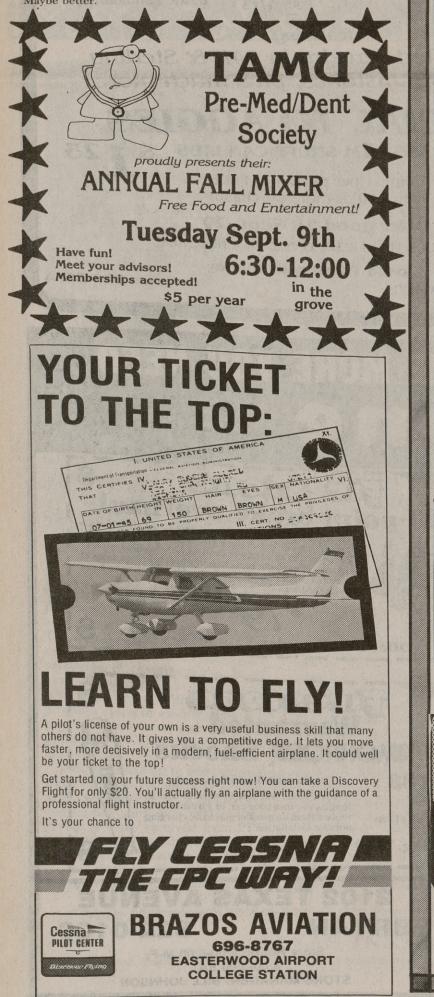
breakaway 43-yard touchdown run. All last week, he had said, "I'm going to give you something good to write about." He didn't wait long to do it.

The victory was by no means artistic, but it was a win, nevertheless. If Mississippi was good, however, Georgia is better. This Saturday will tell a lot about the season for the Ags. The Bulldogs have a fine tailback in freshman Herschel Walker, and

an excellent coach in Vince Dooley. They come home to Athens, Ga. for Saturday's game after slipping by a powerful Tennessee squad, 16-15 this weekend

It won't be easy, but if desire is a factor, there's no question who will win. And believe me, desire is a factor. Ask Mike Mosley.

"If we can cut down on a few of our mistakes and play up to our potential, then we're capable of winning the SWC championship," he said after the game. "In fact, I think we're gonna do just that. I know Texas and Arkansas are good, but we're every bit as good as they are. Maybe better



Cowboys 'Spring' past Washington

United Press International WASHINGTON — The Dallas Cowboys, their defense undaunted despite a crippled secondary, defeated the Washington Redskins 17-3 Monday night on touchdown runs by Tony Dorsett and Ron Springs and a field goal by Rafael Septien.

In winning their 16th straight season-opener, the Cow-boys held the Redskins to a 45-yard field goal by Mark Moseley and handed Washington its first Monday night loss at RFK Stadium after eight victories

Washington managed just 16 yards rushing in the first half as the Dallas defensive line of Ed "Too Tall" Jones, Larry Cole, Randy White and Harvey Martin picked up the slack for an injury-weakened secondary.

Quarterback Joe Theismann accounted for the bulk of Washington's offense, hitting 19-of-34 passes for 190 yards. The 100th consecutive sellout crowd of 55,045 booed the

Redskins' offense frequently as it failed to move the ball time after time.

Dorsett's six-yard touchdown capped an 80-yard drive that used up nearly seven minutes of the first quarter. Dorsett carried seven times in the 13-play drive for 36 yards, including a seven-yard gain on a broken play to set up his own TD run.

For the night, Dorsett picked up 66 yards on 17 carries. He also had a 20-yard run, his longest ever against the Redskins.

Dallas quarterback Danny White, replacing the retired Roger Staubach, was not spectacular with his passing but he was effective. Dallas' pass defense was without cornerback Benny Barnes, who had an emergency appendectomy Monday morning, and free safety Randy Hughes, out with a shoulder separation. Cornerback Aaron Kyle was out with a foot injury

White passed 14 and 37 yards to Tony Hill for afire at the Washington nine midway through the see ter. After Springs and Dorsett could get the ballor two, White overthrew tight end Doug Coshe in zone and the Cowboys settled for Septien's field Septien's 19-yarder gave the Cowboys a 100 k 6:06 left in the half and Dallas took that lead in the Vol. 74 room at halftime.

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Moseley, the leading kickscorer in the NFC hat missed field goals of 45 and 29 yards before finally his third attempt of the night. The successful 4 came on the first play of the fourth quarter.

After Moseley's field goal, the Cowboys put another long, time-consuming drive that led to four-yard touchdown. The Cowboys went 59 ya plays, 11 of them via the rush.



