Temple coach Bob McQueen said the kicking game proved to be the biggest factor in the Wildcats' win.

Half the crowd went away with

their fingers in the air shouting,

"We're number 1!" The other half ambled off with a "wait-til-next-

The Vikings were heartbroken and

play the Conroe Tigers in a bi-

district playoff match Saturday at 8

p.m. As for the Vikings, they are on to basketball workouts and can

dream about the year that almost

CINEMA I&II

vear" look on their faces

Linebacker Wayne Steen (52) of the Bryan Vikings comes up to support the tackle as a Temple runner is dropped for a three-yard loss in first quarter action last Friday night. Temple won the game 20-9 and, with it, the district

## Bryan vs. Temple: The color and pageantry of high school football

By RICK STOLLE

"Do you think we'll win, we haven't beaten them in sooo long," said the pretty young cheerleader entering the stadium.

They looked good last week and I think we'll have a tough time with their offense," said the old-timer.
"But I remember a team about six years ago..."
"Tickets, 50-yard line tickets,"

someone shouted.

The weather was outstanding as the cloud cover lowered but no rain dropped upon the spectators streaming into the stadium. The wind was blowing with a cold chill that penetrated all clothing for all pre-game activities but died off into a slight breeze as game time neared. It seemed to sense the importance of the game to both teams.

The big-game excitement had caught everybody into speculating a winner. The pom-poms, color, crowd and, of course, the action of high school football were all well represented Friday as the Temple Wild-cats defeated the Bryan Vikings 20-9 in a game that decided the district 15AAAAA title.

The game was billed as a battle of powerful teams. Each had lofty state rankings on the line. Bryan had a defense that had been scored on only seventh in class 5A. Temple, with a well-coached, disciplined offense, was top-ranked in the state as well as defending state champions.

The game had all the makings of

the state's top game Friday. Scouts from many colleges as well as other high schools were attending. The scouts on the one hand were looking for next year's players and the others were looking at a possible opponent for this year.

The bands marched in with all the pomp and circumstance they could muster. The players strolled onto the field for their warmups with butterflies in their stomachs and smiles on their faces.

The teams matched the spectators' expectations and speculation in a furious game of solid defense as each team took advantage of the others' mistakes.

The game had a total of 11 fum-

bles, most of them in the first half. The teams seemed to be testing each other for most of the first quarter

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when the first big mistake occurred.

The Bryan side of the stadium erupted when linebacker Wayne Steen caused a Temple fumble with Bryan recovering. The Vikings took advantage of the situation by hitting end Fred Collins with a 34-yard pass reception to the Temple 11. The drive stalled on the eight and the Vikings settled for a field goal.

The Bryan backers erupted again as the Vikings took a 3-0 lead.

Throughout the next Temple series, the crowd seemed to be ready to spill onto the field with emotion. Suddenly, they were quieted however when Bryan fumbled a Temple punt.
The Wildcats took control of the

ball on the Bryan 39. The Bryan defense held Temple to a third-andseven on the 25 yard line when time-

Throughout the time-out, the crowd enjoyed themselves by making as much noise as they could. At times, the only lull on the field was when the announcer tried to talk.

The Temple quarterback, Bret Stafford, returned to the huddle, called the play and with quite a bit of confusion as well as too many men on the field, tried to call time-out again. The extra man ran off the field and Temple ran the play rather than be penalized for two consecutive time-

The Bryan defense was lulled to sleep for just a second but that was all Temple needed. The Wildcats scored on a half-back pass and, after the extra point, took a 7-3 lead.

Now it was time for the other side of the stadium to erupt with joy. The Temple sideline was a mass of jumping, yelling and hugging players and coaches. It seemed to mirror the seating sections which had the same thing going on.

Both teams gave the ball away for the rest of the half with Temple capi-talizing on two Bryan miscues with two field goals in the waning minutes of the first half to take a 13-3 lead

over the Vikings.

Earlier, it had seemed the ball was a hot potato. The teams exchanged the ball two times each before Temple regained control to drive for a

"We fumbled a lot in our end of the field," said Merrill Green, head coach of the Vikings. "If it had been the reverse, we would have had them backed up.

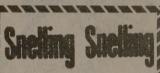
The second half was the opposite of the first as the teams made only one mistake. Bryan threw an interception midway through the fourth and Temple iced the game with a 35-yard touchdown drive with 4:52 left in the game. The drive broke the backs of the Viking's fans as many started toward the exits.

Even though Bryan scored the final points of the game, they were too the Wildcats jubliant. For Temple, it is on to Kyle Field where they will

The Vikings got the kickoff on their own ten-yard-line and marched the 90 yards to the score. Sanders capped the drive with a one-yard plunge with 1:52 left in the game. The Bryan two-point conversion failed to make the final score 20-9.

Both coaches agreed that mistakes and good, solid defense dominated

"Our mistakes just proved more costly than theirs," said Green. "You can't continually give a good team like Temple the ball."



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New batting award chosen by magazine

award - the Silver Bat teams - was instituted today for members of the National and American leagues, but Bill Buckner, the NL's batting champ, was not among the first reci-

The Sporting News, which named the winners by positions, said Buckner, who batted .324 for Chicago, lost out at first base to Keith Hernandez of the St. Louis Cardinals.

"Hernandez was dominant in runs, doubles and triples while comparing favorably in other offensive categories," the editors explained.

The Cardinals, who finished fourth in the NL East Division, placed five players on the inaugural team — Hernandez, catcher Ted Simmons, shortstop Garry Temple-ton, outfielder George Hendrick and pitcher Bob Forsch.

The other members of the National League winning Silver Bats were second baseman Manny Trillo and third baseman Mike Schmidt of Philadelphia; outfielder Dusty Baker of Los Angeles and outfielder Andre Dawson of Montreal.

American League batting champ George Brett, who hit .390 for Kansas City, was the AL pick at third base. Brett was joined on the squad by Royals' outfielder Willie Wilson.

The winners will receive trophies from Hillerich & Bradsby, makers of Louisville Slugger bats.

While the first awards were chosen by editors of the St. Louisbased weekly, a spokesman for The Sporting News says future Silver Bat teams most likely will be chosen by a poll of players.

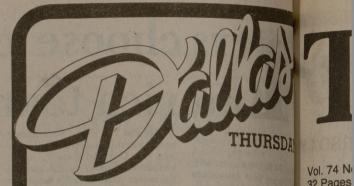
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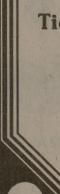
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