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Date: DEC. 2, 1980 Contact: PLACEMENT OFFICE  
854-6551

# 24-14 win 'heals all the pain' for Aggs

## Beal engineers upset effort over Longhorns

By RICHARD OLIVER  
Sports Editor

"It is not enough to fight. It is the spirit which we bring to the fight that decides the issue. It is morale that wins the victory." — George Catlett Marshall, 1948.

Early in the fourth quarter with Texas A&M leading Texas, 17-7 Saturday, Aggie quarterback David Beal scrambled for a much-needed first down and was sandwiched between two Texas Longhorns as he was tackled.

He came out of the game a little stunned and for awhile was not really aware of where he was. But, with approximately two minutes left in the game, he "woke up" to see a 24-14 A&M lead and his teammates celebrating.

"I remember when I got hurt," he said Sunday. "But, in the last two minutes of the game or so, I regained my senses."

And it was just in time. The senior quarterback, who has been a bench warmer for three years for the Aggies before getting his chance in the sun this year, walked off the field with a fine performance under his belt and the respect of over 72,000 fans at Texas' Memorial Stadium.

The ovation he received as he left the field soothed a lot of the past hurts of the 1980 season and his college career.

"It really is satisfying," he said. "The way the people reacted made me feel real good. What any athlete wants to do is win over the fans."

"I don't think about that (not starting until this year). I respected his (Head Coach Tom Wilson's) decision."

While Beal and the jubilant Aggies celebrated the 24-14 win with Dr. Pepper showers in the lockerroom, a tearful Wilson sat happily in a neighboring room reflecting on a long, trying season that finally went the right way for a change.

"I think this is what we've been talking about," he said to numerous reporters crowding the tiny room. "Quitters never win and winners never quit."

Just as the victory was especially savory for the Aggies as a team, it was appropriately a team effort. Coaches and players were hard-pressed to find a standout star among the squad after the game, but Beal was given the game ball by Wilson.

"I'm tremendously proud of our players," said defensive coordinator R.C. Slocum. "We started four freshmen today."

Jeff Fuller started at free safety and played a helluva game. Greg Williams started at cornerback and did a fine job.

Most players agreed the turning point occurred on a broken play that turned into a 56-yard pass play in the

third quarter from Beal to receiver Mike Whitwell.

With 6:50 remaining in that quarter and the Aggies on their own 22, Beal scrambled in the backfield trying to avoid a heavy Texas rush. Finally, Beal stepped up and threw across the field to Whitwell, who took the perfect toss and ran it to the Texas 22-yard line.

"I was supposed to go across the field," said Whitwell. "But I saw David in trouble and I came back. That play turned it around, I think." Beal agreed.

"It was the play," he said. "Mike wasn't even the primary receiver, it was supposed to be a swing pass to Earnest. I had to scramble around and find a receiver and I saw Mike breaking away."

Four plays later, the Aggies scored and never looked back.

Superb play by linebacker Will Wright (eight tackles, win-clinching interception), fullback Thomas Sanders (a brilliant 28-yard TD reception), tight end Mark Lewis (five-yard TD reception, his first collegiate score), defensive linemen Arlis James (nine tackles and a key quarterback sack), linebacker Mike Little (nine tackles, one key fumble recovery), place kicker David Hardy (38-yard field goal), punter Kyle Stuard (44.1-yard average on the day including two over 60 yards), among others led the Aggies.

Senior wide receiver David Scott heaped most of the praise on Beal. "David Beal, he was the key," he said. "He's a good leader. I just like playing with him."

