## Aggies finish up-and-down season as winners

By RITCHIE PRIDDY

Battalion Staff
The Texas Aggies wrapped up
e 1981 football season Saturday tht in style. Not only did they sh on a winning note a season at some people termed nediocre," but they also set a lid foundation for the future.

The Aggies, under the leaderip of Head Coach Tom Wilson, nished at 7-5, much better than

ost people predicted.

Last summer, nobody picked a Aggies to finish better than 00. Now that the season is over, onder what the forecasters are

But I also had doubts about the eason when the team started pring training. Coming off a 4-7 on, which saw everything om a drug investigation to a bened quarterback, I couldn't see be for the 1981 season.

But during spring training, ry Kubiak began to emerge as a gitimate quarterback, some-ing the Aggies lacked. Other ayers began to show the talent at brought them into a major iversity athletic program.

Team leadership, a crucial facin any winning team's prog-, finally started to surface.

The seniors who were here over e summer took charge and the ners began to listen. The team s tired of losing and the seniors re determined to do something

By summer's end the leader-ip and character of the team

arted taking shape. The team's goal at the start of season was to go to a bowl me. And the Cotton Bowl was 23-10 at thin the Aggies' grasp during quarter.

much of the season.

Texas A&M first took the field Sept. 5 against the Golden Bears in Berkeley, Calif., where the Ags

After halftime, the Aggies began to assert themselves, rallying and had a legitimate shot at the for a 29-28 win and limiting the Bears to five first downs and 56

total yards during the second half.
The Aggies traveled Sept. 19 to
meet the Boston College War
Eagles and lost 13-12. Once again, Texas A&M outplayed the opposition, but the smaller BC squad

came out on top.
On Sept. 24, Athletic Director Marvin Tate was asked by several members of the Texas A&M System Board of Regents to resign. It appeared Wilson's job was next in the line of fire.

Wilson turned his offense loose Sept. 26 on the Louisiana Tech Bulldogs, and the result was a 43-7

Kubiak completed several key passes, including a 92-yard, SWC record touchdown pass to Don Jones. Although the defense gave up 286 passing yards, it yielded only three yards on the ground.

On Oct. 3, the Aggies played the Texas Tech Red Raiders in Lubbock and won 24-23. This was their third one-point game of the from the Cotton Bowl race.

Johnny Hector's 80-yard scortouchdown was awesome. But what really showed the team's character was the fact that the Ags rallied for the win after trailing 23-10 at the start of the fourth

The Aggies played their best game of the year Oct. 10 when they held off a late Houston surge for a 7-6 win over the Cougars. fell behind 28-16 at halftime. The Kubiak accounted for the Aggie run-and-shoot offense of California accounted for 337 yards, 280 of it coming in the first half.

Kubiak accounted for the Aggie touchdown on a 43-yard run late in the third quarter. Despite being outgained 333 to 265 yards, the Ags were 2-0 in conference play

> However, on Oct. 17, Baylor beat the Aggies 19-17 with a last-minute field goal. Aided by ques-tionable officiating, the Bears handed the Ags their first SWC

> They bounced back the following week with a 51-26 win over the Rice Owls in Houston. Kubiak was again the hero of the game with six touchdown passes and one 42-yard touchdown run. Kubiak's six TDs set another SWC record.

With the win the Ags were again were back in contention for the Cotton Bowl.

The next two weeks, however,

destroyed that dream.

The SMU Mustangs whipped
Texas A&M 27-7 on Oct. 31, despite being outgained offensively by the Aggies 371 to 362.

Two weeks later, the Ags lost to Arkansas 10-7. Kubiak was again the hero, hitting 19 of 21 passes for 233 yards, another SWC record. TCU was next and the Aggies

needed a win to secure a bid to the ing run following an early Tech Independence Bowl in Shreve-

Frogs, fullback Earnest Jackson rushed for 219 yards on 19 carries.

son, gaining 512 yards. The win was dampened by the loss of safety Chris Brown and flanker Burnis Simon. Kubiak also went down with a severely bruised right shoulder and was questionable for the Texas game.

The pressure was off everyone but Wilson. As the team prepared to meet Texas on Thanksgiving, rumors again surfaced about the

stability of his job.

