

Mistakes cost Texas A&M again as Owls win, 10-6



Staff photo by Pat O'Malley

A worried Tom Wilson sends quarterback Gary Kubiak back to the huddle with a play during Saturday's 10-6 loss to the Rice Owls. The Aggies, 2-5, are off to their worst start since 1972, when they were 1-6 after seven games.

By RICHARD OLIVER
Sports Editor
The Texas A&M football mystery continues.

In a turn of events that even Sherlock Holmes might trip on, the Aggie football team has stumbled, bumbled and fumbled its way to its worst start since 1972, when Texas A&M was 1-6 after seven games.

Saturday, despite outgaining Rice offensively by 116 yards, the Ags took it on the chin to the Owls, 10-6 in front of only 52,449 hometown fans.

Once again, a turnover hurt the Aggies. Once again, the team failed to come back after falling behind early in the game. Once again, missed tackles resulted in a crushing touchdown. And once again, a dejected Tom Wilson tried vainly to give a reason for the collapse after the game.

"We're tremendously disappointed again," he said. "I know we've got a young football team but I'm tired of using that as an excuse. I'm not disappointed with their effort. We just need to execute better. We had all kinds of opportunities to win the game, but made too many mistakes."

"It's just unbelievable how many mistakes we can make to lose a ball game. It's hard for me to explain how a football team can make this many mistakes."

Yet, the mistakes occurred, and Texas A&M limped off the field after losing to Rice for the first time since 1973, and the first time since 1972 in Kyle Field.

The first score came in the second quarter, when Rice running back Cal Fance took a short pass from quarterback Randy Hertel and bounced off five Aggie tacklers, turning what should have been a three-yard loss into a 41-yard touchdown romp.

Rice added a field goal later in the second quarter to go into the locker room at halftime with a 10-0 lead.

A Rice turnover gave A&M the ball on the Owls' 38, and six plays later, Aggie tailback Johnny Hector escaped one tackle and slammed over from five to make it 10-6. David Hardy missed the extra point.

Hector finished the day with 123 yards on 26 carries.

The kicking game failed once again for A&M, as Hardy missed a 47-yarder in the first quarter, and Smith came on in the third and missed a 44-yard attempt.

Gary Kubiak, in his first collegiate start ever, had a mediocre day, completing only six of 19 attempts for 72 yards. But Kubiak led the Aggies to several scoring opportunities, but all but one fizzled.

In the fourth quarter, a fired up

Kubiak led A&M on a 58-yard drive, only to watch in dismay as fullback Thomas Sanders coughed up the football on the Owls' three-yard line.

With 3:46 remaining in the game, Kubiak moved the Aggies down to the 28 of Rice, but the drive stalled as three desperation passes by Kubiak and sub Mark McQueen, who entered when Kubiak was shaken up one play, failed to find their mark.

Wilson was bewildered by the team's play.

"We're just not getting the job done," he said. "I wish they'd (young Aggie players) hurry and grow up and decide they're good enough to compete."

"Before the game, they were as emotional as they've been all year. We're hunting for a way to get good."

Many Aggie players, while a bit confused by the turn of events in 1980, still were confident things would turn for the better. Some even looked to 1981.

"Next year should be a lot different," said free safety Van Barnett enthusiastically. "We have a lot of inexperience on this team. You can't expect to be conference champs this year."

"We're not giving up, though. We're going to spoil some things for everybody else. We're spoilers now. We've got nothing to lose. Let's go mess it up for SMU. Let's go mess it up for Texas. It'll change for us. We've got real team unity."

If he were coach, Barnett said he would tell his players to take it easy now.

"I'd tell my players to relax," he said, "we've got nothing to lose. We've still got four more games. Let's be a wrecking crew. A little wrecking crew that tears up things."

Center David Bandy was not as positive.

"We just gave the game away," he said. "We can't call it inexperience. We can't make any more excuses."

"We can either lie down and quit and finish 2-9 or be a real pain in somebody's neck. I know the coach (Wilson) won't let us lie down. He's been coming down on us pretty hard all year on rules and regulations. He's under an awful lot of pressure."

Bandy said he knew now Wilson would be coming under fire for the season record.

"Any time a coach starts losing," he said, "he'll get in a lot of trouble. We've got to be the spoilers now. I don't like that really, but it's the only

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thing left for us. Let's just be a pain in somebody's neck."

The loss was costly once again for A&M, as starting senior linebacker Doug Carr went down with a knee injury and will be operated on today. Carr will be lost for the season. Fellow defensive captain John Dawson, a strong safety, is also lost for the season with a knee injury he sustained against Mississippi in the first game of the year.

Rice Head Coach Ray Alborn was, simply put, ecstatic after the game.

