

Sports

Kubiak passes for 245 yards and two TDs

Ags ride aerial wave to 43-7 win

By RITCHIE PRIDDY
Sports Editor
Yes Virginia, Texas A&M has an offense. And yes, it has a defense, too.

Saturday night in Kyle Field both the Aggie offense and defense came alive and shut down a stubborn Louisiana Tech team 43-7 before 56,217 fans.

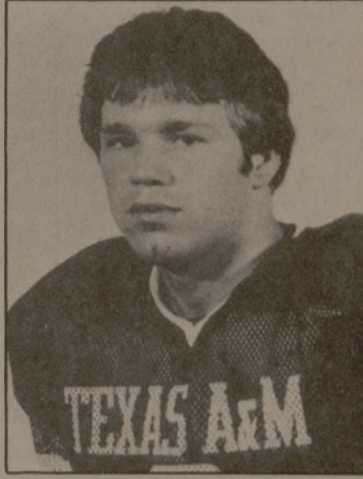
The Aggies, behind the hot throwing arm of quarterback Gary Kubiak, passed for over 245 yards and two touchdowns, an aerial show many fans hadn't seen in

quite some time. Add that to the 216 rushing yards and the Aggies were nothing less than spectacular.

Meanwhile, the Aggie defense shut down a virtually non-existent Louisiana Tech rushing game, allowing only three yards on 34 carries. The Bulldog's highly touted passing offense, however, accounted for 286 yards.

On the Aggie's first play from scrimmage Kubiak lofted a high pass to flanker Don Jones and the fans knew they were in for a treat. Although Jones missed the pass, two plays later Kubiak again called on Jones, this time connecting for a 31-yard touchdown reception. David Hardy's extra point was good and the Ags were on top 7-0 just 2:13 into the game.

The Bulldogs appeared to be right back when the took the ensuing kickoff and drove to the



Gary Kubiak

Aggie 27-yard line. On third down and four, however, defensive end Jon van Sant tipped quarterback Matt Dunigan's pass and intercepted to stop the drive.

It took just four plays for the Ags to get on the scoreboard again. This time Kubiak pitched to tailback Johnny Hector and he was off to the races. Hector galloped 45 yards around right end virtually unmolested by a surprised Bulldog defense. Hardy's extra point was good and the Aggies were up by 14 with nine minutes left in the first quarter.

Hardy made it 17-0 with one minute left in the first quarter on a 42-yard field goal after the Bulldogs stopped the Aggies at their own 32-yard line.

After a 50-yard field goal attempt by Tech's Roberto Dager that was wide to the right, the Aggies were once again on the move. Kubiak hit flanker Jimmie Williams for 38 yards and a first down on the Tech 8-yard line. Two plays later Kubiak went over

left tackle from the three for the touchdown. Hardy's conversion attempt was wide right and the score remained 23-0.

The Aggies took the 23-point lead into the lockerroom at the half but were determined to hold Tech to as little as possible.

In the first half alone the Ags had better than 200 yards total offense, while holding the Bulldogs to 107 — only six on the ground.

Tech was playing its secondary close to the line of scrimmage throughout the game in hopes of stopping the Aggie outside rushing attack and Coach Tom Wilson took advantage of the situation on more than one occasion.

"We got a number of big plays because of the way they were playing their secondary — extremely close and extremely aggressive — to stop our running game," Wilson said.

The Aggies picked up where they left off in the third quarter.

With 10:46 left in the third stanza Buzzy Sawyer's 42-yard punt was fumbled and defensive tackle Kermit Foster fell on it at the Tech 29.

It took the Aggies just two plays to punch the ball in. This time running back Thomas Sanders went around right end from ten yards out and suddenly the score was 30-0 with 10:22 left.

After a 47-yard punt by Tech's Brett Brewer the Aggies went to the air. This time Kubiak hit Jones streaking up the sideline and outran the Tech defenders to the goal-line for a 92-yard pass and run play — a new Texas A&M record.

With Hardy's conversion the score was 37-0 with 7:41 left in the third period.

The Aggies weren't finished yet. On the next possession Kubiak hit split end Mike Whit-

well for 57 yards to the Tech's yard line. Earnest Jackson scored his first touchdown of the year on the next play, going around left end for the score. Hardy again missed the conversion attempt but the Ags were up by 43 points and looking to next week's game with Texas Tech.

Tech finally got on the scoreboard with 23 seconds remaining in the third period when they drove 82 yards in nine plays against mostly second team defenders. Running back Jacob Green went over right tackle from one yard out for the score.

Although the win was relatively easy for the Aggies, it was nonetheless, costly. Defensive safety Jeff Fuller was lost for the season with torn knee ligaments. He was scheduled to undergo surgery this morning. Defensive end Paul Pender also hurt his knee but the extent of the damage is not known. He will undergo the same scope examination this week and will most likely miss the Texas Tech game.

"Anytime you lose two defensive starters of the caliber of Fuller and Pender it takes the shine off an excellent football game," Wilson said afterwards.

Despite the injuries Wilson said the Aggies needed the ballgame. "I felt like it answered some of the questions that we had wanted to answer. Number one, that our quarterback could run the option play and get the ball outside. The other was throwing the ball deep downfield to keep the people off us."

