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# Sports

## Ags to entertain Frogs

By KURT ALLEN

**Battalion Staff**  
It may sound a little warped, but there's quite a lot at stake when TCU comes into Kyle Field Saturday for a Southwest Conference game with the Texas Aggies.

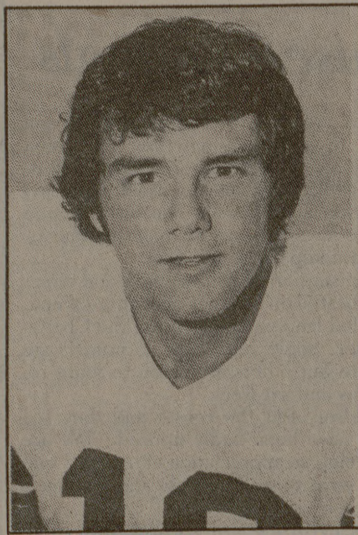
First of all, the contest will have a lot to do with determining who finishes last this year in the conference. If the 1-6 (1-9 overall) Horned Frogs, win, then the best the 1-5 Aggies (2-7 overall) can hope for is a tie for last. But if Texas A&M triumphs, the Frogs will become the undisputed doormats of the league.

But that's not all. TCU's streak of three consecutive two-win seasons is also at stake, and the Frogs are certainly not taking the matter lightly. It seems the Frogs are still smarting over the fact that Rice is doing so much better (3-4 and 4-6) after the Owls had been the preseason pick to not win a game.

But the embarrassment for TCU Head Coach F.A. Dry runs much deeper than that. After rebuilding his team for the past three seasons, Dry really felt the Frogs were ready to make a move. So far, that hasn't been the case.

Instead, TCU looks much the same as it did in 1979. Oh, there has been a little improvement. For instance, the Frogs upset Texas Tech 24-17 on Nov. 8 after tying the Red Raiders last year.

They also have lost some close games. Back in September, SMU barely nudged the Frogs 17-14 and



Steve Stamp

then later Rice held out to win 28-24. The next week, TCU fell short again, losing to Tulsa of all people, 23-17.

Yet, looking at the record, it seems as though TCU just can't get over the hump. The Frogs' defense is giving up way too many points at an average of 28 per game. Meanwhile, the offense shows occasional flashes of brilliance along with good point production, but is still too inconsistent.

TCU's game against Texas last weekend is a perfect example. The Frogs scored a season-high 26 points against the Longhorns, yet they gave up nearly double that number (51).

To their credit, the Frogs didn't quit after getting behind 30-7 in the first half. Instead, they came roaring back with two quick touchdown passes from junior quarterback Steve Stamp to narrow the margin to 30-20.

But that's when the old defensive problems came back to haunt TCU and the Horns seized the opportunity to pour it on. Ironically, Stamp had one of his better days, completing 13 of 35 passes for 246 yards and four touchdowns.

It's too bad the Frogs don't have a running game to complement Stamp's fine passing ability. So far, the split-back formation mixed with a little I play has netted only 75

rushing yards per game compared with an impressive 211 yards passing. That 211-yard average is good enough to lead the conference.

It's no wonder Dry is feeling embarrassed after saying before the season that TCU had "a chance to be a much better running team, more consistent and with more big plays." He had also said the Frogs' offense would be 40 percent better than a year ago.

However, Dry was right in predicting the Frogs offensive keys to success would be fullback, tight end and the line. He had admitted there would have to be more production from those positions. Now, with the season nearly complete, TCU's only significant running back is sophomore Marcus Gilbert, whose 342 net yards gained is nearly equal to that of the rest of the team (750).

Passing is also the hallmark of the Frog's defense. While the Frogs are giving up 440 yards each game, only 126 of that is being yielded by the secondary. Right now, TCU second in that conference category, with the Aggies fourth at 140 yards per game.

Given all that information, certain patterns emerge in matchups between offense and defense. Obviously, if Texas A&M hopes to win the game, it's going to have to have a good day running on the Frogs' 5-3 defense. Just as importantly, the potent TCU passing attack must find some way to bust open the seams of the Aggie secondary if the Frogs are to have a chance.

There are, of course, the emotional factors that could very well tip the game to one side or the other. The Frogs at this point do not want to embarrass Dry by finishing worse than they did during the last three years when they were supposedly rebuilding. They also don't want to take the last spot in the conference which had originally been reserved for Rice.

On the other hand, the Aggies need to capitalize on the momentum they have coming out of the Arkansas game. As Wilson pointed out Monday, that momentum means so much to Texas A&M's finish this year, not to mention recruiting and the following season. Only time will tell just how bad each team wants to win.

