



Staff photo by Pat O'Malley

Bullitt strikes again!

Freshman defensive back Jerry Bullitt (33) and defensive lineman Keith Guthrie (74) zero in on Texas running back Mike Luck in

Saturday's game. The Aggies beat the Horns 24-14, to highlight an otherwise disappointing season for Texas A&M backers.

1980 Aggie football season in retrospect

By RICHARD OLIVER
Sports Editor

After football training ended last spring, Aggie Head Coach Tom Wilson stressed A&M would be fielding a better all-around team than in 1979, and he had a lot of information to back up his claim.

On paper, the Aggies looked very solid, from the speed and maturity of Mike Mosley to the defensive perception of Mike Little, the 1980 season looked to be one full of surprises.

The preseason picks placed A&M no higher than fourth, but many fingered the Aggies as the dark horse of the SWC.

Now that the smoke has cleared and a very long season has come to an end, two preseason predictions held true. The Aggies were full of surprises, and they didn't finish higher than fourth.

However, it was a year of excitement in more ways than one. Here's a review of the year:

AUGUST 14—The Texas A&M football team begins freshman workouts. After garnering one of the nation's finest recruiting crops, the coaches are more than happy to get to work.

AUGUST 18—The veterans join in the workouts. **SEPT. 6**—The Aggies begin the season on a positive note, beating Ole Miss 23-20 behind a spirited Mosley. The senior quarterback scored on touchdown runs of 43 and 40 yards, and finished the day with 116 yards on the ground. He was 11 for 19 passing for 123 yards.

Cornback Danny Davis ran back an interception for an 11-yard TD, and Keith Baldwin led the defense with two key sacks of Rebels' QB John Fourcade. Johnny Hector ran for 77 yards and Earnest Jackson contributed 67 before leaving with a sprained ankle.

The win was costly as star safety John Dawson tore ligaments in his knee and was lost for the season.

SEPT. 8—Texas A&M is ranked 19th in the nation in the UPI weekly coaches' poll.

SEPT. 13—The Ags are stunned by Georgia 42-0 in Athens, as Mosley is held to under 20 yards on the ground and 62 through the air. David Beal entered in the final period to complete three of five passes before an interception halted that drive.

Hector was the sole bright spot, gaining 87 yards rushing. Georgia freshman wonder Herschel Walker rampaged through the Aggies for 145 yards, including a 76-yard TD run in the third quarter.

SEPT. 20—The Penn State Nittany Lions gained revenge for their 1979 loss to the Aggies with a 25-9 win at Kyle Field.

Mosley and Beal provided the only Texas A&M highlights. Mosley ran for a 58-yard gain in the first quarter, but the Ags had to settle for a David Hardy field goal.

Beal came in in the fourth period and led A&M on a 76-yard drive culminating in a Mike Whitwell TD catch. Beal finished the game six for 12 passing for 78 yards. Hector got 75 yards on the ground.

SEPT. 24—Wilson dismisses three football players—Eloy Steen, Darrell Adams and Cal Peveto—after the Athletic Department conducted a search for drugs in Cain Hall. Department officials say more dismissals are expected.

SEPT. 25—Adams is cleared in a University hearing and is allowed to return to the team. The Steen and Peveto dismissals upheld.

SEPT. 26—Five more players are sent letters from the University asking them to appear before student affairs committee hearings in the drug investigation—Jay Dale, Stuart Clark, Doug Carr, Kenny Ingram and Leandrew Brown.

SEPT. 29—Carr, Brown, Clark and Dale are cleared in the University investigation. Ingram, however, is asked to return for more hearings.

OCT. 1—Ingram is cleared.

OCT. 2—Ingram is dismissed from team by Wilson for undisclosed reasons.

OCT. 4—Aggies thrash Texas Tech, 41-21, as Beal starts his first game ever for A&M. The senior responded by rushing for four touchdowns and Thomas Sanders added one. Hector rushes for 47 yards as the Ags compile 355 yards total offense.

OCT. 11-12—In this century's first NCAA two-day contest, the Houston Cougars take a heartbreaking win over the Aggies, 17-13. The game begins at 11:33 p.m. Saturday due to the Houston Astros-Philadelphia Phillies baseball playoff game, and ends at 2:41 a.m. Sunday.

Beal starts again, and is four-for-eight passing for 74 yards in the first half before leaving before the intermission with an injured wrist. Mosley takes over and is ineffective until late in the game, when he completes a TD pass to Mike Whitwell to bring the Ags within four. Alan Smith misses two field goals.

Mosley, however, is shaken on the next-to-last play, and Gary Kubiak is summoned to throw one last Hail Mary pass as time runs out. The pass is short and intercepted. After the game, Wilson tells his players that their "day will come."

OCT. 18—A terrific rainstorm soaked Kyle Field during this game between Baylor and the Aggies, but the Bears weren't fazed, as they swamped A&M, 46-7.

Baylor amassed 457 yards on the ground, and only allowed the Ags 34 total yards in the first half. In the second half, Texas A&M compiled 201 more yards offense, and managed to score on a Kubiak QB sneak. Mosley started the game, but Kubiak played most of the second half.

