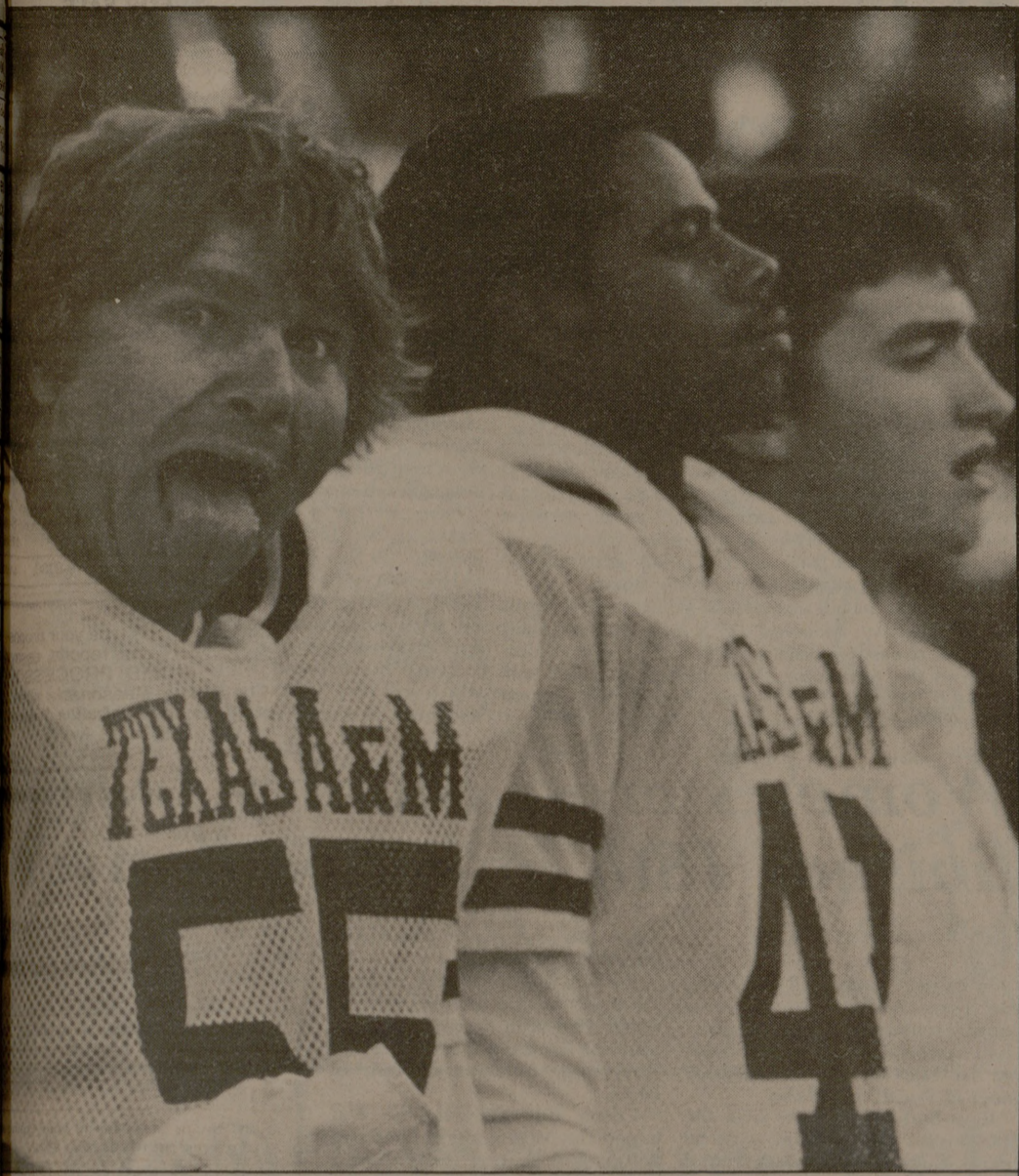


Sports



Say aaaagh!

Photo by Rose Delano

Senior linebacker Mike Little clowns around during the Aggies 37-7 triumph over TCU last Saturday. Little did not play because of an injury and had to settle for watching the action on the sideline. Little and 10 other seniors will be playing their last home game Thursday against Texas.

Seniors hope for success

Ags eager to face 'Horns

By FRANK L. CHRISTLIEB

Battalion Staff
There's a confident feeling among members of the Texas Aggie football team.

With the injuries Texas A&M sustained in Saturday's game with the TCU Horned Frogs, the players have every reason in the world to be down.

But they're not. For some reason, anticipation of the annual game with the University of Texas always makes the Aggies forget their troubles. With starting junior quarterback Gary Kubiak questionable after bruising his right shoulder against TCU, safety Chris Brown out of a career after fracturing his neck, and starters Johnny Hector, Mike Little and Billy Cannon nursing injuries, it would seem that the Aggies might not feel ready for Thursday's game.

But listening to the members of the squad, which boasts only 11 seniors, the game with the Longhorns is goal number one for the Aggies. Even though the team is excited about its upcoming trip to the Independence Bowl in Shreveport, La., to play Oklahoma State University, the Aggie-Longhorn matchup is too important to look beyond.

Kent Adams, the Aggies' senior offensive tackle who has been one of the leaders throughout the team's first 10 games of the season, looks forward to the Texas game as much as any of his career with the Aggies.

"It'll be a big game again this year like every year," Adams said. "We've got a better team than we've had in past seasons and we have every chance in the world to win again. I realize it's my last regular-season game and I'm going to go out and give it all I've got. It's sad that it's my last time to play on Kyle Field, but I can't think of a better way to end it than with a victory over Texas."

