

Sports

Ags fall short in heartbreaking loss to Coogs, 17-1

By RICHARD OLIVER
Sports Editor

Despite a spirited comeback against almost insurmountable odds, Texas A&M University dropped a close contest to Houston this weekend, 17-13.

The game began at 11:33 p.m. Saturday, and didn't end until 2:41 a.m. Sunday, the first time in this century an NCAA college football game has taken two days to play.

Although the game began before a near-capacity crowd, by the time the final second ticked off, less than half

remained. It was a shame, because the last minute provided more fireworks than the rest of the game altogether.

David Beal, who started his second game ever as an Aggie, was injured late in the second quarter, and Mike Mosley finished up for him. Beal, who suffered what is believed to be a broken wrist, had completed 4-of-8 passes for 74 yards and one touchdown.

After three aborted drives, the Aggies recovered a Brent Chinn fumble at the Houston 35-yard line with 3:10 remaining in the first quarter. On the first play after that, Beal

lofted a pass to Mike Whitwell in the end zone. Despite having Houston defender Butch LaCroix hanging all over him, Whitwell made an incredible catch, and the Aggies drew first blood, 7-0.

But, the lead didn't last long. Early in the second quarter on his own five-yard line, Beal was hit as he pitched out, and the errant toss was recovered by Cougar lineman Greg Harmon. Two plays later, Eddie Wright ran it in from the three to tie it up.

Mosley took over for the injured Beal to start the second half, and was ineffective for the most part until late in the game. Houston scored with 1:30 left in the third quarter to make it 14-7.

The Cougars scored again late in the fourth quarter on a field goal by Jeff Shaffer, and upped the score to 17-7. Then, the Aggie machinery started to click.

Whitwell, who made six fantastic catches during the game, including the TD grab, made a fine diving catch on a low Mosley throw, and then hauled in a 45-yard bomb from Mosley with a little over a minute left. Then, with 37 seconds left, Mosley threw a desperation 36-yarder toward David Scott, who was double-covered in the right corner of the end zone. Scott jumped and ripped the pass out of his defender's hands for the Aggies' final score to make it 17-13.

However, A&M did not roll over, recovering the ensuing onside kick in Houston territory with 20 seconds left.

On the first play following that recovery, Mosley rolled right and made for the sidelines upon finding everyone covered. Cougar lineman Hosea Taylor, however, caught up with Mosley and the quarterback threw the ball away. Taylor slammed Mosley out of bounds after that

errant pass, causing A&M players and coaches to claim a late hit. Officials, however, called the foul on Mosley for intentional grounding and tacked the yardage against the Aggies. Mosley, meanwhile, was obviously shaken and had to be assisted off the field by A&M trainers.

Sophomore backup Gary Kubiak came in at that point. Kubiak had been redshirted, but with his three-second appearance on the field, lost his redshirt status for the year.

With 16 seconds left, Kubiak threw a pass toward the open Whitwell, who had once again freed himself from the Cougar defenders. The pass was far short, though, and was intercepted.

After the game, the Aggies filed off the field to a hail of insults and ice from the Houston stands.

In the lockerroom, a tearful and very angry bunch of players lashed out at what they termed the "classless" football played by the Cougars.

Head Coach Tom Wilson told the players not to worry, that their "day would come."

"They (Houston) play the way they do without class," said freshman tight end Mark Lewis. "They just played like dogs — scratching, kicking, and biting. It's a shame we had to go out and lose like we did to a classless team. Mentally, we've been through a tough situation."

Cornerback Darrell Adams agreed.

"We beat them, they know we beat them," he said. "I don't really see it as a loss, we just can't show that on the scoreboard."

"Taylor hit Mosley on the sidelines, and the ref was right there but didn't call it. The refs, they were just messin' us. We're still goin' for it (the Cotton Bowl). We're gonna lose one, sure, but we're goin' for it all."

Texas A&M finished the game with 361 total yards to Houston's 317. Placekicker Alan Smith missed two field goals.



Aggie fullback David Hill is dragged down from behind as he pushes for yardage this weekend against the Houston Cougars. Hill and the Aggies took it on the chin, 17-13, in the first two-day college football game this century.

The game started at 11:33 Saturday night, and didn't end until 2:41 Sunday morning because of the Phillies-Astros playoff Saturday.

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