Wilson said the Aggie gameplan was to get the ball outside and throw deep on the Bulldogs because they played their secondary so close — something Wilson said other teams would probably do to stop the Aggie running attack.

"We feel that with the offense that we are running that we are going to be strong running team. At least, one the defense has to respect."

Wilson said that another reason he went deep so often was to keep the opposing defenses honest.

"I think it (tonight's win) shows that we can be versatile with our offense."

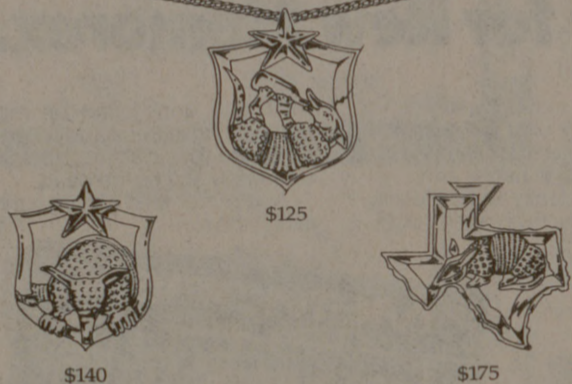
The Aggies' highly-touted rushing duo of Hector and Jackson were held to just 129 yards, 83 and 46, respectively.

Wilson said his team approached the game with just one thing in mind. He said, "as long as the first team was on the field, no matter what the score was, that it was going to perform to its maximum ability."

"I think we did that," he said. "I am pleased with our football team. Maybe the confidence we lost against Boston College was regained tonight."

"However," Wilson said, "just because of tonight I can't say we are a great football team. I do think we have a chance to be very competitive. I think the players found out that we are pretty good with an opportunity to be much better."

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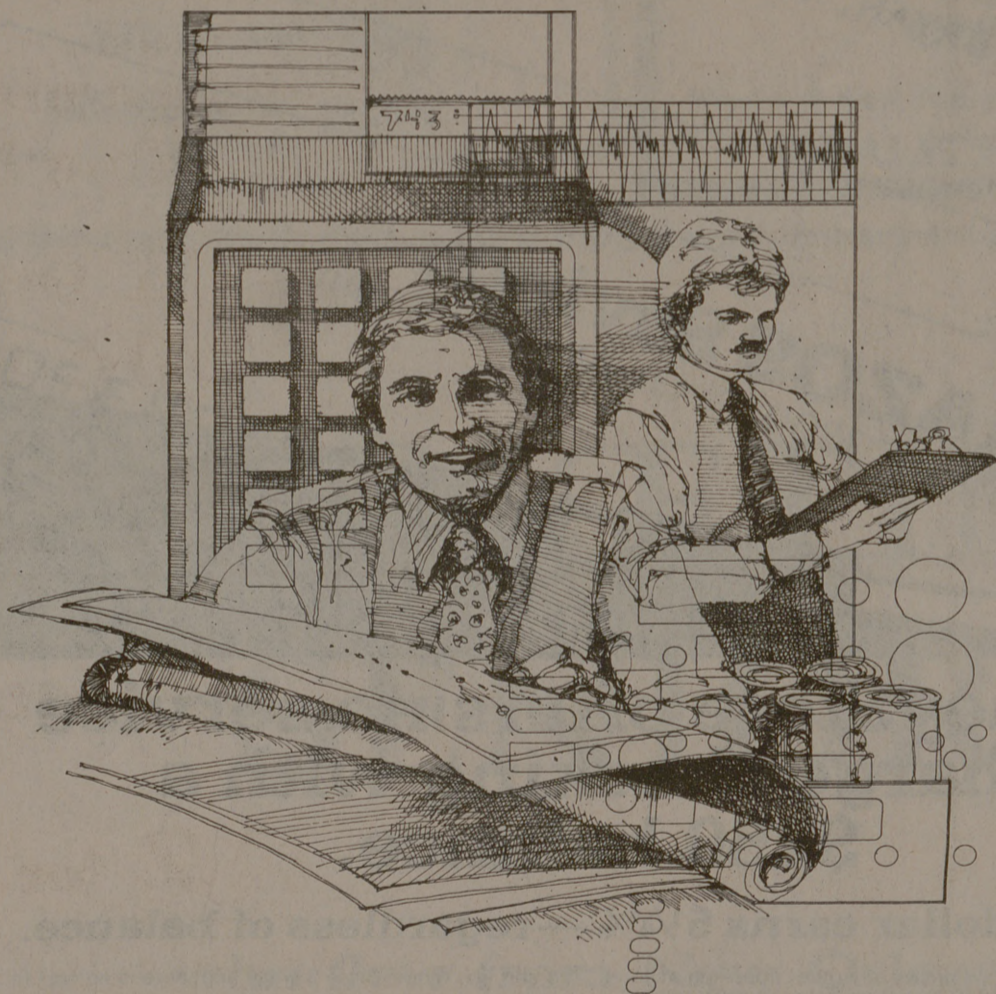
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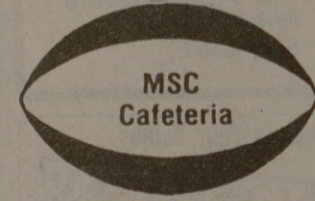
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