

Sports

Akers, Longhorns celebrate, give Aggies credit

By FRANK L. CHRISTLIEB
Battalion Staff
He couldn't have been more than 11 years old, but the young

Texas A&M fan felt much older amid the excitement of the Texas locker room after the Longhorns' 21-13 win Thursday over the

Texas Aggies. Approaching Texas coach Fred Akers with an air of confidence, the boy must have thought there was enough room inside the gathering of reporters for him to speak his mind.

"Coach, I've really got to hand it to you," the youngster said. "If somebody outplays you, you just hold your head up and admit that they outplayed you."

Akers seemed startled at first, but he thanked the youth and patted him on the shoulder. He obviously understood the boy's sarcasm, but didn't seem to care what the youth was doing in the locker room or what he meant by his cocky statement.

After all, Akers and his Cotton Bowl-bound Longhorn team had just defeated the Aggies for the first time in three years. And the entire Texas squad agreed that no one had intentions of leaving Kyle Field without a win.

"Well, it was necessary for us to

win," Akers said. "A&M has a good football team. They fought their rear ends off out there, and so did we. I'm really proud."

"We're really one of the weakened football teams in the conference (as a result of injuries to several key players). I'm really looking forward to having a little healing time before we gear up and go to the Cotton Bowl."

Defensive end Eric Holle said he and his teammates will savor the victory, especially since it ended the Aggies' mini-streak against the Longhorns.

"This was our year. We owed them for two years. My class (junior) was 0-2 against them, and there was no way we were going to be 0-3."

Longhorn defensive end Kiki DeAyala said the members of his team had only victory on their minds.

"All I know is that I couldn't go home if we didn't win. There was a lot of talk about no Texas team losing three years straight to A&M, but this year we finished strong. We were strong and we knew we could beat them. They're a fine ballclub—give them credit. But I don't think anyone wanted to lose three years in a row."

Several comments were made after the game about the crushing Texas defense, which fought its way into the Texas A&M backfield throughout the first half to put pressure on Aggie quarterback Gary Kubiak. After two roughing-the-passer penalties in the first half, Kubiak reinjured his bruised

right shoulder and was taken out of the game with 4:03 left in the half. Although some Aggies felt that the Longhorns had been instructed by their coaches to aim for Kubiak's weakness, Akers denied the accusations.

"We honestly did not know now badly he was hurt. He looked good in pre-game warmups and we didn't know how bad he was hurt."

"Our defensive front gave a great effort," Akers said. "The pass rush was necessary, because you can't let the quarterback sit back there all day. That's just what we had to have."

DeAyala, called for both roughing penalties, also said "by no means" had the Texas defense planned to force Kubiak out of the game with continual shots at his hurt shoulder.

Akers overflown with praise about the efforts of his team, which now will prepare to face Alabama Jan. 1 in the Cotton Bowl.

"We could have just folded up and said 'who can expect us to win now without Sims (Kenneth, starting defensive tackle), Tate (Rodney, tailback) and Jones (A.J., starting tailback). But we didn't."

Akers hopes some of his injured players will be able to participate against Alabama, but he also feels that the Longhorns have the spirit to win without these key players.

"We probably will have Johnson (Bobby, starting safety) and Jones, but I don't know about Tate. We'd like a few days off to enjoy this win. We're elated and proud of it."

"I think our team really re-

sponded better this year to the adversity — they've handled it all," Akers said.

Sims, who received a bone fracture two weeks ago when TCU center Mike Hartman fell on his right leg in the Longhorns' 31-15 victory, said Texas continued this year's strong play in the win over the Aggies.

"All week long we were just concentrating on coming down here and showing them what kind of team we have," Sims said. "We played a great team ball game today. We took it to 'em."

Tailback John Walker, forced into starting duty when "Jam" Jones was injured in Texas' win the previous week against Baylor, rushed for 178 yards on 36 carries. Akers was surprised to find out how frequently Walker had been used against the Aggies.

"I didn't realize he ran that many times — we don't keep score on those things," Akers said. "He's a big boy — he can handle it."

Texas quarterback Robert Brewer completed 8 of 10 passes for 134 yards, but his performance is especially notable. The junior quarterback, who has been playing only since starter Rick McIvor was injured four weeks ago against the Houston Cougars, found the loudness of the Kyle Field crowd of 71,731 to be deafening at times.

"That's just something you have to experience," Brewer said. "I'm going to take voice lessons, because my linemen were telling me to shout louder. I was yelling as loud as I could."

Brewer said couldn't believe the distance and accuracy of his 38-yard touchdown pass during the second quarter to tiny, 150-pound Herkie Walls. The touchdown was the Longhorns' third and final score, with all 21 of their points coming in the same quarter.

"I was surprised he (Akers) called it," Brewer said. "I didn't think he thought I could throw that far. We got a good fake on it and let Herkie see that speed a his to score."