"This a bigger win than the LSU win; it was a conference game," he said. "I am very proud of these kids and my staff."

"I told the kids at halftime that the next 30 minutes would be the most important ones Rice has ever played."



Rice running star Fance was matter-of-fact about his TD pass-run.

"It was a swing pass in the field the defensive man came up and said, 'I got by him, I went from with three or four hits then it was the goalline and it sure was good.'"

The Aggies face SMU this day at Texas Stadium in Dallas. The Mustangs pulled off the shock of the year in the SWC Saturday beating Texas, 20-6.

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IM Game Plan

ENTRIES OPEN: Running enthusiasts should be aware that the IM Dept. is now accepting entries for the annual Cross Country Race to be held on Tuesday, November 11 at 5:30 p.m. The race is three miles in length and best of all is FREE! Interested individuals should sign up in the Intramural Office, 159 East Kyle. Entries will be accepted through 5 p.m. on Tuesday, November 4. Also open during the October 27 through November 4 period will be entries for Table Tennis Doubles.

ENTRIES CLOSING: Tomorrow marks the deadline for accepting entries in Racquetball Doubles and Archery (Singles & Doubles). Stop by the IM Office before 5 p.m. Tuesday and enter one or both of these activities.

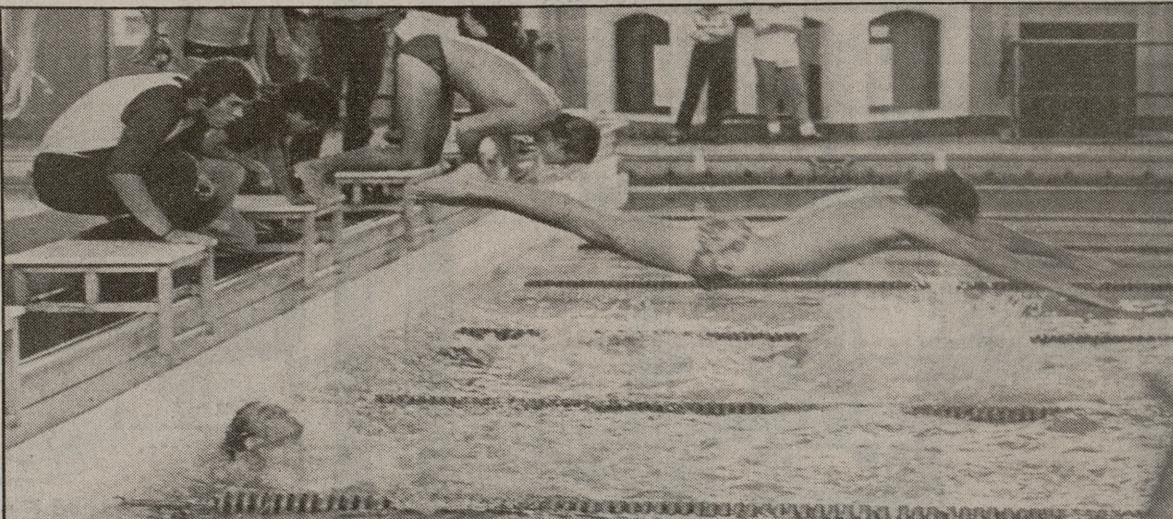
PLAY BEGINS: Soccer action gets underway tonight at the Penberthy Complex. Teams who have not picked up their schedules should stop by the IM Office today — you may be playing tonight!

PLAYOFF ACTION CONTINUES: Flag Football action will be continuing this week. All captains are reminded that games are often rescheduled due to weather postponement. So check the playoff schedule often, your game may be affected by a change even if not affected by the weather.

LONG DRIVING CONTEST: Tuesday, October 28 at 5 p.m. will be the day and time of the Intramural Long Driving Contest. Held on the East Campus Polo Field, the contest will consist of driving 5 balls — the longest of which will be the official distance. Participants are reminded that they must furnish their own clubs and balls. All entrants must use the "Club Special" ball.

All-University Swim Championships

Tonight 7 P.M. Down's Pool — See You There!



Action from last week's swimming preliminaries.

