

Sports

Team spirit, attitude play vital role in Aggs' fortunes

of the players is on the field playing for himself. "Nobody is worried about his individual reputation," he said. "We're all team-oriented."

"Team" is the word most accurately describing the 1981 Texas Aggies.

There's a special togetherness on the team that escapes definition, and this unity hasn't been seen in years. I think there are only a few teams around with the same togetherness, and they are all winners.

I think that I can safely say the 1981 Texas Aggies are winners, on and off the field.

I also think the student body and the band have a lot to do with the success and attitude of this team.

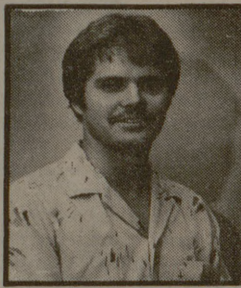
Safety Jeff Farrar, commenting after dramatic comeback win over Texas Tech earlier in the season, said that the band plays a major part in Aggie games.

The band members, he said, don't realize how important they are.

I remember before halftime in the Baylor game when the Aggies were facing a fourth-and-goal situation at the Baylor 1-yard line. Wilson called a time out to make a decision whether to go for three or seven points.

Watching from the pressbox, I was amazed when I looked up and saw a wave of maroon and white pointing toward the Baylor goal.

Just think what an important role the student body will play in Saturday's game with SMU. Perhaps summing it up better than anything else, Kubiak said: "It'll be great to play at home. The crowd always gets us fired up."



Ritchie Priddy

Gary, what are you shooting for this year?" I asked Aggie quarterback Gary Kubiak, expecting to hear "10 or 12 touchdowns." I didn't.

"A win," he said. Center David Bandy nodded in agreement.

Kubiak's attitude reflects that of the whole team. The players know what they're facing in Southern Methodist University: no one athlete is going to win or lose the game. It will be a team effort.

"The SMU game is the most important game of the year for us," head coach Tom Benson said.

You'd better believe the players know and understand that, too.

In the Texas A&M locker room after the game, talk centered around the big showdown this week between the Ags and Mustangs.

Sure, there was talk of Kubiak and his six-touchdown performance, but every player knew that Texas had beaten SMU, setting up the showdown.

The team is thinking "Cotton" all the way, other teams have.

In the past, the Aggies would be sitting in the driver's seat for the crown and the trip to the Rose Bowl, but would end up being the laughing-stock of the conference.

In 1975 the Aggies entered the Arkansas game sporting a 10-0 record and had to knock out the Razorbacks for the title. They didn't. In the early conference losses to Houston and Texas Tech kept them away, though they en-

ded the season as one of the top teams in the nation.

The difference in this year's team is the attitude. Just ask anybody on the team. That attitude, combined with the coaching and the talent of the team, may take them to the title that has eluded them for so many years.

I'm not saying the team is going to win the title or even win any of its remaining games. What I want to bring out is that if any team has the right combination of what it takes to win the conference, it's this team.

"We're not looking ahead," offensive guard Kent Adams said. "We know what we have to do. This game is the biggest game of the year for us. But I guess that from now on they all will be."

"We have to treat it like any other game. It's kind of hard not to look ahead, though. But we all know that we can't do that."

Adams said, and others will agree, that none

Dodgers, Lopes defeat Yanks, 9-2

Comeback Kings take Series

United Press International
NEW YORK — It was the parade of the 1981 World Series — the Los Angeles Dodgers' 9-2 thrashing of the New York Yankees that gave them the championship, four games to two.

There's been a lot of talk about errors, but with all of them, we went into tonight winning three games to two, Lopes said Wednesday night while celebrating the Dodgers' 9-2 thrashing of the New York Yankees that gave them the championship, four games to two.

Lopes committed six errors in the series, setting or tying four records for fielding futility by a first baseman. He made only three errors more than a Hitchcock movie.

above in the deciding game, he scored the tie-breaking run in a 10th-inning fifth inning and scored a grand slam in a four-run sixth. He pronounced the perfect measure of a pitcher that continually rose above its normal performance.

in a, Alton Back in February, I spoke at a press conference and I made a prediction: "The Yankees would win," said Lopes. "I think the team has had some good years together but we never got to the brass ring."

they have it now, thanks to five hits by Pedro Guerrero, a key hit by Tom Cey and a clutch single by Steve Yeager. The trio will share the Series MVP Award.

"I felt all 25 of us should have won and not just three," said Cey, who left for a pinch hitter in the eighth after suffering dizziness as an effect of being struck in the head by a Rich Gossage pitch Sunday. This team has withstood a lot of criticism during the year and I'm just glad we finally proved the critics wrong."

The victory completed one of the most remarkable playoff odysseys in history, one that fittingly ended one of the oddest of seasons. Three weeks ago, the Dodgers trailed Houston 2-0 in a divi-

sional miniseries born of the mid-summer players' strike. They rebounded to win three straight.

Next came the National League playoffs, where they fell behind 2-1 against the Expos and faced the prospect of winning the final two games in Montreal. They did it.