Adams, along with center David Bandy, defensive end Keith Baldwin, linebacker Mike Little, cornerback Dan Davis and split end Mike Whitwell, have provided the squad with the bulk of its senior leadership this season. Head coach Tom Wilson feels that the Aggies have represented Texas A&M well this season, and that the bowl bid was well-deserved.

"I'm excited for the players that we were invited to play a fine Oklahoma State team in the Independence Bowl. A bowl of some sort was one of our goals at the start of the season, even though we were picked to finish very low in the Southwest Conference. We were in the Cotton Bowl running until the Arkansas game (A&M lost 10-7) and I was very disappointed with that close loss."

Wilson will try to become the first Texas A&M coach in history to defeat the Longhorns three straight years. The Aggies have won the last two years by scores of 13-7 and 24-14, while Wilson's record against Texas is 2-1.

Whitwell, leading the Aggie receivers with 25 receptions for 633 yards, said he considers the Texas A&M-Texas games to be one of the most memorable aspects of his college career.

"The Texas game is what football is all about," Whitwell said. "When you play Texas you lay it all on the line and give it your best shot. It doesn't matter how you've played all year as long as you come out and give it all you've got against Texas. When I think about all the work we've done, you can't help but go out and play your heart out."

Center David Bandy has solidified the Aggie offensive line this season, and as a result, quarterback Kubiak has been able to complete 55 percent of his passes for 1,752 yards and 11 touchdowns. Bandy hopes the Aggies can once again overcome their status as underdogs and defeat the Longhorns in Kyle Field.

"It's been nice the last couple of years," Bandy said. "I was hoping we'd be playing them for the conference championship this year, but that didn't work out. We need to have the Texas game. There would be nothing sweeter than beating Texas three out of four years... that's something no other A&M team has done in history. The Longhorns will have blood in their eyes, but they've only got two years of revenge — we've got 60 years worth."

Cornerback Davis agrees with his teammates' assessment of the

Aggie-Longhorn matchups.

"I will remember the Texas games more vividly than any other games. It's the last thing you remember about each year and I'd like to go out on a winning note. In five years I want to be able to reflect back and remember the good memories from all the Texas games," Davis said.

With the regular season ending with the Texas game, several Aggies may be in the running for post-season honors. Among the top candidates for possible All-SWC status are Kubiak, Bandy, Whitwell, Hector, Baldwin, Cannon, Bobby Stroger and Earnest Jackson. Freshman defensive tackle Ray Childress is the Aggies' top Newcomer of the Year prospect.

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Gymnastics team wins first meet against UTA

The Texas A&M gymnastics team captured its first meet of the year by defeating the University of Texas at Arlington by a score of 189-163 Saturday night.

The meet, which was held in East Kyle, was made up of six olympic events; the floor exercise, pommel horse, rings, vault, parallel bars and high bar.

Team captain Mark Hartwell said the team's output set a record under a new scoring system. The top five scores are now counted, whereas, before only the top four.

Hartwell won the floor exercise. Teammates Ray Moltz, Estaban Langoria and Jim Gill finished second, fourth and sixth, respectively.

Moltz placed second in the pommel horse and John Kemp finished in fifth.

Hartwell captured the rings event with teammates Jim Foght, Moltz and Kemp finishing second, third and fourth.

Hartwell also finished first in the vault competition, followed by Todd Miclette, Langoria and Gill.

Moltz captured the parallel bars with Hartwell finishing third.

Moltz also won the high bar event. Kemp finished third while Hartwell tied teammate Jeurgen Achterman for sixth.

The team's next match is Jan. 23 when it will travel to Hobbs, N. M. to compete in the seven team New Mexico Junior College Invitational meet.

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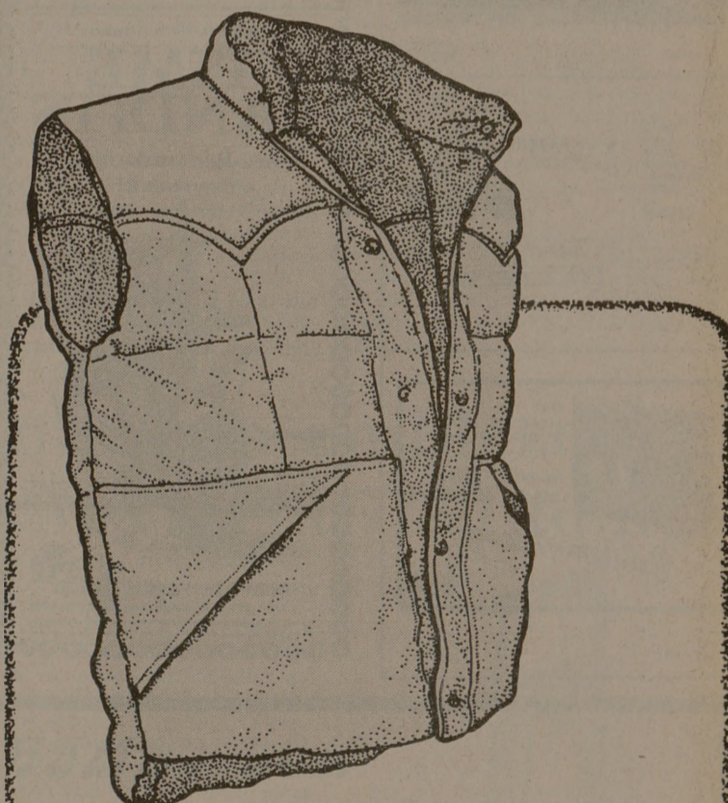
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