

Sports

Ags still SWC mystery team

By RICK STOLLE

Battalion Staff
Throughout the first half of the season, the 1981 Texas A&M football team has been one of mystery.

First, it was the defense that came through. In the next game, the defense let down and the offense could not come through. Then the offense became a shining gem of explosive exploits in the next game.

A pattern developed. Either the offense or the defense would hold up or collapse, and never, of course, would the two hold up in the same game.

The 51-26 thrashing of Rice did nothing to dispel that train of development. The exception was, however, that for a half, one complete, whole half, both the offense and defense held their own.

The offense exploded and the defense was dominating. The Aggies scored 31 points to seven for the Rice Owls. While Texas A&M was gaining 264 total offensive yards, the Owls had been able to scratch out only 96.

The domination was total in the first half. Rice did not get a first down until mid-way through the second quarter and that was on an A&M facemask penalty.

And the offense even won the second half with 20 points but the defense let up and allowed 19. The defense just could not hold up for the entire game. By the time the game ended, the Aggie defense had allowed 379 yards, with 361 of that coming through the air.

Rice quarterback Michael Calhoun rattled the Aggie secondary in the second half and made a run-away into a statistically close game. The game ended with A&M leading yardage offensively 486 to Rice's 379 in a game that was not as close as the stats indicated.

Yet, while the Ag defense did not keep it going for an entire game, at least the offense did not make as many mistakes as they have in the past.

In fact, the most mistakes Texas A&M had in this game came at halftime. While most of the Aggie band halftime show can be classified as a disaster, and should apply for federal relief funds, rumor has it that the last time the band made such a major mistake was in 1967 when A&M won the Cotton Bowl.

But a difference of 306 yards between the first and second halves can also be classified as an inexplicable mistake. How can a

however, the 41 first half rushing yards was reduced to 18 by the end of the game. A large cause of that reduction was the Aggie pass rush which recorded six sacks for 53 lost yards.

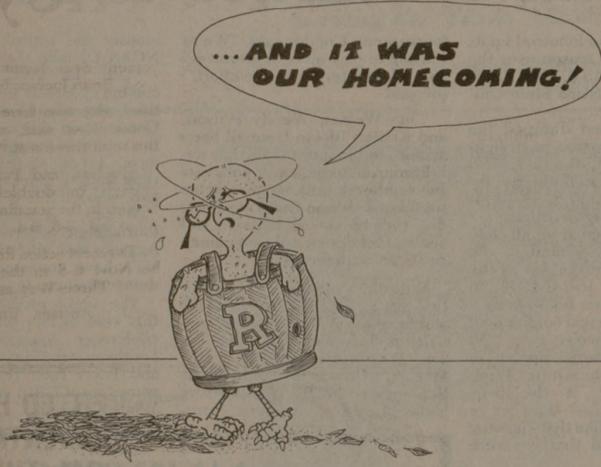
But the Owls did not lay down and die. Early in the fourth quarter, with the game already out of reach, the Owls went for a touchdown on a fourth and nine at the Aggie nine yard line. The pass was complete in front of Aggie cornerback Greg Williams for the six points. Later in the quarter, the Owls converted a fourth and 32 situation much to the amazement of the A&M coaching staff.

A full game by both the offense and defense would help the

Aggies tremendously this week against SMU. With the Aggies tied for the SWC lead with a 3-1 mark, the Ags can solidify their position as one of the top teams in the conference with a win over the Ponies.

And a win, even of one point, will satisfy A&M fans immensely along with even the most cold-hearted Aggie alumn.

But for six points, the Aggies could very well be either 2-5 or 7-0. Yet, when the team puts a full game together, the results could be awesome. Especially, should the full game come together at Kyle Field behind the full support of Aggie fans.



dp 1981

Cowboys rally for exciting 28-27 win over Dolphins

United Press International
IRVING — The Dallas Cowboys honored one cornerback Sunday and the Miami Dolphins initiated another, but at the end of a gloomy and improbable afternoon at Texas Stadium the beleaguered Everson Walls had the last word.

Before Walls could have the final say, however, the Cowboys put together another of the shocking rallies for which they have taken out a patent in recent years.

"This could have been one of our great games," said dejected Miami coach Don Shula, who saw the two clubs combine for 1,005 yards and create a season's worth of big plays. "Instead it was a bitter defeat."

In brief, the Cowboys were 13 points behind with less than four minutes to play and suddenly found themselves ahead by one with 3:17 to go — holding on to defeat the stunned Dolphins, 28-

27. But the manner in which it all happened will occupy a prominent place in Cowboys' history and in the Dolphins' morale to the rest through the second half of the season.

Miami quarterback David Woodley completed 21 of 37 passes for 408 yards to bring the Dolphins back from an eight-point halftime deficit. He threw three touchdown passes, hit on eight throws of 20 yards or more and one after time burned Walls — a free agent rookie.

But after the Cowboys had suddenly shot in front, Walls intercepted a pass at the Dallas 4-yard line with less than a minute to play to wipe out Miami's last bit of threat and another rookie, Mike Downs, picked off another Woodley pass with eight seconds to go.

Woodley, who had thrown only two interceptions all year and who came into the game with a streak of 95 straight throws without a pickoff, wound up throwing five passes into the hands of the Cowboys.

"It was an up and down day," said Walls. "But that's just like my whole season has been. We did what we have been doing all year. We gave up the big play, but we made the big interceptions. So I guess that's all you can expect."

Dallas took a 14-6 halftime lead on a touchdown run of five yards by Ron Springs and a 21-yard throw from Danny White to Butch

Johnson. Miami had countered with a 5-yard pass from Woodley to running back Tony Nathan, but after that score Uwe von Schamann's extra point bounced off the right upright — the miss that eventually proved the difference.

Miami bolted in front with three unanswered touchdowns in the second half — a 69-yard throw from Woodley to Cefalo, a 10-yard run by Nathan and a 4-yard toss to tight end Joe Rose.

But after the final Miami touch-

down Dallas zipped 79 yards to score on a 5-yard White-to-Doug Cosbie pass and two plays following the kickoff Woodley threw his third interception of the day.

That was a pickoff by safety Dennis Thurman, who returned the ball to the Miami 32. On the very next play White covered the distance with a pass to Springs, who had broken behind fellow Ohio State graduate Bob Brudzinski.

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Analysis

defensive secondary that gave up 55 yards in the first half, or should I say second quarter, give up 306 in the second half?

In the first quarter, the Aggies gave up exactly 0 (zero, nothing, zilch) yards passing. The Rice QB had only attempted 4 passes with no completions. Yet, by the end of the game, he had completed 19 of 46 passes for 361 yards.

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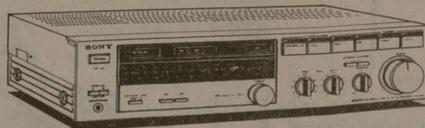
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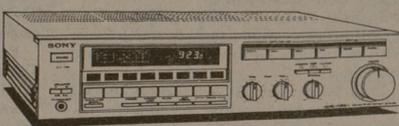


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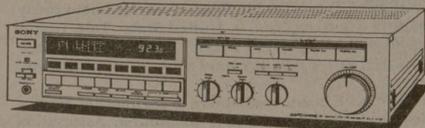


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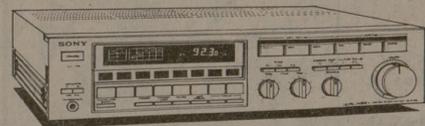


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