OCT. 20—X-rays show that Beal suffered a slight wrist fracture in the Houston game, and Kubiak is given the starting nod against Rice.

OCT. 25—The Owls shock the Aggies 10-6 in front of only 52,000 fans at Kyle Field. It was the first loss to Rice since 1973.

Hardy and Smith miss key field goals, and Hardy is wide on an extra point. Another player is lost for the season as Doug Carr injures a knee.

NOV. 1—SMU shuts down the Aggies 27-0 as A&M's offense once again has a good day but can't get into the end zone.

Kubiak starts for the second time, and has an eight-for-22 day for 108 yards. The Aggie defense holds Mustang quarterback Lance McIlhenny to only 29 yards passing.

NOV. 3—Beal starts taking snaps again in practice and is listed as a possible starter against Arkansas.

NOV. 15—Despite a furious comeback attempt in the second half, the Ags fall just short as Arkansas wins on an Ish Ordonez field goal with eight seconds left, 27-24.

Hector gains 136 yards and scores two vital TDs and Beal is the Aggie hero in front of his hometown folks as he throws a beautiful touchdown pass to Thomas Sanders.

NOV. 22—Johnny Hector rushes for a career-high 191 yards on 37 carries as the Aggies premier a split-back offense for the first time. The change is beneficial as Texas A&M defeats TCU, 13-10.

NOV. 29—Texas A&M caps off a disappointing season with a 24-14 upset win over the Texas Longhorns, the second win in a row over Texas for the Ags and the fourth in the last six tries.

Earnest Jackson adds his name to the year's honor roll by racking up 158 yards total offense while David Beal is given the game ball because of several heads up plays which sealed the win.

David Beal, Leandrew Brown, Zach Guthrie, Lynn Honeycutt, Arlis James, Mack Moore, Mike Mosley and David Scott were all seniors this year, and will be the only eight lost for next year.

All-SWC picks ignore Ags

United Press International
DALLAS—The 1980 United Press International All-Southwest Conference football team, released at 6:30 a.m., listing position, name, school and class:

- Offense**
- Wide receivers—Stanley Washington, TCU, Soph.; Bobby Stewart, TCU, 165, Sr.
 - Tight end—Robert Hubble, Rice, Jr.
 - Tackles—Terry Tausch, Texas, Jr.; Lee Spivey, SMU, Sr.
 - Guards—Frank Ditta, Baylor, Sr.; Les Studard, Texas, Sr.
 - Center—Lance Pederson, SMU, Sr.
 - Quarterback—Jay Jeffrey, Baylor, Jr.
 - Running backs—Walter Abercrombie, Baylor, Jr.; Craig James, SMU, Soph.
 - Place kicker—Eddie Garcia, SMU, Jr.
- Defense**
- Ends—Charles Benson, Baylor, Soph.; Max McGeary, Baylor, Sr.

- Tackles—Kenneth Sims, Texas, Jr.; Leonard Mitchell, Houston, Sr.
 - Linebackers—Doak Field, Baylor, Sr.; Mike Singletary, Baylor, Jr.; Robert Williamson, Rice, Sr.
 - Backs—John Simmons, SMU, Sr.; Ted Watts, Texas Tech, Sr.; Vann McElroy, Baylor, Jr.; Tate Randle, Texas Tech, Jr.
 - Punter—Steve Cox, Arkansas, Sr.
- Second Team Offense**
- Wide receivers—Lonell Phea, Houston, Jr.; Rennie Baker, Texas Tech, Jr.
 - Tight end—Lawrence Sampleton, Texas, Jr.
 - Tackles—Eddy Gregory, Baylor, Sr.; Maceo Fifer, Houston, Soph.
 - Guards—Jack Faniel, Houston, Sr.; Robert Barnes, SMU, Sr.
 - Center—Keith Kveton, Rice, Sr.
 - Quarterback—(tie) Steve Stamp, TCU, Jr.; and Ron Reeves, Texas Tech, Jr.

- Running backs—Dennis Gentry, Baylor, Jr.; Eric Dickerson, SMU, Soph.
 - Place kicker—Ish Ordonez, Arkansas, Jr.
- Second Team Defense**
- Ends—Byron Hunt, SMU, Sr.; Jeff McKinney, Texas Tech, Sr.
 - Tackles—Harvey Armstrong, SMU, Jr.; Joe Campbell, Baylor, Sr.
 - Linebackers—Robin Sendlein, Texas, Sr.; Steve Bradham, Houston, Sr.; Doug Shankle, Texas, Jr.
 - Backs—Mike Downs, Rice, Sr.; Mike Hatchett, Texas, Jr.; Kevin Evans, Arkansas, Sr.; William Graham, Texas, Jr.
 - Punter—Eric Kaifes, SMU, Jr.
 - Offensive Player of the Year—Walter Abercrombie, Baylor.
 - Defensive Player of the Year—Mike Singletary, Baylor.
 - Newcomer of the Year—Jay Jeffrey, Baylor.

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