

Beal, Brown lead Aggies to win over Raiders, 41-21

By RICHARD OLIVER
Sports Editor
On Oct. 6, 1979, a dejected Texas Aggie football team limped off the field in Lubbock after shouldering a bitter defeat to the Texas Tech Red Raiders, 21-20.

Behind the silent parade to the lockerroom, the Tech scoreboard flashed "Poor Aggies" repeatedly as the Red Raider cheerleaders led the crowd in the chant.

Saturday at Kyle Field, the Texas A&M football team remembered that unsportsmanlike happening and

thrashed a talented Red Raider team, 41-21.

Behind the brilliant leadership of a born-again David Beal, the Aggies took after Tech from the first second on and never looked back.

The victory was especially important for the team after a very difficult two weeks that saw three players removed from the squad following a University drug investigation.

Eight players were taken before drug hearing boards during the probe, and six came out with their team status intact.

Leandrew Brown, one of the implicated players, roved the field expertly, picking off three Red Raider passes and recovering one fumble, including an incredible grab on his own two-yard line to thwart a Texas Tech march with 10:02 left in the third quarter. He also grabbed one pass early in the game, but came down out of bounds.

After the game, Brown was reluctant to say he had something to prove because of his unpopular publicity.

"It was our defensive line," Brown said modestly after the game. "The quarterback just had to throw it up. It was a team effort. The whole team had something to prove."

But on this day, the laurels belonged to Brown and David Beal.

The senior quarterback, who has spent his entire college career behind Mike Mosley, was awarded a first team position after Mosley stumbled through a 25-9 loss to Penn State two weekends ago.

Beal didn't take long to adjust to his new standing.

With 6:56 left in the first quarter, after steering the Aggies 80 yards on their first possession, Beal took off to the right on the option and cut left against the grain for a 20-yard touchdown run.

Then the Brown-Beal combination started to click.

In the second quarter with the Aggies ahead 10-0, Brown picked off an errant Ron Reeves pass and returned it to the Tech 11-yard line. Three plays later, Beal cut against the grain again for a nine-yard TD and a 17-0 lead.

Tech then took over at its own 20. Running back Wes Hightower swept to the left corner and coughed up the football after a hard hit by Van Barnett on the 32-yard line. Once again, Brown picked up the turnover to set up another Beal score.

After a seven-yard run by Earnest Jackson, Beal once again sped to his right and then cut left for a 25-yard

touchdown run and suddenly it was 24-0 A&M.

On the next Tech possession, Red Raider substitute quarterback Mark James came in to try and crack the Aggie defense. Enter Brown again. James lifted a pass toward flanker Mike Jackson and Brown interceded to pick it off and return it to the Tech 24.

This time, however, Beal let someone else do his work for him as Sanders carried it in from the three to make it 31-0 Aggies with 10:15 left in the half.

Then, the Aggie defense slackened a bit, as Tech drove for its first touchdown with 1:15 left in the half to make it 31-7.

Things began to go sour for A&M in the third quarter, as Tech drove 80 yards on 10 plays on the first series to make it 31-14.

After Tech tacked on an additional score later in the quarter to draw within 10, A&M regained its senses in time to score 10 points in the fourth quarter and ice the game.

The last TD came on the same counter-option Beal had scored with all day as he scooted 32 yards with 3:38 left to give A&M a 41-21 lead.

Although Tech finished with 394 yards total offense to the Aggies' 355, the Red Raider yardage was all for naught as a spirited A&M defense made the big plays when it had to.

Van Barnett added one interception to Brown's three and broke up two passes.

"It's just great to win," said A&M Head Coach Tom Wilson in a post-game press conference. "I'm just proud to start conference like this."

After two weeks of turmoil in the Aggie ranks due to the drug busts, the win was especially savory.

"With what these players have been through these past two weeks," Wilson shook his head thoughtfully. "I'm just proud of them. They were very intense, but at the same time,

very relaxed. I take my hat off to them."

Indeed, the atmosphere in the lockerroom following the game was one of quiet relief mixed with quite a bit of vocal scorn for the Aggie critics. It had been a hard fight, after all.

The players all said there was "a lot to prove."

"We're a new ballclub," said center David Bandy forcefully. "We're ready to play anybody. We've put in a lot of work for this."

"The offensive line didn't have an off-week. We haven't had a day off. We're up at 6 a.m. every other day lifting weights. It's a new Aggie team. We've had some difficulties the past few weeks. It's too bad Tech came along when they did. We took it all out on them."

Darrell Adams, one player implicated in the Agscam investigation, said he felt he had a little something to prove.

"In a way, I did (have something to prove)," he said. "But it was a team effort. I just tried to do my best. And I'm gonna try my best next week in front of my home crowd Houston and show them it was wrong."

Adams finished with four tackles and broke up a pass.

All the players were full of praise for Beal.

"Beal had a lot to prove," said receiver Mike Whitwell. "He played behind Mike (Mosley) for four years. David just took control in the huddle. He was tellin' people what to do."

"We didn't make any dramatic changes. The main thing is we had something to prove and we took it to 'em."

Running back Johnny Hector, who was held to only 47 yards, said the Aggies were now a team to watch.

"We got tired of being put down on all sides," he said. "We're gonna forget about that. That's old."

"We're gonna play some ball. We're back."



Photo by Lee Roy Lee

Texas Tech quarterback Ron Reeves looks desperately for someone to pass to as Aggie linebacker Mike Little drops down from behind. Little had 15 tackles in Saturday's thrashing of the Red Raiders by Texas A&M. The Aggies beat the Houston Cougars Saturday night in Houston.

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Aggies finish third in tournament

By MIKE BURRICHTER
Battalion Staff

The young Texas A&M women's volleyball team came back to College Station Sunday with a .500 season record after taking third place in the Lamar Invitational. The Beaumont tournament consisted of 10 teams, and the Ags compiled a 4-2 record there this weekend.

In pool matches Friday, the Aggies beat Rice University, 15-6, 15-5, defeated West Texas State University, 15-3, 16-14, and lost to the tournament's eventual winner, the University of Texas, 15-4, 15-13.

On Saturday morning, the Ags beat Texas Women's University, 15-1, 15-4, to take second place in their pool. In the first semifinal match, A&M lost to Lamar, 15-9, 10-15, 15-12. In the match for third place, the Ags beat North Texas State University 15-10, 15-12.

That brings the team's season record to 8-5, and head coach Terry Condon says her young team is starting to perform up to its capability.

"We're really starting to come around," the first year coach said. "Our freshman are playing a lot better. They made less mistakes this weekend than they had in Houston at the Lamar Invitational."

The team starters consist of three freshmen, a sophomore and two juniors. Condon says inexperience kept the team from winning the tough matches 9-10, against Lamar and West Texas State.

"We're beating the easy teams a lot easier than we expected," she said, "and we're playing the tough teams about 12-all before we lose. We just lack the experience to pull through."

Condon has a week to prepare for this weekend's tournament in Houston, and she says she'll work on facing pressure situations.

"We have a hard pool this weekend," Condon said in the Houston Invitational. "It'll be interesting to see how the freshmen react. There are tough teams from all over the country in this tournament. That'll help us prepare for next month's state tournament."

The Ags head to Houston Thursday to begin a 24-team, three-day tournament.

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