



Photo by Dave Einzel

Quarterback David Beal checks his arm to throw behind the blocking of Johnny Hector (left) and Thomas Sanders (right) in Saturday's 27-24 loss to the Arkansas Razorbacks. Beal, who

hails from Russellville, Ark., was instrumental in a 24-point second half for the Aggies.

Aggies find pride in losing effort

By RICHARD OLIVER
Sports Editor

There were no tears in the Texas A&M University locker room Saturday.

There was no pounding of fists on benches, cries of foul play or what-ifs. There were, however, a few smiles.

Smiles? The Aggies had just lost a heart-wrenching football game to the Arkansas Razorbacks, 27-24, in front of 41,000 shivering Hog fans due to an Ish Ordonez field goal with eight seconds left.

After staging a dramatic comeback that saw the Aggies score 24 points in a little more than a quarter and tie the Razorbacks, the A&M players were disappointed but satisfied.

"Personally, I think we found out for ourselves that we do have a lot of pride," freshman cornerback Greg Williams said after the game. "This is a team of the future. It's my feeling that we're a little better than most people think we are."

The Razorbacks may tend to agree. Arkansas roared out of the blocks immediately, capitalizing on A&M errors to build a comfortable 24-0 lead by halftime.

Then the game began. A different Aggie team took the field to start the second half, and caught the Razorbacks dreaming ab-

out warm things a little prematurely. The Aggies kicked off and the Razorback receiver was annihilated by an excellent special team's effort.

The result was a fumble and the Aggies' Jeff Paine recovered at the Hogs' 17. Halfback Johnny Hector then took a David Beal pitchout and sprinted the distance for A&M's first score. The sophomore finished the day with 136 yards, giving him 718 yards on the season.

Hector scored his second TD from one yard out six minutes later to pull A&M to within 10.

The defense was also getting fired up. Arkansas quarterback Tom Jones felt that fire with a little over a minute left in the third quarter when he was decked by sophomore linebacker Will Wright on the Hogs' 20.

On the next play, Williams raced untouched to block Steve Cox's punt out of the Hogs' end zone for a safety to make the score 24-16.

"The guy on the line wasn't even

looking at me," said Williams. "The upback was looking off the other way, so I went on in."

In the final quarter, A&M staged a final drive that ended with a beautiful lob pass by Beal to fullback Thomas Sanders in the corner of the end zone for a 24-22 score. Beal then slammed over from three yards out in a dramatic two-point effort that tied the game. The Aggie bench erupted.

Arkansas squelched the comeback, however, and drove to the winning field goal with eight seconds left.

"The players found out what enthusiasm was all about," said A&M Head Coach Tom Wilson Sunday night. "We got the momentum because of that enthusiasm. We were very disappointed at not being able to win."

"The team came from behind; they had not done that in the past. We have not stayed competitive

when things have been down. I've been looking for this in our football team for a long, long time. We've had to learn to overcome adversities. I relate it to life in general. I think the players should have learned a good lesson."

Senior linebacker Mike Little was optimistic: "This team's got a lot of potential. It'll all depend on individuals — there's variables there. We just needed something to motivate us."

Wright led the Aggies with 10 tackles, while Arlis James added nine and Bobby Stroger, seven. Beal was 10 for 24 for 107 yards passing.

Arkansas gained 405 yards total, while the Aggies racked up 271.

"We just have to get people to realize we can play," said wide receiver Mike Whitwell. "They finally saw that the second half. Next week's a big week (against TCU in College Station). If we don't pick up where we left off, then this last half's not gonna be any good."

A&M men knock off Lamar, 6-1

After Saturday's 6-1 win over Lamar University, Texas A&M Head Soccer Coach Telmo Franco had good words for just about everyone.

Despite ending a rough Southwest Conference race in an unexpected third place position last week, the Aggies came out ready to play in Beaumont and raised their record to 7-3-3.

"This is their (Lamar's) first year as a varsity team," said Franco Sunday. "They do have a pretty good team."

But A&M proved to be better. Five Aggies scored in the game, a welcome sign for Franco, because the offense has been somewhat lacking the past few games.

Fullback Sergio Bambren started off the A&M output with a left foot shot 22 minutes into the first half. Ten minutes later, team captain Paul Winston converted a penalty kick after being knocked down from behind in front of the goal.

Ramon Marin ended the first half scoring when he took a fine pass from fullback David Kreps and slipped the ball past the Lamar goalie on a one-on-one situation.

In the second half, Lamar scored on a penalty kick, but the Aggies answered 20 minutes into the half when Marin scored again after a head pass from Andy Case to make it 4-1.

Juan DeMadalengotta made it 5-1 with an assist from fullback Carlos Clynnes. Freshman Jim Nystrom ended the offensive parade with a goal following a pass from Richard Zimmerman.

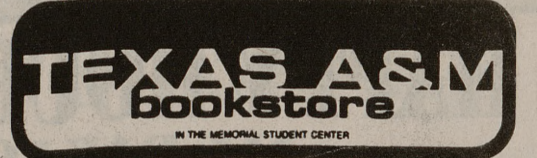


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