

Out of the blue

by Rick Stolle



Bears' win embarrassing

I knew we were in trouble early in the game as torrents descended upon us from above. The scoreboard sign read, "When it rains at Aggieland, it pours."
Unfortunately, I did not have any wood to knock on.
The sign proved prophetic as the Baylor Bears poured it on the hapless Aggies by the worst score in their series since 1901 when the Bears beat the Ags 46-0. At least this year we scored seven points, making it 46-7.
It would have been the first shut-out in Kyle Field since 1971 had the Ags not scored with 24 seconds left in the game.
As the Aggies slip-slided away in the rain, the Bears waltzed to their sixth win without a loss. They manhandled the Ags without so much as breaking a sweat.
The beleaguered, bewildered and befuddled Aggies stumbled around the field. They had no leadership, little direction and lots of mistakes. They fumbled, bumbled and slid their way to a devastating, demoralizing defeat.
I seem to remember another game in the recent past that was similar to this one. Ah yes, I remember, this was the same song the Ags sang in Athens, Ga., second verse, a little bit louder and a whole lot worse.
The entire team should be embarrassed. The Baylor game cannot be blamed on any one person; it was a team loss.

Analysis

And the Ags had a number of problems Saturday. Little things like running, tackling, kicking and holding on to the football.
The Aggie team was a totally different one that took the field against Tech and Houston. There were a bunch of individuals going through the motions of football against a team. I almost did not recognize them but the jerseys were a dead give-away.
There was no spirit on the team. They seemed to be ready to give up after Baylor kicked its first field goal. And after the safety, the sidelines seemed to melt of players as a number started to dig holes to bury their heads.
Even a number of the Aggie players recognized it. Darrell Adams, Gary Kubiak and Mack Moore said they see the problem. They said the team needs to find itself and come together.
Yet, the only place the team can come together is in the coaching. It has to solidify the Aggies into a team that wins and loses as a team.
Tom Wilson has had only two years in which to begin and implement his program. Two years is a long time in anything except football. The results from any given football program are at least four years away from obvious harvest.
Bon Meyer at SMU has had five years to develop his program and it is showing in the program SMU has now. Not many coaches can walk into a program already established like Barry Switzer and Fred Akers who followed great coaches at the University of Oklahoma and the University of Texas, respectively.
Yet, I'm not making any excuses, Saturday's loss has to be blamed on Wilson. The Aggie coach did not have the team as well prepared as Baylor was for A&M. The only thing he can do is try harder and hope someone on the team will stand up and become the leader the team has been searching for all year.
The team has been searching for someone to take charge. A player who will lead by example, without much talk, and become a field general. Last year, Jacob Green was the leader of the defense and Curtis Dickey and Mike Mosley ran the offense.
This year, even though Mosley is still here, the Ags are hurting for a leader. Mosley is a good athlete but he lacks the leadership abilities a quarterback must have. He needs to be returned to the defensive secondary and leave the offense in the hands of Gary Kubiak.
Kubiak did a respectable job against Baylor Saturday. Granted, it was mostly against second- and third-year players but he still was able to move the offense which is more than Mosley has been able to do.
A&M has the athletes and program to compete with many schools in the nation. The team simply needs to find itself and a leader. Also a little pride in itself would help.
A Baylor player laughed at the demise of the Aggies and how they simply could not come back after getting behind. Many were simply surprised at how easy the Aggies were beaten as were all the Aggie fans.
Hopefully, the Ags will come together and find a little pride before the Rice game. They will have to because Rice is no longer an easy prey. After beating LSU and TCU and scoring 21 points on Texas in the quarter, the Owls have become a team to be reckoned with.
With luck and a team effort, the Ags can come back to have a respectable season. Without it, the Aggie fans can start to look forward to a basketball season.

Phillips not worrying

United Press International
HOUSTON — Coach Bum Phillips Monday said he is not losing sleep over his Houston Oilers' 16-points-per-game average and their uncanny knack of converting lopsided victories into cliff-hangers.
"Obviously I would have to say, 'Yeah, our yardage should have produced more points'. But it didn't. You can't fumble the ball, get penalties and do all that and make points," he said.
In the team's latest soft-hearted performance on Sunday, Earl Campbell ran for a pro career high 203 yards on 33 carries, Kenny Stabler passed for 242 yards on 19 passes and the Oilers needed an interception in the final minute to hold on and beat the Tampa Bay Buccaneers 20-14.
No changes are planned as the Oilers prepare this week to host the Cincinnati Bengals, Phillips said.
"Earl will continue to carry the ball, maybe not as many times as he's carried it in the last two games, but probably 25 to 30 times. He's more effective the more he carries the ball," the coach said.
Despite Campbell's having mis-

sed two of the first seven games, his two-game total of 381 yards against the Kansas City Chiefs Oct. 12 and Tampa Bay Sunday moved the two-time NFL rushing king into third place on the league rushing list with 605 yards.
"It seems like the more he carries the football, the better he does," Phillips said. "It seems to me that he gains momentum as the ballgame goes on."
The difference between the win over Tampa Bay and a 21-20 loss to the Chiefs was execution on big plays.
Also, the "inconsistency" existing between refereeing crews hurt the Oilers Sunday, Phillips said.
Nine penalties were called and accepted by the Bucs Sunday despite the Oilers playing "the same way this week as we played last week. Last week we only had two penalties called — and both of them were wrong," he said.
"That's probably the hardest thing to adjust to in the whole NFL, that one week you can play exactly the same way, and do everything the same way, and they don't call nothin'."

Two fumbles and Phillips' admitted bonehead decision to give place-kicker Toni Fritsch a shot at a 49-yard field goal, all of which occurred in the fourth quarter Sunday, kept Houston from probably taking its biggest win of the season.
Campbell's fumble with 4:31 left to play was converted into a Tampa Bay touchdown, and Rob Carpenter's fumble moments later ended a deep Oilers drive.
Fritsch missed the field goal try, his only miss in 11 tries this season, giving the ball to the Bucs on their 32.
"It was a bad call on my part. In the first place it would have given them field position in a bad spot for us, which is really bad."

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