

# Statistics show why Aggies had poor season in 1980

By KURT ALLEN

Battalion Staff  
Now that all the hoopla surrounding the Texas Aggies' win over the University of Texas has died down, it's once again time for the annual sober evaluation of Texas A&M's final football statistics.

Predictably, there are no major surprises to be found among the team statistics this year. Unlike the last five or six years, the Aggies have not rewritten the University's record books. That's not to say that a couple of marks haven't been broken although they're not the kind that just leap right off the page.

A grand total of four records bit the dust this year. Not surprisingly, two of those involved attendance. The Aggies broke their single-game attendance mark set just last year (69,017 vs. Texas) by packing 69,735 into Kyle Field to see the Baylor debacle (in case anyone forgot, Baylor won 46-7) on Oct. 18 in a driving rainstorm.

The other attendance record is a season mark for Kyle Field. This year's average of 60,551 eclipses the old record (an average of 57,276 per game) which was also set last year. The 1980 figure is impressive considering there were two lackluster crowds for the Rice (52,499) and TCU (48,250) games.

Ironically, those contests turned out to be two of the most closely fought battles the Aggies played all year. Texas A&M lost to a vastly improved Owl squad 10-6 despite defensive work and then later on held on to beat a psyched-up TCU team 13-10.

Against Rice, the Aggie defense turned in some season-high performances. It racked up season highs by allowing the Owls only seven first downs and holding Rice to 77 yards passing and 179 total yards.

## Analysis

Another season superlative found Texas A&M defenders giving up 10 points to the Owls as well as the Horned Frogs. Meanwhile, the Aggie offense had a mediocre day against Rice, chalking up a season-low 72 yards passing despite 223 yards on the ground and no fumbles.

Speaking of the TCU game, Texas A&M did quite well defensively in that contest. The Aggies held the Frogs to a season-best 46 offensive plays, including only 23 rushing attempts. The 23 attempts allowed not only was a season-best but also tied an all-time single game record first set in 1965 against Baylor and then

Here is a rundown of some Texas A&M statistics and those of its opponents. The Aggie stats will be listed first, and the opponents second:

STATISTICS	TOTALS
First downs	171 189
Rushing	108 111
Passing	54 69
Penalties	9 9
Rushing Attempts	538 551
Gained rushing	2,413 2,459
Lost rushing	335 269
Net Yards Rushing	2,078 2,190
Per play	3.9 4.0
Per game	188.9 199.1
Passes Attempted	229 227
Completed	100 108
Had intercepted	11 14
Percentage	43.7 47.6
Net Yards Passing	1,362 1,554
Per game	123.8 141.3
Total Plays	767 778
Total Offense	3,440 3,744
Per play	4.5 4.8
Per game	312.7 340.4
Punts	88 78
Punt yardage	3,343 3,112
Punt average	38.0 39.9
Had blocked	7 2
Punt returns	34 40
Yardage	124 560
Per return	3.7 14.0
Kickoff returns	30 20
Yardage	524 384
Per return	17.5 19.2
Interceptions	14 11
Yards returned	113 155
Penalties	66 69
Yards penalized	592 623
Avg. yds. per game	53.8 56.6
Fumbles/Lost	33/21 33/18

### 1980 RESULTS

A&M	Opp
23 Mississippi	20
0 Georgia	42
9 Penn State	25
41 Texas Tech	21
13 Houston	17
7 Baylor	46
6 Rice	10
0 SMU	27
24 Arkansas	27
13 TCU	10
24 Texas	14

again in 1979 versus Brigham Young.

That's the third of four records the Aggies took care of this year. The last of the group is not the kind of record Aggie partisans like

to hear about, yet it must be considered.

The record in question is the mark for the worst Southwest Conference defeat ever suffered by Texas A&M. The old record, set in 1970, was a 52-14 drubbing at the hands of Texas in Memorial Stadium. However, this year, the Aggies outdid that 38-point margin by one point when they floundered under Baylor 46-7 (good for a 39-point margin).

Punting could also account for another broken record, but there's no official listing for the most punts the Aggies have had blocked in one season. However, it seems reasonable to assume that seven punts blocked by the opposition in one year is close to being a record for any Texas A&M team.

After looking at the final season totals, it becomes very obvious that the kicking game was the single-most responsible factor for the Aggies' first losing season since 1973. Not only was one of each 12 punts blocked, two of the 14 field goal attempts were blocked as well. Meanwhile, Texas A&M was only able to block two punts by opponents.

