

# Sports

## Wilson upset over officiating in game

# Aggies lose heartbreaker to Baylor

By RITCHIE PRIDDY  
Sports Editor  
The Baylor Bears, behind the running of Walter Abercrombie and the kicking of freshman Marty

Jimmerson, handed the Aggies their first conference loss of the year with a 19-17 win Saturday in Waco.

Abercrombie ran his way

through the Aggie defense for 122 yards on 28 carries, 93 yards in the first half.

But it was the kicking of Jimmerson that won the game for the

Bears. Jimmerson kicked four field goals, including the clincher with 22 seconds left in the game.

The game was probably the worst officiated game in the conference this year. Time and again the referees flagged both sides, often on controversial calls.

As the Bears were driving for their winning field goal (at the Texas A&M 13) with time running out, running back Dennis Gentry took a Jay Jeffrey handoff up the middle and appeared to have fumbled the ball after being hit by Aggie defensive end Fred Caldwell. Linebacker Mike Little caught the ball in mid-air apparently ending the Baylor drive.

However, the officials didn't see it that way and gave the ball to Baylor, something that didn't sit too well with head coach Tom Wilson.

"You tell me," Wilson said to the press after the game, "that when a guy is still fighting, spinning and fighting for yardage, and he is hit hard immediately and the ball pops up in the air and our man comes down with it and they (officials) call him down. Tell me that's not a fumble. That's the quickest whistle I've ever seen."

Baylor's head man Grant Teaff didn't see it that way: "He (Gentry) was flat on his back when he fumbled," he said. "It was no different than the one down there." (in reference to when the Aggies were driving in the fourth quarter and running back Thomas Sanders apparently fumbled, the officials ruling him down).

Sanders didn't have a good day holding onto the football. On the opening kickoff he fumbled and Baylor recovered at the Aggie 17.

The defense held the Bears to just four yards on three plays and the Bears called on Jimmerson for a 30-yard field goal attempt. Jim-

merson's attempt, however, was wide to the left.

The Ags took over at their own 20 but couldn't move and were forced to punt.

Baylor got on the scoreboard first with a 50-yard field goal by Jimmerson.

The Bears took a Johnny Hector fumble at the A&M 39 and drove to the 32 before the defense stiffened and forced Jimmerson's effort.

Two possessions later the Bears were again on the board. This time wingback Alfred Anderson took a Mike Brannon handoff around left end for an eight-yard touchdown run. The kick was good and Baylor led the Aggies by 10 with 12:32 left in the second quarter.

The Aggies were not content to leave the score as such and quickly took advantage of a Baylor substitution, with Kubiak completing a pass to split end Mike Whitwell.

Just one play earlier All-SWC free safety Vann McElroy went out of the game with a slight injury. Wilson saw the opportunity and called the pass. Kubiak, faking the option, jumped back into passing position and caught the Bears by surprise, hitting Whitwell 41 yards downfield for the touchdown.

David Hardy's conversion was good out of John Dawson's hold and the scoreboard read 10-7 Baylor with 10:43 left in the half.

Dawson played safety for the Aggies last year but a knee injury sidelined him in the 1980 opener. He hasn't suited up since the game but had been kept on scholarship as a player-coach.

The Bears took the kickoff and drove to the Texas A&M 2-yard line before the Aggie defense again rose up and forced another field goal attempt.

Jimmerson connected on his

second field goal to extend the Bears' lead to 13-7.

Abercrombie was responsible for most of the yardage on that drive, accounting for 40 of the 78 yards.

The Aggies were not through as Kubiak again went to Whitwell. On first down at the Aggie 26, Kubiak hit Whitwell for nine yards to the 35. On the very next play he again hit Whitwell, this time for 50 yards to the Baylor 15.

On third-and-four Kubiak kept over left guard for three to the one, forcing a fourth-and-one situation. After a time out Wilson sent in his field goal unit for Hardy's 19-yard field goal with 10 seconds remaining in the half.

During the timeout the Aggie section yelled and pointed for Wilson to go for the touchdown but he decided to go for the sure three instead.

Baylor carried a 13-10 lead in at halftime. The Bears also had the edge in total yardage with 217 to 177 for the Aggies.

Abercrombie had 93 yards on 15 carries, while Whitwell had three catches for 100 yards.