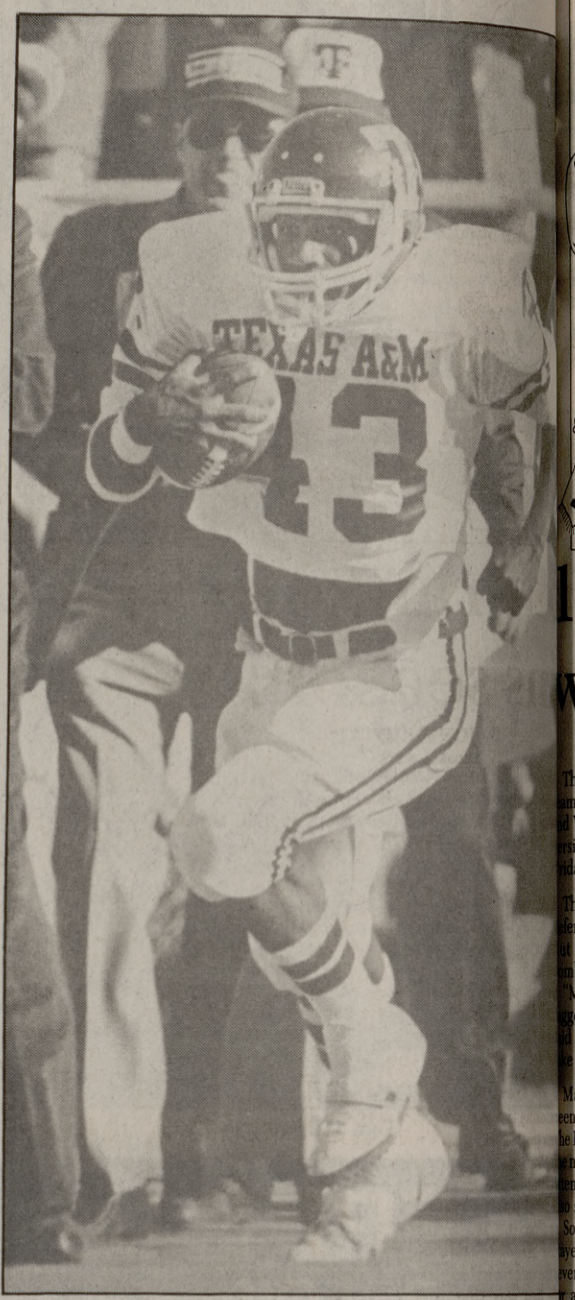
Scott said he was finally happy with the season. "This makes the year," he said. "There's just nothing like it, beating Texas. It heals all the pain of the year."

Lost in the shuffle of praise was backup quarterback Gary Kubiak, who came on in the fourth quarter when Beal was injured and did an excellent job keeping the offense geared up, completing a 28-yard TD pass to Sanders.

On the negative side on the afternoon was the attempt by several A&M students to fire the Longhorns' cannon late in the fourth quarter. That attempt ended with several bruised Aggies and an intact cannon. The Longhorns won that one.

Cornerback summed up the afternoon this way: "When we came in at halftime and they only had seven, we knew we could make up those seven points, and the offense turned it around."

"It really is great to win. It always helps to go into next year with a win. This was kind of our bowl game — the Texas Bowl, and we won it."



Staff photo by [unreadable]

Running back Earnest Jackson goes to the races Saturday against Texas after catching a short screen pass from quarterback David Beal. Jackson was caught on the five yard line on a 50-yard run and ended up the day with 158 total yards helping A&M to a 24-14 upset victory.

### SI picks Aggie men 15th

Sports Illustrated, in its Dec. 1 edition, picks the Texas A&M University basketball team 15th in its annual preseason picks.

The magazine picks DePaul No. 1, followed by Maryland and Kentucky.

Louisville, Indiana, Oregon State, UCLA, Virginia, Notre Dame, North Carolina, and Iowa are picked through 20th, respectively.

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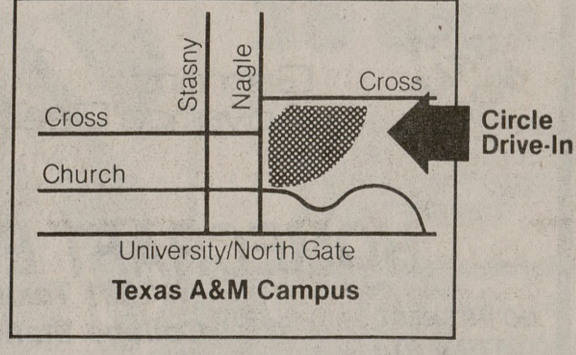
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