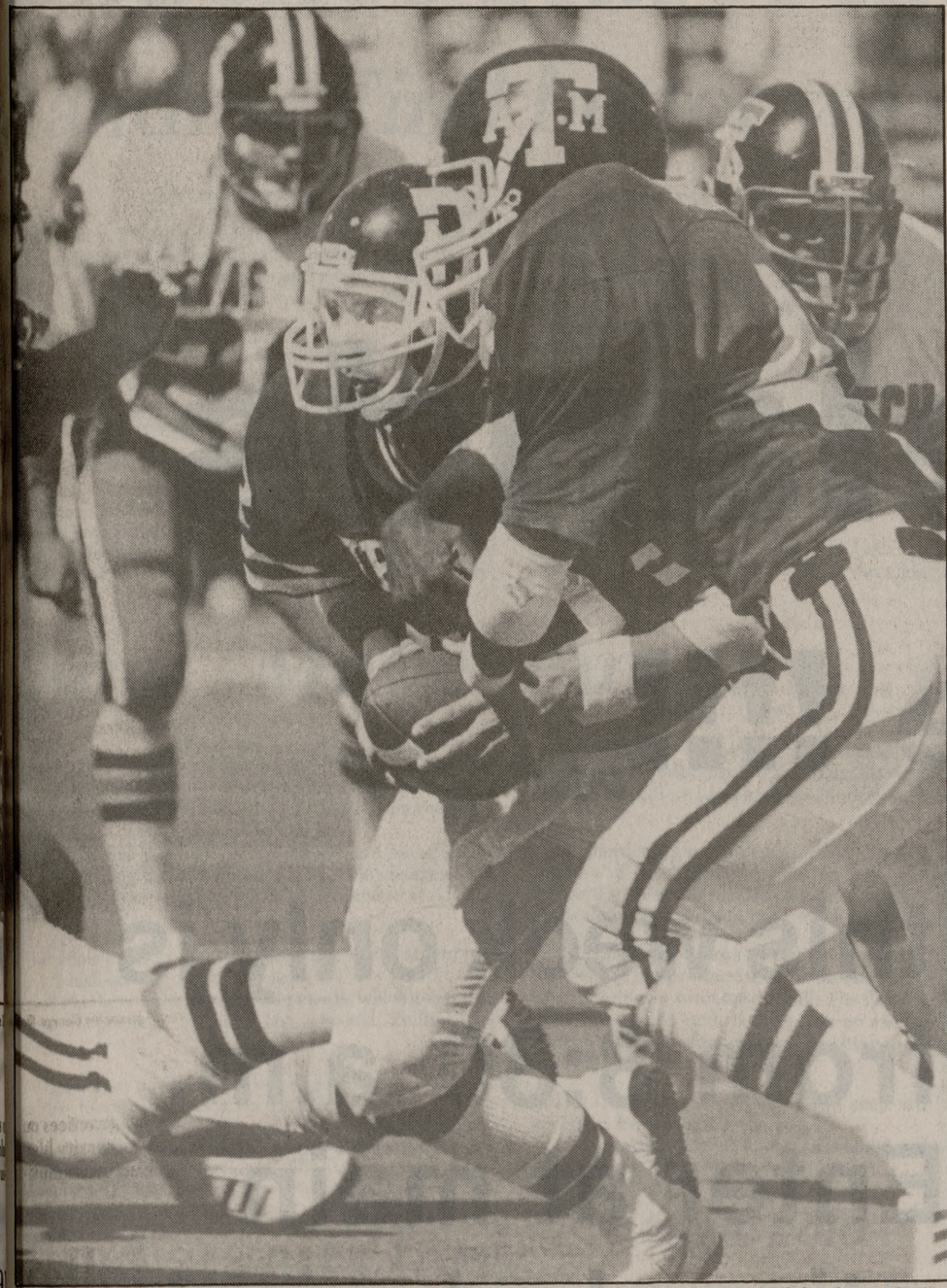


Sports



Staff photo by Pat O'Malley

'The best team did not win'

Oakland combo paces Oilers

United Press International
HOUSTON — It's a rare occasion when a 130-yard rushing performance by Earl Campbell is overshadowed.

But that's what happened Monday night in a gem of an NFL game when the Houston Oilers scored more points in the first half than they had in any game all year — and then needed two additional touchdowns to subdue the New England Patriots 38-34.

Quarterback Kenny Stabler passed for 255 yards and three touchdowns in his finest hour as an Oiler, and Patriots quarterback Steve Grogan passed for 374 yards and four touchdowns while under pressure to play catch-up the entire game.

The Oilers jumped into a tie atop the AFC Central Division with the Cleveland Browns, while the loss dropped New England into a tie for the AFC East lead with the Buffalo Bills. All four teams are 7-3.

The Patriots' effort was such that they left the field believing they were the better team.

"The best team did not win tonight," Patriots head coach Ron Erhardt said.