## Reflections

by Richard Oliver

### Fans bitter toward Aggies

As David Hardy warmed up on the sidelines Saturday by kicking a football into a net, a little boy wandered up to a chain link fence behind the A&M bench.

Hardy glanced up and smiled at the child, who simply stared back at him. Hardy looked down at the ball again and kicked it into the net with a bare right foot. I winced as I heard the impact of flesh on pigskin, mostly because of the bitter cold in Fayetteville.

The crowd and players all jumped up and down or huddled under blankets and ponchos to keep warm. On the field, it was the first time the Razorbacks were going to town, marching over a stunned Aggie defense for 24 points while the Aggies could muster nothing in return. Hardy teed up the ball again and concentrated. The little boy suddenly awoke, "Hey Aggie, go home!" Hardy glanced up, "Aggies! Go home! Go home!"

Another child walked by hand in hand with his mother. He looked at the Aggie bench and stuck out his tongue.

The kicker mumbled something under his breath and sighed. It was happening again.

All season the Aggies have been maligned by opposing team announcers. Maybe the needling is happening as much as usual, only it's hurt more this season than in recent memory. First, a miserable performance against Georgia resulted in a 42-0 loss. A drug investigation and five losses later, the A&M players were tired and listless. Nothing seemed worth it anymore.

Perhaps the worst embarrassment came against Rice in Kyle Field. There in front of only a partially filled Kyle Field, several Aggies lifted a banner that proclaimed, "Gig those druggies!" The Aggie folded to the Owls, 10-6.

In Houston, after losing by three to the Cougars, the Aggies filed the field under a rain of insults and ice.

Now, in front of 41,000 screaming Arkansas fans under gray skies, Razorback Stadium, Texas A&M was being embarrassed again. And more, the locker room at halftime was a silent scene.

This time, however, Head Coach Tom Wilson and his coaching staff had enough. "I'm tired of turning around and looking at the top of my head! This next half when I turn around I want to see your eyes staring right back through me. I'd like to leave this place with my head high. I would hope you would too," he said at halftime.

Maybe Wilson sparked the players. Maybe the players were tired. It all may be Arkansas was a little overconfident. Regardless, the Aggies came out in the second half with the faith of a mustard seed and started to work a few miracles.

A fine special team's effort resulted in an Arkansas fumble on the initial kickoff, and Johnny Hector took it in from 17 yards out for the first Texas A&M touchdown in over seven quarters. A few minutes later, he scored again from one yard out.

Quarterback David Beal in the meantime was showcasing his skills in front of his home state folks by leading A&M on some impressive drives.

With one minute left in the third quarter, Arkansas lined up to Ag cornerback Greg Williams ran through untouched to block the end of the Hogs' end zone and pull the Aggies to within eight.

Beal then took over and led the Aggies to their third touchdown of the game on a beautiful lob pass to fullback Thomas Sanders, who needed that confidence boost after a costly fumble at the Rice 40.

When Beal slammed over from three yards out with the two-point conversion and the tie, the Aggies had achieved a victory.

Walking off the field to a rousing cheer from the faithful band and a few Aggie faithful in the already emptying stands, the players had found the faith in themselves to come back.

In the locker room, the Aggies dressed in warmth while outside a few A&M faithful fans shivered proudly through a post-game practice. One player stood by the door for a moment and shook his head at another player.

"We do have a few around, I guess."

## Bench may want to be traded soon

**United Press International**  
CINCINNATI — Johnny Bench called a news conference Tuesday to disclose his "baseball future." Indications were that he would ask the Cincinnati Reds to trade him.

The brilliant catcher, who has spent his entire 14-year major league career with Cincinnati, said Monday he was "disenchanted" with the Reds and added, "Within a few days, it's conceivable I'll ask to be traded."

Meanwhile, Reds' President Dick Wagner declared he was "disappointed" in Bench and acknowledged he wouldn't be able to meet Bench's playing demands for next season.

Wagner left the next day to Bench, saying "John is the person who can answer all the questions that have to be decided."

Asked what he would do if the demands to be traded were not met, Bench said he would remain in Cincinnati and said, "He can demand what he wants, but that doesn't mean..."

His voice trailed off. However, Wagner insisted that Bench will remain in Cincinnati and Bench, who will be 33 Dec. 1, will date his demands for next season.

which brings us to the fact that the Oakland, California — all the players for the Super Bowl games and be going into the next game, the coach and Landry reiterated that a team has to go on as important as playing a team can't win there.

how you play it, he said. "If you have a positive attitude, you have a better chance of winning around you probably are in the playoffs, considering all that his team's done against Seattle, just the thing to do along the much momentum. You want to give up to gain momentum. I think it was a very positive thing we did in the second half of the game. If we can keep it up, instead of backsliding."

But next season (and on against Seattle) we have gained a real presence to be shown.

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