One particular phase of special-teams play that really hurt Texas A&M in 1980 was punt returns. Opponents had a field day against the Aggies all season long and returned 40 punts for 560 yards, good for an average of 14 yards per punt. For whatever reasons, the Aggies managed only 124 yards on 34 punts, or an average of 3.7 yards per kick.

As noted earlier, disregarding the kicking game, Texas A&M was nearly even with the opposition in most categories. The Aggies did well in picking up 171 total first downs compared to 189 for the other guys. Of that number, 108 were by rushing (compared to 111), 54 were passed for (69), and both teams picked up nine through penalties.

Looking at the rushing game, things couldn't have been much closer. Texas A&M gained 2,078 yards on 538 carries compared to the opposition's 2,190 yards on 551 carries.

As in years past, the offensive difference came in the passing game, where the Aggies could complete only 100 of 229 passes for a 43.7 percent average. Meanwhile, opponents completed 108 of 227 attempts for an average of 47.6 percent.

So much for the overall team record. On Tuesday, the second half of this annual statistical review will look at individual performances and their impact on Texas A&M's 1980 season.

# Astros trade Cabell to Giants

United Press International

DALLAS — The Houston Astros, continuing to add powerful arms to an already potent pitching arsenal, traded third baseman Enos Cabell to the San Francisco Giants for left-hander Bob Knepper and outfielder Chris Bourjos Sunday.

The Astros announced the trade at a 9:30 news conference this morning.

At the same time, the Astros announced they have released second baseman Joe Morgan, one of the leaders during their drive to the National League West pennant last season.

The Astros, who recently signed free agent right-hander Don Sutton to a multi-million dollar five-year contract, wanted Knepper because they are short of left-handed starters and feel the 28-year-old still has plenty of life in his arm despite a 9-16 record and a 4.10 earned run average last season. Three years ago Knepper was one of the most promising young pitchers in the NL, winning 17 games with a 2.63 ERA.

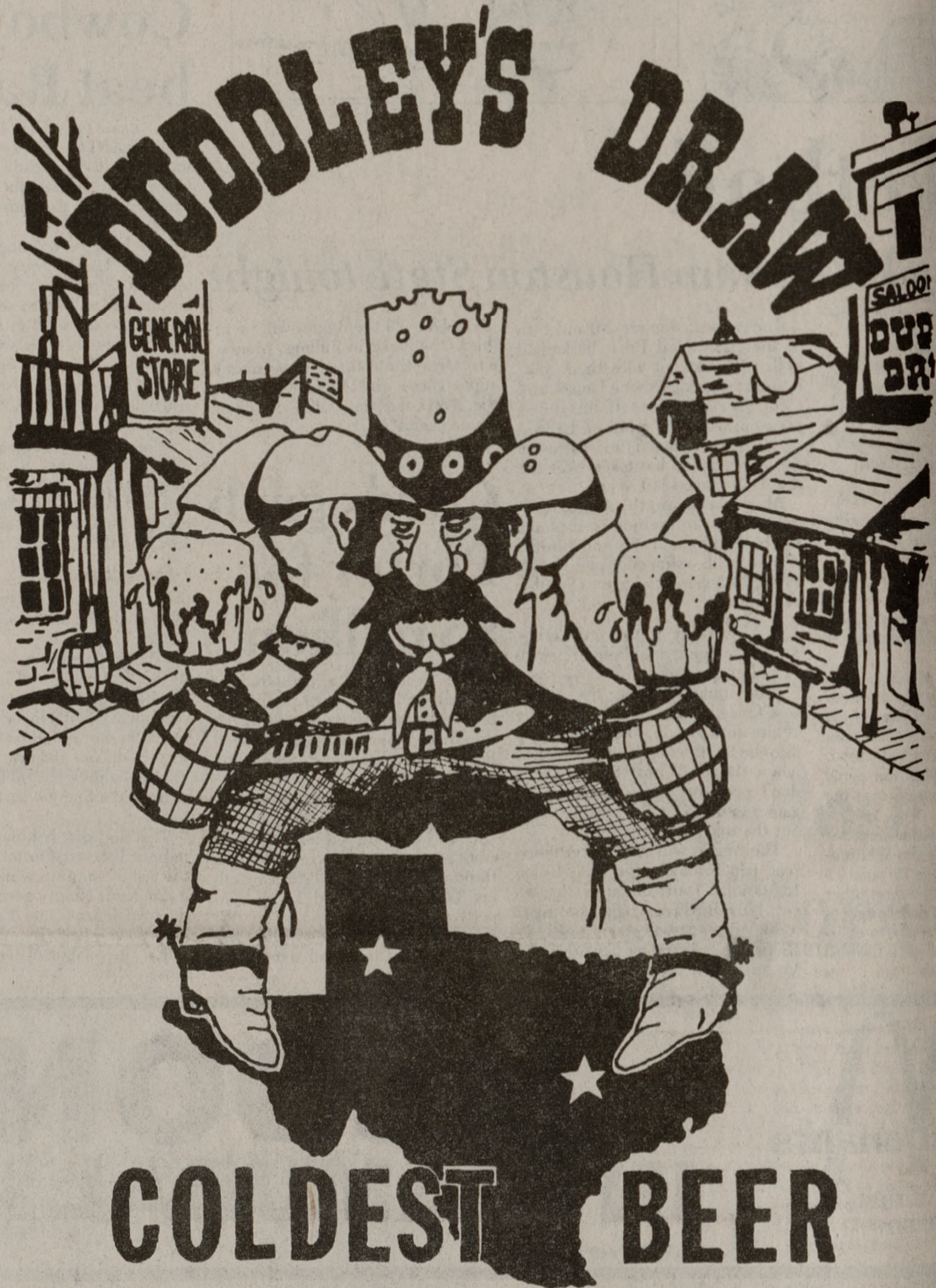
Knepper will join a staff which includes starters Nolan Ryan, Niekro, Ken Forsch, Vern Ruhle, the recently acquired Sutton, J.R. Richard, who is recovering from a stroke. Frank LaCorte, Smith and Joe Sambito are the key relievers.