FOR THE RECORD

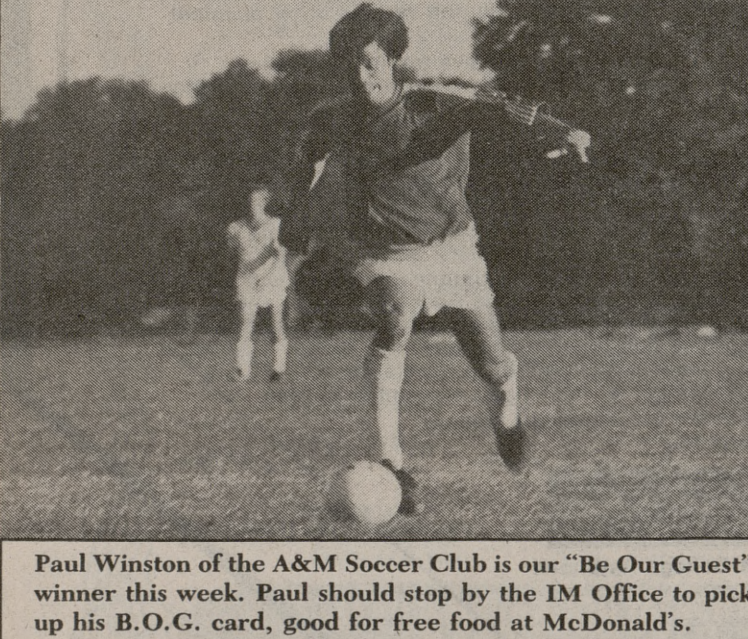
The Texas A&M Roadrunners recently sponsored a trip to the Huntsville Half and Quarter Marathons. Club member Roger Crockett emerged victorious in the 30-39 age division in the Quarter Marathon. Roger's time placed him 8th in the overall field.

Bowhunters Bag Prize

Seven hearty souls stalked the game with their bows in hand last Wednesday evening in the Intramural Bowhunter's Shoot.

The "game" they were all out searching for was the All-University Championship T-Shirt. In the sighted division, Tim Hay bagged the top prize while Ed Golden emerged from the woods as the winner in the non-sighted division. Second place in the sighted division went to Mark Wallace.

All competitors shot 2 sets of five arrows each from 20, 30, and 40 yards. Hay's score of 102 topped Wallace's 95 by points while Golden scored 79 points in the non-sighted division.



Paul Winston of the A&M Soccer Club is our "Be Our Guest" winner this week. Paul should stop by the IM Office to pick up his B.O.G. card, good for free food at McDonald's.

Racquetball News

Eleven members of the TAMU Racquetball Club were among the 800 individuals that competed recently in the 6th Annual Racquetball Championship of Texas.

Making the trip to San Antonio were club members Mark Bewley, Thomas Brow, Joel Clinkscapes, Mike Gralish, Felipe Guzman, Mike Hare, Sam Haynes, Ed Ketter, John Marinos, J.J. Risch, and David Zabick.

Ketter advanced to the semi-final round in Men's B action while Risch did the same in Women's B. Bewley and Hare both survived until the quarter-finals in Men's B and Guzman emerged in third place in the Men's D competition.

Acknowledgments

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Tennis Volleys On

Mark Smith, a sophomore Chemical Engineering major from Cy-Fair, advanced one step closer in defense of his Men's Dorm Class A Tennis Singles crown by defeating Louis Torres, 6-2 and 6-2 last Monday evening.

Smith, who lost in three sets for the All-University title last year, will defend his Dorm title tonight at 5 p.m. against Dave McGlashan.

In Women's Dorm Class A action, Tami Buffington of Hughes Hall will be taking to the courts in the finals against Kendall Gurry. Julie Drewry has already captured the Women's Independent Class A crown and is awaiting the results of the Buffington-Gurry match in order to play off for the All-University Class A Women's title. Drewry defeated Joanne Linck, to advance to the All-University Final.


In Men's Independent Class A finals, Joe Aldapse, Bruce Cochran, Simon Ruijse Naars and Bobby Soepangkat will be competing to determine who advances to the All-University playoffs.

The CORPS Class A champion will be determined tomorrow evening when John Nesbit of F-2 does battle with Andy Herrmann of Squadron 11. Blaine Porter of F-1 has already captured the FISH A title and is waiting the results of the other divisional playoffs.

FISH Class B Champion Bobby Ogdee advances to the Class B Playoffs along with Dorm Flight winners Mark Rahm, Steve Sargent, Steve Strother, Jay Fuller, Patrick Kirwan, Ted Elder, Bill Christensen, and Brent Barchard.

Class B CORPS representatives will be Nolan Kennedy, Daryl Fitzgerald, Greg Netardus and Ross Walton. In the Men's Independent Class B competition, winners are Dennis Knox, Craig Hunter, Joe Cochran, and Scott Marble.

Sue Bierman has already captured the Women's Class C All-University Championship, while Jerry Fabian, Steve Hensel, Quentin Anderson, Sean Sorrells, Lester Warner and William Trainer are still in the running for the Men's Class C All-University title.



Mark Smith, last year's All-University tennis runner-up, in action during the Men's Dorm Semi-Finals.