Finally, it was the Yankees, who promptly put the Dodgers just where they wanted to be — behind. The Dodgers responded by winning the next four games, avenging the memory of 1978, when the Yankees did the same to them.

The loss hit the Yankees especially hard. After all, their tradition involves giving out embarrassment, not suffering it. They are supposed to perform heroics, not fall victim to them.

"We didn't play the first two games out there like we played all year according to the script," said Lemon. "We didn't get the middle pitching we got all year and we left men on base when we had opportunities. We've got to credit the pitching of the Dodgers while we're at it."

Yankee owner George Steinbrenner appeared to take the loss the hardest of all, issuing a statement shortly after the game that reflected anger at the collapse.

"I want to sincerely apologize to the people of New York and to fans of the New York Yankees everywhere for the performance of the New York Yankee team in the World Series," said Steinbrenner. "I also want to assure you that we will be at work immediately to prepare for 1982."

"I want also to extend my congratulations to (club president) Peter O'Malley and the Dodgers organization — a fine team that didn't give up — and to my friend, Tom Lasorda, who managed superb season, playoffs, and a brilliant World Series."


Steinbrenner may find particular fault with Lemon's decision to pinch hit for starting pitcher Tom-

my John with two out and two on in the fourth inning with the score tied 1-1.

Bobby Murcer batted for John and sent a long liner to right for the third out and reliever George Frazier immediately gave up three runs to become the first

pitcher ever to lose three games in a best-of-seven Series.


Willie Randolph gave New York a 1-0 lead in the third with his second homer of the season. Singles by Dusty Baker, Rick Monday and Yeager off John tied the score in the top of the fourth.



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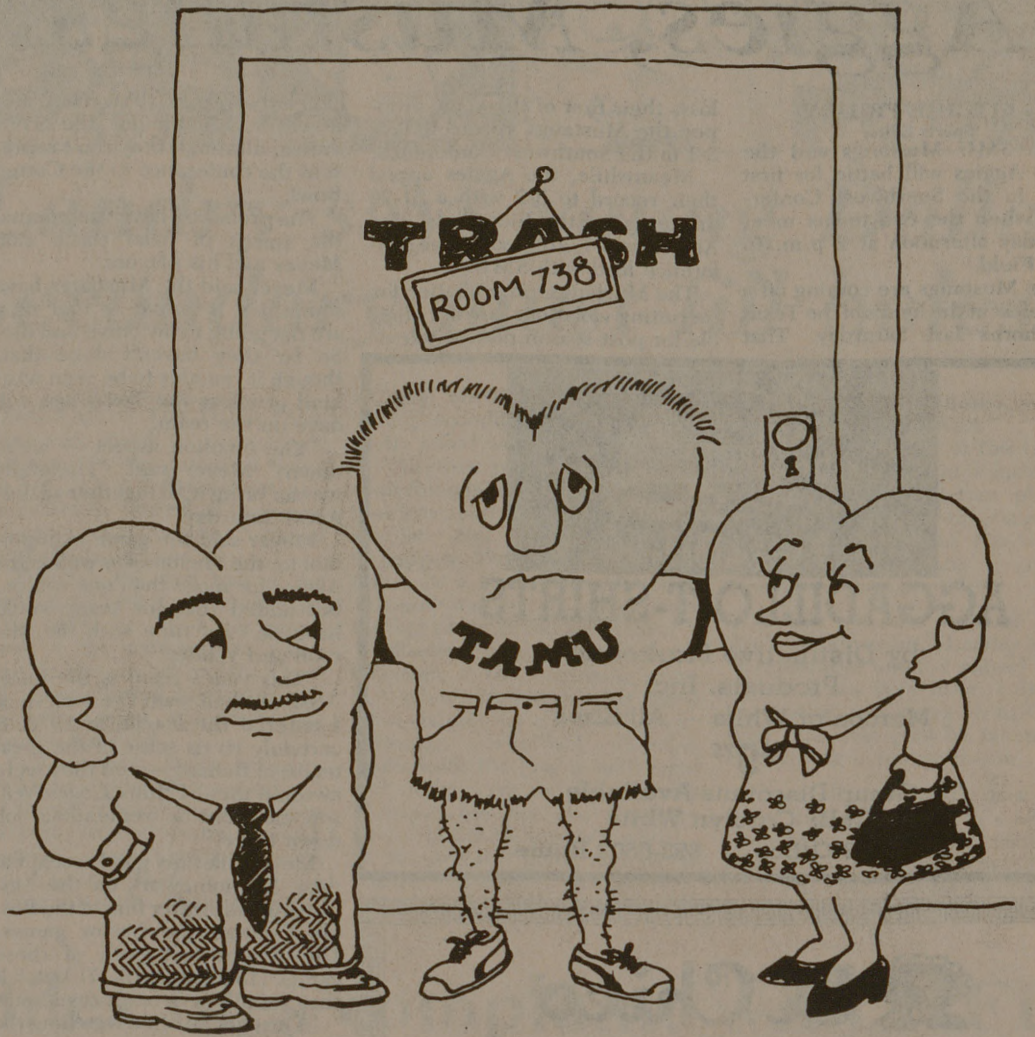


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