Cabell, 31, has been one of the steadiest players for the Astros the last six seasons and batted .276 with two home runs and 55 RBIs in 152 games last season. He has averaged 152 games a year over the four seasons, but fell into disfavor with Astros management because of his poor performance in the NL playoffs.

Bourjos, 25, hit .295 and drove in 86 runs in 144 games for the Giants' Phoenix farm club of the Pacific Coast League last season. He was called up by the Giants in September and hit .227 in 13 games.

The release of Morgan by the Astros comes as a bit of a surprise. He had played a pivotal role in Houston's rise to the NL West pennant during the last six weeks of the season.

The Astros reached a mutual agreement with Morgan which allow him to make his own deal elsewhere.



## COLLEGE STATION, TX

311 UNIVERSITY DRIVE

846-3030

# "TOYS FOR TOTS" TUESDAY!

Bring in a \$3 toy or \$3 donation — or combination of the two — and get FREE DRAW BEER All Night Tuesday, 7 p.m. - Closing!

Help needy children have a Merry Christmas — A Christmas Project In Conjunction With B-CS JAYCEES.

See Ya'll Next Semester!

**PICTURE CINEMA I&II**  
Shopping Center Across from A&M  
Call 846-6714 for correct times  
Open 7-11 Times Indiv. only!

**"In God We Trust" (PG)**  
Marty Feldman-Peter Boyle  
Lynise Lasser  
Also Richard Pryor & Andy Kaufman  
Written & directed by Marty Feldman  
7:30 9:30

From the author of "Jaws" and "The Deep"  
Peter Benchley's  
**"The Island" (R)**  
Michael Caine - David Warner  
7:45 9:45

**CAMPUS**  
210 University  
846-6512  
Showtimes 7:40 8:50

**"MY BODYGUARD"**

**MANOR EAST 3**  
MANOR EAST MALL  
823-8300

**FLASH GORRION**  
WHO CAN SAVE YOU NOW?  
Music by GREEN

**DOLBY STEREO**  
Goldie Hawn  
in  
**PRIVATE BENJAMIN**  
7:25 9:45 R

Walter Matthau  
in  
**HOPSCOTCH**  
7:15 9:35 R

Be a Boating Santa this year!

- WATER SKIS & EQUIPMENT  
Featuring JOBE, EP, O'BRIEN and CONNELLY
- SKI JACKETS (Vinyl & Nylon) 20% OFF
- LARGE STOCK SKI GLOVES, SKI ROPES & SKI CASES
- COMPASSES  
Night Light and Regular Models  
**SNAPPER MOWERS**  
Models in stock from 19" push mower to 30" electric-start rider.
- FISH FINDERS  
By Lowrance & Hummingbird
- KEROSENE HEATERS By **KEROSUN**
- BOAT COVERS  
All Styles
- HYDROSLIDES

Make BRYAN MARINE your one stop for the special boaters on your Christmas list!

**BRYAN MARINE**  
"We Sell Instant Fun — All You Add Is Water"

1008 W. 25th — Bryan 822-0875