Oilers head coach Bum Phillips said the game reminded him of Houston's 35-30 win over Miami on a Monday night in 1978. After last season that game was selected by ABC-TV as the best Monday night game ever.

"They said that we had the outstanding Monday night game of the '70s," Phillips said. "And buddy, I'm going to tell you something, they are going to have to go some if this is not

the outstanding game of the '80s."

NFL rushing leader Campbell, who has 1,094 yards now, gained 199 in that game against Miami. But in the context of recent performances, his 130 yards Monday seemed almost insignificant.

Stabler said the Patriots played "great" defense.

"We ran more to the right side," he said. "It wasn't intentional. We just had to make adjustments to their personnel. They were shutting us off pretty well on the left."

Stabler added that the Patriots "did a good job on Earl. He made some great, great runs but just couldn't get the yards. We had to take up the slack with our passing game."

Erhardt reflected, "We gave up too many points in the first half."

The Oilers' "Oakland Connection" was responsible for the uncharacteristic early lead. Heroes of the moment were Stabler, tight end Dave Casper and safety Jack Tatum, all of them Oakland Raiders last season and since traded to the Oilers.

Stabler, whose Monday night record improved to 10-1-1, showed some antagonism toward the man who traded him, Raiders' general partner Al Davis.

"I hope Mr. Davis is watching his television tonight," Stabler said. "Our guys — Casper and Tatum — played a pretty good ballgame, huh? I'd have to say all the trades were good ones for this team."

Ironically, an underthrown Stabler bomb ignited the Oilers' 21-point second quarter when the pass was tipped by two Patriots defenders into the hands of Oilers tight end Mike Barber for a 79-yard touchdown.

On the next Oilers series, as Campbell found the going rough, Casper asserted himself by catching three passes. A hamstring injury briefly forced him from the game, but he returned just in time to grab a 4-yard scoring pass.

"I'm pleased with the way this team came back," Grogan said. "We've got nothing to be ashamed of. We were up against a great football team and on their home field. From the sound of it out there, it's one of the toughest places I've ever played."

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Looking for Room

Senior quarterback David Beal looks for running room against the Texas Tech Red Raiders earlier this season. Beal will start for the Aggies Saturday when they meet Arkansas in Fayetteville. The Aggies will be looking for their first win in four games when they face the Hogs at 1:00 p.m.

A&M swim teams finish first

By RICHARD OLIVER
Sports Editor

After a summer of competition and working, the Texas A&M University swimming team opened the 1980 fall season against Tulane in New Orleans Saturday.

When the splashing subsided, the Aggies finished on top, winning both the women's and men's meets.

In men's competition, A&M won eight of 13 events to beat Tulane 68-45. The women, in turn, won all 10 of the events offered to sweep the Green Wave 86-18.

Here are some A&M results:

Men's action:

400 yard medley relay — Kevin Weaver, Pat Roche, Clay Brock, Rick Ranzau, 3:37.77, 1st place; Kevin Londrigan, Jay Holmes, Ed Kahil, Chris Trick, 3:38.241, 2nd.

1000 yard freestyle — Jimmy Jaster, 10:06.628, 1st; Tom Ingram, 10:06.978, 2nd.

200 yard freestyle — Warren Rose, 1:47.885, 2nd.

50 yard freestyle — Kahil, 22.145, 2nd; Londrigan, 22.249.

200 yard individual medley — Mike Hoche, 2:01.631, Roche, 2:02.555.

One meter diving — Kirk Mason, 237.25, 1st; John Mason, 218.0, 2nd.

200 yard butterfly — Hoche, 1:58.711, 1st; Brock, 2:01.088.

100 yard freestyle — Ranzau, 48.279, 1st; Craig Buchmann, 48.966, 3rd.

200 yard backstroke — Weaver, 1:59.179, 1st.

500 yard freestyle — Jaster, 4:51.411, 1st; Londrigan, 4:55.492, 3rd.

Three meter diving — J. Mason, 224.0, 1st; K. Mason, 191.3, 2nd.

Women's action:

200 yard freestyle — Lilli Cole, 2:03.7, 1st; Shelley Carbone, 2:04.0, 3rd.

50 yard freestyle — Kristi McMahon, 26.55, 1st; Kathy Mitten, 26.89, 2nd.

100 yard individual medley — Tracy Johnston, 1:02.03, 1st; Cindy Green, 1:08.12, 3rd.

100 yard butterfly — Cathy

Cargen, 1:04.36, 1st; Gail Otten, 1:10.45, 2nd.

100 yard freestyle — Cole, 58.49, 1st; McMahon, 59.64, 2nd.

100 yard backstroke — Carbone, 1:07.08, 1st; Green, 1:08.21, 2nd.

500 yard freestyle — Philis Burns, 5:27.5, 1st; Elyse Robeck, 5:31.17, 2nd.

100 yard breaststroke — Michon Breisacher, 1:10.51, 1st; Johnston, 1:10.99, 2nd; Marsha Mitten, 1:15.5, 3rd.

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Thursday November 13, 1980

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137 MSC

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