The Aggies came out of the starting blocks with fire in their eyes. On the fourth play of the second half Kubiak passed to Whitwell for 21 yards to the Baylor 47. As he turned, breaking a tackle and heading upfield, the official blew his whistle, apparently thinking he had stepped out of bounds.

However, Whitwell did not step out of bounds and had clear sailing to the Baylor goal. The official went to the Texas A&M sideline and confessed his mistake, much to the dismay of Wilson.

The Ags didn't score then, but on their second possession of the third quarter they marched 83 yards to take the lead.

Mixing running with passing, the Aggies came to life. Whitwell was again the key man for the Aggies. Kubiak dropped back at the 50 and let fly a long pass along the sideline. McElroy was defending and appeared to have the interception but Whitwell, timing his jump, went up and took the ball away from him at the Baylor 11.

"I knew he (McElroy) was there sitting and waiting for it. I just

went up in front of him and down with it," Whitwell said.

Two plays later Hector pitched five yards around right for the score. Hardy's extra was good and the Aggies led the first time 17-13 with 4:41 in the third quarter.

However, Baylor cut the lead to three with another Jimmerson field goal, this time from 38 out with 1:45 left in the third quarter.

Teaff replaced an injured Brannon with Jeffrey late in the game. Jeffrey couldn't get Bears moving at first.

After a Texas A&M punt Baylor took over at the Aggie 48. Three plays netted the Bears nine yards and the Aggies took the lead their own 40.

Texas A&M moved the ball the Baylor 24 behind the run of Hector before another turnover stopped the drive. Sanders hit Kubiak pitch but couldn't pass and fumbled. Baylor linebacker Kevin Hancock pounced on ball for the Bears.

Behind the running and passing of Jeffrey, the Bears moved the ball downfield, with Jimmerson kicking the winning field goal with 22 seconds left in the game.

The Aggies outgained the Bears 340 yards to 310, but the Ags fumbled the ball six times, three.

Abercrombie finished as game's leading rusher with 25 carries. Gentry second with 63 yards. Hector Earnest Jackson finished with 46 yards, respectively.

Wilson was outraged at the consistent officiating, which said has been characteristic of Aggie officiating all year and he let it be known that he intends to take some action.

"I will handle anything I see with the officials through the conference office," he said. "If something is not done about it you take Bryan High School or Monterrey Junior High and play Notre Dame and anything you can happen."

"I'm not putting the loss of the officials because we didn't win well enough to win. But, it's paining everywhere — the inconsistencies of officiating. You don't know what is going to happen."

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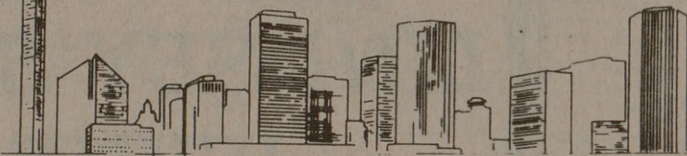
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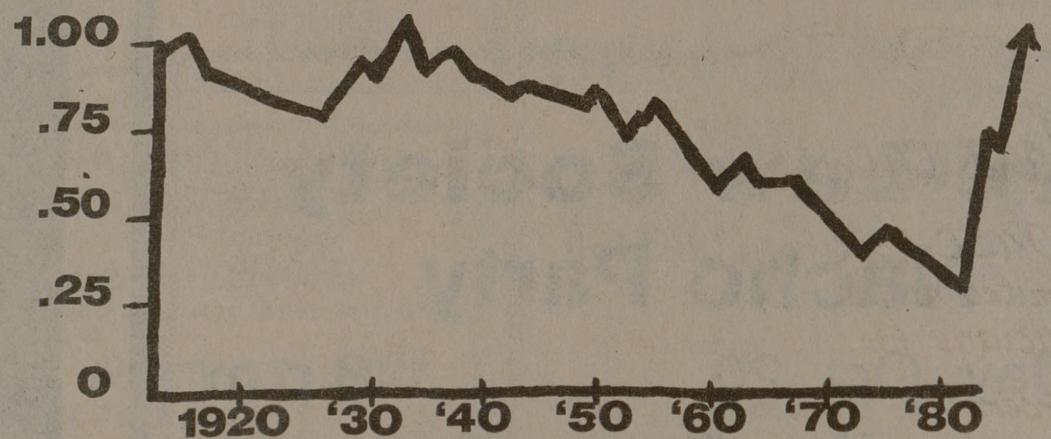
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