Hind Exas Tech defense ready for Ags 1st Anniversary Sale

By KURT ALLEN Battalion Staff s still early in the season, but a m has already begun to develop his year's Texas Tech Red

uring the last two years, Tech highly unpredictable. The Raid-round up 7-4 in 1978 after being ed to finish eighth, then fell all emselves in 1979 winding up ppointing seventh in the st Conference

year, the Raiders have once eturned to their schizophrevs. Their 2-2 season has been explosive performances alterwith showings totally lacking sive punch.

is shown by Tech's opening crushing of the University of at El Paso, a subsequent y-washy 9-3 loss to North Caro-followed by a 28-17 victory over Mexico and last week's 11-3 distment at the hands of Baylor. ckily for Head Coach Rex the Red Raider defense

en fairly consistent. defensive squad is perhaps eatest strength Dockery has to e against an inconsistent and some other potentially ous weaknesses

e key to the Raiders' defense is rline, which may be the finest in nference. Their line presses a hich could mean extra pressure ggie quarterback David Beal

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defensive line is anchored by nomore noseguard Gabriel era (6-3, 280), who is com-nented by senior tackles Jamie (6-1, 265) and Jim Verden (6-3,

reason the line can blitz so is the fact that the Tech seconhas provided excellent cover-The Raiders have an outstandblayer in senior free safety Ted ts. He is also used on punt res and has 8.1 yard return average

we pure set of the secondary which has s the secondary which has d With ed Tech give up only 102 passing spergame, which is second best of Fourie conference. The Raiders are tax. loverall in defense. Last week, Tax. ave up only 89 yards passing to which still leads the confer-

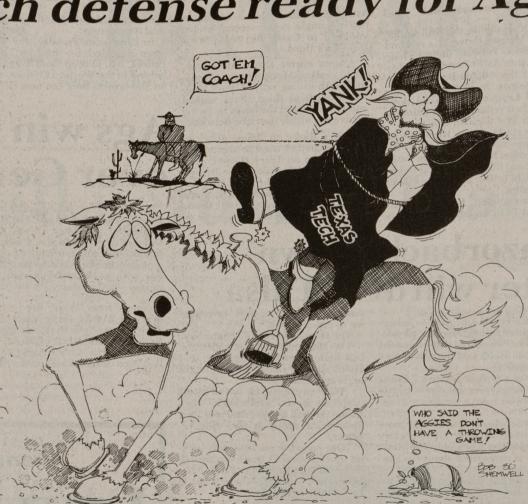
7:00 Pontrasted with its defense, the offense is wildly inconsistent, ugh more balanced than last

Using a split-back veer, the SDAY PECIAl ers no longer enjoy the benefits PECIAl ow-departed fullback James not, who racked up 1,371 yards

ed Steak 7 stead, they must depend on Gravy quarterback Ron Reeves (6-2, coordinate and execute the atoesan sive attack. As a result, Tech is wing the ball a good deal more ne other id and Bu Tea

far, Reeves seems to be having rage year, somewhere behis legendary freshman pernce in 1978 and last year's bout the sophomore jinx. At the at of his problems in 1979,

kers, Texas upset



which surfaced against Baylor.

Buford's, but entirely that of centers

With the ball on the Red Raider

Danny Whisenhunt and Jim Verden.

Reeves threw 10 interceptions in the first four games

Nonetheless, his marksmanship has been helped greatly by an able receiving corps. Junior transfer Re-nie Baker (6-0, 165) is currently fourth in conference receiving statis-tics with 14 catches for 226 yards or a 16.1 yards-per-catch average.

Baker also doubles up on kickoff eturns. So far, he has returned five kicks for 107 yards and ranks second

26-yard line in the second quarter, Whisenhunt snapped the ball almost out of the end zone. Finally, as in that conference category. Even with improved passing, the Tech offense is still sputtering from a lack of yardage production at the tailtrickled out of the end zone. back position. Against Baylor last week, the Raider's leading ground gainer was fullback Wes Hightower Greg Tyler only got to carry the ball three times, but did rack up 25 yards

in the process. In 1979, four tailbacks accounted for only 259 yards, while Hadnot racked up 1,371 yards and Reeves chipped in 363 scrambling on busted

The second strength Tech has going for it is the punting game. As Texas A&M Head Coach commented on Monday, few teams pos-sess a weapon like the Raiders have in junior punter Maury Buford. After the first four games this sea-

son, Buford ranks second in conference punting stats with a 44.3 yard average on 26 kicks. He was even more impressive against the Bears,

averaging 47 yards on 10 kicks. Ironically, Buford was also fea-Buford's head and completely out of the end zone tured in one of Tech's weak spots

