

Photo by Lee Roy Leschper

Texas A&M senior starting quarterback David Beal looks downfield as he readies to pass against the Red Raiders Saturday. Beal gained 68 yards on the ground and passed for 129 in

the air to lead A&M. It was the first start ever for Beal as an Aggie, and he responded with four touchdown runs as A&M won by 20 points.

Fat and slow' Beal flattens Tech

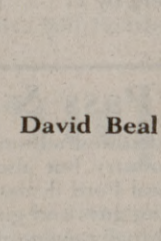
Wins over home crowd while leading Aggies

By KURT ALLEN
Battalion Staff

Ever since he got married, David Beal's wife Sara had told him he had gotten fat and slow. If that's the case, it sure didn't matter Saturday, as the senior quarterback wowed a Kyle Field crowd of 65,000 by romping his way to touchdowns and guiding Texas A&M to a convincing 41-21 win over Tech.

Obviously fatigued by the day's events, Beal nevertheless happily trotted with a swarm of reporters as he slowly pulled his gear off. "I'll tell you one thing, I've never been so tired in my life," said the Russellville, Ark. product. "I know I'm still out of shape. Ever since I got married, I've lost some speed and gained about 10 pounds."

Head Coach Tom Wilson was really pleased with Beal's performance. He had replaced former starter Mike Mosley with Beal after the State game in an effort to shake the Aggie offensive unit and put the life back into it. The satisfying news brought by that move clearly showed in Wilson's face after the win over the Red Raiders. "I just couldn't be prouder of



David Beal

David Beal," said Wilson, with an almost boyish enthusiasm he had not shown before Saturday. "This is by far the best game we've played. I'm sure he (Beal) was out of shape. You can't get a player into game-shape without letting him play, which is why we played David. He did a fine job out there running the offense."

Indeed, the Ags' offense never looked better, and the squad showed a confidence which until then had been sorely lacking. For his part, Beal carried the ball 12 times for a misleading 68 yards. As earlier noted, four of those rushes went for touchdowns. His actual total yards gained would have been much closer to 100 yards had he not had to eat the ball on a couple of occasions.

He also completed 12 of 19 passes for 129 yards with two interceptions. Beal teamed quite effectively with split end Mike Whitwell throughout the afternoon, throwing to the Cotulla junior five times for 55 yards.

In both rushing and passing, Beal increased his season stats considerably in just one game. He's now completed 21 of 36 passes for a 58.3 per-

cent average and 264 yards. That's not too far away from his total career stats.

Beal played virtually the entire game except for a series in the fourth quarter when he was felled by muscle cramps in his right calf. He was replaced by Mosley, but later returned.

"I don't think I've hurt that bad in a long time. I guess the reason I got the cramps was because I'm not used to putting out so much. I used to get cramps like that all the time when I was playing in high school."

Reflecting on his old nemesis, the cramps, Beal suddenly realized he hadn't felt such pains since the final game of his senior year in high school at Russellville. That game against Fort Smith Southside High School, incidentally, was the last contest he had started until Saturday.

After all the turmoil and chain of events that led up to facing the Red Raiders, it would have been natural to expect Beal and his fellow Aggies to be a little nervous going into what for them was a big game. But that wasn't the case, maintained Beal.

"Honestly, the only time I got nervous was when people would come up to me and ask if I was nervous. It was just like when I got married. It was nothing until everybody started quizzing me."

While still fresh from his running dream, Beal was gracious in his praise for the man he replaced, Mike Mosley. "Mike's a heck of a player. He's

still a lot faster than I am. He's been clocked at 4.3 in the 40-yard dash and I run about a 4.7. He's also better at throwing the ball on the run. I think if there's one advantage I have to offer, it's my ability in dropping back in the pocket."

That advantage payed off time and again for the Aggies, as he picked apart the Raiders' secondary by sitting in the pocket and taking his time before throwing.

It also earned him his second straight starting assignment this week against the faltering Houston Cougars.

Wilson apparently made that decision moments before talking to writers after the Tech game. Informed by one writer of the head coach's decision, Beal replied, "That's really great. I couldn't be happier. I'm really looking forward to that one. I don't care when we play them, I know we'll be ready for it."

White leads Cowboys again

United Press International
IRVING — Danny White directed two 85-yard touchdown drives in the second quarter, ending them with long-range touchdown passes to Tony Hill and Butch Johnson, in leading the Dallas Cowboys to a methodical 24-3 triumph over the New York Giants Sunday.

It was the third straight win for Dallas, boosting the Cowboys' record to 4-1 and allowing them to keep pace with the Philadelphia Eagles atop the NFC East. New York lost its fourth game in a row after a season opening victory over St. Louis.

Dallas' Rafael Septien kicked a 38-yard field goal four plays after New York had fumbled the opening kickoff, but the Cowboys sputtered offensively until White cranked things up with the two long drives.

White moved Dallas 85 yards on eight plays midway through the second quarter, hitting Hill with a 29-yard scoring throw, and then marched the Cowboys 85 yards again in the final minute of the first half, hitting Johnson with a 29-yard touchdown throw.

Dallas scored again with 2:33 to play on a 38-yard interception return by tackle John Dutton. New York rookie quarterback Scott Brunner, under a heavy rush from Ed Jones, threw the ball directly into Dutton's hands, allowing the 6-foot-7 tackle to score his first touchdown as a professional.

New York's only points came on a 51-yard field goal by Joe Danelo early in the fourth quarter after Danelo had earlier missed efforts from 33 and 53 yards.

White, who came into the game as the NFC's leading passer, completed 22 of 33 throws for 266 yards and the two touchdowns — his

eighth and ninth of the season.

The Cowboys' defense, meanwhile, gave New York quarterback Phil Simms an unpleasant afternoon. Simms could complete only four of 15 throws for 87 yards and he left the game late in the third quarter in favor of rookie Brunner.

Dallas defenders tipped four passes at the line of scrimmage, two of them eventually intercepted by Bob Breunig and Dennis Thurman.

Thurman's interception, coming at the Cowboys' 16 with a little more than 10 minutes remaining, wiped out the giants' last hope of getting back into the game.

The Cowboys dominated all day, but particularly during the first half when Dallas made 14 first downs to just two for the Giants. And it was the drive at the end of the half, a carbon copy of the two-minute drill run by White's predecessor Roger Staubach, that appeared to wrap up the game for the Cowboys.

Dallas took over at its own 15 with 1:07 to play in the half and White hit Preston Pearson — activated for this game — with a 10-yard pass to start the march. White then threw an incompletion, but connected with Hill on a 12-yarder that advanced the ball to the 37.

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