

Sports

Ag turning point obvious

One offensive series forecasted the Texas Aggies' 7-6 win Saturday over the University of Houston.

With a 0-0 score during the third quarter, Aggie freshman punter Buzzy Sawyer backed the Cougars into a corner from which they couldn't escape. Starting at the UH 9-yard line, quarterback Lionel Wilson tried to move his team downfield, but the Aggie defense had played too well throughout the game to break down now.

The Cougars' third-down play of the possession seemed to put new life into the Aggies. When Wilson threw an incomplete pass to wide receiver Lonell Phea, the Texas A&M sideline came alive, as every athlete realized that the Aggie offense would have excellent field position following the Houston punt.

The entire Aggie team crowded the sideline, as the players yelled and encouraged their teammates after Texas A&M stopped the Cougars deep in their territory. For some reason I sensed, as did many other people in Kyle Field, that the Aggies had enough spirit to score a touchdown after that unsuccessful Cougar series. The team's enthusiasm seemed greater at that moment than at any other time during the game, and the Aggies knew that they needed to score.

When Texas A&M took over the ball on its 46-yard line, the crowd of 66,569 came to its feet in anticipation of a drive that might lead to a touchdown. When quarterback Gary Kubiak ran for 3 yards and fullback Earnest Jackson went up the middle for 5 more, my hopes sank a little as the Aggies faced third-and-two. However, Jackson somersaulted over right guard for 3 more yards and the first down, keeping intact my prediction that the Aggies



Frank L. Christlieb

would score on the drive. Just as everyone else at the game, I didn't expect Kubiak to be the hero of this Aggie offensive possession. Although he had shown previously unknown rushing skills earlier in the game, most people didn't expect him to dash downfield like he did on the next play. However, the junior quarterback made true my prediction by scoring on a 43-yard touchdown run, eluding desperate Cougar strong safety Donnie Love by lunging for the front right corner of the end zone. Although Kubiak rushed 15 times for 91 yards, Houston coach Bill Yeoman refused to give the Aggie quarterback much credit for his performance.

Aggie coach Tom Wilson said Kubiak's touchdown proved that Texas A&M has been a big-play football team through its first five games.

"It was great to see two good teams fight to the bitter end," Wilson said. "I think Houston has a fine football team, but our kids weren't going to be denied. It was a fine team effort and our players deserved the ballgame."

Kubiak agreed that the team has made cru-

cial plays when needed, but said that the Aggies must begin taking advantage of their scoring opportunities.

"I hope we're not running out of prayers," Kubiak said. "We could have won the game by a bigger margin, but we kept making mistakes in our end of the field."

About the touchdown run, Kubiak said: "I've never run that far in my life. I knew I was going to die before I got to the end zone, and I knew he (Cougar safety Love) was going to catch me, so I just dove for the end zone."

The Cougars had rights to brag about only one aspect of the game, but even that seemed unimportant after the loss. UH wasn't flagged for any penalties, quite a turnaround from its game against Utah State two weeks ago. The Cougars totaled a school-record 19 penalties for 208 yards against USU.

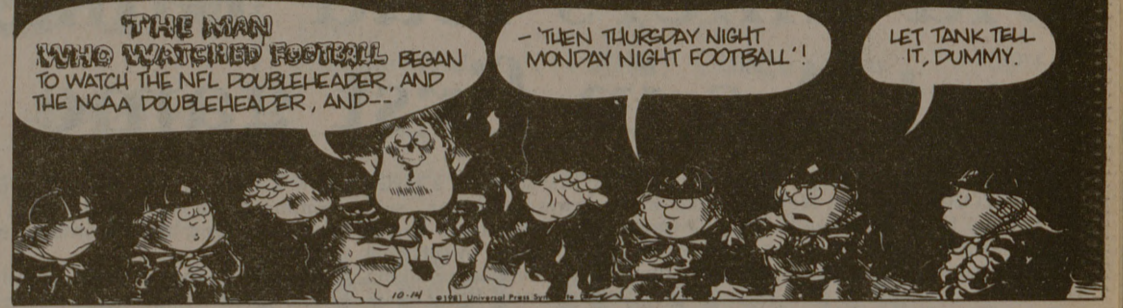
The Texas A&M defense allowed UH to convert only five-of-18 third-down situations, compared to 14-of-17 the Cougars converted during their 24-3 defeat of Baylor the week before.

The Aggies, 5-1 overall and 2-0 in the Southwest Conference, are tied with SMU for the league lead. If Texas A&M wins its next three games over Baylor University, Rice University and Southern Methodist University, the team may be assured of a bowl bid. The Aggies play the University of Arkansas Nov. 14, and bowl bids are scheduled to be announced late that afternoon by the NCAA.

If the squad can maintain the level of spirit and competitiveness it displayed through four quarters against the Cougars, the games with the Bears and Owls should be easy wins. The SMU game will probably be the toughest of the season, but Wilson and the Aggies will be well-prepared for the undefeated Mustangs.

TANK McNAMARA

by Jeff Millar & Bill Hinds



A&M student sets weightlifting record in Texas championships

Texas A&M University sophomore Steve Lumpee set a teenage deadlift record at the Texas Cup Powerlifting Championships in Austin.

Competing in the 181-pound class, Lumpee lifted 608 pounds to easily surpass the old record of

595. Lumpee, who competes with the Texas A&M Weightlifting Club, plans to try for two more records as well.

The 19-year-old sophomore hopes to break the teenage deadlift record in the 198-pound class, which stands at 667 pounds. The

record in the 220-pound class is 644 pounds, and Lumpee says he wants to attempt to break that record also.

Texas A&M teammate Freddie Cortes attempted to set a teenage record in the same meet's bench press event, but failed.

Holtz says Razorbacks are close to being a good team

United Press International FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. — Coach Lou Holtz said Tuesday his Arkansas team is making progress as the Razorbacks prepare for Saturday's Southwest Conference clash with unbeaten Texas.

"I don't think we're very far away from being a very good football team," Holtz explained. "That's my overall feeling."

The Porker offense, frequently

the target of negative comments after recent practices, drew Holtz's praise Tuesday.

"The offense probably had one of their better days with tremendous effort on our offensive line's part," he said.

Holtz said quarterback Tom Jones was continuing to recover from his knee injury and the Hog receivers caught the ball well Tuesday. Guard Charles Ginn also

garnered praise.

Holtz noted defensive improvement. "Defensively, I see us getting better and better," he said, "especially up front."

Tuesday's practice, held under dark skies, ended at the same time as Saturday's match with Texas is expected to conclude.

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