Texas defeated the Aggies 21-

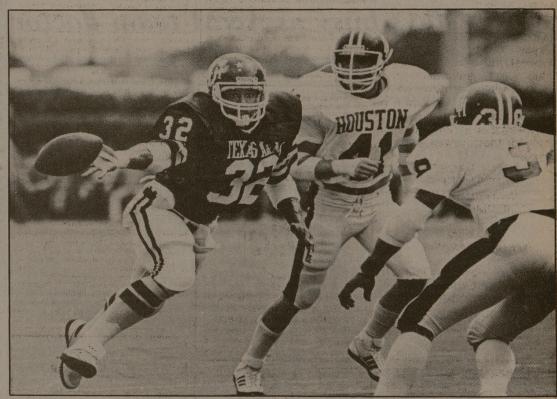
Kubiak started, but left the game in the second quarter after reinjuring his right shoulder. Before he left the game, Texas was penalized twice for roughing the passer. Backup quarterback John Elkins replaced Kubiak and threw a TD pass in the third quarter. The Aggies defeated the Okla-homa State University Cowboys

33-16 in the Independence Bowl Saturday in Shreveport, despite

falling behind early in the game. By the middle of the second period, Texas A&M was dominatperiod, Texas A&M was dominating the line of scrimmage. The OSU defense, ranked ninth nationally, gave up 438 yards. Kubiak accounted for most of that, hitting 15 of 20 passes for 225 yards and two touchdowns. He

was named the game's MVP.
Placekicker David Hardy kicked four field goals and three extra points to take scoring honors.

The Aggies finished the season with a 7-5 record. The team finished as the second best offensive team in the league behind Arkansas and Kubiak emerged as one of the nation's top quarter-backs. The defense upheld its reputation as one of the hardest-The team produced its finest reputation as one of the offensive performance of the sea-hitting units in the SWC



Texas A&M Johnny Hector keeps his eyes on University of Houston defenders Kelly McDonald (41) and Calvin Eason in the Aggies' 7-6 win over the Cougars earlier in the season. Defensive end McDonald and free safety

Eason are set to meet the Aggie tailback after he receives a pitchout from quarterback Gary Kubiak. Texas A&M finished the season with a 7-5 record after Saturday's 33-16 Independ ence Bowl victory over Oklahoma State.

(CLASSIFIED ADS sure to get results)

## Rams overcome adversity to slip past Falcons, 21-16

ms had turned to pudding. Rams' defensive line were now ncerned with developing stoach cramps from running long

Receivers who used to stay son — were expected to go belly-vake at night fretting over up before a national television au-ushing blind-side hits from the dience. ms' All-Pro secondary now wored about developing blisters on eir hands from having a football apping into their palms so often.

And quarterbacks who once ked if they could carry guns to otect themselves from the ms' vicious pass rush now took hobbies to pass all that free e while waiting for their re-

From the 1979 Super Bowl to the 1981 Stupor Bowl. That was

Whole Ear

United Press International ANAHEIM, Calif. — The onceared defense of the Los Angeles out of the playoff picture for the first time in nine years, mired in Opposing ball carriers who their worst season since 1965, ce feared broken bones against embroiled in controversy with team management, dragging a five-game losing skid behind them and just playing out the final two dreary weeks of the miserable sea-

> Instead, they summoned spirit and emotion that didn't seem to exist anymore, throttling a powerful Atlanta offense en route to a Kenny Johnson.

21-16 victory.
Wendell Tyler rushed for two touchdowns and went over the 1,000-yard mark to pace the Ram attack while Dan Pastorini completed 11 of 22 passes for 111 yards

and was intercepted twice. Atlanta quarterback Steve Bartkowski hit 14 of 36 passes for 160 two-year story of the Los yards and was intercepted twice,

So Monday night against the 115 yards on 23 carries to become Atlanta's all-time leading career

> Atlanta took a 7-0 lead late in the first period on Lynn Cain's 2-yard TD burst, but the Rams tied the score in the second period on Tyler's 6-yard touchdown run. Pastorini completed a 46-yard pass to Billy Waddy during the

> The Rams scored the gamewinner on Tyler's 7-yard TD run, which was set up by pass interference penalties of 25 and 49 yards against Atlanta's Bobby Butler and





Merry Christmas

from the staff of

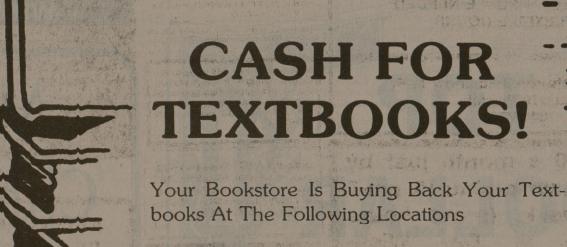
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