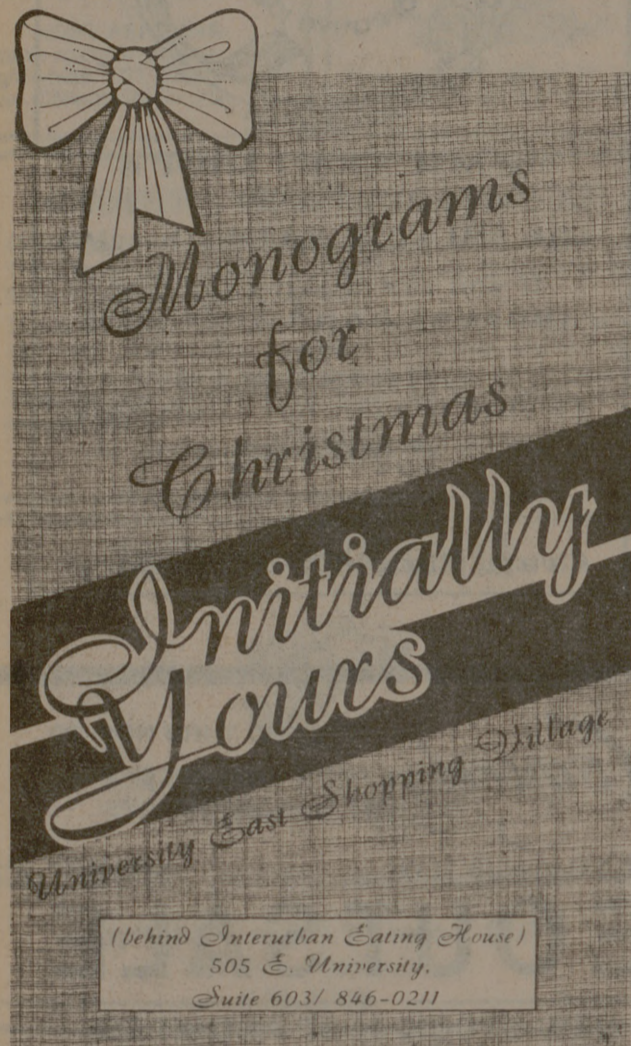
"A win here is extra special. It just makes it extra sweet."

Akers and the Longhorns may turn their attention to the Alabama, where coach Paul "Bear" Bryant has carried his team to another impressive season. DeAyala said Texas looks forward to playing the Crimson Tide.

"We traditionally play the wishbone teams pretty well, so it'll depend on our figuring out their tendencies and getting ready to play."

Sophomore Doug Dawson, Texas' starting right guard, said Alabama will offer the Longhorns a tough challenge, but he's eager about the game.

"Alabama's playing tougher than anyone right now. They've got that wishbone working and think they're a better football team than USC (which had been rumored to be Texas' Cotton Bowl opponent). I'd rather play Alabama because of that high ranking (ranked number four in the nation)."



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Some feel 'Horns were gunning for Aggie QB

By RITCHIE PRIDDY
Sports Editor
The Longhorns' fierce rush on quarterback Gary Kubiak in the first half of Thursday's game led many people, including several Aggie players and coaches, to believe the Horns were out to hurt him.

"That number 31 (Texas defensive end Kiki DeAyala) — he has to be a cheap person," linebacker

Mike Little said after the game. "I find it hard to believe that (Fred) Akers or that guy's coach would allow that kind of stuff."

"They have a class program but when they do shit like that it's poor."

DeAyala hit Kubiak several times, at least twice after he released the ball and was flagged two times for roughing the passer. Finally, with 4:03 remaining in the half, DeAyala crashed through the line and put Kubiak on his back, again after the ball was thrown. No penalty was called, despite the complaints of several Aggie coaches.

Kubiak was nursing a shoulder injury he received in the TCU game, and had not practiced all week. DeAyala's hit sent Kubiak to the locker room. He returned during the second half wearing street clothes.

"I had a straight shot and was going for the sack... I didn't have a chance to stop," DeAyala said. "I really didn't want to hurt him. He threw it just as I got there and I hit him as he released it."

"He really took some shots out there today. I hope he is able to play in their bowl game."

"I didn't hurt it any worse — just re-pulled it," Kubiak said.

He refused to say Texas was out to hurt him despite the fact that the Horns didn't receive another roughing penalty.

"I don't know how to comment on something like that," he said. "They played hard and we did and things like that happen."

Safety Jeff Farrar said: "We were going to hurt Kubiak. He was pretty sorry about that. He kept hitting him late trying to get him out of the game because he knew he was the key to our victory."

Head coach Tom Wilson refused to speculate on the hit and he saw the game films.

Sophomore John Elkins replaced Kubiak at quarterback as Wilson said he was quite effective despite his lack of playing time.

"I thought John Elkins came and did an exceptional job," Wilson said. "John is not nearly as experienced as Gary and cannot handle near as many things, so limits you a little bit in what you can do. But I thought he did an excellent job. I'm very proud of him for what he was able to do."

"Anytime you lose your number one quarterback and you've got your game plan set up it's going to hurt you some. We're not using that as an excuse, though."

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