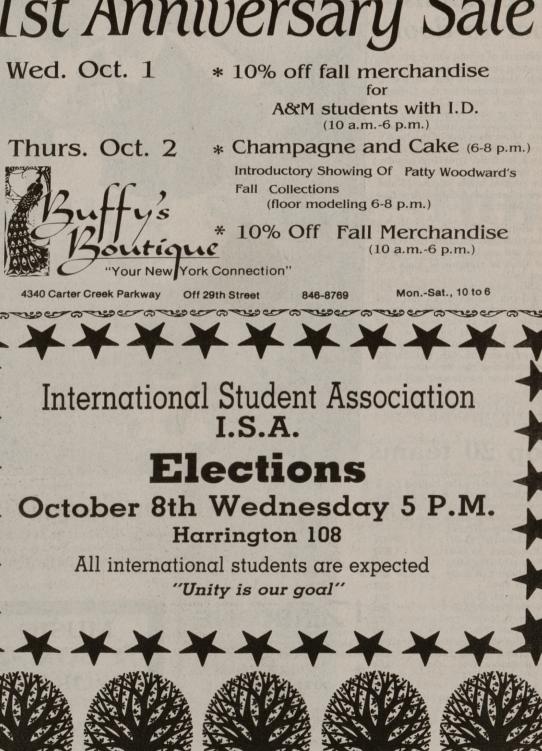
Considering that, and looking at the Aggie's special teams perform-Twice wild center snaps on punts led to Baylor safeties, enabling the Bears to take a 4-0 nothing halftime ance this year, the outcome of Satur-day's contest could very well rest on who has the best kicking game. lead. However, the fault was not

Texas A&M is still trying to shape up its own punting game, with fresh man Kyle Stuard and walk-on Rock King in a duel for the punter's job. The Ags are also looking for better blocking and downfield coverage on punts as well.

Buford tried to retrieve it, the ball Until the events of last week, the two teams might have been consi-Later on, with just three minutes to go before halftime, Verden ex-citedly snapped the ball over having to shuffle people around.

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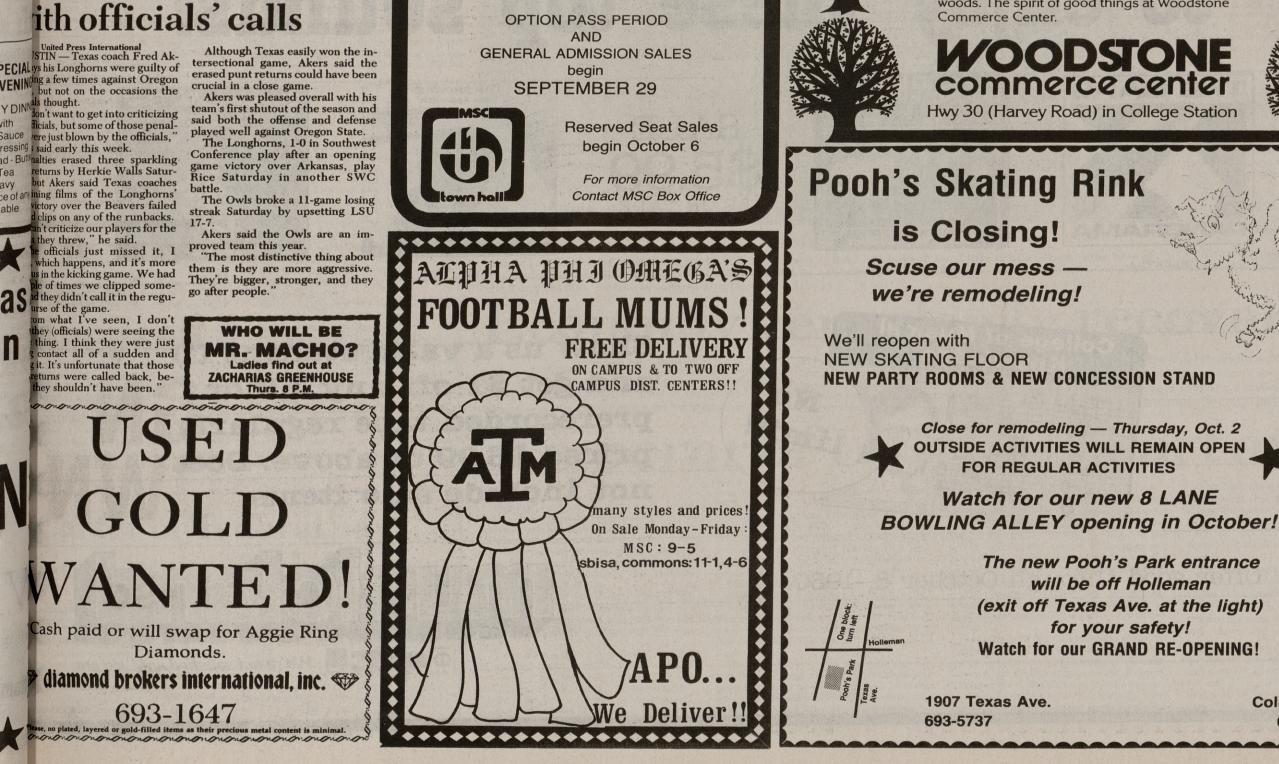


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